



# Becket Keys Church of England School

3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023

ALL SAINTS' DAY – WEDNESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER

IN THIS ISSUE

Mrs Trebess writes....

## Why Does Oracy Matter?



I have been telling students this week in Collective Worship an anecdote from my summer holiday. Sitting in a beautiful Greek taverna, waves gently lapping the shore, sun setting over the sea, I was enjoying talking to my family about the day and soaking up the atmosphere. The family at the next table were notably quiet. I

glanced over to see two young children, headphones clamped to head and noses engrossed in tablets. Both parents were scrolling through their phones. It saddened me to observe that they barely spoke a word to each other throughout the meal.

I have real concerns that we are losing the art of articulation, conversation and debate. Spoken language skills are one of the strongest predictors of a child's future life chances. Happily, there are some simple things that you can do at home to help with oracy skills.

Reading helps with spoken language skills by providing an improved vocabulary. Encourage reading at home as much as possible. Watching Ted talks

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Church of England School

### Music Department

Students have been rehearsing all term and Friday is the final of the House Competition!

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Information about how to keep your son/daughter safe online.

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Excellent work from our talented students.

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together, watching BBC Question Time or anything which demonstrates strong speaking skills, then discussing the issues together (possibly over dinner!) is a great start. Give your son or daughter feedback by letting him or her know if he or she articulating clearly and audibly in full sentences, is avoiding using filler words (er, um, like...) and is speaking using correct grammar.

We provide lots of opportunities in school for students to improve their oracy skills – class discussions, group work and giving presentations or speeches to name a few. I would urge students to use the safe space of school to take part in class discussions and to practise speaking aloud as much as possible to improve and gain in confidence.

For more information, click the link [Why Oracy Matters - Voice 21](#)

**Mrs Trebess**  
Deputy Headteacher



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## What is House Music?

- This is a music competition between the six houses at Becket Keys.
- This will take place on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November in the Main Hall, starting at 1.30pm.

**Unison Song** – every house in Year 7 (tutor group) will perform a unison song (singing together). Every house will be given a different song to learn. This has been led by senior students in the school.

**Instrumental Cup** – Two performers (or groups) from each house are competing for the instrumental cup. Each house has **one upper school** and one **lower school** competitor.

**We would welcome parents & carers to join us for this event. The tickets are free however, places are limited and so kindly book a place as soon as possible via this link :**

<https://buytickets.at/becketkeyschurchofenglandfreeschool/1054875>

Good luck everyone!



## Student Council

Following on from the message from Mr Scott-Evans in the last newsletter, Kitty Anderson who is in Year 9 and a member of the school council wrote with some ideas about making the school more eco-friendly.

*Dear Mr Scott Evans,*

*I am writing to you about my Earthshot ideas to help our school become more eco-friendly. Recently in Collective Worship you were telling us about lots of animals, including peacocks and hedgehogs, re-inhabiting our school since the coronation gardens have been put in place. I have a passion for animals and as a proud vegetarian and animal lover, and it got me thinking about how we can attract even more living creatures into our school and would make it an enjoyable place for creatures from peacocks and hedgehogs, to birds and bugs to bats and squirrels and so many more! I think that we could create more homes and food sources for these creatures, such as having bird feeders and bug houses dotted around the school. We could also have lots of bird houses, hedgehog homes and even bat hideouts. I was also thinking we could even build these ideas into our DT curriculum, by building our animal hideouts and learning about their habitats as we go along. By simply adding small changes like this we, as a school, could attract so much more wildlife to protect and restore the nature in our area.*



*Another thing that I have noticed since I've joined the school is how much printing is done, especially in the science department. There are so many sheets to stick in when we could easily write it straight into our exercise books. It is vital to be saving paper and by printing less in each subject, costs would down drastically.*

*I have one more big idea for our school. We could as a school be one of the first schools to go completely vegetarian! By doing this, we could cut costs, aid our environment and serve healthier food. We could add compost bins. If we couldn't go completely vegetarian, we could serve vegetarian food three times a week. We would take inspiration from the world's first vegan football club: The Forest Green Rovers. I am sure that they were told that they couldn't do it, but they did anyway and we should all take inspiration from them!*

*There are so many more things we could do such as: gifting each Year 7 student with a reusable water*

*bottle, rewards for students who walk to school (or who walk part of the way), drink can bins, solar panels, using local suppliers to reduce CO2 emissions and so much more.*

*The topic of creating an eco-friendly school could be discussed more in council meetings, worship and assemblies.*

*I hope you will take some of my ideas into consideration.*

*Yours sincerely*

**Kitty Anderson (9FS)**

**Year 9 School Council  
Representative**

What do you think of Kitty's ideas? Why not write in to [office@becketkeys.org](mailto:office@becketkeys.org) and let us know.



