



# Becket Keys Church of England School

6<sup>th</sup> January 2023

## IN THIS ISSUE

**Mr Scott-Evans writes:**

### Sharpen the Saw

There are a few books that I have read several times. One of these is Stephen Covey's '7 Habits of Highly Effective People'. The book was first given to me by a close friend from church who, being a few years ahead of me, could see I was struggling with the demands of leadership, and he wanted to help me learn the principles through which effective people operate. I must have read this book at least four times since then! I have also dipped into it over the years many times to revisit some of the key passages and to share them with staff and students.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Habit is 'Sharpen the Saw', Covey draws inspiration from the well-known parable of the little girl who comes across a

lumberjack labouring away at a tree and asks him why he does not stop to sharpen the saw. The lumberjack, overwhelmed by the task at hand, replies that he is too busy and does not have time to stop to sharpen his saw. The girl knows better than the stressed-out man! Often, I find this the case here at school too; the students are better at this habit than the adults. For example, they fully embrace a long lunch break and a good break in the morning.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Habit is all about renewal and it is the most important because none of the other habits will work unless we are able, fit and well to enact them. If we allow the task at hand to be the only thing we focus on, we will burn ourselves out.

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**BECKET KEYS**  
Church of England School

### Give the Gift of Reading

Do you have some pre-loved books you can donate to the school?

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### School Uniform

Reminders about the dress code at Becket Keys.

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### Careers Information

There are some excellent resources available for students to plan their next steps. Information for online guidance and seminars for university and apprenticeship resources and links.

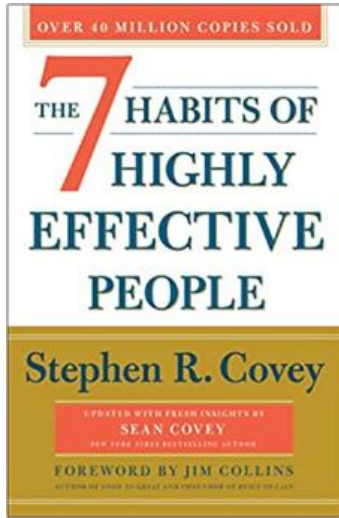
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### Biblical Pause

Now the work of Christmas can begin.

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So, having had a tough end to 2022, I started the New Year by reading this section of Covey’s book again. I reminded myself of the principles of the 7<sup>th</sup> Habit; I then talked about this with our staff in our first session on the INSET day on Wednesday. We also looked at the Bible and read what Jesus taught his disciples about seeking first His Kingdom and His righteousness and how, in doing so, all these other things will also be added unto us. (Matthew 6 v 29-34)

Stephen Covey a devoted Christian himself agrees that the spiritual dimension is just as important as the other areas of renewal: physical, emotional, social and mental.

The New Year is often a time of resolutions. I wonder how many of us have physical ones. Adjusting diet, exercise and sleep patterns are all very important, but they are often the only ones that people consider. I would like to encourage us all to think more widely this year. Parents – how

about discussing this with your children as we start 2023?

Firstly, how about mental renewal? What are you reading and learning? What about your children? Are they learning and developing in more than just the essentials of school? An instrument, a sport, and/or a hobby should be part of everyone’s childhood, surely. Reading for pleasure should also be firmly on the agenda. What are they reading? When was the last time they went to the library? When was the last time you allowed yourself to do that!?

In terms of social renewal, meeting with friends and family may well have been a feature of Christmas, but what is next? How are your family connecting with others? Intergenerational social connections are particularly special and should be highly valued. Church is always a great option for this.

Emotional renewal comes in the form of things that are likely to bring us deep joy and satisfaction. A trip to the theatre, a walk in the woods, a holiday booked for the summer. Sometimes, just having these things to look forward to is enough to bring an emotional boost. What else? A board game? A new house plant? A pet?

Now let us go back to spiritual renewal. Where does prayer, Bible reading and reflection fit for you in all of this? Maybe for some of us it is time to go back to church once a week. Others may want to find a podcast to inspire us. Another book I must

recommend again is ‘The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry’ by John Mark Comer; it is ideal for those of you who feel too busy in the modern world. I am on my second reading of this one!

