



Becket Keys Church of England School

9th May 2025

YEAR 13 CELEBRATION SERVICE. SEE MORE ON PAGE

IN THIS ISSUE

Mr Scott-Evans writes.....

Victory in Europe Day – A Week of Reflection and Remembrance

This week, our school community has come together to honour the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day, a moment in history that marked the end of World War II in Europe on 8 May 1945. Through special tutorials, moments of silence, and a shared prayer, our students have reflected on the courage, sacrifice, and resilience of those who lived through the war and those who gave their lives for peace.

In tutorials this week, students paused to say the following prayer together:

VE Day Prayer

"The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace."
(Psalm 29:11)

Gracious God,

On this day of remembrance, we give thanks for the end of war in Europe in 1945.

We remember with gratitude those who gave so much: the courage of the soldiers, the resilience of the civilians, the sacrifice of many who did not return.

We give thanks for peace, hard-won, longed-for, and for the hope that rose from the ashes of destruction.

.....contd. on page 2



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Church of England School

VE Day – 80th Anniversary

Two of our students were invited to take part in the VE celebrations.

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Year 8 Residential

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Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge

Read all about the recent Year 8 trip to Bude Adventure in Cornwall.

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Celebration Days

Year 11 and Year 13 had their last day at Becket Keys before their exams.

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As we remember, we also acknowledge the cost.

"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

(John 15:13)

We remember the fallen, the wounded, and all whose lives were changed forever.

We pray for peace in our world today that we might learn from history and work together for a future shaped by justice, compassion, and reconciliation.

Let us now hold a moment of silence as we remember.

Lord, may we be people of peace in our school, our homes, and our world.

Help us to honour the past not only in memory, but in how we choose to live — with kindness, humility, and love.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

(Matthew 5:9)

Amen.

As we mark this significant anniversary, we are reminded of the words of Sir Winston Churchill, who declared in his VE Day speech in 1945:



"We may allow ourselves a brief period of rejoicing; but let us not forget for a moment the toil and efforts that lie ahead."

This message still resonates today. It reminds us that peace is not simply the absence of war, but the presence of justice, compassion, and unity. These are values our school community is known for.

In a moving speech delivered this week at Westminster Abbey, King Charles III echoed the legacy of his grandfather, King George VI, and quoted Churchill calling on us all to continue the work of peace:

"We should remind ourselves of the words of our great wartime leader, Sir Winston Churchill, who said 'meeting jaw to jaw is better than war'. In so doing, we should also rededicate ourselves not only to the cause of freedom but to renewing global commitments to restoring a just peace where there

is war, to diplomacy, and to the prevention of conflict.

"For as my grandfather put it, 'We shall have failed, and the blood of our dearest will have flowed in vain, if the victory which they died to win does not lead to a lasting peace, founded on justice and established in good will.'"

As Head Teacher, I am proud of the thoughtful and respectful way our students have engaged with this week's commemorations. It is clear that they understand the importance of remembering the past — not just as a history lesson, but as a guide for how we live today.

Let us continue to be peacemakers in our school, our homes, and our town.

Have a blessed and peaceful weekend.

Mr Scott-Evans
Headteacher

VE Day Celebrations

Anna-Kaye Fullerton is currently in Year 12 at Becket Keys. Anna-Kaye had the honour to be personally invited to the 80th anniversary VE Day celebrations, a time to remember and pay tribute to the brave individuals who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Anna-Kaye was representing the Girls' Brigade, an organisation that she has been a proud member of for over a decade, and this made the day even more meaningful.



LIVE

VE Day 80th anniversary commemorations to begin with procession and Red Arrows flypast

We were privileged to have an amazing front-row view of the royal box, where members of Parliament and the Royal Family were present, thanks to a dedicated section set apart from the public. To my absolute surprise and delight, my face even made it onto the headline of the BBC News website!

Anna-Kaye Fullerton
Year 12

Benji Elwell-Sutton in Year 8 is a member of the Sea Cadets and with his unit he was invited to the big, televised concert in the presence of the King and Queen.



Benji was also involved in a Remembrance march to the Cenotaph last weekend. Benji is a very proud cadet, and it was very meaningful for him to be at both events. He particularly enjoyed

meeting some of the veterans at the event, some were over 100 years old and had many fascinating stories to tell.



