



# Becket Keys Church of England School

12<sup>th</sup> September 2025

## BACK TO SCHOOL!

## IN THIS ISSUE

**Mr Scott-Evans writes.....**

### Welcome Back to Becket Keys!

As we begin a new academic year, I want to extend a warm welcome to all our students, families, and staff - especially those joining us for the first time. It's wonderful to see the school full of life again, and we look forward to another year of learning, growth, and community.

### A Warm Welcome—and Fond Farewells

We are delighted to welcome our new Year 7 students and others who have joined us in different year groups. We hope you are already feeling part of the Becket Keys family and enjoying the

respectful, responsible and caring atmosphere of our school.

At the same time, we send our very best wishes to those who have moved on to other schools, colleges, universities, apprenticeships, and workplaces. We are proud of all you have achieved and pray that your next steps will be fulfilling and successful. You will always be part of our story.

### Summer Works: A Safer, Greener School

Over the summer, we've been busy improving our facilities to ensure Becket Keys remains a safe, modern, and inspiring place to learn.

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**BECKET KEYS**  
Church of England School

### Headteacher's Challenge

Have, you participated in the HT Challenge? Make sure you complete the form and bring your evidence to school.

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### Exam Results

Excellent GCSE and A Level results for the 2024 cohort.

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### World Challenge

Details of the recent trip that our Year 11 & 12 students took to Cambodia.

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### Headteacher Notices

Some useful information for the beginning of term.

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## Asbestos Removal in Carey and Williams

One of the most important projects this summer was the safe removal of asbestos from the Carey and Williams buildings. This work was carried out with great care and professionalism, ensuring our site continues to meet the highest safety standards.

## New Lighting and Ceiling Grids

Alongside the asbestos removal, we have installed new ceiling grids and upgraded all lighting to energy-efficient LED systems. These new lights will significantly reduce our electricity usage, saving money and helping us protect God's creation by lowering our carbon footprint.

## Technology Upgrades

Several classrooms now feature new interactive screens, and we've installed a number of new PCs across the site. These upgrades will support teaching and learning and help us stay up to date with the latest educational technology.

## Celebrating Exam Success

We are delighted to report another year of outstanding academic achievement at Becket Keys. Our students have once again excelled in both GCSE and A Level examinations, reflecting their hard work and the dedication of our staff.

## GCSE Results:

[www.becketkeys.org/gcse-results-2025.php](http://www.becketkeys.org/gcse-results-2025.php)

## A Level Results:

[www.becketkeys.org/a-level-results-2025.php](http://www.becketkeys.org/a-level-results-2025.php)

These results are a testament to the strength of our school community and the high standards we uphold. Congratulations to all our students!

## Faith in Learning

At Becket Keys, our motto—*Faith in Learning*—continues to guide everything we do. As a Church of England school, we are proud to offer an education rooted in Christian values: respect, responsibility, forgiveness, care, fairness, trustworthiness, and honesty.

We are also shaped by our four strategic filters:

- A strong Christian ethos as a Church of England school
- An independent school feel
- The support of an expert trust
- Every student known by name

As Jesus reminds us in John 15:16–17,

*"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last... This is my command: Love each other."*

We pray that this year will be one of fruitful growth, loving relationships, and deep learning for every member of our community.

Here's to a successful and inspiring year ahead!

Warm regards,

Mr Scott-Evans  
Headteacher



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We are pleased to announce that the Parent & School Community Prayer Group hosted by our Headteacher Mr Scott-Evans will be 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)

## Messages from the Heads of Year for the New Academic Year



As we come to the end of our first full week of term, I am thrilled with the start our students have made to the new academic year. Attendance has been almost 100% and there is a calm, purposeful atmosphere throughout the school. Students have returned from the summer break with enthusiasm, showing great maturity and readiness to learn. Their punctuality and conduct have been exemplary, and it's been a joy to see them settling back into routines so positively.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain high standards. The partnership between home and school is vital, and this strong start reflects our shared Christian Values. I am excited for the term ahead and look forward to celebrating more successes together as the year progresses.

**Dr Hurdle**  
**Assistant Headteacher**



### Welcome to Year 7!

I would like to give a very warm welcome to all of our new Year 7 students and their families. What a fantastic first week it has been! I am so excited to be your Head of Year this year and to get to know you all better.

I also hope that you enjoyed a restful summer break and feel refreshed and ready for the exciting year ahead. It has been wonderful to see so many smiling faces, new friendships blossoming, and students embracing the opportunities that come with a new school.

Transitioning into secondary school is a big step and I could not be more proud of the way you have all started your journey with us. From the moment you arrived, you have shown great enthusiasm, resilience, and kindness towards each other. Already, we have seen you living out our Christian values, such as respect and responsibility, in the way you support and encourage each other, whether it's helping a friend find their classroom or

simply offering a kind word to someone who looks unsure. These small acts of kindness make a big difference and set a wonderful tone for your time at secondary school.

As we look ahead to next week, here are some important reminders and opportunities to get involved:

Join the clubs! Our clubs list will be out soon. Take a look at the clubs list and make sure you sign up for at least two (or more!). Clubs are a brilliant way to discover new interests, develop your talents, and make friends from across the year group.

