

Rejoicing in Each New Day

*"This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it."*

Psalm 118:24



Becket Keys Church of England School

30th January 2026

IN THIS ISSUE

Mrs Sharp writes.....

Stepping into February

As we step into February, a month often associated with renewal, hope and the quiet promise of brighter days ahead, we are drawn to the words of Psalm 118:24:

"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Even in the lingering winter chill, our school continues to shine with warmth, kindness and determination. Each day, we see students supporting one another, embracing their learning and meeting new challenges with courage and positivity.

February also marks an important milestone for our Year 9 students, as they begin to consider their pathways for the years ahead. With our Guided Curriculum Choices (Options) Evening taking place on 11th February, this is an exciting opportunity for students to explore their strengths, think about their aspirations and begin to make thoughtful decisions about some of the subjects they wish to pursue. We pray that this process will be guided not by pressure, but by wisdom, curiosity and a sense of God's purpose for each of them.

February often serves as a gentle reminder that even in the quieter, colder seasons of the year, God is at work shaping us, guiding us and helping us grow.

.....contd. on page 2



BECKET KEYS

Church of England School

Chinese New Year

Our annual Mandarin Day was a great success. We celebrated the Year of the Horse.

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Exciting news about the school production. Auditions are to be held soon.

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Dance Club is every Friday, read more here.

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The lengthening of the days offers a subtle promise that light is returning, and with it, renewed energy and purpose. In much the same way, each day in school provides countless moments of learning, encouragement and opportunity, even if we do not always notice them at first.

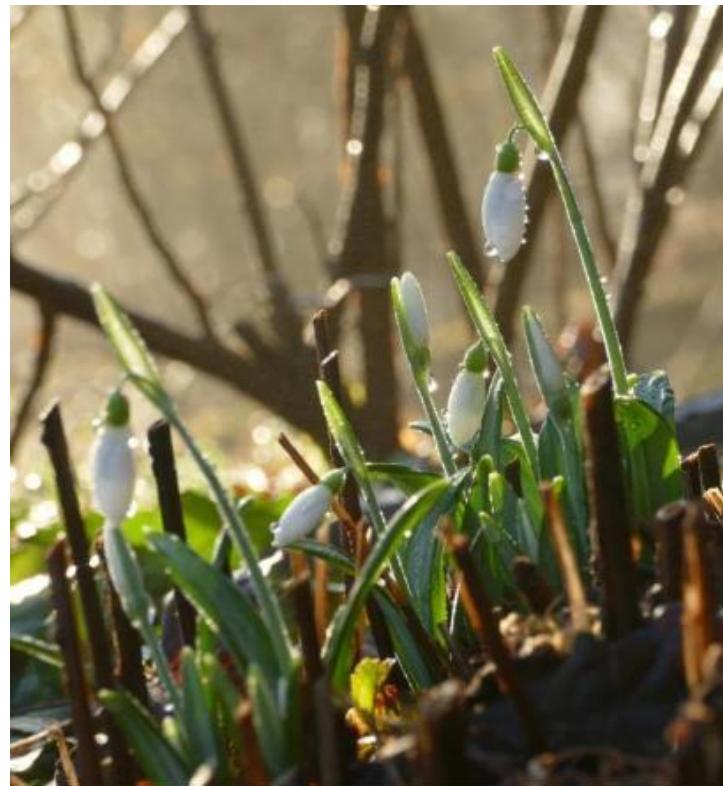
Psalm 118 calls us to rejoice, not because everything is perfect, but because each day is a gift. Every day is an invitation from God to live with gratitude, hope and compassion. As we move through this month, may we continue to notice the small blessings of a kind word, a shared smile, a challenge met with resilience, or a helping hand offered at just the right time.

Let us take courage from the biblical reminder that God is present in every moment of our day, guiding our steps, strengthening our resolve and surrounding us with His unfailing love. May we approach the coming weeks with hearts open to the joy, peace and possibility that God places before us.

Mrs Sharp
Deputy Headteacher



BECKET KEYS
Church of England School



A Prayer for February

Loving God,

As we begin this new month, we thank You for the gift of each new day.

Fill our school with Your peace, Your wisdom and Your joy. Strengthen our students as they learn, persevere and grow; especially our Year 9 students as they begin to prepare for their GCSEs.