Pre-Loved Uniform Sale
School Playground
Saturday 17th May 2025
11.00am – 12.30pm
 Please bring cash if you can!

Becket Keys Pre-Loved Uniform Price List

6th Form Suit Jacket	£15.00
6th Form Skirt / Trousers	£7.00
Blazer	£7.00
Kilt	£7.00
Trousers	£4.00
Blouse / Shirt	£2.00
Jumper / Tank Top	£5.00
Tie	£2.00
PE Hoodie	£5.00
PE Rugby Top	£5.00
PE Top	£3.00
PE Shorts / Skort	£3.00
PE Track Pants / Leggings	£4.00
GCSE PE Top	£4.00
Aprons	£3.00
Drama T-Shirt	£3.00
Chef Jacket	£5.00
Rucksack / PE Bag	£5.00

Uniform donations are always welcome, please drop any items to reception.



Full coverage of all the VE events can be found on the [BBC website](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-64888888).

Year 8 – Bude Residential

Adventure Bude is a well-known outdoor activity centre located in the southwest of Cornwall. Just a short walk or in our case, a morning run from Summerleaze Beach, it offers students the opportunity to try their hand at becoming skilled surfers for the first time. Nearby, the small town of Bude is the ideal place to pick up souvenirs, or for many enjoy a Cornish ice cream or some local sweets.



The timing of our trip to Bude couldn't have fallen over a better long weekend – right in the middle of a heatwave! With the sun shining at the start of the week, spirits were high, and this continued into the long weekend ahead. The journey set the tone, one coach enjoyed a peaceful ride with films and quiet chatter, while the other was filled with slightly off-key singing to classic tunes clearly passed down by parents.



The excitement was hard to miss as we arrived at our destination. Students waited eagerly for the go-ahead from staff before rushing into find their rooms. There was no time to settle in just yet- they were soon gathered outside to meet their instructors, who would guide, support, and have fun with them throughout the experience and get stuck into their first activity.

The daily routine was jam-packed from sunrise to sunset. Our activities were filled with thrilling challenges, designed not only for fun but to help students face personal fears and strengthen teamwork. From kayaking down the beautiful canal, surrounded by abundant wildlife, to team-building exercises in the trail, where teachers took every opportunity to soak the students! It was a day full of adventure. It was heartwarming to witness the students cheering each other on, their support ringing out across the activity centre. These

moments allowed teachers and sixth formers to watch the students collaborate, solve problems together, and build trust along the way.



The water activities quickly became a favourite among both students and staff. Fortunately, they were scheduled every other day, giving us a chance to dry our clothes after the numerous water fights! The staff often joined in with Mr. Howells frequently spotted roaming around armed with a water pistol. It was a

refreshing way to cool down after the hot weather we experienced.



The evening activities were filled with stiff competition, making each night unforgettable. Every student threw themselves into the events, from pool competitions to open mic nights. Not only did all the students participate for a chance to win a voucher for the tuck shop, but the open mic night also became a firm favourite of Mr. Menexes, who often took the mic at least three times during the evening.

We were incredibly fortunate this year to have professional photographer Miss Plunkett join us. Her dedication and talent were truly unmatched she captured stunning action shots of our students engaging in a wide range of activities. Miss Plunkett even braved the freezing sea in just shorts and a hoodie to get the perfect surfing photos. Finally, a photo of Dr. Hurdle was captured perfectly, making surfing look effortless.



Our trip to Bude was an unforgettable experience, filled with fun, learning, and personal growth. It was the perfect mix of adventure, teamwork, and the rewarding feeling of overcoming challenges together. A little piece of Bude will always be in our hearts.



We would like to say a big thank you to our staff and sixth formers who gave up their bank holiday to attend this trip. Mr Collins, Dr Hurdle, Mrs Course, Miss Taylor, Mr Howells, Miss Plunkett, Mr Menexes, Ms Zimble, Edith and Elizabeth.

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."

Thessalonians 5:11

You can view more photos on X via BecketKeysTrips
We cannot wait to return in 2026!

Miss Taylor
HR Assistant & Bude Volunteer



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What the students had to say....