**Year 7 Social Club:** Remember to come along to Library B at lunchtime every Thursday for the Year 7 Social Club. This is a relaxed and welcoming space to meet others, chat, and play some games!

Ask if you're not sure! Starting at a new school can sometimes feel overwhelming, but please don't worry if you are unsure about something. Our staff and older students are here to support you.

We are so excited to continue getting to know each of you better. Year 7 is the beginning of an exciting journey. Keep working hard in your lessons, continue showing kindness and respect to those around you, and remember that every day is an opportunity to shine.



Here's to a brilliant year ahead!  
We are so proud to have you as  
part of our school community.

**Mrs Cooper**  
**Head of Year 7**



Hello Year 8,

It's a real joy to be joining you this year as your new Head of Year. I'm excited to be walking alongside you and helping you grow, not only in your learning but also in character. You have had a wonderful start to the new school year, and your teachers and I have been incredibly impressed with you all. I am very proud of you!

This year, I really want us to focus on being caring —choosing to be forgiving, respectful and honest with one another. Care is a strength, and when we show it consistently, we help build a community where everyone feels safe, valued, and inspired.

A verse that beautifully captures this is:

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." – Ephesians 4:32

We also have something very special to look forward to—our residential trip to Bude in May! This will be a fantastic opportunity to build friendships, strengthen our group skills, and bond as a cohort. I'm confident it will be a time of laughter, adventure, and lasting memories. Whether you're trying something new or supporting a friend, it will be a chance to live out our theme of kindness in action.

My door is always open, and I look forward to getting to know you all.

With every blessing,

**Mrs Palmer**  
**Head of Year 8**



## Welcome back Year 9!

It has been lovely walking around and seeing you all back in school this week. You have all had a positive start to the year and I am looking forward to working with you this year as your Head of Year. On the return to school this year many of you have grown and matured over the summer holidays. I am looking forward to seeing this continue throughout

the year and supporting you through Year 9.

Year 9 is a foundational base before you start your GCSEs in Year 10 and it is important to put your best foot forward and make the most of this year. I look forward to seeing you work hard in lessons, and I hope that you all have a SMART goal that you hope to achieve this academic year. As a cohort we will be kind and caring to classmates and friends alike so that we can all thrive within the Becket Keys environment. We also have some exciting things to look forward to this year. We have the Year 9 Madrid trip in May as well as the options process to name just a few. Keep up the excellent work Year 9!

**Miss Davies**  
**Head of Year 9**



## Year 10 Beginning the GCSE Journey.....

I am delighted to be getting to know our new Year 10 students as they begin their GCSE journey. Over the past few days, it has been a real pleasure to visit many

of their lessons and see the focus, enthusiasm, and commitment they are already showing. I very much look forward to supporting them throughout this important stage of their school life.

This term, all Year 10 students will be engaging in a structured tutorial programme designed to complement their studies and equip them with wider skills for life. The programme includes:

- **Tutorial Worship** – encouraging reflection and growth.
- **Votes for Schools** – a weekly debate-based activity that develops critical thinking, confidence, and oracy skills.
- **Health and Wellbeing** – our first focus, ensuring students are supported in managing this transition with resilience and balance.

Alongside this, Year 10 have also begun their **Reading Challenge** this week, with the aim of encouraging all students to read regularly and continue developing their reading skills. It is an exciting start to the year, and I look forward to everything that lies ahead with Year 10 as they continue to grow, learn, and thrive.

**Mrs Noble**  
**Head of Year 10**



As we begin this crucial year, I want to take a moment to say how proud I am of the way Year 11 have started. There's a real sense of purpose in the air; students are arriving with focus, determination, and a clear understanding of the journey ahead. It's been fantastic to see so many of them already stepping up by supporting one another and

showing real maturity in their approach to learning.

Our theme this year is simple but powerful: **"Work hard, be nice."** These words will guide everything we do. Working hard means showing up every day ready to give your best, even when it's tough. Being nice means treating others with care, respect, and empathy - qualities that make our year group stronger together. I'm excited for what's to come. With the right mindset and support, I know this year group can achieve great things.

**Miss Brown**  
**Head of Year 11**

## The Headteacher's Challenge - Year 7

Hopefully, most students have been keeping entertained and spending time over the summer to complete Head Teacher's Challenge. There was a lot to do!



The full list of tasks to undertake is in the updated Family Handbook and this document also has a wealth of information about Becket Keys and the day to day running of the school.

You can find a link to a survey about Stage 1 of the challenge here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/2dCgjRA1BQ>

Please complete this with your son/daughter so that we know what has been achieved. Our tutors will be looking at the folders and books throughout September.

I look forward to hearing all about the students' experiences of the Headteacher's Challenge at a special Collective Worship which will be held soon.

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

## Another Year of Outstanding A Level Results at Becket Keys

*"For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. He holds success in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless."*

Proverbs 2:6-7 (NIV)

Becket Keys Church of England School are celebrating another year of excellent A Level results, with the Class of 2025 achieving strong academic outcomes and securing exciting destinations including places at top universities across the country, degree apprenticeships and exciting jobs and gap year experiences.

