

## Becket Keys Church of England School

21st November 2025

#### **IN THIS ISSUE**

#### Seeing Autumn and Winter Differently: Finding Light in the Darkness

What if Autumn and Winter were not seasons to endure, but seasons to embrace? As the days grow shorter and darkness settles in, it is easy to feel the weight of the colder months. Yet these seasons offer something precious; a chance to pause, reflect and rediscover hope. Light is coming!

This is especially true for our Year 11 and Year 13 students, who are currently taking mock exams. These weeks can feel intense and demanding, but they are steppingstones toward growth and success. As a school community, we have the privilege of surrounding them with

encouragement and prayer. Every word of reassurance, every quiet moment of support, can make a real difference.

Together, we can help. We can remind students that effort matters as much as results, and that perseverance is a sign of strength. We can create calm spaces: a listening ear in the corridor, a gentle word before an exam or a quiet corner at home. We can offer practical support, such as helping with revision routines or simply providing a warm meal and encouragement after a long day. In addition, we can pray for peace and clarity, asking that every student feels supported and confident as they navigate this important stage.

.....contd. on page 2



#### **History Department**

Year 9 students enjoyed an excellent interactive History workshop last week.

Page 3

#### **Christmas Carol Concert**

It will soon be the festive season. Book your place at the Carol Concert now!

Page 4

#### Easyfundraising

Did you know that you can help raise funds for the school at no cost to you? Find out how here.

Page 5

#### Club of the Week

This week we celebrate the Trading Card Club.

Page 12



Beyond exams, this time of year invites us all to slow down and notice the beauty around us: a frosty morning, the glow of a candle, the warmth of shared conversation. These are glimpses of grace in the midst of darkness. And as we prepare for Advent, the season of expectation and hope, we are reminded that Christmas is drawing near: the celebration of Jesus, the Light of the World, breaking into our world with love and peace. His words in John 8:12 remind us of this promise:



'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.' Let us choose to see this time of year differently. Let us be that light that brightens the path for one another. After all, light only fulfilled its purpose where it shines where others can see.

#### Lord Jesus,

As we choose to see this time of year differently, help us to be light for one another. In our words and actions, may we bring hope, peace and encouragement to those around us. Bless our students with confidence and calm, our staff with wisdom and strength, and our families with love and patience. As we prepare for Advent, remind us that Your light shines in every season and every heart. May our school be a place of grace and joy, reflecting Your presence in all we do.

In Your name we pray, Amen.

Warmest regards,

Mrs Sharp Deputy Headteacher



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.

There are a large number of extracurricular clubs that your son/daughter can attend at Becket Keys. Full details are available on the school website here:

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



#### Year 9 - History



Last Wednesday, our year had an amazing day full of activities at a history workshop in the Main Hall. Zeitgeist Tours gave us an exciting, insightful session analysing WWI, with real artefacts we got to examine and even hold! Their presenters performed demonstrations of how soldiers lived in the trenches, as well as daily routines, rationing and communication, under pressure and tension. One eventful activity we observed (and got to participate in) was carrying of a stretcher, which shared the process of medical procedures on the battlefield. It was eye-opening and a highly informative presentation.

It was a truly engaging hands-on experience. The presentation helped us feel that history is a relevant and emotional part of our lives in a vivid way. It enhanced our understanding of the First World War in a richly detailed manner.

We kindly thank Zeitgeist Tours for a memorable day.

Anca Brescan Year 9



Page 3 of 22



This year's Christmas Carol Concert takes place on Thursday 4th December 2025 in the Main Hall and will be a wonderful opportunity to listen to music performed by the many musical groups we have at Becket Keys.

Tickets for guests and parents are available to book here:

## Becket Keys Christmas Carol Concert 2025

The Christmas Carol Concert is a wonderful tradition at Becket Keys, and we are delighted that we can once again share this festive event with you and your family.

# THURSDAY 4<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2025 BECKET KEYS CofE SCHOOL MAIN HALL 7.00pm – 8.00pm

There is no charge for the concert tickets, but we will be having a collection at the end of the evening and any money donated will be split between the Governors' Hardship Fund and the Music Department, so if you are able to a donation for these causes it would be appreciated.

Refreshments will also be available prior to the event.