## Remembrance Day Memorial Service Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023

We would like to invite all parents and carers to our memorial service for Remembrance Day on Friday 10th November 2023

All are welcome to attend, but please keep in mind that this is an outside service held on the playground.

It will begin at 10:45am and will finish at approximately 11:05am.



REMEMBRANCE DAY  
*Let's We Forget*

Poppies are now available for sale during tutor time and at reception.



## Book of the Month - November



Fifteen year old Phoebe is autistic, and prefers things planned out, without surprises. She prefers to stay in her comfort zone: reading, walking her dog, writing fantasy fiction, being left alone, and surviving school with as few incidents as possible.

When her best (and only) friend, the vicar's daughter, rebels and gets a secret boyfriend, Phoebe reluctantly agrees to cover for her. Before long, Phoebe's dealing with all sorts of unwelcome changes she'd rather not, like deception, fashionable jackets, and the bewildering politics of the school chess club. Breaking the rules has never been Phoebe's thing, but as events take a seriously unexpected turn, she learns about her own ability to cope with even the most devastating revelations, and her capacity to adapt and grow. Phoebe realises there's more to her than she ever imagined . . .



## CAN IN A VAN FOODBANK PROJECT



Saturday 4th November

Pitsea Market, Basildon, SS13 3DU  
10AM - 4PM



## You can help too!

### Tinned Items

Ham, Tuna,  
Onion, Chicken,  
Family Sized  
Vegetables,  
Meatballs, Rice  
Pudding, Fruit  
and Custard

### Toiletries

Shampoo, Shower  
Gel, Soap, Tooth  
Paste, Baby Wipes,  
Deodorants,  
Washing Up Liquid  
and Bathroom  
cleaning products

### Other Food Items

Dry Pasta,  
Jam/spreads,  
Biscuit, Coffee, Tea  
Bags and Bags of  
Rice



**YOUTH  
SERVICE**

Inspire  
Enable  
Achieve

# Extra-Curricular Clubs



| MONDAY  | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY                                   | FRIDAY   |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| Yr9 & Yr10<br>'Creative Space'<br>15.15-16.15<br>RH1 (Mrs Palmer) | Yr9 & Yr10<br>'Creative Space'<br>11.50-12.30<br>RH1<br>(Mrs Palmer) | GCSE<br>'Theory Workshop'<br>15.15-16.15<br>RH1 (Mrs Barr) | <b>Invitation only and bookable space.</b> | Yr7-Yr13<br>'Time to Shine'<br>15.15-16.25<br>RUNCIE HALL<br>(Mrs Barr & Mrs Palmer) |

## Chess Club

C21

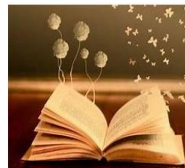
Tuesday Lunch (4.2)

From Beginner to Improver  
Everyone Welcome



## Our School Library (Lib A)

- Your school library is open at the following times:
  - Tuesday (4.2) 12.50-1.20
  - Wednesday (4.1) 12-12.30
  - Thursday (4.2) 12.50-1.20
  - Friday (4.1) 12-12.30.
  - More opening times will be announced soon.
- The library is open for you to:
  - Come and borrow or return books,
  - Get help on finding a book you might enjoy reading,
  - Sit and read,
  - Discuss books with other students.



Learn and share a hobby and come for a chat. Wool and needles can be provided.  
Mrs Simmons

Every Thursday  
Lunch 4:2 in C20  
12.45 - 1.25



Becket Keys Rugby Returns!  
Who: Year 7, 8 and 9 Boys and Girls

When: Every Thursday from 3:10 – 4:30pm

With Who: Our excellent rugby coach Anthony Sherwood and 6<sup>th</sup> Form student helpers

What to Bring: PE kit, rugby boots, optional mouthguards.



Homework Club is available for all students. Every afternoon after school students can stay 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. Avoid the traffic! Stay here for a while!