### Outstanding Achievements

Several students achieved exceptional results, with ten students securing three or more A\*/A grades, including:

- Samuel Carey and Ben Shelton– both with four A\*/A grades
- Harry Adams, Zack Cristescu, Callum Etchells, Jack Falco, Zara Shepherd, Lisa Singh, Jemima Smithers, and Jacob Walton – each with three A\*/A grades

### University Destinations

Many students are now heading to prestigious universities and courses. We are delighted that 48 students secured places at 17 different Russell Group Universities including Cambridge,





Durham, Warwick, Bath, Edinburgh and King's College London, to study courses ranging from Law, Medicine, and Engineering to English, Politics, and Theology.

The school has students heading off to a wide range of interesting and prestigious destinations. You can read more about the future plans of many of our students on the school website here: [Becket Keys](https://www.becketkeys.org.uk)



**Mr Iain Gunn (Chair of Governors) said:**

*"This year's A Level results are a testament to the strength of our school community. Our students have not only achieved academic excellence, but have done so with grace, humility, and determination. As Governors, we are deeply proud of their accomplishments and grateful for the dedication of our staff. These young people are ready to make a meaningful impact in the world — and we send them forward with our prayers and full confidence."*



**BECKET KEYS**  
Church of England School



**St Thomas of Canterbury,  
the Parish Church for  
Brentwood**

## All Age Mass



**10.00 on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

All are welcome to this family-friendly service offered on the second Sunday of the month, enabling families to worship together.

Lasting no more than an hour, the service concludes with doughnuts and drinks

St Thomas' Church, St Thomas Road, Brentwood CM14 4DF [www.stthomas.org.uk](http://www.stthomas.org.uk)

## Year 7

### Friday Eucharists

- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September – 7AC
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September – INSET day
- Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October – 7FS
- Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October – 7PP
- Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October – 7WW & 7HS
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October – INSET day

## Excellent GCSE & Ebacc Results

Becket Keys Church of England School is celebrating yet another set of excellent GCSE results. The average grade across all subjects is even higher than last year, and more students in this 2025 cohort have achieved Grade 5 passes (or better) in English and Mathematics than ever before! A record 87% of students were entered for the EBACC, with over 75% achieving a pass in all five EBACC subjects.

There are a number of individual success stories that result from notably high performance. Almost a third of all grades achieved are 7 or above, and our students achieved a total of 81 Grade 9s! This “rare grade” (achieved by only 3% of students nationally in each subject) demonstrates performance above that of the old A\*.

Two of our top-performing students were Evanthe Antoniou, with nine Grade 9s and one Grade 8, and Joshua Eida, with eight Grade 9s, one Grade 8 and one Grade 7. Evanthe will be staying at Becket Keys to study Mandarin, Media Studies and Religion and Philosophy. Joshua will be staying at Becket Keys to study Chemistry, Biology, Physics and Mathematics.



The full report is available on the school website here: [Becket Keys](#)



**Colin Mackinlay, CEO of RET, said:**

*"Once again, Becket Keys has demonstrated what is possible when a school community works together with purpose and passion. These results reflect outstanding teaching, strong leadership, and a culture that nurtures every student to flourish."*



## Meet Some New Staff



### Mrs Nunes Science Teacher

I am very happy to be joining Becket Keys this September as a zi/c in Science.

Science has always been my favourite subject, and from the age of 12, I decided I wanted a career in a scientific field. I went through many phases until I decided that Forensic Science was the right fit for me.

My path took a turn when I moved to the UK at the age of 16, just before starting college, and being in a new country, I wasn't sure I could achieve my dreams, but I did. I aspired to be at university and worked very hard to go to the university of Kent, where I graduated in Forensic Science.

At this stage, it was hard for me to work in the industry, so I turned to education, where I found a new passion. I qualified

WELCOME

from UCL as a teacher. Teaching to me is like magic, an explosion of excitement and enthusiasm, and love for science. I hope I can transmit all these feelings to the students here at Becket Keys.

I don't think I can turn back and not be a teacher, but I hope I can inspire students to follow a scientific path. In the end, science is all around us every single day.

In my spare time, I love to visit farms with my son, as he is super excited about animals. I also like to go swimming and spend time with my family at small gatherings.

During the summer holidays, our family tends to go back to our home country, Portugal, and enjoy the sunshine. We also love to explore new countries and cultures, and every year we go to a new country, even if it's just for a few days.

### Mr Woods PE Teacher

I am excited to be joining the Becket Keys team this year as I begin my first role as a secondary school teacher.

I previously worked and very much enjoyed ten years in primary education, so much so that I decided to study a degree in Sports Science alongside my teaching qualification, achieving a First-Class Honours degree.

Sport remains a huge passion of mine – I enjoy rugby and football, and as a loyal West Ham United supporter, I know all about resilience! Outside of school, I love to travel and spend time with my two dogs, who keep me busy and active.

I want to express appreciation to everyone I have met so far for being as kind and supportive as you have been. I am really looking forward to this new challenge and to getting to know the Becket Keys community.



## Student Achievement



### Joshua Witchells Year 13 – Head Boy

Over the summer break, I completed a week of work experience with the London Assembly at City Hall. I worked closely with an Assembly Member and their team, contributing to several research projects. These included investigations into the operational structure of TfL's subsidiary *Places for London*, TfL and GLA policies on hiring and staff wellbeing, and the Mayor's Green Finance Fund. From this research, I submitted 50 questions to the Mayor of London for Mayor's Question Time, giving me the opportunity to engage directly with the Assembly's wider work.