Whatever your resolutions this year, I pray that the year ahead will be a blessed one for you and your children; may 2023 be the best yet for Becket Keys and all who come to school here.

**Mr Scott-Evans  
Head Teacher**



“Give me six hours to cut down a tree, and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe.”

Abraham Lincoln

## Parent Governor Election

We are seeking nominations for parents to stand for election as Parent Governor of (RET) Becket Keys Church of England School. There is one vacancy, to begin from March 2023 for four years to February 2027.

Full details attached with this newsletter.

## Give the Gift of Reading

Mr Scott-Evans recently wrote to all families to see if you would like to donate any books to Becket Keys Church of England School. Many thanks to those who have already contributed.

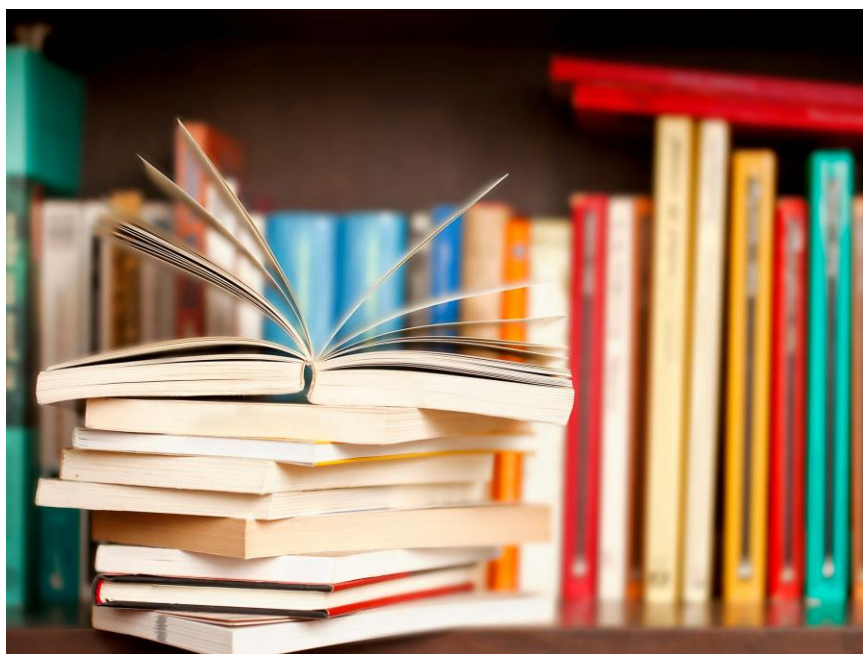
As you are aware this year, as a response to the cost-of-living crisis we are not asking any families to buy new books for the school. If you have a desire to give to the school in this way, please give a few more pounds to the School Fund and we will purchase books using that money.

We are instead asking families to consider donating used books from home. Please search the shelves at home for books which have been enjoyed but will not be read again. Fiction, non-fiction, poetry, plays, biographies and revision guides/textbooks will all be warmly received.

This is a good opportunity for clearing out some shelves! However, more importantly, it is a chance to help students to get their hands on more books. We want our school to be full of books in every classroom and every department.

So, if you feel able, why not send some books into school with your son/daughter, they can place them under the tree in Main Reception or you can drop them in and place them under the tree.

If students prefer, they can also bring them into their form for the Becket Keys Book Swap. Please take this opportunity now or in the new year to support the rich culture of reading that we are always striving to foster in school.



## 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 be at 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.



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## Main School Uniform



A letter was sent to parents before Christmas with reminders about uniform and the high standards we have at Becket Keys.

Feedback from our families is crucial to our development; parents have mentioned to us that they appreciate consistency and firmness with regards to uniform, and so, with this in mind, we want to make a strong start in 2023.

### Hair & Make-up

Students in Years 7-9 are not permitted to wear any make-up. The only make up allowed is concealer to cover up spots and blemishes. Students who do wear make up to school will be asked to remove it.

Obviously false eyelashes and/or nails are not permitted, please

ensure such items are removed if they were a 'treat' for Christmas.

No extreme hairstyles i.e. not less than grade 2 in length, hair must not be dyed (not even natural colours!), no shapes cut into the hair e.g. stripes, undercuts. Long hair must be tied back at all times. Older students (Years 10,11) can have it partially tied up. Younger students (Years 7,8,9) must have it fully tied up.