I really thought that Bude was exciting and I really enjoyed the fact that we could do a lot of activities, especially in the evening. I loved the karaoke! All of the staff who attended are really great and made this trip a really enjoyable experience.

George Hirst
Year 8

I thought that Bude was fantastic! We had so many activities to do, some that I had not tried before. Bodyboarding, surfing (my favourite). High ropes and so much more! All of the staff were really great and made the activities so much fun!

Lily Ballantyne
Year 8

And the parents.....

Hi, we wanted to say a huge thank you to all the staff and teachers that organised the Year 8 trip to Bude. We appreciate all the work that goes on behind the scenes to make these trips happen. My daughter, had a really fabulous time away and loved all of the activities. She seems to have grown up even more!!

Also, a huge thank you to the teachers and staff who gave up their personal time to take the children away. We appreciate the responsibility they took on and the time away from their family and friends, especially over the bank holiday weekend.

Stronger Starts

Retail Apprenticeship




Go from Year 11 straight to £22,500.


Programme: Retail Apprenticeship Level 2	Holiday allowance: 20 days pro rata plus a personal day – rising to 22 days after 12 months (plus bank holidays)
Salary: Minimum starting salary £22,501.44 (36 hours)	Location: Available in this store
What you need: No qualifications or experience needed	Start date: 22 September 2025

Our Retail Apprenticeship will help you develop new skills and build your confidence. You'll learn about all areas of retail and get hands-on experience within a supportive and friendly team. Once completed, you'll be awarded a Level 2 National Standard in Retail, which is equivalent to 5 GCSE passes.



Know someone who'd be interested?
Tell them to search 'Stronger Starts retail' or pass on this QR code.





BRENTWOOD FOODBANK

If you would rather make a financial donation for us to purchase food, please use our Just Giving page.
Accessible by the QR Code

Thank you for supporting this work
Brentwood Foodbank is part of the Trussell network,
Facilitated by Doddinghurst Road Church



English Department

Celebrating Kaylin Nachwa Muwenda's Triumph at the Jack Petchey Speak Out Regional Finals!

We are thrilled to announce that Kaylin has achieved an outstanding victory at the Jack Petchey Speak Out regional finals! Competing against students from various schools in the region, Kaylin's remarkable performance earned her the first-place title!



Kaylin captivated the audience with her confidence, energy, and eloquence. Her speech was not only intriguing and funny but also left everyone with an inspirational message on regrets. Her ability to connect with the audience and deliver such a powerful message is truly commendable.

The **Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge** is a public speaking competition designed to help young people develop their communication skills and

Jack Petchey's "SPEAK OUT" Challenge!

confidence. Over **30,000 young people** participate in the Speak Out Challenge each year.

Here's how it works:

Workshop: It all begins with an expert-led, interactive workshop. During this workshop, students learn the fundamentals of public speaking and create their own speeches from scratch. They then deliver these speeches to their classmates and a small panel of judges, usually consisting of teachers.

Assembly Final: Selected students from the workshop move on to the Assembly Final at their school. Here, they perform their speeches again to a larger audience of teachers and students, practising for the next stage.

Regional Final: Winners from the Assembly Finals represent their schools at the Regional Final. This event is held live, and family, friends, and teachers gather to support the speakers. A panel of local dignitaries judges the performances, and one speaker is chosen to advance to the Semi-Final.

Semi-Final: At the Semi-Final, all regional winners present their speeches to a panel of judges. The judges narrow down the competitors to just 15 speakers who will move on to the Grand Final.

Grand Final: The Grand Final is a major event held on a West End stage in London. The 15 finalists deliver their speeches to an audience of over 1,000 supporters, including MPs, Mayors, influencers, dignitaries, and an esteemed panel of judges. One speaker is crowned the 'Grand Champion'.

As the regional champion, Kaylin will now advance to the next stage of the competition, where she will face other regional finalists. We are incredibly proud of her achievement and wish her the best of luck in the upcoming finals.

Let's all join in celebrating Kaylin's success and supporting her as she continues to shine!