I also attended a variety of meetings, from team discussions on upcoming speeches to a full emergency plenary session with the Deputy Mayor and the Chief Constable. This was the highlight of my week, providing a unique

insight into the Assembly at work and the chance to meet other Assembly Members and political figures, including a member of the House of Lords.

I originally met an Assembly Member at a local event that I was invited to by some friends, and started a conversation with him there. I asked him about what his advice would be with regards to obtaining work experience in the political sector, hoping for just a bit of advice, and he said he would be willing to offer me some once he had taken a look at my CV. Just goes to show that quite a few doors are opened by just talking to people and getting their advice!



Overall, this was a great experience which deepened my understanding of political processes and current issues, as well as giving me a clear sense of what working in this field is like. And, of course, I was in my Becket Keys suit the whole time!



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Remember that all correspondence to the school must come through the school office email:

[office@becketkeys.org](mailto:office@becketkeys.org)

Your message will be forwarded to the member of staff concerned.

You can also send a message via the contact page on the website:

<https://www.becketkeys.org/contact-staff>

You can also now reply directly to any message you receive from the school via Bromcom, just hit the reply button and it will go to the office.

Students can contact their teachers via Satchel One if they have any queries regarding their lessons.

Please do not email staff directly as any message received in this way will not receive a response.

Many thanks for your understanding.



## World Challenge 2025



Less than two months ago, the 2025 World Challenge to Cambodia concluded, marking the end of one of the most pivotal, eye opening, life altering experiences of my life...

On the 10th of July eleven Becket Keys Students (including myself), two members of school staff (Dr Hurdle and Mrs Johnstone), and our World Challenge Guide, Simon embarked on a phenomenal journey. After 3 long flights and thankfully smooth airport checkouts we landed in the City of Siem Reap where we met our Incredible local tour guide, Sok Li who would be accompanying us during this first stretch of the challenge. A short coach ride later saw us arriving at a hostel which pleasantly surprised all members of the group with its quality, equipped with an open top bar/ restaurant area with a swimming pool overlooking the city. The staff were pleasant, the rooms comfortable, the food served was appetizing and the facilities were excellent leaving little more to be desired from our first place of stay in this new country. During our stay in the city, we immersed ourselves



in the culture, expanding our palates with traditional Cambodian food, visiting monasteries and similarly impressive sights, attempting the Cambodian language of "Khmer" as well as exploring the bustling street markets and trying our hands as haggling (to various degrees of success).



Next on our agenda was the community initiative. The bulk of our work involved helping to build a road to a recently opened

school in a small community we travelled to on day three. The work, though physically taxing was quite enjoyable and greatly fulfilling knowing that our hard work would leave a lasting impact on the children of the community who would now have an easier time on their daily journey to school. During this initiative, we were also lucky enough to be shown the process of making rice as well as broom making, the latter I was fortunate enough to participate in, making a broom of my own which was especially fun. While very different to the living conditions that I am obviously accustomed to, living in England, I was surprised how quickly we all were able to adjust to this way of life which was especially eye opening. For me however, the biggest take away from this experience was just how hospitable and kind the local people were, offering places in their own homes for us to sleep in for two nights as well as providing



us with delicious food and overall being incredibly friendly and inviting throughout the duration of our stay.

Following our return from the community and staying a day back at our hostel we moved on to the next stage in our challenge: the hike up the Kulen mountain. The total duration of the hike was around 2 days, and it was this part of the trip that impacted me the most. After the first day of difficult climbing, we were greeted with the most phenomenal sunset I have ever witnessed. It would be futile to try to put into words how beautiful this sight was but notably some tears were shed by members of the group, myself included, as we were all incredibly moved by the serenity and magnificence of the Cambodian jungle as it was basked in golden light. The next day of the hike saw us all reach the top of the mountain where we stayed in a Buddhist monastery overlooking the vast expanse of lush green land. The view was utterly breathtaking and in truth we struggled to properly comprehend sheer the scale of what we were seeing. While at the monastery we were all fortunate enough to be blessed by a monk, receiving a bracelet which I believe has remained on the wrists of some of the party to this day.

After our descent from the mountain, our next stop was to visit Angkor Wat, unfortunately we were unable to witness the famous scene of the sun rising

from behind the temple due to the cloudy weather though this did not detract from how stunning the architecture was.



Furthermore, learning about the history of the temple and Cambodia as a whole, aided by our guide Sok Li, was deeply fascinating. Proceeding Angkor Wat, we also visited several, equally impressive temples before heading back to our hostel and preparing for the final part of our trip.



