



Becket Keys Church of England School

15th December 2023

BISHOP ADAM THE NEW BISHOP OF BRADWELL

IN THIS ISSUE

Mr Scott-Evans writes.....

Dear Parents,

We were delighted to welcome the new Bishop of Bradwell to Becket Keys yesterday. Bishop Adam Atkinson came with Father Andy Smith to meet students, lead a time of collective worship and to bless a new stoup in the John Wraw chapel.

Bishop Adam and Father Andy led a time of collective worship with Year 8 in the main hall. Picking up on the themes of Advent that had already been the focus of our Eucharists, Bishop Adam spoke about the peace of Christ. He told us of a time when he had been serving in the army and had thought he had lost one of his troops whilst on a late-night manoeuvre. He compared the peace he felt knowing the soldier

was safe with the peace that Christ can bring to our hearts. The missing soldier being found completed Bishop Adam's troop; Christ completes not only Christmas but brings a peace for our whole lives.

Bishop Adam then joined Father Andy and me in my study for a drink and cake with a few selected students. He asked them questions about how the church may be able to support them in school. They asked him for his prayers. The students also asked Bishop Adam about his job, whether he was ever in touch with King Charles, whether he liked his work and whether he had always wanted to be a priest. Bishop Adam explained that he was not a senior Bishop and so was not at the House of Lords. He

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BECKET KEYS
Church of England School

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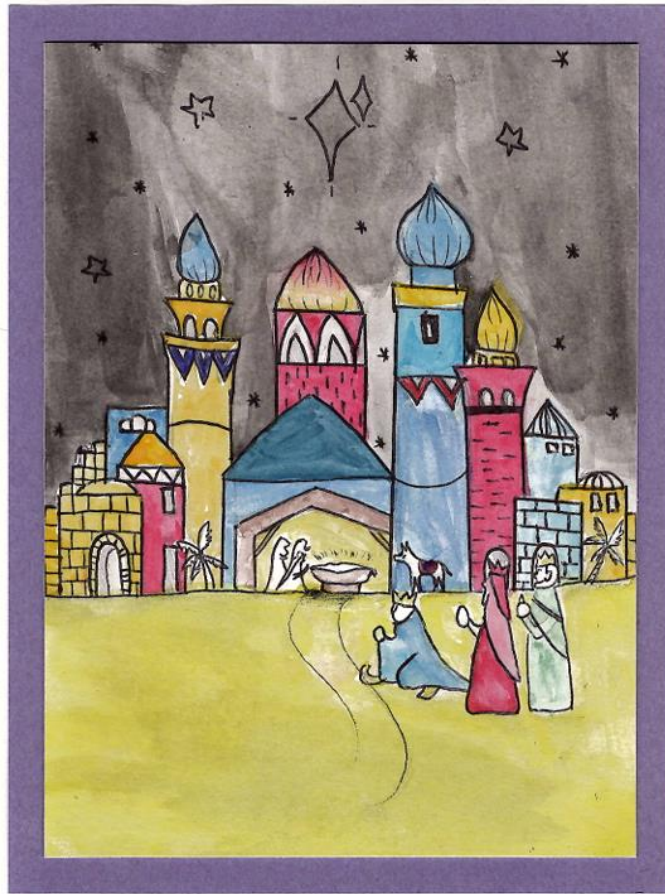
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said he had never met King Charles, but he said that Bishop Guli had done and that she had recently been to Sandringham.

Bishop Adam then kindly went to the John Wraw chapel where he blessed a brass stoup that I had recently purchased for the school. He took a moment to gather some Sixth Formers and he prayed for them and the other students at the school asking God for the stoup and the chapel to help draw us closer to God in our worship. We prayed that the stoup would remind us of our baptism every time we use it.