Think you are up for the challenge? This term's task is called **Nasty Negatives** – Give it a try!

Every time you finish a challenge you will have learnt or practised something important. Not only that, but just for fun, show **Mrs. Conway** and she will put your name into the prize draw.

That means the more challenges you complete, the more you learn and the more chances you have to win a great prize! The draw closes on Thursday 18th December 2025.

Click the following link to complete on any device.

#### Nasty Negatives!

So, get started, give it your best, learn lots and keep those entries coming!

Mrs Conway Head of Mathematics

#### **Christmas Meal**



Tickets are now available to purchase for our Christmas lunch which will be served on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. This is a joyful occasion for Years 7 – 11 to enjoy a traditional Christmas dinner in the Bistro or Orangery with music and crackers.

The cost is £4.55, tickets can be purchased from the Bistro/Orangery/Deli tills before

school, break time and at lunchtime. Students should pay in the usual way using the biometric system with the catering staff. Students will not be issued a physical ticket, but we will have a list of student names available on the day.

Students who are entitled to free school meals are automatically allocated a ticket and do not need to reserve one.

will be Monday 24th November, so please encourage your son/daughter to buy a ticket as soon as possible.

The final day to purchase a ticket

Please note: No other food options will be available at lunchtime on this day. If no Christmas lunch ticket is purchased then your son/daughter will need to bring a packed lunch to school.

#### **Non-School Uniform**

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December will also be a non-school uniform day for our school charities.

#### Students may:

- Wear their own choice of clothes.
- Wear Festive Fun Clothes such as Christmas jumpers, tinsel in hair, festive leggings, T-shirts, shirts, tops, dresses, jeans, skirts or tracksuits.
- Bring £1 to hand to their Form Tutor.

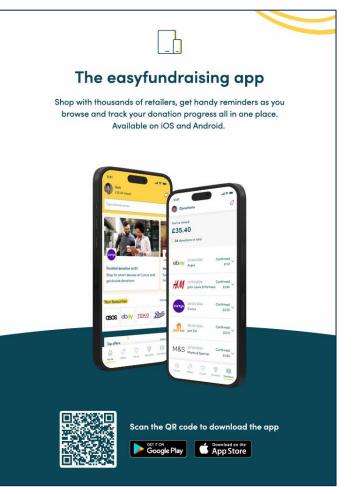
Expectations regarding make-up, jewellery, and hair remain the same as usual.

We look forward to all students enjoying these festive celebrations.



#### Friends of Becket Keys Fundraising





If you are organised and already doing your Christmas shopping online. Why not see if you can help raise some funds for Friends of Becket Keys through your online purchases in a few easy steps?

#### Click <u>here</u>, then:

- Click 'Sign up and support this cause'.
- If new to Easyfundraising then set up an account.
- Browse the hundreds of online shops who participate in the scheme and go shopping!
   As long as you go into the online sites through the Easyfundraising site, you will
   register a donation to FoBK. You can even get an App for your phone! It will not cost
   you a penny!

If already a member, then why not refer a friend? FoBK will get a bonus when each person you refer makes a purchase.

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/becketkeysschoolbrentwood



## FoBK THEATRE TRIP

#### 7.30PM THURSDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2026

This Disney musical is inspired by the animated film and based on the ancient myth.

Ancient Greece. A time of gods, mortals... and Hercules, who isn't quite either. But if he's not a god, how can he possibly save the world from Hades? It's one thing flexing those pecs, but going from zero to hero requires a different kind of strength.

Get ready for a wise-cracking, column-shaking, underworld-rocking ride of adventure and self-discovery. In tunics.

This theatre trip is organised by The Friends of Becket Keys and is open to all parents and students within the school community. We have secured stalls tickets for this performance and they will be £45 each (usually £60). If you are interested in attending this show then please complete this <u>form</u> to let us know how many tickets you require, further details and payment information will then be provided. These tickets will be issued on a first come first served basis and once all tickets are allocated we will set up a waiting list. Please contact the school with any queries.