Guide our staff as they teach, support and encourage. Help us to notice the small blessings that remind us of Your presence, and give us hearts ready to serve one another with kindness and compassion.

May Your light lead us through the weeks ahead, and may we rejoice in all that You provide.

Amen

SCHOOL STATIONERY FOR SALE!

AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE FROM RECEPTION:

- BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL
- BREAK AND LUNCHTIME

EQUIPMENT	COST
Bic Pen (Blue, Black, Red)	£0.30
Pencil	£0.15
Whiteboard Pen	£0.35
Ruler	£0.30
Eraser	£0.25
Calculator	£15.00
Glue Stick	£1.40
Protractor (semi-circular)	£0.50
A4 Exercise book cover	£0.40

Please ensure you check your son/daughter's stationery and make sure they have all the equipment they need.

Please check for red/black/blue pens, whiteboard markers, pencils, rulers, rubbers and calculators. These are all basic requirements at Becket Keys.

The price list above shows items that can be purchased from form tutors if required.

Full details can be found on the school website:

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

Reminder!

School Uniform

It is important to all of us that every student who attends 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.



During the cold months, 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.

Mandarin Day

Happy Chinese New Year!

Becket Keys Church of England School held yet another successful Mandarin Day for all Year 7 on 23rd January. This special event was organised to welcome the Chinese New Year, "the Year of the Horse". Students participated in six educational and fun-packed workshops:

Paper-Cutting workshop

The students sharpened their paper cutting skills and cut out pictures that would traditionally be pasted on windows.

Chinese blow-painting workshop

The students had a go with the Chinese blow-painting techniques and created beautiful plum-tree blossom designs.

Chinese calligraphy

The students had the opportunity to explore the rich history of Chinese characters. Using traditional brushes and ink, they carefully crafted characters symbolising blessings for the new year.

Science workshop

They experienced the process of making gun powder!



At lunch, students watched a sensational traditional Chinese lion dance and enjoyed some Chinese food served in our Bistro.



Martial arts workshop



The students practised some combat and defense moves with instructions from Kudos Combat Studio.

Film workshop

They watched a compilation of short films about Chinese traditions, myths and lion dancing celebrations. They also received a souvenir for the day.

The day has offered our students the opportunity to look beyond Chinese as merely a language and gain a deeper understanding of Chinese culture. It was wonderful to see so many happy faces. Happy Horse Year to you all!

Miss Tian - Teacher of Mandarin



Performing Arts Department

Becket Keys Summer Production 2026

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang

Audition material on Satchel One
satchel: one

Practise and learn the material prior to the rehearsal!

Audition Date:
Friday 6th February
3:10 - 5:00 pm in Runcie Hall
Involves Singing, Acting & Dancing

You are required to attend the audition so you can be registered for the production.

We are also looking for backstage support:

- Staging
- Moving equipment
- Lighting
- Sound
- Stage management

Past Productions



Matilda - 2022



School of Rock - 2023



Charlie & the Chocolate Factory - 2024



Bugsy Malone - 2025

Easter Card Competition

Do you want to see your design in print and used for the Becket Keys Church of England School Easter Cards 2026?

Templates are on Satchel One and printed versions are available from your form tutor and Art teacher.

- ✓ DO: A5 portrait or landscape designs.
- ✓ DO: Colour or black and white. You can use pencils, pen or paint.
- ✓ DO: Stay within the guidelines of the template.
- ✗ DON'T: Include any text.
- ✗ DON'T: Use glitter or stickers

Designs for the Becket Keys Church of England School Easter card 2026 must be returned to Main Reception by Tuesday 24th February

ONE ENTRY PER STUDENT

Designs which reflect our Christian ethos are particularly encouraged. Easter celebrates the resurrection of our Lord.

Please speak to Mrs Brassett or Mrs Sharp if you have any questions.



Some Inspiration for Your Cards.



Ideas!

Use your imagination! Once you have your idea think about what art skills you can use in order to create an exciting piece.

You could:

- ❖ Print
- ❖ Draw
- ❖ Paint
- ❖ Use your own photography

(No 3-D images please, due to printing.)

