



# Becket Keys Church of England School

7<sup>th</sup> March 2025

## IN THIS ISSUE

### Mr Scott-Evans writes:

As we enter the season of Lent, Becket Keys Church of England School will be encouraging students to take this opportunity to focus more on God and each other by seriously cutting back on use of their mobile phones. This initiative also fits well with our commitment to fostering a supportive and distraction-free learning environment as we will be emphasising the importance of not using mobile phones on the school site.

### Understanding Lent:

Lent started this Wednesday with Ash Wednesday; it is a significant period in the Christian calendar, lasting for 40 days (excluding Sundays) leading up to Easter. It commemorates the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert, during

which he faced temptation. Lent is a time for reflection, prayer, and self-discipline, allowing Christians to prepare their hearts and minds for the celebration of Easter.

### Why Lent is Important:

Lent is a time for spiritual growth and renewal. It encourages individuals to make sacrifices and engage in practices that bring them closer to God. By giving up certain luxuries or habits, Christians can focus on their faith and develop a deeper understanding of their relationship with God. This year we are all going to focus on reducing our use of mobile phones and we encourage you to do this too!

.....contd. on page 2



**BECKET KEYS**  
Church of England School

### English Department

Year 7 had a fantastic day yesterday taking part in various events for World Book Day.

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### Parent Workshop

Special event welcoming author of 'Working with Boys' Andrew Hampton.

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### PE Department

Details of recent fixtures and extracurricular club details.

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### Art & Textiles Department

Excellent work from our talented students showcased here.

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## Linking Lent to Mobile Phone Usage:

In today's digital age, mobile phones have become an integral part of our daily lives. While they offer numerous benefits, they can also be a source of distraction and stress. By choosing to give up mobile phones during Lent, students can:

- **Enhance Focus:** Reducing screen time allows students to concentrate better on their studies and personal interactions.
- **Promote Mental Health:** Limiting phone usage can help reduce anxiety and improve overall well-being.
- **Strengthen Relationships:** Without the constant distraction of phones, students can engage more meaningfully with their peers and family.
- **Deepen Spiritual Connection:** By stepping away from digital distractions, students can dedicate more time to prayer, reflection, and their relationship with God.

As Pope Francis recently said, "[Lent is a time to disconnect from cell phones and connect to the Gospel](#)" This period offers a chance to silence the noise of the world and listen to the Word of

God, fostering a deeper intimacy with Him.



## School Policy on Mobile Phones:

Below are some reminders of our school policy that we will be sharing with students on Monday:

- **Switch Off Before Entering:** Students are required to switch off their mobile devices before entering the school gates. Phones should remain off and out of sight during school hours.
- **Usage After School:** Mobile phones can only be switched on and used after students have left the school buildings at the end of the day.
- **Promoting Mental Health:** This policy aims to prevent disturbances during lessons and promote better mental health among students by reducing the distraction of notifications through the day.
- **Sixth Formers:** Sixth Form students are permitted to use their phones but only in designated Sixth Form areas.
- **Staff Guidelines:** Staff members are also

encouraged to avoid using their phones unless necessary for essential tasks.

## Parents please help!

In case of emergencies, parents can contact the school through the main office, or the staff contact page on the website. It really helps if parents do not text their children during the day or worse try to call them! Many parents go further and actually set up their child's phone so that they do not work during the school day (8:25 to 3:15). For further advice you might like to check out the guidance in the RET Online Safety Hub here:

<https://russelleducationtrust.onlinesafetyhub.uk>.

This article is particularly pertinent: <https://russelleducationtrust.onlinesafetyhub.uk/staff/resources/creating-a-screen-routine#crafting-effective-screen-time-boundaries>

Or you may wish to read this article for your own reflections about your own phone use during Lent:

<https://blog.adw.org/2020/02/for-lent-consider-moderating-your-smartphone-usage/>

We appreciate your cooperation in ensuring a focused and respectful environment for all.