#### **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.



#### **Student Achievement**

#### David Otsapa Year 13

My work experience search commenced at the start of summer 2024. Although this did not yield immediate results, I managed to secure an opportunity through family friends with BakerHicks and Siemens Mobility, two leading engineering companies with vastly different approaches to work. Both were 5-day work experiences with both organisations (from 14th-18th July 2025 at Siemens and 21st-25th July 2025 at BakerHicks). This experience was nothing short of life-changing. Engineering fascinates me, particularly due to its blend of creativity and science, turning scifi concepts into reality. This is especially evident in the way BakerHicks engineering consultants in various departments conduct research in conjunction with their clients, offering high technical expertise. I had the opportunity to do so in a micro lens through their individual project packs across the week, completing both the High Voltage Project & Specialised Engineering Fields pack (with snippets of various disciplines to design an optimal skyscraper framework in Manchester) in record time.

To say this was challenging would be an understatement! Luckily, I







had great support, which assisted me with my research and the eventual presentation of my findings, as well as teaching me about the company. My company liaison, Seyi, helped provide links to Team Leads, BIM consultants and many more. I now feel like I am beginning to grasp the vastness of engineering.

### BakerHicks.

Siemens Mobility specialises in railway infrastructure, building and maintaining an

interconnected railway network whilst optimising signalling tech. I had the opportunity to shadow engineers who had taken different routes into their role, including graduate, apprenticeship and on-the-job training. This was a chance to have 1-to-1 interviews with staff from various roles, namely from dismantling circuit boards, repurposing tech, and even project management. The program was a lot more handson, with both practical work and a group project. The project at Siemens seemed simple yet was complex: design a multifunctional integrated railway network system which is profitable to the council and enhances travel. We came up with several ideas to achieve this brief; these evolved as did our understanding of business and engineering, and error-prone practices undertaken for real-life projects. It was so impactful, and I do not think I can ever look at ANY business in the same light.







At the end of both weeks, I got to present my findings. This was nerve-racking at BakerHicks because I presented alone, but the staff members watching were supportive and allowed me to explain and express myself in ways I did not know I could.



I am so grateful for my family's support, as we stayed in Chippenham to allow me to

participate in this work experience; their support was immense. My thanks also go to all at Siemens and BakerHicks who made this a reality and the Sixth Form staff who constantly encouraged us all to get this experience. Overall, this was by far the most exhausting summer so far, with even more summer schools and university experience following in August. However, all these experiences exposed me to new challenges which reenergised me to pursue this goal in Engineering. I want to be part of something new that could perhaps reinvent the way the world is built around us.

> David Otsapa Year 13



#### Student Achievement



Hi, my name is Finley Perry, and I am in Year 10 at Becket Keys CofE School. On the 9th December I will be taking on the challenge of a lifetime; climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa and the highest free-standing mountain above sea level in the WORLD, standing at 5,895 mtrs (19,341 ft).

I am taking on this challenge in memory of my Nan, Janice Perry, who bravely fought cancer for a long time. During her final months, Janice was cared for by the incredible team at Havens Hospices, who provided comfort, dignity and support to her and to our whole family. This climb is my way of giving back and honouring her courage and strength.



As you can imagine, I am not doing this alone! I will be climbing with the following Kilimanjaro Team:

Alan Perry (my Dad!) Suki Dulai Paresh Mehta Sam Amore

Cancer has affected each of our lives. We have all experienced the fear, the love, the hope, and the heartbreak that comes with it.

We climb together to: Honour those we have lost, support those still fighting and help those who will need care in the future.

#### How I Have Prepared:

In order to take on a mountain like Kilimanjaro, I knew I needed to plan carefully to be ready. Over the past year, I have completed the UK Three Peaks Challenge (Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike & Snowdon) with my Dad, Alan. I have also taken on multiple endurance mountain hikes across the UK and climbed in the Dolomites in Italy. Training at high altitude and on steep technical terrain was our final preparation for the whole team.

We are travelling the Machame Route and this will take 6 days. The route is planned carefully in order for us to get acclimatised for the long last day when we could be trekking from midnight for 12-17 hours in order to reach the summit.





#### Why I am Fundraising:

Havens Hospices provides specialist care, free of charge, supported by donations. Your support helps ensure other families receive the same compassion, dignity and comfort that my Nan, Janice received.



#### How You Can Help:

Any donation, BIG or small, genuinely makes a difference.