Go Kaylin! 🙌👏

Miss Romano
English Teacher

Year 11 - Celebration Day



I would like to say a huge thank you and congratulations to my Year 11s. They have been a wonderful group of students who have shown a real togetherness over the last few years and have been an absolute pleasure to work and support. Yes, there have been a few bumps on the way, but they have shown through listening and understanding the true meaning of our seven key Christian values at Becket Keys.



On Tuesday, we had our celebration assembly, and it was lovely to spend time looking back at their memories and sharing their friendships that they have developed. You have all become such wonderful people and I am so proud to have been your Head of Year over the last two years.

We talked about perseverance and resilience and how these two characteristics embody this year group. I spoke about how success is not always about what we see and how many students have had to overcome so many hurdles along the way, but I hope that we have supported you all in developing your resilience and perseverance.

A reading from James, chapter 1, verses 2 to 4 – *'Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.'*

Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything'.



From the moment you chose Becket Keys to where you are now, you have all shared an amazing journey. Starting secondary school is never easy but put a pandemic in the middle and it becomes even more daunting. You came back to school after missing over half of Year 6 and straight into a school welcoming back students after six months. After settling into life at Becket Keys, we were all put into lockdown again, meaning you had to learn via MS Teams and

continue your Year 7 journey online.



I have always tried to encourage you all to be understanding, caring and forgiving. I hope that you can all see that these qualities will help you to get much further in life.

I have constantly tried to promote honesty in our discussions and, even in times, when honesty is difficult it will enable you to move forward and deal with any mistakes.

Over the last year, I have spoken to you about embracing failure, rather than avoiding it. You will learn and grow from owning your mistakes and this is where you learn the true meaning of resilience. Don't be afraid to make mistakes, or own up to your mistakes. Our seven values at Becket Keys will help to make you the best version of yourself. Treat yourself and others with respect, responsibility, honesty, forgiveness, fairness, care and trustworthiness.

We have a great family here at Becket Keys and we will still be here for you whatever your journey may be.

I hope that you will all look back at your school days with fondness and great memories. Even through the tough times I hope that you realise how strong you were and that you will remember Becket Keys with a big smile.



Make sure that you aim high and do something that you love. I have always said that I am one of the lucky ones as I get to do a job that I love every day! Every day is a different adventure or challenge and I am proud to stand here in front of you all today to see the wonderful group of students that you have turned out to be. I hope that you will carry our values with you forever.



I would like to say a special thank you to you all for being such a big part of our journey together and I wish you all the best of luck in your exams and your future.

Mrs Noble
Head of Year 11



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Year 13 - Celebration Day



On Wednesday, we gathered to celebrate our Year 13 students as they prepare for their A Level exams. It was a significant occasion, marking an important transition in their academic journey, filled with a mix of emotions, laughter, reflection, and anticipation.



After a morning together and some time in forms we had a thoughtful service in the Chapel, organised by our senior prefect team. This included a series of speeches, readings, and prayers, providing an opportunity for students and staff to come together in support and encouragement. A standout moment was the Gospel Choir's

performance, which added a poignant touch to the proceedings.



After the service, students took time to capture memories through photos, signing memory books and shirts, and enjoying the atmosphere of shared experiences and friendships. The sense of camaraderie was evident as they embraced the moment.



We reminded our students that they will always be part of the Becket Keys community, and we look forward to seeing where their aspirations take them. As they approach their exams, we remain confident in the hard work they have put in over the past two years and pray that their dedication will lead to success.

Mrs Course
Head of Sixth Form





British Council Chinese Speaking Competition

Excellent Result for Becket Keys!

The Chinese Bridge Secondary Speaking Competition for UK schools, organised by the British Council and the Centre for Language Education and Cooperation, UK, commenced in March. It is the biggest national competition in Chinese speaking.



The aim of this event is to provide a stage for young Chinese learners in the UK to demonstrate their Chinese language proficiencies and to enhance their motivation for Mandarin learning.

The event allows non-native Chinese learners who have studied Mandarin Chinese between one to seven years to participate. Participants are evaluated on their listening, speaking and reading skills, as well as Chinese cultural awareness.

Ten of our Mandarin Excellence Programme students entered the competition, and six of them were through to the final. They spent a lot of time in preparation



for this competition. I was extremely pleased with their enthusiasm and determination demonstrated throughout the competition. To me, they are all winners!