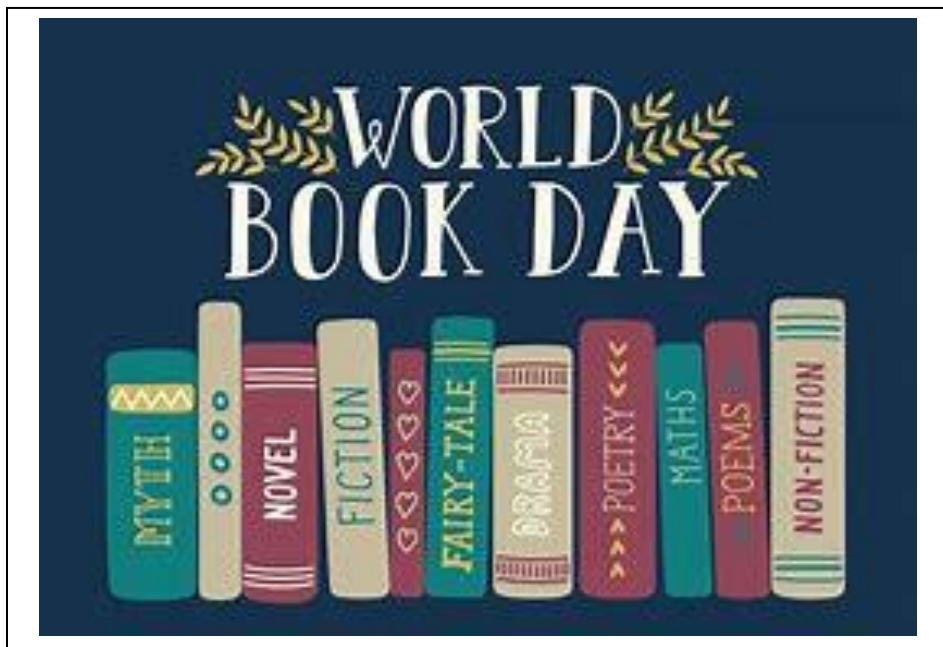
Have a good weekend!

**Mr. Scott-Evans**  
**Headteacher**

## World Book Day – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025

This week we have been celebrating World Book Day. All students were testing their knowledge of well-known children and young adult books, through fun quizzes, reminding them of their favourite stories from childhood. There was some tight competition between form groups, as each group tried to prove they had the best knowledge of famous books. Additionally, students have been recommending some great reads to the teachers of Becket Keys, who have been sharing what they like to read, and asking students to share some books they think staff should be reading. There have been some great recommendations, and staff are always keen to hear what students are reading and give those books a read too.

On Thursday we had a very exciting day, started by seeing all the wonderful outfits and t-shirts that students and staff chose to wear, to show off some of their favourite books.



Students in Years 8, 9 and 10 in their English lessons watched some thrilling videos from authors, giving them a wonderful insight into what goes into writing a book and the creative process. Students then were able to be creative by coming up with ideas that they could pursue if they wrote their own books.

Year 7 have been building up to World Book Day for the last two weeks. They spent the day creating their very own children's pop-up books. Students have worked very hard in their groups to plan, write, illustrate and make these books. Each book helped to teach a small child an important life lesson, and students embraced the opportunity to write about positive outlooks on appearance, friendships and when things do not go to plan.

These books were showcased in a book fair in the afternoon, where

students could look at each other's books and Andy Robb, our visiting author from before the Lent break, came in to help us celebrate these very successful books.

A big thank you to our sixth form volunteers, who worked with our Year 7 students to make these projects come together.

Finally, every year World Book Day provide £1.00 book tokens which can be used to exchange for a book. Students were provided these by their English teachers. This means students can keep enjoying lots of fantastic books.

**Miss White**  
English Teacher



**BECKET KEYS**  
Church of England School









Thank you for the opportunity to see your World Book Day projects. I'm sorry that I didn't get to personally meet and spend time with everyone taking about your book project - we ran out of time - but I did get to look through them all afterwards.

I was impressed with them all.