Club of the Week – Dance Club

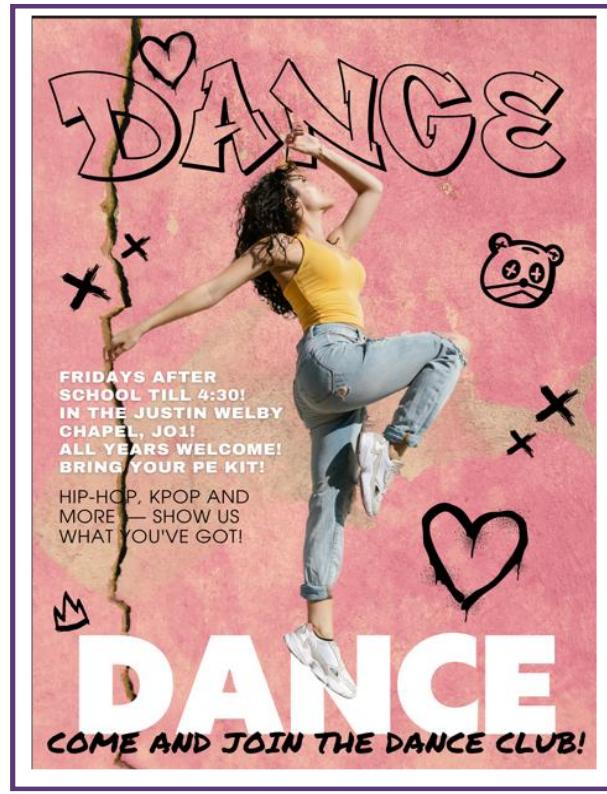
Looking for a place to have fun and express yourself? Then Dance Club is the place for you!

Since starting Dance Club, it quickly became the highlight of my week. This is because it is a unique mix of movement, creativity and community. At dance club, members learn a range of routines and styles, which develops technique and group work in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

Whether you are new to dance or already experienced, the club is a fantastic way to stay active and meet people who share a love for music and movement.

Not only has Dance Club become a great outlet for me to express myself, but it has also allowed me to build confidence, both in and outside of dance. I have gained this through pushing my limits in a supported way, by stepping outside of my comfort zone and trying new things. So, no matter how experienced you are, by the end of the session, you feel proud of what you have achieved and feel more self-assured.

Lastly, my favourite part of dance is how it allows me to unwind after a stressful week. It gives you the chance to let go of pressure, focus on music and movement, and enjoy living in the moment. Sessions are fun and energising which helps me feel refreshed and weekend ready.



So, if this interests you, no matter your year group or experience, then come join us!

Leoni Snyders – Year 13

"I love going to Dance Club, it helps me learn new dance moves, and I look forward to it every week." -

Beth Major - Year 8

"I love dance and all of the leaders are fun and really help me!"

Arya Patel - Year 8

"Dance has made me express my emotions and makes me smile and they actually listen to your opinions instead of judging you."

Holly Hykaj – Year 8

Careers Information - National Apprenticeship Week

As we approach National Apprenticeship Week (9th–15th February), we are eager to provide our students with meaningful insights into apprenticeship pathways. We believe that your involvement could greatly enhance this initiative.

If you have experience of completing an apprenticeship, or of offering apprenticeship opportunities, we would be delighted for you to join us and share your expertise. On **Tuesday 10th February**, we are hosting a working lunch, during which tea, coffee and snacks will be available to you.

A working lunch means that students will pop in to talk with you informally about apprenticeship pathways, experiences and opportunities during their lunchtime. This format gives students the chance to ask questions and gain valuable insights in a relaxed and conversational setting.

We are able to accommodate up to ten guests, and once this number is reached, we will unfortunately be unable to accept further participants. Therefore we kindly encourage parents to register interest early.



The sessions will take place as follows:

Session 1: 12:00–12:40 —

Years 8, 9 and 12

Session 2: 12:50–1:30 —

Years 7, 10, 11 and 13

If you have a son, daughter, or family friend currently undertaking an apprenticeship, we would also be delighted for them to join us and share their firsthand experiences.

To help us plan effectively, please confirm your availability by emailing

careers@becketkeys.org.

Thank you very much for considering this opportunity to support our school community.



If you wish to play football on the Astroturf at lunchtime, you will need to bring in your trainers.

Only trainers are allowed on there and no food is to be consumed.

Students are not permitted to play in their school shoes.