Any hairbands, clips or ribbons should be neutral, black or purple.

### Bags & Coats

Please ensure, in all cases, that these items are **black**.

Year 7 & 8 students must have Becket Keys' bags from SmartyPants.

Older students are allowed to choose their own bags, but no large logos please.

Coats must be **plain black** for all year groups.

### Shoes

Please ensure all students have returned to school in January with the correct footwear, trainers should only be worn, if there is a medical issue (a note must be supplied and kept in the student's blazer).



### Jewellery

Students may wear one small silver or gold stud in the lobe of the ear, but they must be removed for all PE lessons. It is not acceptable to put tape over the ears. No other body piercing or jewellery is acceptable and will be confiscated. Smart watches are not permitted.

### Equipment

Please ensure you check your son/daughter's stationery. The January sales are a good time to top up pencil cases! Please check for red/black/blue pens, whiteboard markers, pencils, rulers, rubbers and calculators. These are all basic requirements at Becket Keys.

Full details can be found on the school website:

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

## Road Safety



- point out people who are endangering themselves;
- encourage your teenager to practise judging the speed and distance of approaching vehicles on busy roads and identify safe gaps in the traffic;
- stress that you should never lose concentration and follow others blindly into dangerous situations.

### Cycling

It is a good idea to:

- buy and encourage your son or daughter to wear a cycle helmet, and something fluorescent and reflective to improve visibility;
- encourage your son or daughter never to take lifts on the back of a friend's bike;
- remind your son or daughter not to listen to music while they are cycling;
- make sure your child is aware that cyclists must obey all traffic signs and traffic light signals.

Becket Keys has always had an outstanding reputation for the way our students behave when they are going home. We have teachers who walk with the students towards the High Street, however, please remind your son/daughter to be considerate of other people and families using Sawyers Hall Lane, whether in cars or pedestrians and to acknowledge their thanks if they are given the right of way. We understand that the pavements may be congested so students must be patient and considerate.

We would also remind parents to take care and be mindful of pedestrians and other drivers when travelling. We do not want any student to be injured so please avoid driving down Sawyers Hall Lane if you can and meet your son/daughter at another location. The Brentwood Centre is ideal and only a short walk away.

More information on road safety:  
<http://think.direct.gov.uk/education/secondary/>

### Did you know?

Teenagers are more at risk on the roads than they think. Most teenagers do not realise that they are more likely to be killed or injured in a road collision than any other age group. Find out how to help your teenager stay safe.

### Help protect your child

Please talk to your son or daughter and reinforce road safety messages to help keep them safe:

- stress the need to concentrate and be careful at all times;
- warn of the dangers of distractions – listening to music, texting, phoning or even chatting to friends while walking are big distractions;
- keep talking about the dangers of traffic;





**Young People's Board for Change**  
*are here to be heard*

**Aged 13–16?**

**Want to help other children and young people?**

**Want to have your views heard, meet new people and have fun?**

**Be unstoppable – join the Young People's Board for Change!**

**Share what matters most to you**

Apply now to join the NSPCC Young People's Board for Change and find out more at [nspcc.org.uk/boardforchange](https://nspcc.org.uk/boardforchange)

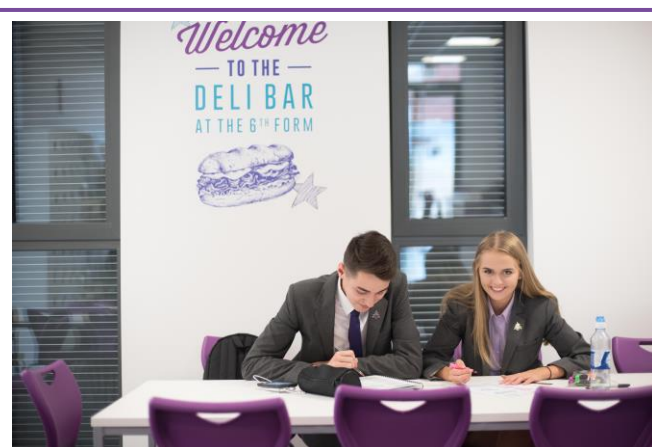
**NSPCC** EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

The NSPCC have an opportunity for Young People to join the Young People's Board for Change. This board exist to stter, advise and influence the NSPCC on issue that affect children and young people in the UK. The board is made up of 15 young people, aged 13-16, from across the UK. They will meet on a regular basis between March 2023 and March 2025.