Such a variety of design, illustration, writing and creativity. Also, I loved the different approaches you took. Some were in rhyme others a more traditional storytelling style. And it was great to see the way you confidently marketed your books on the back covers and elsewhere. Very businesslike!

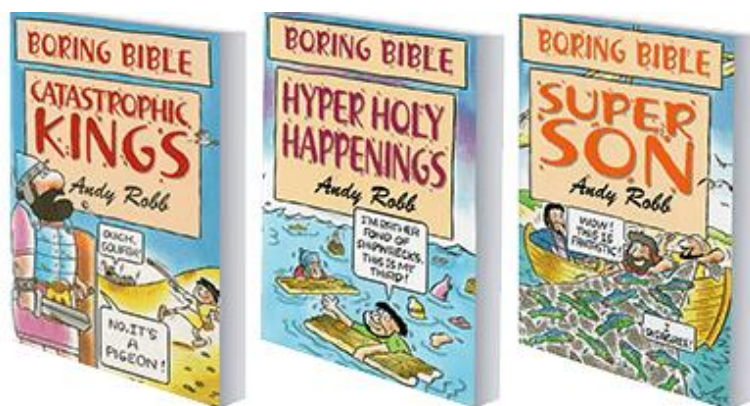
Finally, I'd like to commend you on your great teamwork and your clear sense of enjoyment that came through.

Well done Year 7!

With best wishes

Andy Robb

For more information about Andy Robb's books, please go to <https://andyrobb.co.uk/>





## Book of the Month - March



Set during the American segregation era, this is a spellbinding story of struggle and determination.

Twelve-year old Charley is set on becoming the first female pitcher to play professional baseball, even if that's a lofty dream for a Black girl in the American South in the 1920s. Even so, her grandfather Kofi's thrilling stories about courageous ancestors and epic journeys make it impossible not to dream big. She knows he has so much more to tell, but according to her parents, she isn't old enough to know about certain things, like what happened to Booker Preston that one night in Great Bridge, and why she can never play on the brand-new baseball field on the other side of town. When Charley challenges a neighbourhood bully to a game at the church picnic, she knows she can win. Then a dispute on the field leads to Charley making a fateful decision, one that will bring consequences she never could have imagined.

# Smarty Pants



School uniforms to suit you

SmartyPants have a part-time vacancy for an admin/retail assistant in our busy office based in Hutton, Brentwood. The role will involve processing of orders, serving at the retail counter and general administrative tasks.

Initially the position is temporary but may well progress to permanent during our busy summer season.

Hours are 21 hours per week, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9.15 - 5.15 with an hours lunch break with the pay rate initially £12.50 ph.

Please apply by sending a CV or personal resume to [jo@smartypantsschoolwear.com](mailto:jo@smartypantsschoolwear.com)



Homework Club is available for all students.

Every afternoon after school students can stay for a supervised session until 4.20pm and complete their homework in C11. Using Homework Club is just one way we provide for students who do not want to leave site at 3.10pm.

Full details of all extra-curricular clubs are available on the school website here:

<https://www.becketkeys.org/extra-curricular>.



# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

## 1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

## 2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

## 3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

## 4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

## 5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogue and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

## 6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

## 7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

## 9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

## 8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

## 10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–18 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

## Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowrie is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.



The National College

X @wake\_up\_weds

f /www.thenationalcollege

ig @wake.up.wednesday

🎵 @wake.up.weds

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# PARENTING TEENAGE BOYS

## Special Guest Speaker Event

with

**Andrew Hampton**

**Author of 'Working with Boys' and 'Why Girls Fall Out'**

### Date and Time

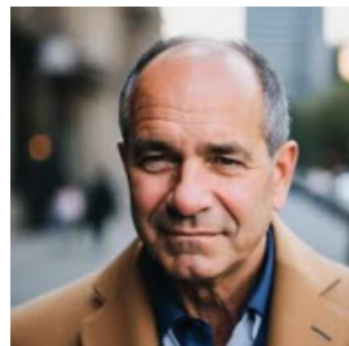
Thursday, March 27th, 2025, 5:45 PM - 7:00 PM