BECKET KEYS
Church of England School

Ms North
Head of Careers



It is an exciting time in the Sixth Form with lots of next steps being secured in year 13.

Year 12

Next week, on Thursday 5th February, we have a visit from the University of Exeter, who will meet with Year 12. They will attend a session on applying to a competitive university, then there will be drop-in sessions on applying to medicine and degree apprenticeships.

The students have been sent all the details via Satchel:One and email.



**University
of Exeter**

Trip to the University of Suffolk
Wednesday 18th March

UCAS Discovery Fair
Tuesday 24th March



Year 13

If Year 13 are applying for apprenticeships, then they should be accessing the live list on the government website <http://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

Amazing Apprenticeships also run a good list which can be downloaded from here:

[Higher & Degree Apprenticeships | Amazing Apprenticeships](#)

This also provides some good advice on applications.





National Apprenticeship Week 9th-13th February

We have an exciting schedule prepared in the Sixth Form, including Alumni students visiting to talk to the students, and a lead on apprenticeships from Deutsche Bank.

There are many ways as parents you can support your child in the Sixth Form.

There is a parent workshop on Monday 9th February 6.30-7.30 with Amazing Apprenticeships click the link to register:



[NavigATE: National Apprenticeship Week parent and carer webinar: understanding apprenticeships - Amazing Apprenticeships](#)



There is a joint parent and student Unifrog Apprenticeship Fair on Wednesday 11th February from 4-6pm. Encourage your Year 13 child to register on the Essex Apprenticeship Hub, and regularly check the government website, [Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK](#).

Unifrog and UCAS also offer extra support to all students who are considering an apprenticeship.



LOG IN & SCAN TO SIGN UP



Further encourage your child to set up a LinkedIn account. This is a useful way that they can make connections for apprenticeships.

The student schedule for the week can be found on the next page. If you require further information, please contact us via sixthform@becketkeys.org

Mrs Knowles – Deputy Head of Sixth Form



National Apprenticeship Week

9-13th Feb 2026

	Year 12	Year 13	Extra activities
Monday 9th Feb	Degree Apprenticeships Finance Talk	Degree Apprenticeships Finance Talk	<p>Amazing Apprenticeships Parent workshop 6.30-7.30</p> <p> Unifrog Independent Research </p> <p>Step inside the Apprenticeship Journey: insights and expert advice. Pathway ctm 6-7pm </p>
Tuesday 10th Feb	Tech and Start ups talk	Tech and Start ups talk	<p>Step Into The Future With AWE Nuclear Security Technologies (Virtual Event) 5.30-6.30pm Pathways ctm </p>
Wednesday 11th Feb	Apprenticeship Amazon	Apprenticeship Amazon	<p>4pm-6pm Unifrog Apprenticeship Fair </p> <p>Engineering and advanced Manufacturing pathway.ctm 6.15-7pm </p>
Thursday 12th Feb	Apprenticeship Quantity Surveyor	Apprenticeship Quantity Surveyor	<p>Independent UCAS Apprenticeship research </p> <p>Gerald Edelman Insight Evening – London Year 13 – Business and Finance 5.30-7pm </p>
Friday 13th Feb	Deutsche Bank Apprenticeship Programme	Deutsche Bank Apprenticeship Programme	<p>Register on the Essex Apprenticeship Hub, use the padlet and get apprenticeship support </p>

Student Achievement – Finley Perry

Kilimanjaro and Zanzibar – Charity Expedition

My name is Finley Perry and I am 14 years old. I am currently in Year 10 at Becket Keys School in Brentwood.

I have recently returned from Tanzania, where I climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, the world's tallest free-standing mountain at 19,341 feet (5,895m) above sea level.



There were five of us in the group: myself, my dad Alan, Suki Dulai, Paresh Mehta and Sam Amore. Together, we have raised over £100,000 for our chosen charities. My chosen charity was Havens Hospices, who helped care for my nan, Janice Perry, during her battle with cancer last year.

The climb took five days to reach the summit, and every day was very tough in different ways. On the first day, we completed a



seven-hour hike through the rainforest to our first camp. When we arrived, we were greeted by our amazing team of porters, who welcomed us by singing and dancing traditional songs.