If you become a member, you must be :

- Committed to being a member for two years.
- Available to attend online and in-person sessions with other young people.
- Happy to share your views and ideas.
- Willing to work as part of a team.

If you wish to apply then head to the NSPCC website <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/board-for-change> for full details and to complete an application.



## Sixth Former for a Day

This exciting event will be held on Monday 9th January 2023. It is designed to ensure that students have a good idea of what their next steps after Year 11 will be like.

Year 11 students will get an opportunity to attend four lessons, they will be able to find out more about the subjects they want to study by speaking to teachers and Sixth Form students and experience a Sixth Form tutorial period.

Lunch and breakfast will be provided, but students should bring their own snacks and drink for break.

Most Year 11 students will be at school for SFFAD, along with up to 150 students from other schools who may be their peers in Years 12 and 13! A letter was emailed home prior to the Christmas break. Please read it carefully regarding the plan for the day.

If you have any questions, please let them know they can email Mr. Peggs using this address: [sixthform@becketkeys.org](mailto:sixthform@becketkeys.org)



The School Community Prayer Group hosted by our Headteacher Mr Scott-Evans is now 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](mailto:office@becketkeys.org)

## Subject Consultation Evenings

**Year 11**

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

**Year 9**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023**

**Year 7**

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

**Year 10**

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

 [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)  
feel good shopping



# Help out when you check out

Collect FREE donations for **FRIENDS OF BECKET KEYS** every time you shop online.



Join, shop and raise here:  
[easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/becketkeysschoolbrentwood](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/becketkeysschoolbrentwood)

If you are doing your Christmas shopping on line? Why not see if you can help raise some funds for FoBK through your online purchases in a few easy steps:

Click [here](#) 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.

# YOUTH SERVICE

Inspire  
Enable  
Achieve

The Young Essex Assembly (YEA) is the elected youth council for Essex and is supported by [Essex Youth Service](#).

Every two years, 75 young people representing all districts across Essex are elected on to the YEA where they review priorities, consult organisations and decision makers to ensure young people are a key part of discussions and decisions made at all levels.

The Young Essex Assembly encourages young people to become active members of their local and wider community and enables them to influence change.

The members of the Young Essex Assembly meet once every month, they call these meetings 'sittings'. Members will also be a part of an area group working on local issues. Each member is asked to take part in another group, which focuses on current work the YEA is undertaking. These are called 'Sub-Groups'.

All sittings are held within the County and will often take place on a Saturday or on a day during the school holidays. Smaller

## Requirements

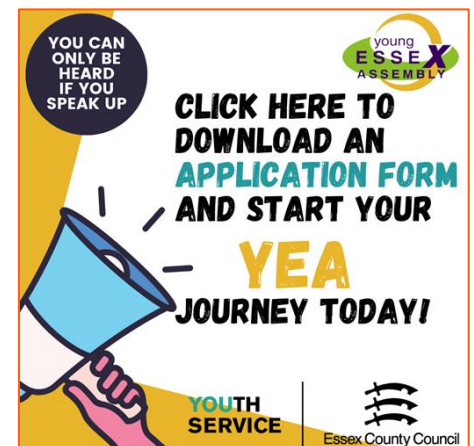
This is the level of requirements for YEA members:

- The minimum age to join the YEA is 11 years and attending secondary school.
- The maximum age to join the YEA is 19 years, or up to 25 years if you have additional needs.
- You must either live, work or study in the district you wish to represent.
- You will be expected to attend a monthly meeting in Chelmsford, which we call a Sitting, plus a monthly Local Link meeting in your local area.

meetings, which involve the sub-groups, usually take place during an evening mid-week.

There are [75 YEA members](#), representing all districts across Essex. The Young Essex Assembly review priorities and consult with young people as well as campaigning to make a positive difference for young people in Essex.

[Elections](#) will be held in Summer 2023 with applications being **welcomed from 1st July 2022** and the deadline will be **Friday 20th January 2023**.