During a wider tour around the school, Bishop Adam visited our art, textiles, drama and music departments. He also saw Sixth Formers, mathematics and humanities. He finished his tour in modern foreign languages. Bishop Adam was particularly keen to see how our more vulnerable students were being catered for. He was delighted to meet our SENDCo, Mrs Dowsett and eager to see that SEND students were all in their lessons learning rather than being taught separately. He was keen to hear that we do not have an 'inclusion room' or a 'student support centre' agreeing that instead students' needs are better met with their peers in classes. Bishop Adam was also pleased to hear that all teachers are trained in meeting the needs of students with SEND and that the school does not use Teaching Assistants.



I presented Bishop Adam with a few gifts before he left. There was a card designed and handmade by Naomi Sibbald, some chocolate brownies made by Layla Macdonald and an enamel badge. Before leaving, Bishop Adam prayed again for the school saying that he would look to return again soon.

It was a very encouraging morning, and I am grateful to Bishop Adam for coming and to Father Andy for organising things.

**Mr Scott-Evans
Headteacher**

Computer Science Department

Year 12 Computer Science students ChristEMas Event at BT

On December 7th the Year 12 Computer Science students had an exciting trip to the BT R&D Headquarters at Adastral park to learn more about what life will be like for future computer scientists and how AI would affect the way we work.

We started off with an informative talk on the future of AI and how many software engineers would have been able to use AI to do easy and repetitive tasks while we could focus on more intricate and problematic tasks, which at the moment AI cannot complete effectively. We looked at multiple different AI programs and the tasks which ranged from generating images from one word, writing complete essays from scratch and even creating multiple different scenarios which could be applied to code.



After this talk, we had the opportunity to tour the BT Showcase and see the different projects that the BT team are working on. For example, a programme which could monitor individuals and items and possibly help save someone in case of a health emergency or a burglary if perhaps they were home alone. Or a 3D projector which could scan someone or something and project them in full 3D detail in a type of box which would cost £65,000 once fully developed. These were only two of the interesting projects that the BT team were working on.

After the tour we had a talk on AI economics and how it could one day be used to help businesses. We ended the day on an expo including many stands with different teams presenting an array of projects. Some of us participated in games of badminton, Splatoon and even experienced an electric shock on our ankles.

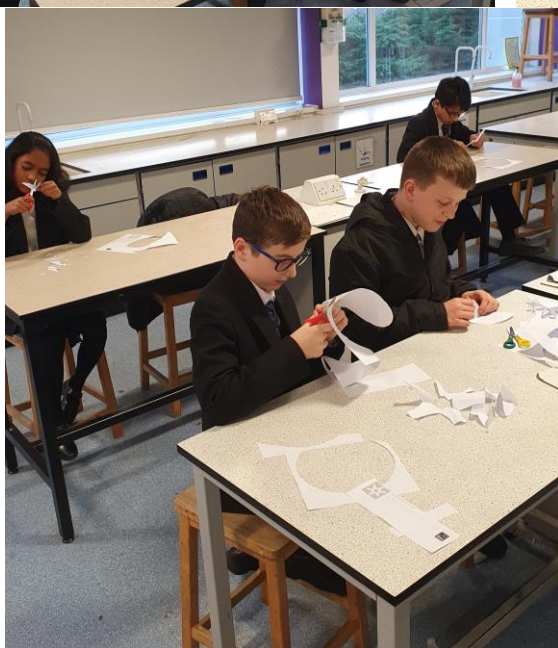


It was truly a day of fun filled with information that will ultimately help our class to understand what we would like to explore more in the IT world. We look forward to more fun trips to learn more about our subject and what opportunities are open to us.

Thank you BT, for having us!

Rosetta Joseph
Year 12

Science Club



This week was the final KS3 science club for this term, and we had a special Christmas themed task to work on. Students had the task of producing festive snowflakes using some scientific patterns including conical flasks, rockets and images of famous scientists. This was a very intricate task which students really focused on. Their snowflakes have been laminated for students to collect and they can take them home to decorate their houses.

Next term, we will be working through another project with lots of practical activities. If students haven't tried science club yet but would like to get involved we will be starting back up on Monday 8th January from 3.10 - 4pm in W23.