On Friday, 2nd of May, I took our students to London SOAS for the final competition. This year's competition was particularly intense, with the majority of finalists coming from private and grammar schools. Despite the tough competition, our students performed exceptionally well and achieved outstanding results:



The students are:

Y8 Isobel Nunn – 3rd place in the Beginner Individual category



Y9 Harry Shorter – National Top 10 in the Intermediate Plus Individual category

Y12 Olivia Banfield- National Top 10 in the Advanced Individual category.

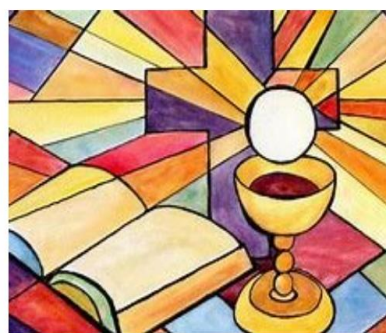
Y12 Olivia Banfield, Zak Amachree, Nyssa Agarwa, Y10 Noah Lynch – National Top 10 in the Intermediate Group category.



Even more noteworthy, Olivia Banfield delivered an outstanding performance in the group competition. She was selected by China's largest TV channel, CCTV, for an interview to share her experience participating in the competition."

We are amazed by their language skills and performances and extremely proud of their hard work!

Mrs Zhang
Head of Mandarin



School Eucharist

There is a Eucharist service held at school every Friday during term-time in the John Wraw Chapel. The service begins at 1.00pm and is open to everyone.

All students are welcome to attend these short services to pray and reflect.

If you would like to attend then please see Mr Scott-Evans for a 'queue jump' ticket, you can leave your lesson slightly earlier on Friday and head to the Bistro to get your lunch before the rush.

Daily equipment checks!

- **From Tuesday 6th May** tutors will be checking your equipment daily. It is imperative that you are well organised and have all essential equipment, so you are ready to learn.
- Tutors will offer you the opportunity each day to purchase equipment. If you need to, you can bring in the correct change for an item of stationery and give this to your tutor in exchange for the item you need. The money will then be taken to the office.
- Remember: 2 pens, 2 pencils, a rubber, a ruler, a red pen, a sharpener, a glue stick, a calculator and a highlighter. A tippex mouse (no liquid tippex please), safety scissors/school scissors and a small set of colouring pencils are also ideal and can be useful.



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



Introducing.... Police Constable Rebecca Ryan

Who is she?

- PC Ryan is the Community Safety and Engagement Officer for Brentwood. She is the assigned police officer for Becket Keys.

Why is she coming to Becket Keys?

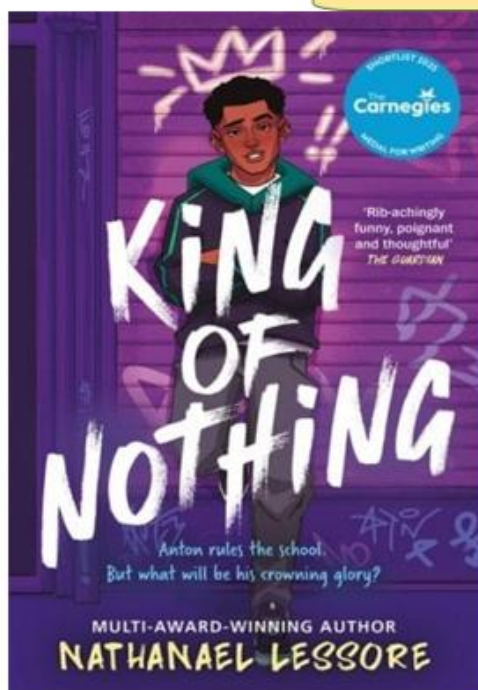
- PC Ryan wants to get to know you to find out if you have any worries or concerns in Brentwood.
- She wants to get to know you so that you feel comfortable if you need to ask her advice or for help.
- She wants you to be able to say 'hi' to her if you see her on the High Street and to be confident to approach her if you need to tell her something.

Can I speak to PC Ryan?