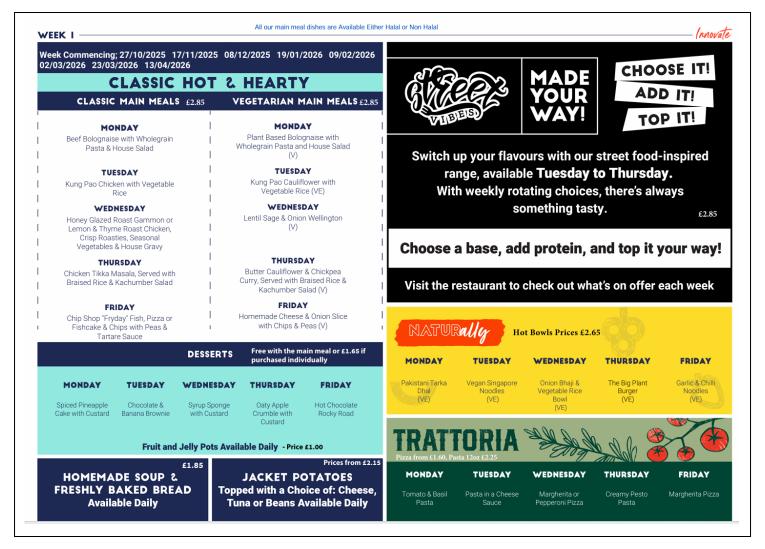
Thank you for supporting me and the team in our challenge and in turn supporting Havens Hospices. I appreciate all your support for helping me honour my Nan's memory. Every step we take, we take as a team and will remember my Nan, and those that we have lost and continue to be affected by cancer.

Finley Perry & The Kilimanjaro Team

Donate via Just Giving here.



The School Community Prayer Group hosted by our Headteacher, Mr Scott-Evans, is every Wednesday 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



#### Club of the Week – Trading Cards

Trading Card Club is a fun and amazing club that we started this year. We score, battle and trade and have lots of fun!

This week, Card Club is participating in a tournament where we battle for a Pokémon pack. I really enjoy it and all the members have a blast. Here are the reasons some of our members attend:

I like coming here because the people are very nice.



I like coming to TCG Club because it means that I am surrounded by others who share a common interest with me, I feel welcome here and can be myself.

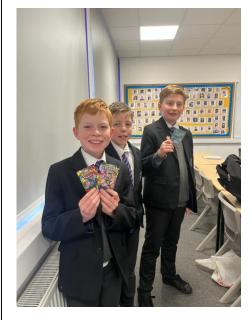
Trading Card Club is every
Thursday after school in C31 with
Miss Davies. We drop our cards
off at the start of the day and
then head up to the top floor at
the end of the day, we have a
great time! Why not come and
join us?

Evan Garn Year 8













As winter approaches, we want to ensure that you are prepared for your PE lessons. We are not always lucky enough to have an indoor space during the exam season, so please come prepared to be outside with the above kit. In extreme weather we will endeavour to use a classroom space as an option.

# A Prayer for Year 11 and 13 students to use during their mock 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 all does not rest on the result of this study.

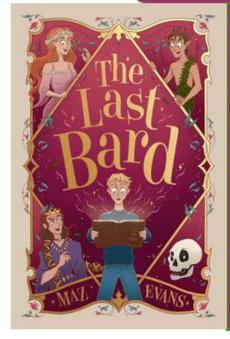
Help me to manage my time well to make time to rest and play as well as study.

Help me to revise effectively, and to remember all I have studied during the exam.

May I always give you all the glory for all that I am and do.



#### Book of the Month -November



Will Davenant has known more tragedy than laughter. But there's a new twist in his family story when he inherits his grandfather's Complete Works of Shakespeare. As the last living relative of William Shakespeare himself, Will can summon the Bard's heroes from the pages, including the murderous Lady Macbeth, Juliet (without her Romeo), Yorick the mournful skull and a mischievous Puck. . . . and now he has some extraordinary new friends to help turn things in his life around.

With his late grandfather's home under threat, Will, his new friends and Ani from next door must fight for their future in a comedy of errors.

Can love's labours win? Or will it all be much ado about nothing?



Celebrate your writing across the six schools in the Russell Education Trust.

This year's challenge is to select a memento.

Choose one as the starting point for your writing to feed your imagination.

Word limit: 1000 words.