### Venue

Becket Keys Church of England School Main Hall

### Event Highlights

- **Keynote Speech:** Insights on understanding and supporting teenage boys
- **Interactive Q&A Session:** Your chance to ask questions and engage with Andrew
- **Book Signing:** Opportunity to purchase signed copies of Andrew's books



### Who Should Attend?

- Parents and Carers
- Educators and School Staff
- Community Members
- Students Interested in Youth Development

### Admission

**£5 for all attendees** Please book your ticket via ParentPay to secure your spot. Friends and family are welcome, so kindly book the number of seats you require.

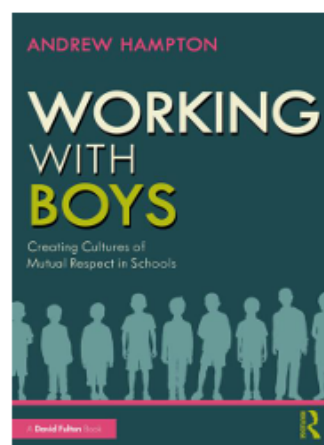
### Contact Information

For more information, please contact:

**Email:** office@becketkeys.co.uk

**Phone:** 01277 286600

Don't miss this unique opportunity to gain valuable insights on boys' development and education from a renowned author and expert! Andrew is an education writer, thinker and trainer focused on the school-based relational cultures of boys and girls. Andrew was a Headteacher for 18 years and founded Girls on Board in 2017. He stepped away from Headship in 2021 and now dedicates his time to training teachers how to help girls in their friendships at school and how to help boys be the best they can be. He is currently writing a new book entitled 'How to Run a School', due to be published by Routledge in August 2025.







## Live Parent Webinar: How You Can Help Your Child Prepare for Exams Tuesday 11th March 6:00-7:00pm (GMT)

Exam season might be almost upon us, but there's still plenty of time to equip students with those all-important practical tips and tricks for maximising marks.

Elevate works with students, delivering high-impact workshops on study skills, motivation, wellbeing, and exam preparation. By tuning into their webinar series, you'll learn **how you can help support your child at home by reinforcing the skills they're learning at school.**

Sign up for the session below to learn how you can maximise your child's marks in exams by helping them to prioritise the work that really matters over the next few weeks.

[Click here to register for free](#)

Here's what Elevate will be covering on the night:

- ☒ Prioritising your child's high-impact work to maximise marks
- ☒ Improving your child's time management to avoid last-minute preparation
- ☒ Helping your child study effectively using past papers



The School Community Prayer Group hosted by our Headteacher Mr Scott-Evans is every Wednesday during term time at 8.45am.

This is a short meeting where we pray together for local and national events and for any intentions of those in our school family. All are welcome.

If you have any prayer intentions, please send them into the school via the office email: [office@becketkeys.org](mailto:office@becketkeys.org)

## Late Gate

*Early is on time*

*On time is late*

*And late is unacceptable!*

Remember that the school gate closes at **8.25am**. This allows students enough time to get to their first lesson on time. Period 1 begins at 8.30am.

Brentwood can be tough to manoeuvre during rush hour, especially with the planned road and engineering works so please make sure that you are leaving enough time to get to school.

Parents can call the main school line

## Sugarloaf Mountain Ski Trip 2026



You may be aware that we are organising a ski trip to Sugarloaf Mountain, USA, in March/April 2026, and we have the opportunity to add up to four more students to the trip. This is a fantastic chance for students to bond with their peers, develop new skills, and create lasting memories.

If your child has not yet expressed an interest in this trip but would like to join, it is not too late to sign up. You might like to take a look at the video here: <https://youtu.be/DPwukxLuVQM?feature=shared> and the attached PDF to discover some of the key details.

This ski trip promises to be a once-in-a-lifetime experience, and we would love for your child to be a part of it. If you are interested in booking a place, please contact me as soon as possible via [office@becketkeys.org](mailto:office@becketkeys.org). We are here to provide any additional information and assist with the booking process.