If you have any questions or feedback about Essex Youth Service, or are interested in getting involved, please contact them.

**Website:**

<https://youth.essex.gov.uk/>

**Email:**

[youth.work@essex.gov.uk](mailto:youth.work@essex.gov.uk)

**Phone:** 03330 322800





## A Message from the Admin Team

Please remember that if your son/daughter is unable to attend school for any reason you must contact the office to let us know.

This can be done in a number of ways:

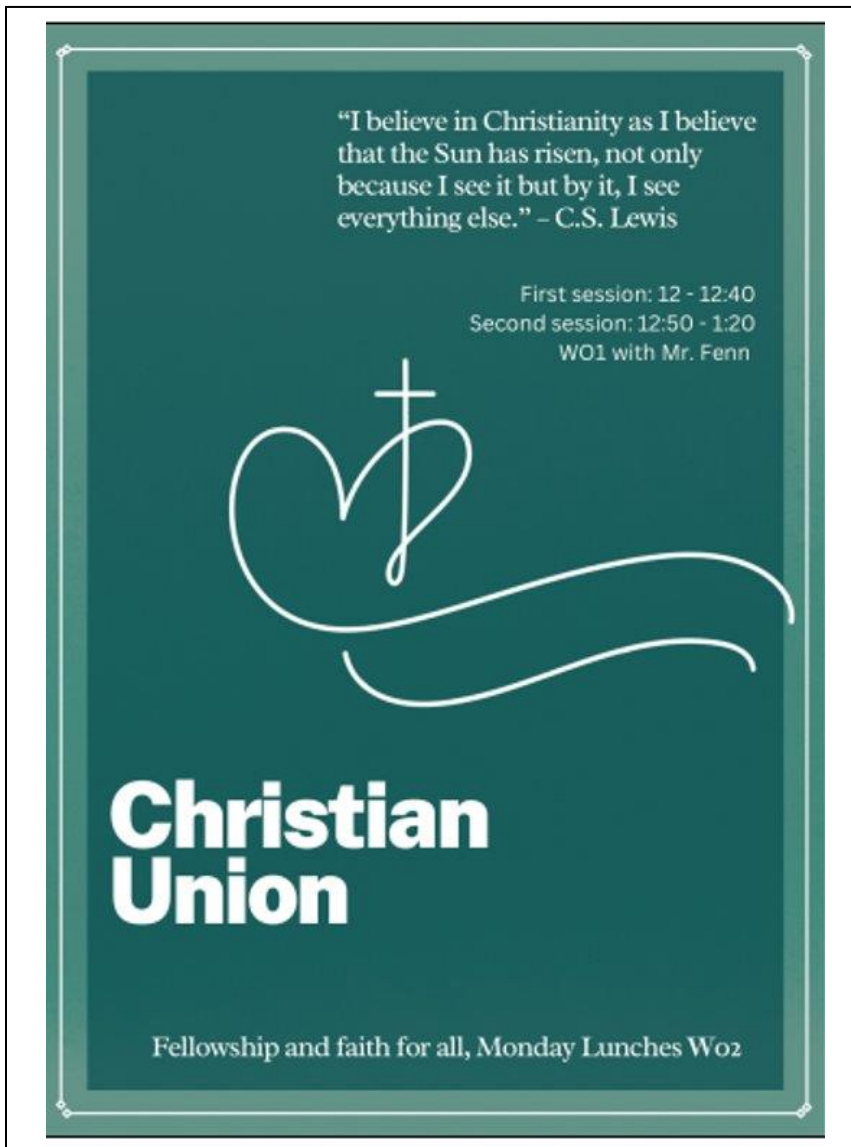
- Email the school at [office@becketkeys.org](mailto:office@becketkeys.org)
- Call the absence line
- Log the absence via study bugs (you can also download an app) <https://studybugs.com/>



There are more details about the attendance and punctuality standards expected at Becket Keys on our website here:

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

THANK YOU!



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Channel Talent would like to invite students to their Spring term programme of free interactive university online events.

The sessions are open to individual students. Subject to the content, some are in school time and some are after.

The sessions, each including either one or two universities, offer enrichment for curriculum themes and support for students considering progression to HE. They aim to be dynamic and participative, encouraging everyone to engage and shape the session but in a way that they are comfortable with.