On day 11, after an emotional farewell to Sok Li who would unfortunately not be with us for this final stretch, we eventually travelled to the capital of Cambodia: Phnom Penh. Upon arrival the stark difference between the capital city, and the city of Siem Reap was immediately apparent. This city was definitely the most comparable location to familiar locations in the UK out of anywhere we had been leading up to this point as it was vastly more developed, due to the colonisation of the French. This also led to the interesting French-colonial architecture that makes up much of the city. Interestingly however, almost all members of the group admitted to in fact preferring Siem Reap to Phnom Penh for various reasons though unanimously it was agreed that the people we encountered in the capital were noticeably less friendly than those in Siem Reap and undoubtedly the community. Despite this the city was still remarkable and brilliant to explore. While in Phnom Penh, we also visited the Genocide Museum, located on the site of the killing fields used during the Khmer Rouge- the Cambodian Genocide. This for me was the most difficult part of the trip, learning about the tragic, disturbing history of Cambodia, seeing thousands of human skulls as well as observing the sites where such harrowing, despicable acts took place. Though difficult, I believed it important to be



educated on the history and to pay my respects. It was during this part of the trip where the virtues of the group truly shone for me as they all supported each other through this more emotional aspect of the journey.



I should mention that I am so deeply grateful for my fellow World Challenge members, who throughout the entire journey were nothing less than an absolute pleasure to be with, it was remarkable to see the comradeship displayed by all members of the group and how respectful everybody was with one another. It truly made the entire trip a breeze as they all fully threw themselves into every aspect of the challenge, supporting and encouraging each other tirelessly through thick and thin. The teachers were also a huge positive aspect of the trip, allowing us a perfect degree of independence and making us feel heard and seen throughout all the decision making that took place. Equally our tour guide Simon deserves a lot of thanks for his dedication to the group as well as World Challenge as a whole for having such impeccable organisation that made the experience so utterly



enjoyable and removed any potential stress along the way.

its impact will stay with me for a lifetime.

Looking back now, I can say with certainty that Cambodia has left a lasting imprint on me. From the vibrant culture and breathtaking landscapes to the generosity and warmth of the people we met along the way, every moment of this journey has shaped me in ways I will never forget. What started as a challenge quickly became a collection of memories, friendships, and lessons that I will carry with me forever. I returned home not only with stories to tell but also with a deeper sense of gratitude, resilience, and wonder for the world around me. This adventure may have ended, but

**Milo Walters**  
**Year 12**





I was asked to write about Cambodia, but I still haven't fully comprehended the experience myself. When I signed up in Year 10, it seemed more like an idea than something that was actually going to happen. But before I knew it, I was back at school, waiting for the coach to the airport to arrive. The group around me were recognisable but not known—these were the people I would be spending the next two weeks with!

Arriving at the airport, all the excitement and nerves that were built up, soon wore out thanks to the queues and time waiting. Finally, the announcement came: "Section C may board now." I walked down the aisle looking for my seat, with plans of reading and listening to music—plans that were soon thrown out the window when I sat down and saw the movies they had. The flight passed by quickly, and suprisingly so did the next one, both were about seven hours long. Then we arrived in Thailand. We walked to our plane, ready to board, only to be greeted by a propeller plane! It was the shortest flight, only an hour long, but the theory of flying that I'd never really considered suddenly hit me. Even though my brain was expecting a definite crash, we arrived safely. Cambodia—finally.

Ready to see everything but too tired to do so, I fell asleep on the coach and woke up when we arrived at the hostel. We got the keys to our rooms—all the boys in one room and all the girls in another. We unpacked, making



## World Challenge Expeditions

Outdoor education company



small, awkward conversation—the kind of small talk that, after a while, can become unbearable. Thankfully, it wasn't like this for long as we all became close very fast. I was lucky to experience Cambodia with such kind people.

I drifted off to bed quite quickly and awoke to a bright, hot day. Now, time to experience Cambodia.

Our tour guide showed us through the city. His name was Sok Lee. We meandered through



the markets—new foods, new smells surrounding us (not all pleasant). Pleased with my experience but shattered, we wandered back to the hostel. Only a day after arriving, I was packing again—packing to go to the community initiative. I packed most of my stuff because I wasn't sure what was awaiting me. Distraction from my worries came when we were called down to get onto tuk tuks to the buffet and Cambodian dance. Beautiful and delicious. Though these dances were amazing, they were not even comparable to what we would see later.

Back in the tuk tuks with heavy stomachs and high spirits. To sleep, and we were awake again—driving to the village. Upon arrival, there was no waiting around. They showed us to our huts, and then it was straight to digging. Now tasked with helping to clear the road to the local school—it was a lot of hard work, but we managed. There were a few pleasant distractions from the village children, with whom we played games (the language barrier didn't ruin the enjoyment). On the last day, we were taught how to make spring rolls, brooms, and rice. It was a lot of hard work, and it made me all the more appreciative of the delicious food that was given to us. I was only there for three days, but by the third day, I felt a part of the community—with friendly smiles and warm goodbyes. What we left with were blistered hands and a sense of achievement in

completing a clear path for the children to get to school.

As soon as we got home, it was straight to the showers. Hostel showers were very different from the ones at the village, which had a bucket of water you poured over your head. The shower at the hostel really made me appreciate my fortune of being born in a wealthy country. Although seeing these people be so happy with so little made me also realise that happiness doesn't come from what you have, but rather who you're surrounded with.



Clean and fresh clothes washed and ready for another new day in Cambodia. Waking up with no hard work to do was a relief, although it was only one day of relaxation, we went to experience the bigger market of Cambodia. We bargained and bartered for lower prices to get jewellery and fake designer brands. On our way to the market, we passed many beautiful statues and temples—not like the statues in London, but gold statues, all respected and kept clean.