Each day involved walking for many hours, usually over ten hours a day. To keep our spirits up while walking, we listened to music, told jokes, sang and shared stories about our lives. I was lucky because I actually slept quite well in the tents, even though it was very cold at night. The rest of the team did not enjoy that part as much! The food was surprisingly really good, and we always looked forward to sitting together in the mess tent, eating, talking about the day and playing cards.

On the fourth day we had to climb along a cliff edge and reached a section called "Kissing Wall". The path is very narrow and you have to stay extremely

close to the rock face, basically "kissing" the wall, because there is a 200-foot drop next to you.

That day we hiked for 15 hours and arrived at camp at 5:30pm. The temperature changed a lot, from around 20°C in the sun to about -20°C when the sun went down or went behind the clouds. After dinner, we went straight to bed because our final climb started at 11pm that night.



The final day was the hardest of all. We had very little sleep, it was pitch black and freezing cold, and



all we could see were other climbers' head torches in front of us. It took 10 hours to reach the summit, but when we got there the feeling was unbelievable and something I will never forget.



After taking some photos, we started our journey back down the mountain.

Unfortunately, on the way down I became very unwell and disoriented. Because I am still young, my lungs are not fully developed and I struggled to get

enough oxygen into my body. My oxygen levels dropped below 40% and I was diagnosed with HACE (high-altitude cerebral oedema) at Barafu Camp.

I was given oxygen on the mountain and continued down to Mweka Camp. As my condition was not improving, I was then taken by emergency helicopter to hospital, where I received further treatment. I am now fully recovered, although it was a very scary experience for my dad and the rest of the team.

Even with what happened on the last day, it is still the best experience of my life.

After Kilimanjaro, we travelled to Zanzibar where we visited a local village. We contacted local schools, football clubs and an

orphanage to let them know we were coming. We gave out over 400 football kits, footballs and pumps to children and adults in the community.



Many of the children were my age or younger and were wearing ripped clothes and no shoes. When they received the football kits and equipment, they were so happy and excited. We organised a penalty shoot-out and played a football match with them, which was amazing.

It was a very humbling experience and made me realise how lucky we are to live where we do.



We have continued to support the community by sending care packages to the orphanage, including school supplies and new football training equipment.

This whole adventure is something I will never forget.

Finley Perry
Year 10



SEND School Age Drop-in

**An opportunity to get advice and support
in a relaxed and non judgemental
environment**

Parents and carers of both diagnosed and non-diagnosed children welcome.

1st Wednesday of the month

12:00 - 13:00

No need to book - Just drop in!

**Northlands Park Family Hub
Davenants, Basildon Essex SS13 1QX**

Essex Child and Family Wellbeing Service

Service comissioned by:  



A Message for Year 9 Parents

We would like to invite you to the Guided Curriculum Choices (options) evening which will take place:

Wednesday 11th February 2026

6.00pm - Main Hall

More information will follow shortly, but for now, please put this date into your diaries. Students and parents should attend together.



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 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.

School Bags

- Year 7 and 8 must use the school bags purchased from SmartyPants.
- Year 9 and above - Rucksack and/or messenger bag: **Plain black** - no commercial logos bigger than 7cm width; prefer Becket Keys logo.
- Sports Bag: Becket Keys logo bag available from SmartyPants.



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.



SATURDAY 21st FEBRUARY 2026

11.00AM – 12.30PM

Pre-loved uniform sale in the Bistro.

If you have any donations of uniform that is no longer required, then please send it into reception.

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; this includes encouraging students to attend school regularly, and of course, on time.

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

Brentwood can be tough to manoeuvre during rush hour, 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.



BECKET KEYS
Church of England School



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.

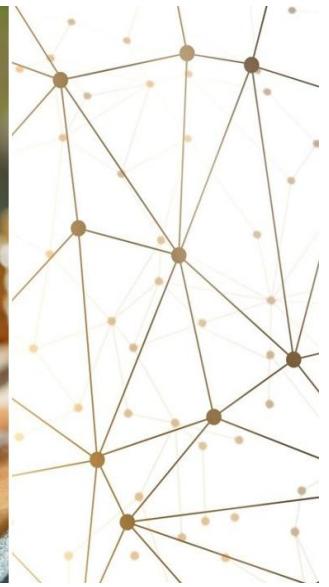
There is a small overdraft facility on the ParentPay accounts of £2 for emergency situations which covers the cost of a roll. Due to the cashless system in place, there is no other back up.