Entries must be uploaded to <u>SatchelOne</u> by 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

Two school winners will be selected from each category: KS2-3, KS4 & Sixth Form.

All Trust-winning entries will be published in a book. The overall winner will gain a writer's visit for their school.



Your writing can take any form you would like. This is an opportunity to be as creative as you like.

A memento must feature somewhere in your writing. It should be the item which sparks the idea for your writing.

A memento is an object kept as a reminder of a person or event.

You can pick a memento that you have at home, or come and see an English teacher to see some of the examples that they have.

This writing must be typed on a word document.



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

#### 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/cont act-staff

You can 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.

# 5655655655655655 **Brentwood**

Together with Trussell

Foodbank

#### Help support your food bank this Christmas

#### Donate food



Donate an item or two from our shopping list, ensuring we can provide food for people facing hardship in your community.



If collecting festive food, please deliver before 24th November.

#### **Donate money**



Help to cover the costs of storing and distributing food, as well as developing sustainable projects.





#### **Shopping list**

- Christmas Cake
- Christmas Puddings
- Christmas Cakes/Biscuits
- Chocolates/Sweets
- Selection Boxes
- Biscuits for Cheese
- Sponge Puddings (syrup/ chocolate/jam)
- Tinned Custard
- Tinned Rice Pudding
- Tinned Fruit
- Tinned Salmon
- Tinned Ham
- Pickles/Cranberry Sauce
- Packet Stuffing
- Jelly's
- Carnation Milk







info@brentwood.foodbank.org.uk

Facilitated by Doddinghurst Road Church. Registered Charity in England and Wales (1171227)

#### School Shoes

- Boys Traditional flat, black sensible leather shoes lace up shoes to have black laces. No trainers or boots, no white or coloured laces. Lace up shoes preferable to Velcro. No sandals.
- Girls Traditional flat, black sensible leather shoes lace up shoes to have black laces, no trainers or boots. Lace up shoes preferable to Velcro. No kitten heels, sandals, platform shoes, ballet pumps, white or coloured laces.





# The Essex County Council Apprenticeship Hub, bringing you the latest opportunities

Visit: Essex Opportunities for local opportunities or National Apprenticeship Service for national apprenticeships, links and vacancy bulletin below.

# Leaving School or College this Summer and looking for an Apprenticeship?

A small selection of some of our exciting opportunities. Sign up to the Apprenticeship Hub to receive invites to our Apprenticeship Hub Live sessions and access to the Apprenticeship Hub Padlet.

School leavers can register with the Apprenticeship Hub for friendly help and support in finding the right apprenticeship.

If you are in Year 11 or Year 13 in a school in Essex, <u>sign up using our registration</u> form or email us on <u>apprenticeship.hub@essex.gov.uk</u> to find out more.



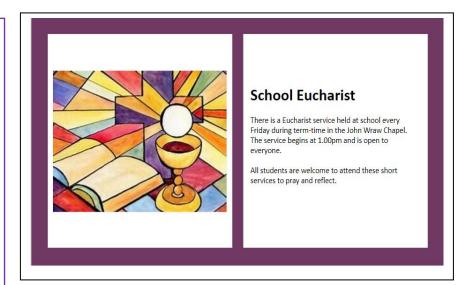
#### **School Uniform**

It is important to all of us that every one of the students who attend Becket Keys looks smart in their uniform at all times. All students are required to wear shoes and not trainers.

Girls in Year 7-9, should have their long hair completely tied up. Girls in Year 10-11 can have their hair half up/ half down. Black, purple or neutral coloured hair ties please. If boys have long hair, they too need to have it tied up.



Now that the weather is getting colder, please remember that all students will be in need of a **COAT** – Plain **BLACK** without coloured flashes, logos or slogans, no 'fashion items', no 'puffer' jackets. Please see the website, if you need more details about the school dress code.







Thank you so much to the kind parent who donated the swimming caps for our teams.

They all looked very smart for their gala!



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.