A successful day ended with a trip down Pub Street, where the best restaurants were found. An amazing day that ended in us getting ice cream. A happy day which was followed by ...

The hike. The dreaded hike. Three days hiking up a mountain range and sleeping in villages. We were welcomed happily by the local tour guides who would be guiding us through the mountains. In my hiking boots, I felt silly as they climbed the mountain in flip-flops. The first struggle was climbing the mountain to get to the top. There were stairs—a lot of stairs. Just when it seemed to end, there were more. And then, the top of the mountain. Finally. Food awaited us—food served in banana leaves. It was delicious. We walked for ages in the heat until finally arriving at the first village. There were tents set up next to a beautiful stream and a gorgeous waterfall. We picked our tents and then went to wash in the stream. It was like a movie.

After getting out, the village locals told us they knew a good sunset spot. We followed them through the forest with complete trust—trust that was rewarded with a picturesque view of the mountain range and what we had just climbed. Everyone stayed silent as we appreciated what was around us. I feel like no picture or words can capture what it felt like to be there in that moment. Its magnificence was numbing. I walked back in silence. We ate dinner and scoffed down rich and juicy fruits. A fire was lit in the centre of camp. We sat around it as the villagers played music for us. We danced and we laughed. What a way to end a night.

Waking up to a view like that is something only one can dream

of—or so I thought. Serenity washed over me. There was not enough time in the world for me to be able to fully appreciate it. So yet again, it was time to walk. This time, the walk was very monotonous—all flat. We got to the next village, where our tents overlooked the view we had appreciated while watching the sunset. Everyone went away to experience it on their own. I sat on the swing and watched the view, enjoying every moment. I thought I would struggle without electronics, but how could anyone look at a screen when that was right in front of them?

More dinner, and then off to bed again. I woke up early and sat to watch the morning, hearing villages down below sing. It was amazing. If that experience wasn't already spiritual enough, we went to visit the monks, who blessed us with water, wished us safe travels, and gave us bracelets.

Now, the walk home. It went by quickly, and we were soon back on the coach and back to the hostel.

We savoured the last few days in this town, as we were soon driving to the capital, Phnom Penh. We visited the death camps and the memorial museum, and it was very upsetting to see and think that it wasn't that long ago that Cambodia experienced this horrible genocide. It was sickening and one of the lows of the trip. Although it brought me a lot of discomfort, it was important that we saw and learnt about it.

A few days passed in the capital, and we visited everything there was to see—even enjoying the playgrounds and feeding the pigeons. And in the blink of an eye, the trip was over. On the last day, we went to one final lunch together, where everyone gathered around and sang me happy birthday—giving me

donuts with candles, a birthday card, and an embarrassing badge and sash to wear, which I wore gladly because I knew they cared enough to buy it for me.

And just as quickly as it began, it ended. I was back in England.

I am so incredibly grateful for having had this experience—meeting these people and seeing what I saw. Without the school giving me this opportunity, I would have never been able to do such an amazing thing. Thank you, Dr Hurdle and Mrs. Johnstone, and everyone else involved in organising it. I will be forever thankful.

**Harriet Hart**  
**Year 12**

The 2027 expedition will be launched to students on the soon, along with a presentation to parents. Further details will be sent shortly.



# General Information & Notices from the Head Teacher

## School Run

Please do not drive into Sawyers Hall Lane! I am sure a few of you have made that decision for yourselves already, but in case any of you are still driving in, please refrain from doing so. The road is dangerous and busy outside the school. Please drop your children off elsewhere and ask them to walk the last bit. Similarly, when picking up, perhaps ask them to walk to a local car park (Brentwood Centre or Sainsbury's) or Doddinghurst Road or Shenfield Road where there are plenty of places to park with no restrictions.

If you really do have to drive into Sawyers Hall Lane, please at least avoid the final part of the road and drop off further up beyond Burland Road. Even the laziest teenager can walk from there!



## Bikes

Students riding bikes should wear a helmet and we recommend a bright yellow vest or jacket too. Students will need a padlock to secure their bike in our special area. It is great to see so many students cycling to school. Remember! **No scooters or skateboards please.**

## Holidays & Appointments

Please make every effort to avoid unnecessary holidays and appointments during term time. Holidays will not be authorised and all absence **must** be authorised. Parents have been fined by the courts for not following this advice. Students will get more out of school, if they attend well!

## Uniform

The students look excellent in their new uniform; thank you for supporting our school policies so closely. We know it is important to all of us to see our students looking smart in their uniform at all times.

Remember that all main school girls should have a revered collar on their blouse and should not wear other types of shirt.

Please see the website if you need more details about the school dress code.

<https://www.becketkeys.org/uniform.php>



## Gaming



Help your son/daughter do better at school by managing use of social media and gaming. There is a clear link between success at school and a limited amount of time wasted on these addictive time zappers.

## LOST PROPERTY

Please make sure that **EVERY** item of uniform, PE Kit and equipment is named. There are over a thousand students at the school all wearing the same uniform.

There are many items that we are unable to return as we do not know to whom they belong.

Lost Property can be collected from Reception.