- Yes! The next time she is in Becket Keys is **15th May. She will be in Dr Hurdle's office from 11.50am until 1.30pm.** You can just drop in for a chat.
- You might see her out and about around school and on the playground, so don't be alarmed! Feel free to approach her and have a chat if you are on break or lunch.



Book of the Month - May



ANTON AND HIS FRIENDS ARE THE KINGS OF YEAR 9.

They're used to ruling the school and Anton wears the crown. The other kids run away when he's about but that's the way he wants it - he's got a reputation to live up to after all. . He's the bad boy of his South London secondary school, feared and respected partly because his dad is in prison.

So, when he gets into serious trouble at school, he doesn't really care, but his mum most definitely does. She decides it's time for Anton to make some new friends and blocks the Wi-Fi until he joins the Happy Campers, a local activity group. Anton would quite literally rather do anything else, especially when he finds out Matthew, the biggest loser in school, is also a member.

But after Matthew, a somewhat quirky boy, unexpectedly saves Anton's life, Anton figures maybe this kid is worth a shot. Teaching him some game is the least Anton can do to repay the debt.

As the boys strike up an unlikely friendship, Anton starts to question his life, not least the misogynist banter of his best friend who is obsessed with a particularly sexist podcast. Does he want ruling the school to be his crowning glory or should he set his sights on better things?

Content advice: references to crime and violence, misogyny, arson, death, anaphylaxis, vandalism

Reminder – Equipment List

It is important that students are fully equipped every day, for every lesson. Not having the right equipment for learning can lead to wasted learning time. Students who come prepared are prepared for success! As a reminder (and this can be found in the Family Handbook) all students need to bring the following items as a minimum to each lesson in a suitable pencil case:

- Clear ruler
- 180° clear protractor
- Pencils
- Pens (blue, black & red)
- Rubber
- Compass
- Glue stick
- Whiteboard pens
- Calculator Casio fx GT85x.

A Prayer for Exams

Help me to keep things in perspective and not to worry about the exams or to care too little.

*When pressure overwhelms me,
Remind me that you hold my future in your hands,
And that all does not rest on the result of this study.*

*Help me to manage my time well,
To make time to rest and play
As well as study.*

*Help me to revise effectively,
And to remember all that I have studied during the exam.
May I always give you all the glory for all that I am and do.*

Amen

PE Extra Curricular - Term 5

Day	Lunchtime	After-School (3:20-4:20)
Monday	Sports Hall Out due to Exams	Year 7&8 Boys' Cricket
Tuesday	Sports Hall Out due to Exams	All Years Girls' Cricket Year 9&10 Boys' Cricket
Wednesday	Sports Hall Out due to Exams	All Years Athletics
Thursday	Sports Hall Out due to Exams	Year 7,8&9 Rounders
Friday	Sports Hall Out due to Exams	



Keys:

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

*

MADRID TRIP – YEAR 9

THURSDAY 22ND MAY – SUNDAY 25TH MAY

*

WHITSUN BREAK

MONDAY 26TH MAY – FRIDAY 30TH MAY 2025

*

YEAR 7 & YEAR 12 EXAMS BEGIN

MONDAY 2ND JUNE 2025

*

YEAR 10 PARENTS' EVENING

THURSDAY 12TH JUNE 2025

*

INSET DAYS

(NO STUDENTS IN SCHOOL)

FRIDAY 13TH & MONDAY 16TH JUNE 2025

*

SIXTH FORM BRIDGING EVENT

MONDAY 23RD JUNE 2025

TUESDAY 24TH JUNE 2025

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CHINA TRIP PARENT MEETING

5.00PM TUESDAY 24TH JUNE 2025

*

YEAR 7 RESIDENTIAL

MANOR ADVENTURE – NORFOLK

FRIDAY 3RD – SUNDAY 6TH JULY 2025

Becket Keys Church of England School

Sawyers Hall Lane
Brentwood, Essex
CM15 9DA
01277 286600

www.becketkeys.org

office@becketkeys.org

finance@becketkeys.org

X:

@BecketKeys

@MrScottEvans

@BecketKeys6th

@BecketKeysMusic

@BecketKeysDrama

@BecketKeysPE

@BecketKeysArt

@BecketKeysSci

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@BecketKeysExams

@BecketKeysTrips

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