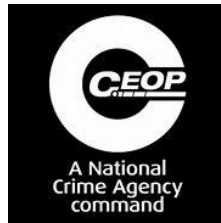


**The Internet Watch Foundation**

( <https://www.iwf.org.uk/>) work internationally to make the internet a safer place. They search for inappropriate images and videos of children, and offer a place for the public to report any concerns.

**Safety online**

You will have noticed, I am sure, that the Secretary of State for Education has banned mobile phones from school. Her statement and clear intention reflect the view we have held since we opened about the dangers of mobile phones and their inappropriateness for school. This announcement comes at a good time because the school usually communicates with parents around this time of year about the need to closely monitor your son/daughter’s devices.



**CEOP – Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre**

(<https://ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>) is tasked to work both nationally and internationally to bring online **child sex offenders** to the UK courts.



**Childline** - Call 0800 1111 or visit <https://www.childline.org.uk/>.



**EST E-Safety Training -**

<https://www.esafetytraining.org/parent-carers-area>.

As parents it is important to look at your son/daughter’s phone regularly. You should know what apps they have and what they are used for. The activity on all phones is often being tracked. As adults this is a concern, for your children it is a significant safeguarding risk.



**Internet Matters -**

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

Mr Shields and Mr Scott-Evans wrote to all families earlier this week regarding staying safe online. Please take a few minutes to read the information.



Some useful websites are noted here and the full details have been sent out with this newsletter.

**Net-aware** - <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>



**Help out when you check out**

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

Illustration of online shopping items: Argos, Tesco, John Lewis, Amazon.co.uk, OSOS, Expedia, and a soccer ball.

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

If you are doing shopping online, why not see if you can help raise some funds for FoBK through your online purchases by following the easy steps below.

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.

## Parent/Teacher Subject Consultation Evenings

These online events are a chance for parents to speak with individual teachers about the progress their son/daughter is making in each subject. However, if you ever have any concerns please contact the school via [office@becketkeys.org](mailto:office@becketkeys.org) or via the [contact page](#) on the school website.

Year 8

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Year 12

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Year 11

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Year 9

Thursday

1<sup>st</sup> February 2024

Followed by a Year 9 – Options Evening

Thursday

15<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Year 7

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Year 10

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024



**BECKET KEYS**  
Church of England School

## We are recruiting!

**Administration Assistant**

**37 hours per week**

**Term-time + 2 weeks during school holidays**

**Monday – Friday -7.00am – 3.00pm**

**NJC 8-12 (£21,300)**

We are looking for an enthusiastic and well-organised administrator to organise and manage all cover arrangements within the school and to also support the school in all areas of the office, as part of a friendly and welcoming team!

You can read all about this exciting post [here](#) and please visit the [vacancies page](#) on the school website to complete the application form and return that with your personal statement to [vacancies@becketkeys.org](mailto:vacancies@becketkeys.org)

Closing date: 12<sup>th</sup> November 2023

Interviews will be held week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023

## Friends of Becket Keys

**Please note that the previously advertised Friends of Becket Keys Meeting has been postponed due to the SIAMs inspection.**

**A new date will be advertised soon.**



## A Message from the Admin Team

Remember that all correspondence to the school must come through the school office email: [office@becketkeys.org](mailto:office@becketkeys.org)

You can also send a message via the contact page on the [website](#).

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

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

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

Thank you!