## WEEK 1

Week Commencing; 25/08/2025 15/09/2025 06/10/2025 27/10/2025

## CLASSIC HOT &amp; HEARTY

## CLASSIC MAIN MEALS

**MONDAY**  
Lemon & Herb Piri Piri Chicken with Spicy Rice

**TUESDAY**  
Mexican Style Beef Lasagne, Garden Salad & Homemade Garlic Bread

**WEDNESDAY**  
Honey Glazed Roast Gammon or Lemon & Thyme Roast Chicken, Crisp Roasties, Seasonal Vegetables & House Gravy

**THURSDAY**  
Chicken Tikka Masala with Pilau Rice & Coriander Salad

**FRIDAY**  
Chip Shop "Fryday" Fish, Pizza or Fishcake & Chips with Peas & Tartare Sauce

## VEGETARIAN MAIN MEALS

**MONDAY**  
Piri Piri Quorn, Macho Peas and Spicy Rice (VE)

**TUESDAY**  
Vegetable & Mixed Bean Lasagne, Garden Salad & Homemade Garlic Bread (V)

**WEDNESDAY**  
Roasted Squash & Feta Pie, Seasonal Vegetables or Salad (V)

**THURSDAY**  
Crunchy Topped Macaroni Cheese, House Salad or Seasonal Vegetable (V)

**FRIDAY**  
BBQ Bean Burger with Garden Peas & Chips (VE)

## DESSERTS

## MONDAY

Spiced Pineapple Cake with Vanilla Sauce

## TUESDAY

Apple Strudel & Custard

## WEDNESDAY

Chocolate Sponge & Chocolate Sauce

## THURSDAY

Cookie Dough Fruit Crumble

## FRIDAY

Fruit, Jelly & Yoghurt Pots

Fruit and Jelly Pots Available Daily

**HOMEMADE SOUP & FRESHLY BAKED BREAD Available Daily**

**JACKET POTATOES Topped with a Choice of: Cheese, Tuna or Beans Available Daily**

Innovate



**MADE YOUR WAY!**

**CHOOSE IT! ADD IT! TOP IT!**

Switch up your flavours with our street food-inspired range, available **Tuesday to Thursday**. With weekly rotating choices, there's always something tasty.

**Choose a base, add protein, and top it your way!**

Visit the restaurant to check out what's on offer each week

NATURally

## MONDAY

Pakistani Tarka Dhal (VE)

## TUESDAY

Vegan Singapore Noodles (VE)

## WEDNESDAY

Vegan Ramen Bowl (VE)

## THURSDAY

The Big Plant Burger (VE)

## FRIDAY

Garlic & Chilli Noodles (VE)

TRATTORIA

## MONDAY

Tomato & Basil Pasta

## TUESDAY

Pasta in a Cheese Sauce

## WEDNESDAY

Margherita or Pepperoni Pizza

## THURSDAY

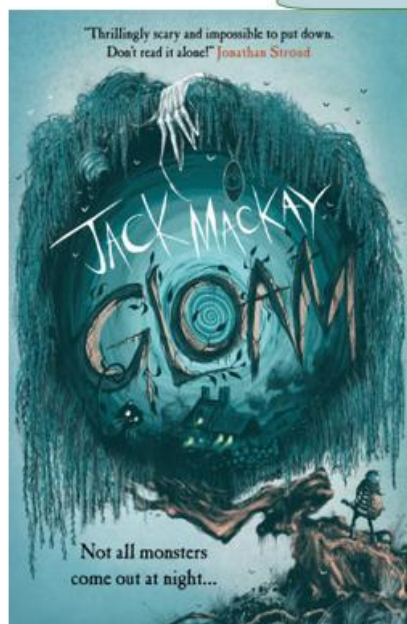
Creamy Pesto Pasta

## FRIDAY

Margherita Pizza



## Book of the Month - September



Not all monsters come out at night

In a creaky old house on a small, damp island, someone – or something – is waiting...

A grieving family. A decaying house. A babysitter with a monstrous secret. Nothing on Gloam Island is quite what it seems...

Gwen's used to looking after her younger siblings – so when they move to their grandmother's old house after their mother's death, she's confident that they don't need Esme Laverne, the beautiful new babysitter with the hungry eyes and sharp teeth. But if Gwen wants Esme gone, she'll have to handle it herself.

As Esme's powers slowly reveal themselves, the children must face their own fears to have any hope of banishing the monstrous intruder ...

Because as everyone knows, it's impossible to be brave unless you're already afraid.

A spine-chilling story for fans of Stranger Things and A Monster Calls.

## CHESS CLUB TUESDAY LUNCHTIME LIBRARY B

Everyone welcome from beginners to expert level  
Opportunities to play in the School Chess Team



Please make sure that you top-up your son or daughter's account each week so that he/she is able to access all the delicious meals in the school restaurants.

There is a small overdraft facility on ParentPay accounts of £2 for emergency situations, which covers the cost of a sandwich.

Due to the cashless system in place, there is no other back up.

We do not want any student to miss lunch or the great choice of food available every day in our restaurants. The chefs work hard each day to provide a variety of delicious meals for the school.

If you need assistance navigating the site then help is available here: <https://support.parentpaygroup.com/hc/en-gb/sections/6089568194577-Parents-and-guardians>

If you have any other queries, please contact the school – [office@becketkeys.org](mailto:office@becketkeys.org)

## Late Gate

*Early is on time,  
On time is late,  
And late is unacceptable!*

At Becket Keys, we look to ensure that we are preparing students for life beyond school. We encourage students to attend school regularly and on time.