*'It was fantastic! I would have happily stayed on for another five hours. Really useful academic insight ... and discussion that wouldn't typically come up in class.'* Year 13 student

*'Students really enjoyed the unique perspective that this lecture offered. They enjoyed the pace of the lecture and the intellectual rigour. Three students are now seriously considering*

*it (further study) after this lecture!*" Sixth Form Leader

A small number of sessions will be recorded but the majority focus on the live, participatory nature of the event, which is where the feedback we receive suggests the greatest value.

Below is the current Spring programme. Channel Talent will be adding further sessions and adding details to existing sessions as they are confirmed so please do register for more regular updates here:

<http://eepurl.com/duFY5H>.

**HE Guidance – Supporting Late Applications & Tackling Student Finance**

**9th January @ 16:30 - 17:15 HE**  
Guidance: What's It Like To Study Nursing At University? UEA (KS5) [Find out more »](#)

**10th January @ 16:30 - 17:15 HE**  
Guidance: There's Still Time - Writing A Standout Personal Statement - UEA (KS5) [Find out more »](#)

**10th January @ 18:00 - 18:45 HE**  
Guidance: What's It Like To Study Engineering At University? UEA (KS5) [Find out more »](#)

**11th January @ 16:30 - 17:15 HE**  
Guidance: What's It Like To Study Business Or Accounting At

University? UEA (KS5) [Find out more »](#)

**12th January @ 16:30 - 17:15 HE**  
Guidance: What's It Like To Study Psychology At University? UEA (KS5) [Find out more »](#)

**Art**

**17th January @ 15:35 - 16:20**  
Psychology of Art with Goldsmiths, University of London (KS5) [Find out more »](#)

**Biology**

**18th January @ 14:00 - 15:00**  
Biology: Understanding & Tackling Cancer – What The Latest Research Tells Us with UEA (KS5) [Find out more »](#)

**Languages**

**19th January @ 15:35 - 16:35**  
insight4me Spanish: Monarchy & Dictatorship with Nottingham & 1 Uni TBC (KS5) [Find out more »](#)

**Geography, Politics, Economics**

**24th January @ 16:15 - 17:15**  
insight4me Geography: Coastal Management with UEA & Glasgow (KS5) [Find out more »](#)

**25th January @ 11:10 - 12:10**  
Distribution of Wealth – Interdisciplinary University Perspectives & Debate – UEA & 1 Uni TBC (KS4 & KS5) [Find out more »](#)

## Chemistry

**25th January @ 16:15 - 17:15**  
insight4me Chemistry: Organic Chemistry with Nottingham & 1 Uni TBC (KS5) [Find out more »](#)

## Sociology, Psychology, Sport Psychology

**17th January @ 15:35 - 16:20**  
Psychology of Art with Goldsmiths, University of London (KS5) [Find out more »](#)

**31st January @ 13:00 - 13:45**  
Sociology/Psychology: Role & Impact of the Father with Surrey (KS5) [Find out more »](#)

## History/EPO

**26th January @ 10:10 - 11:00**  
Extended Project Qualification: Skills & Insight - Developing Academic Writing Skills with 1 Uni TBC (KS5) [Find out more »](#)

**31st January @ 15:35 - 16:20**  
History: The Rise to Power and Rule of Stalin - Tutorial – UEA (KS5) [Find out more »](#)

## Media/Film

**18th January @ 16:15 - 17:15**  
Film Studies: University Film Society – 2001: A Space Odyssey (Stanley Kubrick) - UEA (KS5) [Find out more »](#)



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## Apprenticeship Information

Please see below a few of the local apprenticeships added to the [national apprenticeship website](#) in the last 14 days. If you are not registered, it is recommended that you do as you can save your searches and get vacancy alerts direct! You can [create an account here](#). If you are new to apprenticeship searching these [resources](#) will be useful to help you find out more about apprenticeships, finding the right one for you and how to apply.

### Brentwood and Billericay

[Apprentice Business Administrator in a Legal Office - SANDERS WITHERSPOON LLP](#) – Level 3 - £9,379.50 per annum

The Company are currently recruiting for an Administrative Assistant to provide office and reception support in a busy legal environment. You will be doing a variety of tasks from general administration duties, like processing the post, composing letters and emails to meeting and greeting clients.