#### PE Extra Curricular - Oct to Dec 4.1 Lunchtime (11:50-12:30) After-School (3:10-4:30) Day 4.2 Lunchtime (12:40-1:20) Monday Year 10 and 11 Basketball Club Year 9, 10 and 11 Rugby Tuesday **TUP Badminton** All Years' Mixed Recreational Football Year 7 Netball Year 9 Boys' Basketball Year 8, 9, 10 & 11 Netball Keys: Wednesday Year 7 Netball - Invite Only Astro Year 7&8 Basketball GCSETheory Intervention Sports hall TUP Basketball Thursday Year 7&8 Rugby Main Hall Drama Hall Field All Years' Running Club Friday Playground All Years' Hockey Club

#### Sports News



We are sad to say that our superstar athlete Max has now run his last Becket Keys Cross Country race.

Max has been an outstanding role model to younger students, and despite coming into his sport late has progressed rapidly and is now representing to an admirable standard. We wish him well with the rest of his season and look forward to seeing all the great things to come!

Thank you Max!

#### Year 8 Boys' Rugby



Our Year 8 Boys' rugby team travelled to Redden Court School this week for what proved to be a fantastic and hard-fought match.

From the first whistle, the boys showed outstanding determination, putting in some big tackles and demonstrating real teamwork across the pitch. Their efforts were rewarded with several brilliantly executed tries that showcased their growing skill and confidence.

Although the final score saw Redden Court come out on top, 30–15, our players should be incredibly proud of their performance.

Well done to all involved!



#### Brentwood District Swimming Gala

The recent swimming gala at Brentwood school brought together students from Years 7-9 in an exciting and competitive atmosphere. Each year group showcased their skills with plenty of cheering from the sidelines.

For some of our younger students, this was their first experience competing in a gala and their enthusiasm was evident throughout the event. The gala not only highlighted the excellent swimming talent but also encouraged teamwork among students. A special mention goes out to the to team managers Lois Watson and Victoria Hodgens in Year 9 for helping our younger students navigate their first gala!

This exciting event was a great experience for the teams and the girls all worked well together and gained valuable experience for future contests.

#### **Positions**

Year 7 - Joint 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Year 8 - 5<sup>th</sup> Place Year 9 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

#### Star contestants

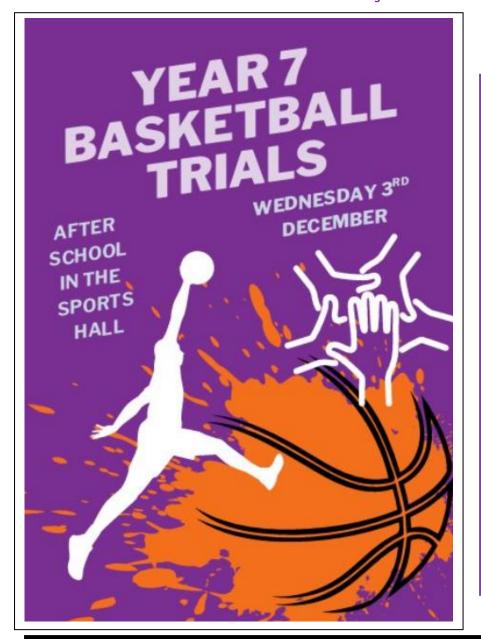
Year 7 - Tedora Petre Year 8 - Lucy Gemmill Year 9 - Victoria Hodgens













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.

#### **Upcoming Fixtures**

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Girls' Football U14s - Essex Cup against Stanway

Year 10 Girls' Netball v The Boswells School

Wednesday 26th November 2025

Year 9 Boys' Basketball v Redden Court

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Year 10 Girls' Netball v St Martin's High School

#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

YEAR 11 MOCKS
TUESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER – TUESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup>
NOVEMBER 2025

\*

WHOLE SCHOOL ADVENT EUCHARIST
TUESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER 11.00AM

\*

STUDENT CHRISTMAS DINNER
NON-UNIFORM DAY
WEDNESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER 2025

\*

CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT
THURSDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2025
7.00PM MAIN HALL

\*

A LEVELS CERTIFICATE PRESENTATION AND

AWARDS EVENING

TUESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 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

www.becketkeys.org
office@becketkeys.org
finance@becketkeys.org

X:

- @BecketKeys
- @MrScottEvans
- @BecketKeys6th
- @BecketKeysMusic
- @BecketKeysPE
- @BecketKeysArt
- @BecketKeysSci
- @BecketKeysDT
- @BecketKeysExams
  @BecketKeysTrips

Facebook: Becket Keys Church School