We do not want any student to miss lunch or the great choice of food available every day in our restaurants. (You can check out the menu for the next week on the next page).

If you have any queries, please contact the school – office@becketkeys.org

CHESS CLUB TUESDAY LUNCHTIME LIBRARY B

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



COME TO

WRITING CLUB

Library B
Fridays 3:10 - 4:10
Mrs. Cooper



Year 8-Year 13

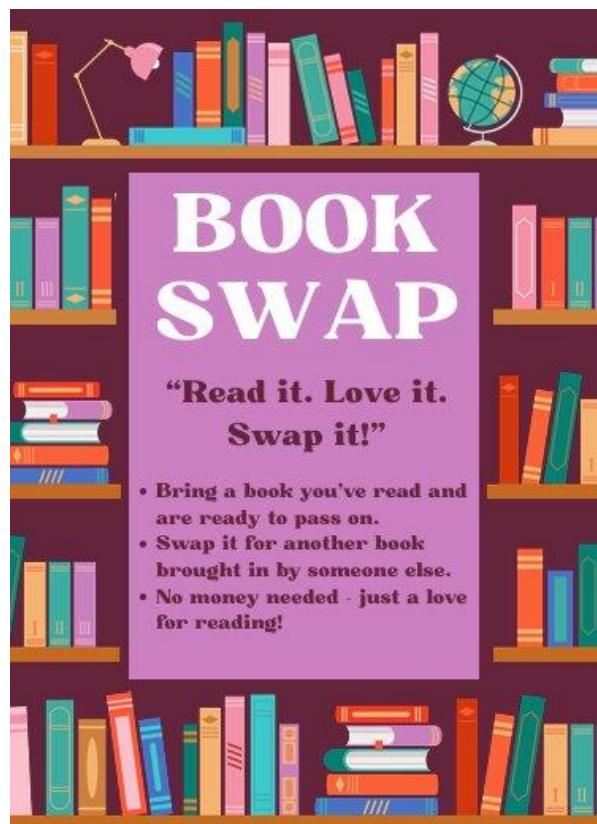
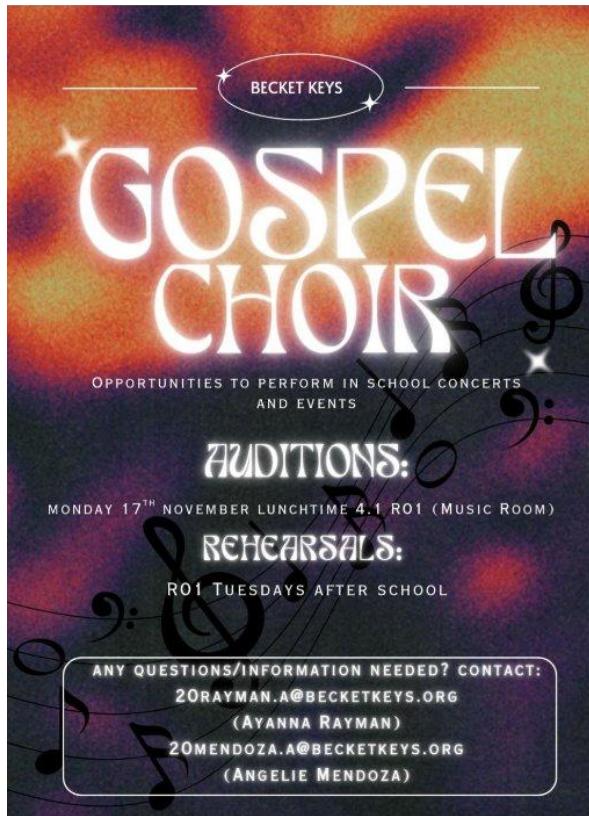
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Trading card club