[Accountant Apprentice - GC ACCOUNTANCY MANAGEMENT SERVICES LTD](#) – Level 4 - £18,000 per annum

GC Accountancy Management Services Limited are looking for an independent, organised and self-motivated level 4 accounts apprentice to join their busy finance department. The apprentice will be working towards completion of the level 4 Professional Accounting Technician apprenticeship while taking on a number of roles and responsibilities.

[Apprentice Administrator - Mears Group PLC](#) – Level 3 - £14,976 per annum

This is a fantastic opportunity to begin a career within Administration. Do you want that career to be with a company rated within the Sunday Times 25 Best Big Companies to work for? Then a Mears Group Apprenticeship could be the answer you've been looking for.

[Travel Consultant Apprenticeship - Brentwood - HAYS TRAVEL LIMITED](#) – Level 3 - £10,404 per annum

With 461 branches (and growing) you can start your career in Travel by completing a level 3 qualification in Travel/Sales. You will be creating and selling travel packages using all Hays products as well as delivering a first-class customer service experience to all customers, obtaining repeat business. With help from our learning & development team you'll become a fully-fledged travel consultant, earning a salary while you learn.

**[Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)**



Speakers for Schools were founded in 2010 by ITV's Political Editor, Robert Peston, their aim is to end educational inequality by giving all young people access to the same prestigious networks available to the top fee-paying schools in the UK. There are many talks from today's influential figures via the Inspiration programme, those that are available week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> January are listed below and are all free of charge.

DATE	SPEAKER	INFO
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> January 10- 10:45am	<b>Speakers for Schools Broadcast and Into Film present Post-Production Sound Panel</b>  For KS3-5/S1-6	Led by Steve Little, Dialogue & ADR Editor, Supervising Sound Editor this panel will look at the role of post-production sound.  Click <a href="#">here</a> to register
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2-2:45pm	<b>The Great British Food Critic Competition with Simon Rogan and Richard Vines</b>  For KS3-5/S1-6	Think you'd be a great food critic? Want to work in hospitality? Do not miss this opportunity to hear from Chef Simon Rogan and Food Critic, Richard Vines on the launch of our national competition. You'll get the chance to submit your very own food review.  Click <a href="#">here</a> to register
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2-2:45pm	<b>Screenwriting Now! Phil Parker, Screenwriter and Co-Founder, BCre8ive</b>  For KS3-5/S1-6	Phil Parker is also one of Europe's leading content development consultants – productions include 'Wallace and Gromit – Curse of the Were Rabbit' ; 'Terry Prachett's – Hogfather' and "Bach In Brazil' for Disney International. Phil is also co-founder of BCre8ive, an online content development network and consultation body and he founded the UK's most successful screenwriting course.  Click <a href="#">here</a> to register
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> January 10- 10:45am	<b>Karen Blackett OBE, President, WPP and Chairwoman, MediaCom UK</b>  For KS4-5/S4-6	Karen is a proven business leader with a track record in creating vibrant cultures, energising teams, and consistently delivering business growth and success. She is UK President for WPP, the world's largest marketing services group. Join us to hear about her career, hear some great tips and advice.  Click <a href="#">here</a> to register

# PAUSE

## Now the work of Christmas begins

Today, we celebrate the Feast of Epiphany. This concludes the twelve days of Christmastide and is the traditional end of the Christmas season. In biblical terms the word epiphany, meaning "revelation" best describes the story of how the Magi or Three Kings saw a bright star on the night Christ was born. When they followed it to Bethlehem, they found the Christ child and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Whilst decorations come down and are packed away for another year, many of us will wish that the spirit of Christmas would continue. The spirit of Christmas embraces generosity which compels us to give, to care, to share, to love and to work for the greater good.