Please make sure that your son/daughter has a reusable water bottle to make sure that they have adequate drinking water for the day.

Even when the weather is not hot it is important to keep hydrated during the day, especially on days when students are taking part in PE.

Remember that drinks are available for purchase from the Bistro at break and lunch.

Water fountains are available in the Bistro and Orangery for students to use at the beginning of the day and during break and lunchtime.

**WATER IS NOT  
JUST FOR  
QUENCHING  
THIRST.**

HYDRATION IS VITAL TO HEALTH AND WELLNESS. TO PREVENT DEHYDRATION AND LOW LEVELS OF ELECTROLYTES, YOU NEED TO STAY HYDRATED!





## Sports News

### Under 14s Netball



For this joint team under 14s team there were 3 Year 8 students and 6 Year 9s. This was an important match as it was the quarter-final for this league.

The game began slowly, and the opposition made a good start, they were pulling ahead in the goals scoring again and again leaving us trailing behind.

We had great encouragement from Ms Schafer and Miss Plunkett which invigorated the goal scoring from Sophie, Bella and Lyla our goal attacks/goal shooters and goals began flying in for Becket Keys!

Final score 40-21 to Becket Keys.

Anna Benns was named 'player of the match' by the opposing side, but all the whole team played their part in this excellent result. Well done girls!

Other players:

<b>Ffion Cole</b>	<b>Bella Macklin</b>
<b>Amelia Giles</b>	<b>Vienna Hayes</b>
<b>Lyla Stevens</b>	<b>Tilly Holder</b>
<b>Sophie Guest</b>	<b>Oprah Amode</b>

### Year 7 Netball



The Year 7 netball team took part in a district rally hosted at Brentwood School. This competition involved a number of the local schools, and we had to play against a number of different Year 7 teams.

This was a very competitive contest, and the opposition sides had very strong players. Thanks to an excellent team effort from all the Becket Keys girls they beat one team convincingly and overall came 4<sup>th</sup> in the competition.

Team List:

**Mia Ballam**

**Edee Eldred**

**Violet Eldred**

**Bella Long**

**Ava Taylor**

**Pippy Heazel**

**Melondy Shanley**

**Emily Miller**

**Phoebe Rolfe**

## PE Extra Curricular - Term 4

Day	4.1 Lunchtime (11:50-12:30) 4.2 Lunchtime (12:40-1:20)	After-School (3:10-4:30)
Monday	TUP Badminton	Year 9, 10 + 11 Girls' Football Year 9, 10 + 11 Boys' Football All Years' Girls' Rugby
Tuesday	GCSE Intervention	Year 7 Basketball Year 8 Boys' Football Year 8 Girls' Football
Wednesday		Year 7 Girls' Football Year 10 + 11 Basketball Club Year 7+8 Boys' Rugby All Years' Hockey Club
Thursday	(4.1) Year 8 Basketball (4.2) TUP Basketball	Year 7 Boys' Football
Friday	(4.1) Year 9 Basketball (4.2) TUP Futsal	



Keys:

- Astro
- Sports hall
- Main Hall
- Field
- Playground

SHENFIELD CRICKET CLUB PRESENTS

# GIRLS CRICKET COME & TRY SESSION

## FRIDAY 14<sup>th</sup> MARCH

60,000  
women and  
girls play  
cricket in  
England

Yr 3 to Yr 6: 6pm - 7.15pm Yr 7 to Yr 13: 7.30pm - 8.45pm

**Fun and Fitness**  
**No Experience Necessary**  
**Meet New Friends**  
**Learn from Experienced Coaches**  
**FREE SESSION**

PLEASE let us know you are coming:  
Message name and age/year to:-  
simonh\_shenfieldcc@outlook.com  
07949 570459

WHY NOT  
GIVE  
CRICKET A  
TRY?