**YEAR 7 DISCO**

**THURSDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER 2023**

**More details to follow soon!**



# Art & Textiles

**Star Artist Year 13  
Megan Gazzard**





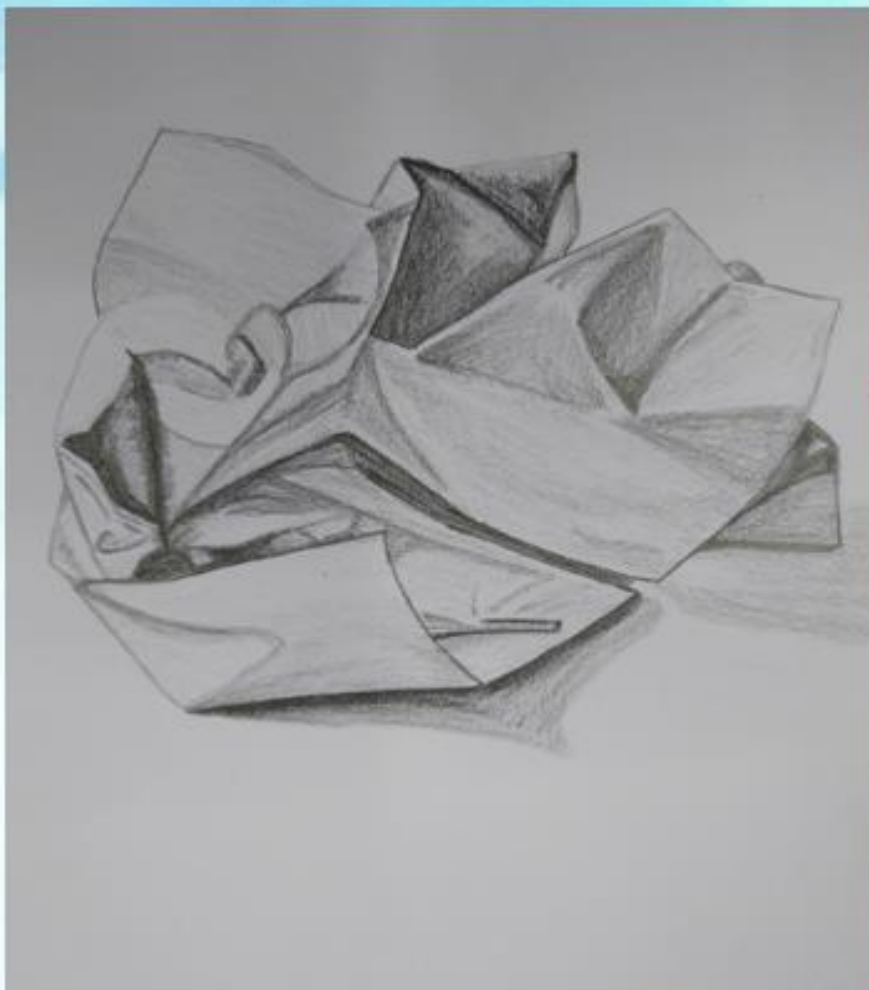
Jack Laycock

Yr 8

[@becketkeysarttextiles](https://www.instagram.com/becketkeysarttextiles)