I recently came across the poem "The Work of Christmas" written by Howard Thurman, an African American theologian, educator and civil rights leader. Instead of Epiphany marking the end of Christmas, it challenges the reader to view this day as a beginning. A day to continue the work of Christmas:

**When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and princes are**



**home,  
when the shepherds are back  
with their flocks,  
the work of Christmas begins:  
to find the lost,  
to heal the broken,  
to feed the hungry,  
to release the prisoner,  
to rebuild the nations,  
to bring peace among the  
people,  
to make music in the heart.**

*The poem "The Work of Christmas" is from Howard Thurman's The Mood of Christmas and Other Celebrations (published in 1973).*

This poem has been set to music by various composers over the years, including Elizabeth Alexander and Dan Forrester. Take time to listen, reflect and meditate upon its message for you:

<https://www.viewpure.com/hvc4BzYBpEA?start=0&end=0>

The poem makes the connection between the joy of Christmas and the challenging work of discipleship that the incarnation

demands. It calls us to remember who Jesus was, what he did and what he cared about. Consider the words of Matthew 25:35-36:

*'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'*

This is at the heart of Jesus' message for the world. Jesus calls the Church to follow Him and find Him amongst the lost, the broken, the hungry and the prisoner, because this is how nations are rebuilt, peace is created and real music made. As such, the work of Christmas is a lifetime concern and action.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, was said to be "perplexed" when the Angel Gabriel informed her that she was carrying the son of God, and the hope of a broken people. Her first response is understandable, but her second response is remarkable. Like

## The Starfish Story

“While wandering a deserted beach at dawn, stagnant in my work, I saw a man in the distance bending and throwing as he walked the endless stretch toward me. As he came near, I could see that he was throwing starfish, abandoned on the sand by the tide, back into the sea. When he was close enough I asked him why he was working so hard at this strange task. He said that the sun would dry the starfish and they would die. I said to him that I thought he was foolish. There were thousands of starfish on miles and miles of beach. One man alone could never make a difference. He smiled as he picked up the next starfish. Hurling it far into the sea he said, “It makes a difference for this one.”



Moses and others called by God to great tasks, Mary sets aside fear and responds: “Here I am.”

Our answer to the call to respond to the challenges of this world must equal Mary’s: Here we are! At the start of the Gospel of John, we are told: “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” We must believe that the light of God’s people can free the world from oppression and offer love in place of hate. We must not be afraid of the scale of the many issues facing this world. As an individual, making a difference to one person’s life is better than not trying at all. Loren Eiseley’s starfish story beautifully illustrates this:

This story challenges are perceived limits and ability to make a difference. Collectively,

we can move the work of Christmas in the right direction.

### Let us pray:

Dear Lord, the celebrations are over, the song of the angels is stilled, yet the work of Christmas begins. As we welcome a new year, help us work together to make the world a better place. Led by your example and encouraged by your grace and love, all things are possible.

**Amen.**

**Mrs Sharp  
Deputy Headteacher**



In the last few months, the need for the Foodbank has increased by more than 50% and the local Food Bank is now currently feeding over 100 people every day.

### JANUARY ITEMS REQUIRED

**All Day Breakfast  
Meatballs  
Spaghetti  
Rice  
Noodles  
Rice Pudding  
Custard  
Tinned Fruit  
Instant Mash  
Potatoes  
All Cleaners  
Washing Powder or Gel  
Shampoo  
Toothpaste  
Shaving Gel  
Nappies Size 3,4 & 6  
Baby Wipes  
Deodorants  
Toilet Roll**

Collections are becoming more important so please if you can assist those who are less fortunate and donate urgent items on the above list. Collection points are at St Thomas of Canterbury Church, St Stephen’s Ingrave and Sainsbury’s.

Thank you for your continued assistance.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SIXTH FORMER FOR A DAY  
MONDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023

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YEAR 11  
PARENT CONSULTATION EVENING  
THURSDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023

\*

YEAR 7  
MANDARIN DAY  
FRIDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023

\*

GCSE AWARDS EVENING  
THURSDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023

\*

YEAR 9  
PARENT CONSULTATION EVENING  
THURSDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2023

\*

CHAMBER CONCERT  
FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY 2023  
OPEN TO ALL BECKET KEYS MUSICIANS

\*

YEAR 9 OPTIONS EVENING  
TUESDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2023

\*

LENT HOLIDAY  
MONDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY – FRIDAY 17<sup>TH</sup>  
FEBRUARY 2023

\*

INSET DAY  
NO STUDENTS IN SCHOOL  
MONDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2023

# Becket Keys Church of England School

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