Where?  
**Shenfield High School**  
Oliver Road, Shenfield  
What to Bring?  
**Comfortable sportswear**  
**Water bottle**  
**Enthusiasm**



SPORTS CLUB

# GIRLS RUGBY

## AFTER SCHOOL MONDAY

**With Brentwood  
coach  
Harry Adams**

- In preparation for a rugby game in a few weeks
- all levels of rugby welcome

COME ALONG  
ALL ARE WELCOME





# BOYS RUGBY RUGBY CLUB

## AFTER SCHOOL WEDNESDAYS



**WITH  
INTERNATIONAL  
RUGBY PLAYER  
AND EX BKS  
STUDENT**

SAM WINNEY

Rugby club for boys is being run by our ex-student and international rugby player Sam Winney!



The U16 girls narrowly missed out on the win for this tough game. Despite dominating possession for large parts of the game, the opposition proved clinical in front of goal. Despite the loss, the team showed incredible determination and skill. The team will take plenty of positives from this match and look to bounce back stronger in the next game.



Defeat on the road for the Year 7 boys' football team. A goal from Zach was not enough and some sloppy defending and missed clearances saw the home side take 3 points.

Man of the Match - Andreas for a solid performance out of position

## BRENTWOOD FOODBANK HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS

The Brentwood foodbank is part of [The Trussell Trust](#)'s network of 428 foodbanks, working to tackle food poverty and hunger in the local community, as well as across the UK.

The Foodbank Network was founded in 2004 in Salisbury, since then [The Trussell Trust](#) has helped communities work together to launch foodbanks nationwide in a wide range of towns and cities.

In 2023/24, food banks in the Trussell Trust's network provided 3,121,404 three-day emergency food supplies and support to UK people in crisis. Of these, 1,144,096 were distributed for children.

You can make a donation at Sainsburys, Tesco Express in Brentwood High Street, St Thomas of Canterbury Church or St Stephen's Church.



### March Shortages

Tinned Chicken in Sauce

Tinned Chilli-Con-Carne

Tinned Spaghetti

Bags of Rice (small)

Laundry Gels & Shampoos

**Your support makes our work possible**



Brentwood Foodbank facilitated by Doddinghurst Road Church  
Registered Charity Number 1171227

Brentwood's Orchestras for Young Musicians

## PHOENIX YOUTH ORCHESTRA

## SPRING

*Concert*

CONDUCTED BY STEPHEN RUMSEY

**28 MARCH, 2025** 19:30

ST THOMAS' CHURCH, BRENTWOOD

Mozart - Overture: Les Petits Riens

Vaughan Williams - Fantasia on Greensleeves

Handel - Music for the Royal Fireworks

Massenet - Meditation

**TICKETS IN ADVANCE**

ADULTS £8

65+ £7

U18 FREE

**TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK/BOYM**



**ON THE DOOR £10**

[www.boym.org.uk](http://www.boym.org.uk)

## PARENT WORKSHOP

Thank you to all those who attended the recent Parent Workshops. We hope you found them useful.

If there are any topics you feel would be beneficial for future events then please email [office@beckettkeys.org](mailto:office@beckettkeys.org)