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

Brentwood can be tough to negotiate during rush hour, so we encourage students and parents to contact the school in the case of **genuine** lateness, such as delayed public transport.

Parents can call the main school line 01277 286600 or use the "Studybugs" app.

We thank you for your support.





# BARNARDOS

Changing childhoods.  
Changing lives.

Essex Child and Family  
Wellbeing Service

hcrp  
Care Group

## The BIG Shout

How your voice can help others



**Complete this survey for a chance to win a £20 voucher of your choice!**

We're looking to better understand how we can improve engagement and outcomes for children and families in your neighbourhood. Your feedback within this survey will help us learn how local services can better support you and your community.



\*We cannot guarantee any changes will be made following this survey, but we are consulting to see what people would like to see in an ideal world so we can advocate for this in the future.

Services commissioned by:

NHS

Essex County Council

# DON'T FORGET

If you wish to play football on the Astroturf at lunchtime you will need to bring in your trainers. The surface has been recently replaced and so only trainers are allowed on there and no food is to be consumed. Students are not permitted to play in their socks.



The extra-curricular clubs begin next week, we encourage all students to join at least one club and there is something for everyone, whatever your interests.

Music, sports, boardgames, Warhammer, food, drama, crafts, books and subject related clubs are all available.

View the full list here: [Becket Keys](#)

## Wool and Craft Club Starting Tuesday 16th Sept

**When:** After school

**Where:** C26

**Time:** 3.15 - 4.15

**All equipment and crafting goods will be provided.**

**Anyone is welcome!**







All new parents will have received details of how to log in to Satchel One. This learning platform will give you important information about your son/daughters' learning at school. You can see timetables, the homework that has been set and messages from teachers.

An individual QR code has been provided to Year 7 families so that you can access this system easily.

Those who have been using Satchel One previously will be able to log in using the same details as last year.

A collage of Warhammer 40,000 miniature models, including Space Marines and vehicles, set against a dark background.

### Warhammer Club

- What? The best tabletop wargame club
- When? Monday afterschool
- Where? J25

A colorful poster for Year 7 Social Club, designed to look like a spiral-bound notebook. It features a pink spiral on the left and a pink paper with a blue border.

## Year 7 Social Club

### What?

A space for year seven students to meet new people, play games, do some crafts or sit and relax! You are welcome to bring your lunch.

### When?

Thursday  
lunchtimes in  
Library B

### Reminder

All feminine hygiene products are free to students in school.

Please collect from  
Medical or Reception.

[Nationally Televised Advert](#)



Open to all KS3  
Every Monday in  
15.20 – 16:00 pm

Come along and carry out projects and practicals that we don't do during science lessons!

Spaces are limited, so come along to avoid missing out.

Join Mr Achillea in W21.



# Becket Keys MUSIC

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:00am			Theory Club		
Lunchtime 1	Year 9 Band Room Year 8 Band	Year 12 Band Room			
Lunchtime 2	Year 10 GCSE Band Room	Year 10 GCSE Band Room			
3:15pm-4:15pm	Orchestra	BK Choir	Stage Band	Upper Voices Brass Ensemble	Rock Factory

**Note:** Orchestra – open to all year groups who play and orchestral instrument

BK Choir -Year 7, 8 and 9 singers

Upper Voices – Year 10,11,12,13 singers

Stage Band – woodwind, brass and rhythm section players

Rock Factory – open to all guitars, bass, drummers and vocalists

## PE Extra Curricular - Sept to Oct



Day	Lunchtime (12:40-1:20)	After-School (3:20-4:20)
Monday	TUP Badminton	Year 9 Rugby
Tuesday	TUP Futsal	All Years' Mixed Recreational Football Year 7 Netball Year 9 Boys' Basketball
Wednesday	Year 7 Invite Only Netball GCSE Theory Intervention	Year 10 & 11 Rugby Year 8,9,10&11 Netball
Thursday	TUP Basketball	Year 7&8 Rugby
Friday		All Years' Running Club

Keys:

- Astro
- Sports hall
- Main Hall
- Drama Hall
- Field

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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OPEN EVENT FOR PROSPECTIVE  
YEAR 7 STUDENTS  
THURSDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2025

\*

INSET DAYS  
(NO STUDENTS IN SCHOOL)  
FRIDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025  
FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2025

\*

ALL SAINTS' HOLIDAY  
YEAR 11 INTERVENTIONS  
MONDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER –  
FRIDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2025

\*

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENT  
WEDNESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2025

\*

LAST DAY OF TERM  
STUDENT HALF DAY  
THURSDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2025

\*

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY  
FRIDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2025 –  
FRIDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY 2026

\*

INSET DAY  
(NO STUDENTS IN SCHOOL)  
MONDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026

# Becket Keys Church of England School

Sawyers Hall Lane  
Brentwood, Essex  
CM15 9DA  
01277 286600

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@BecketKeysSci  
@BecketKeysDT  
@BecketKeysExams  
@BecketKeysTrips

[Facebook: Becket Keys Church School](https://www.facebook.com/BecketKeysChurchSchool)