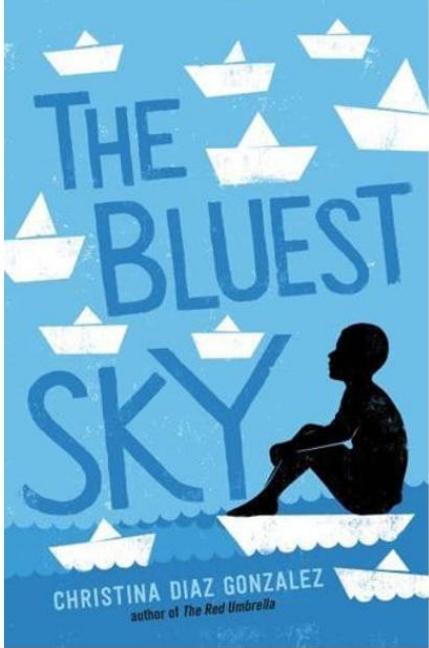
We trade cards of all sorts:
Pokémon
Magic cards
Football Cards

Have any other ideas let us know and we can trade them.





 Book of the Month - January



Set in Cuba in 1980, *The Bluest Sky* follows Héctor as he tries to keep his public face in step with his private beliefs. His father has been jailed and then sent to the United States. His mother is deciding whether to leave. His grandmother sits in the National Assembly, which means people pay attention to what the family says and does. Neighbours watch. Officials notice. When the Mariel boatlift opens a narrow window, they have to choose between staying and starting over elsewhere, a decision that strains friendships and splits the family.

Remember you can find 'The Book of the Month' in the school library

Sports News

Girls' Football Year 7

The Year 7 Girls' football team played against St Martin's school on Wednesday. The team are learning to play together and demonstrated great team cohesion for a new team. The girls needed to be versatile when playing out of their first choice position and were quick to adapt to their new roles.

Well done to Sam Mcturk, Jessica Southgate, Abisola David, Amelie Borg, Isabelle Carter, Sophia Collins, Isabelle Noble, Faith Sarkodie, Isabella Emmings, Isla Shand and Evan Withers.

The Becket Keys player of the match went to Jessica who was a strong presence throughout the match. Well done girls!

**Miss Joughin
PE Teacher**



Girls' Football Year 8

The Year 8 Girls' football team had their first MESSA game of the season on Wednesday. A tough game against a very well drilled side. The girls had unfortunately not had a chance to play together, but their friendship and teamwork from last year was ever present. Due to some medical issues, we did not have a complete squad. However, those who remained are notably very strong!

Charlotte Snow, Edee Eldred
Mia Ballam, Sophia Crook
Gabriella Constantinou
Melody Shanley
Brooke Bray and
Isabel Shipperlee

The first half was a huge success. Our girls were pressing hard and had a number of opportunities. Isabel Shipperlee was dominant in goal and ran the field from the back. Our keen approach did lead to some crowded play, but the girls acknowledged this at the break and we went into the second half very determined.

Unfortunately for us, our opponents were operating a more stretched play, leading to open spaces and our defence being drawn apart. Two goals later, the final whistle blew and our first defeat of the season. Our girls are very strong; we just need to work on playing on a 7-a-side pitch...

**Ms Schafer
PE Teacher**

KS3 Basketball

- This club is for our squad training. Year 8 & 9 you are welcome to attend.
- Year 7 you will be invited to attend this club following your training on a Friday lunchtime.



PE Extra Curricular - Jan to Feb

Day	Lunchtime (12:40-1:20)	After-School (3:10-4:30)
Monday	Year 10 and 11 Basketball Club	Year 7 & 8 Boys' Football
Tuesday	TUP Badminton	
Wednesday	GCSE Intervention	Year 7, 8, 9 & 10 Girls' Football
Thursday	TUP Basketball	Year 9, 10 & 11 Boys' Football KS3 Squad Basketball
Friday	Year 7 Basketball	



Keys:

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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THURSDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 2026

MADRID TRIP MEETING

5.00pm – 6.00pm MAIN HALL

*

FRIDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 2026

SCHOOL PRODUCTION AUDITIONS

3.10PM – 5.30pm RUNCIE HALL

ALL WELCOME

*

WEDNESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2026

YEAR 9 OPTIONS EVENING

6.00pm MAIN HALL

*

THURSDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2026

YEAR 7 PARENTS' EVENING

*

MONDAY 16TH – FRIDAY 20TH FEBRUARY 2026

LENT HOLIDAY

TERM DATES CAN BE FOUND ON THE
SCHOOL WEBSITE HERE: [Becket Keys](#)

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](#)
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