# In Art & Textiles this week with Mrs Cherry... **Star of the week**

**Y10**

**Bronte Dann**





# Key stage 3

Jake Allan Y9



Florence Drake Y9





# Key stage 3



**Lilly Fritz Y9**

**Gauri Rethesh Y9**



# Key stage 3



**George Lawrence Y8**



**Layla Chiddicks Y8**



**Felix Rogers Y8**



# Key stage 3



**Ruby Mack Y9**

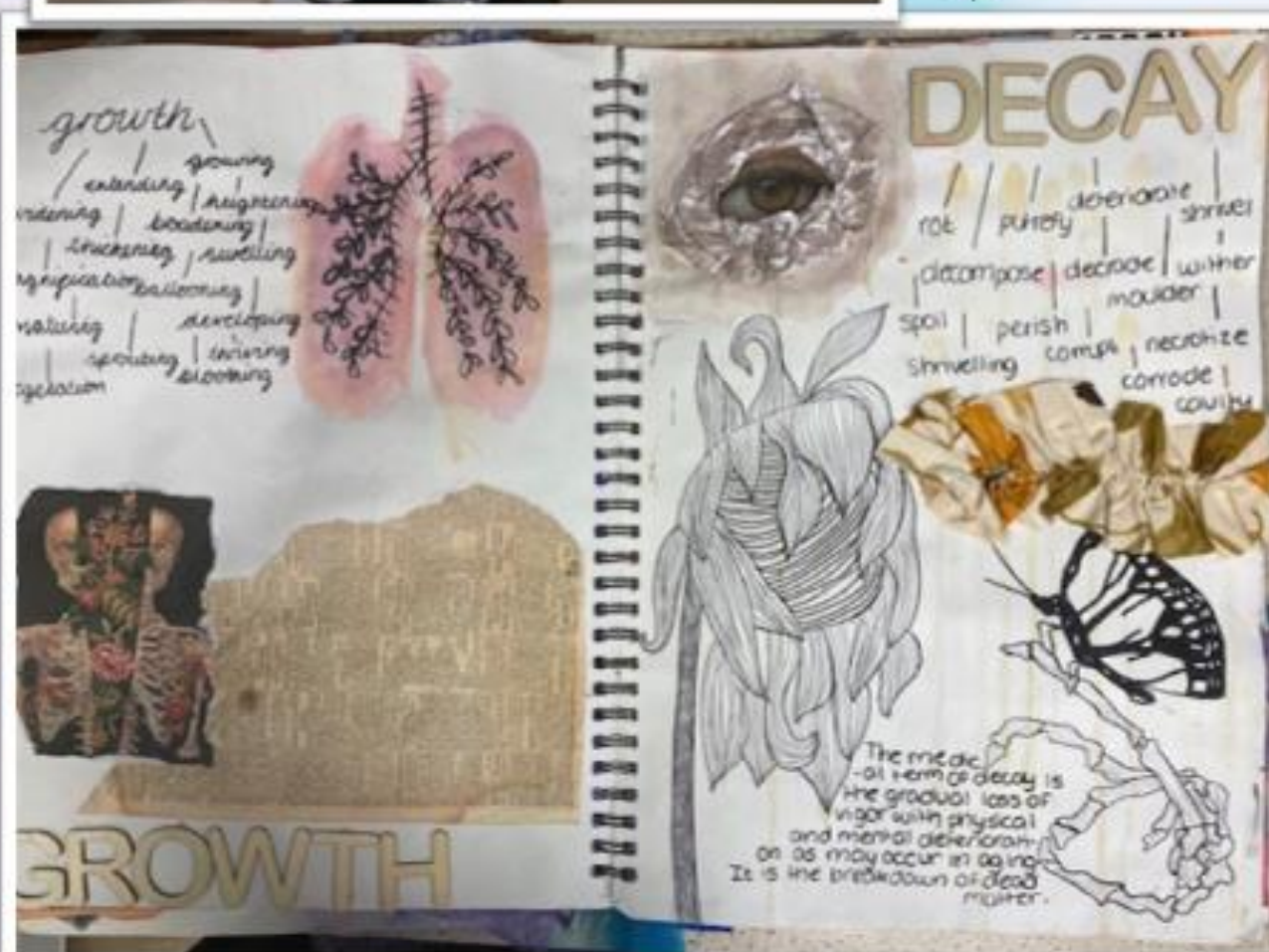


**Florence Drake Y9**

# Key stage 4



**Eloise Knowles Y10**



**Bronte Dann Y10**



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

YEAR 8 THEATRE TRIP  
WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION  
 THURSDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025

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GCSE AWARDS EVENING  
 THURSDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025

\*

EXTERNAL SIXTH FORM INTERVIEWS  
 MONDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> & TUESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025

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PARENT WORKSHOP  
WITH ANDREW HAMPTON  
'PARENTING TEENAGE BOYS'  
 THURSDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025

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EASTER HOLIDAY  
 MONDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> APRIL – FRIDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2025

## Becket Keys Church of England School

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 @MrScottEvans  
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