Issy Collins

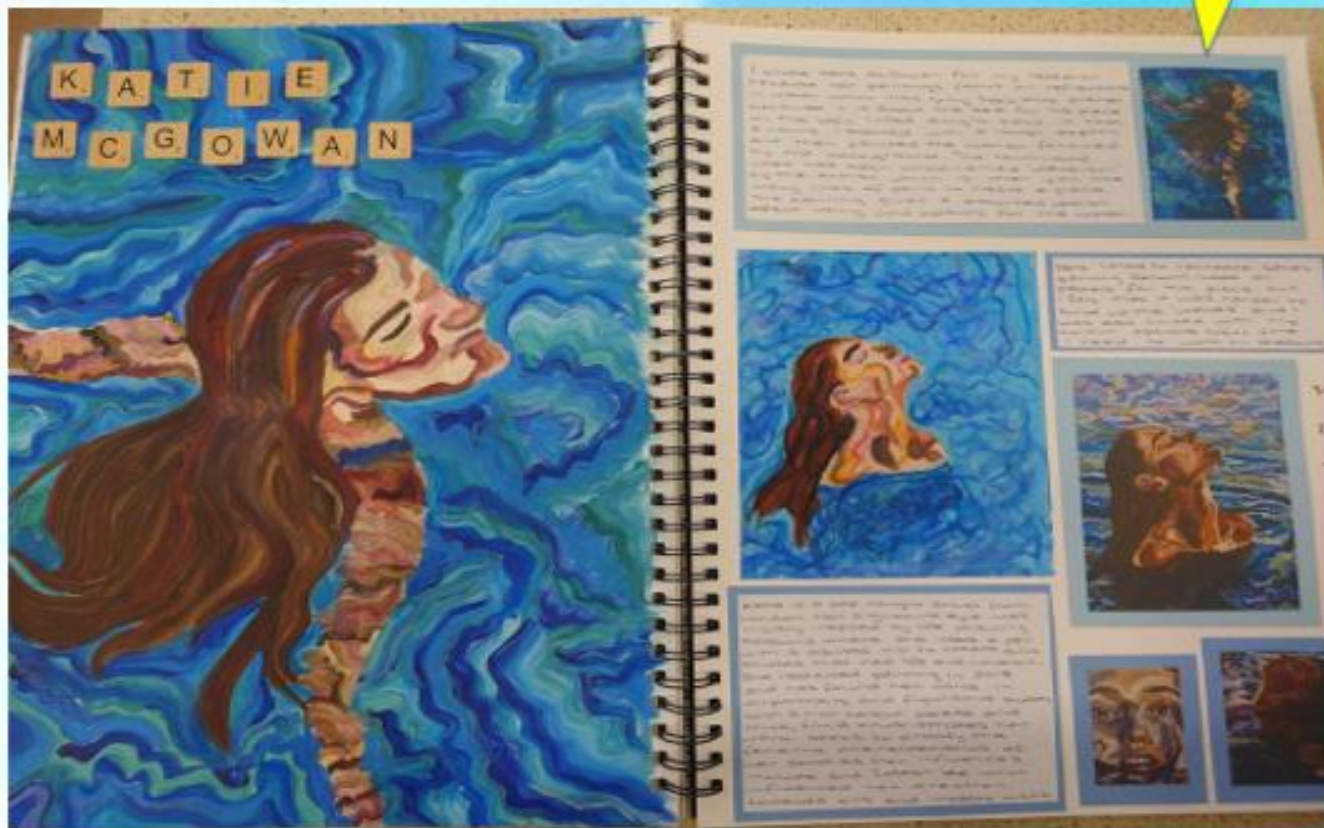
Yr9



# Nicola Wierdak Yr 12



# Kaitlyn Bell Yr 10





# Georgia Lagden Yr 13



## Sports News

### U13 National Cup Fixture v Davenant



The girls had a tough start against Davenant in the second round of the National Cup, they created fantastic opportunities with great football being played but had a goalless first half. After coming back fighting in the second half, the girls came away with a well-deserved 3-0 win! On to the next round!

Goal scorers:

Betsy Winney  
Abi Fisher  
Ama Constantino

Squad:

Betsy Winney  
Oprah Amode  
Immy Ellis  
Abi Fisher  
Charlotte Hodgson  
Anna Bennett  
Ama Constantino  
Anna Benns  
Erin Hayward  
Imogen Forbes-Buckingham

Players player of the match & teacher's player of the match; Anna Benns and Charlotte Hodgson.

### Year 10 Girls Netball

A drizzly afternoon was the setting for the Year 10 girls' netball game versus St Martins. Our prayers were answered when we found out we were playing indoors and thank goodness we did. On the starting whistle the heavens opened, and the tin roof rattled with rain, quickly followed by the thunder! We were grateful to be inside.

Our squad consisted of:

- Liz Griffiths
- Esme Hodges
- Ellie Holcroft
- Tiyannha Hayes
- Lily Matthews
- Evanthe Antoniou
- Holly Marder
- Millie Johnson

We started the game well but narrowly trailed in the first quarter. Our centre court play was outstanding, and the girls were very good at reading each other to create opportunities. We did however, lose our way slightly in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters and a change in their goal attack allowed them to take a significant lead. After a few positional changes and some self-reflection, the girls went into the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter confidently. After holding off some strong attacking players, the girls drew the final quarter 5-5. Unfortunately, this did not pull us back from the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and the game finished with an 18-10 defeat. The player of the match went to Esme Hodges who demonstrated her exemplary defensive strategy throughout and was the lead vocal support for the team on match day.

**Miss Plunkett & Ms Schafer**  
**PE Department**



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### INSET DAY

(NO STUDENTS IN SCHOOL)  
WEDNESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023

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### HOUSE MUSIC COMPETITION

FRIDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER  
1.30pm  
(PARENTS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND)

\*

### SUGARLOAF MOUNTAIN

SKI TRIP MEETING  
WEDNESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023  
5.30pm  
ONLINE MEETING

\*

### STUDENT CHRISTMAS LUNCH

NON-UNIFORM DAY  
WEDNESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023

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### CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

THURSDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023

\*

### A-LEVEL PRESENTATION EVENING

TUESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

\*

### LAST DAY OF TERM

STUDENT HALF DAY  
WEDNESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023

\*

### CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

THURSDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2023 –  
TUESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY 2024

\*

### INSET DAY

(NO STUDENTS IN SCHOOL)  
THURSDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023

## Becket Keys

## Church of England School

Sawyers Hall Lane  
Brentwood, Essex  
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01277 286600

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