Mrs Lee – Science Teacher

Free School Meals



Free School Meal Vouchers Christmas Break

Further funding for Free School Meal vouchers for the Christmas break 2023 has been allocated by the local authority. As with previous holidays will be using the school voucher system, Wonde, to issue vouchers.

Parents and carers of eligible students will have received an email from Wonde to allow you to claim a voucher for £60 for this period. Please check your junk mail if you have not received this. The email will contain a link to 'redeem a voucher'. You will be taken to Wonde's 'evouchers' page (previously named Schoolvouchers), where you will need to enter your details and confirm your email address before being asked to select the retailer you wish to receive a voucher for. The current retailers available are Asda, Aldi, B&M, Farmfoods, M&S, Iceland, Morrisons, Sainsburys, Waitrose and Tesco. You will then be given a PIN and the option to view the voucher. Having confirmed the PIN, you will be issued your voucher. The voucher barcode can be printed off or scanned on a smartphone for use in-store.

Details of the process and more questions about evouchers can be found on their website - [I'm a recipient – Evouchers](#)

Evouchers have now introduced an app to make it simpler to access and use vouchers. This can be downloaded via either the Apple App Store or Google Play. Further information on how to access and use the app can be found here - [Download the Evouchers App – Evouchers](#)

Give the Gift of Reading

Do you have some books for young people that you are looking to clear out? Perhaps you are making space for Father Christmas to bring a few new ones again this year.

If you have some books that your sons/daughters have grown out of and are not going to read again, we would love to receive them. If your son/daughter read them from the age of 10 upwards, they will be suitable for us.

Many thanks to those who have already contributed.



Becket Keys Lego League

It was lollies all-round as Becket Keys First Lego League got an early Christmas present – a new portable competition practice table! This was only possible thanks the time, hard work and technical skills of Mr Taylor, the DT Department Technician. Thank you so much!!!



The three teams, *Lego Kingz*, *Glados* and *Dominating Sloths* have been busy constructing and programming the base functionality for their robots for the upcoming competition this spring.

The arrival of the practice board allowed the teams to set up the challenge mat and get a good look at the tasks their robots will need to complete for the competition. Teams were also able to test out their robots' movement across the board.

Many thanks also to the club's Sixth form volunteers Anya Till, Lisa Singh and Ed Grey who not only support after school every Thursday, but who also gave up their free 6th period Thursday to help set it up before the teams arrived.



Watch this space for more updates as we continue preparation for the London championships this spring!

Year 7 Theatre Trip

Peter Pan

The Cliffs Pavilion

Pantomime season has now returned! Oh yes it has! This very British tradition is enjoyed by families up and down the country, typically at Christmas and the outlandish costumes, silly jokes, musical numbers and word play make panto suitable for all ages and an excellent introduction to the theatre.

The Year 7 students are currently studying panto and the origins of this genre and will be writing and performing their own show this term and so a trip to the Cliffs Pavilion in Southend for this year's production of Peter Pan was organised by the Drama department.

Pantomime is no ordinary theatre experience, and the audience are not expected to just sit back and watch. The audience play a part in each performance and last night was no exception with the Year 7s in excellent voice, shouting 'Hello Smee!', cheering for Peter and the Lost Boys, booing and hissing Captain Hook the villain and laughing at the cheesy jokes.

The students were all impeccably behaved and were a credit to Becket Keys. They all enjoyed the show immensely. Many thanks to Mrs Palmer and Mrs Barr for their organisation and Mrs Tait, Ms McNeela and Mr Menexes for chaperoning the trip.





ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
CHURCH

Carols And Chilli Around The Christmas Tree

FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER 5PM–8PM
Community Carol Singing at 5.30, 6.30, 7.30
With Special Guest Performances
Children's Craft Area
Nachos with Chilli Con Carne
Hotdogs
Licenced Bar
Mince Pies

**Tickets - available after 10.00am Mass on Sundays
or Church Office on Thursday mornings or on the St
Thomas Church website**

£2.50 per ticket or £10 for 5 tickets

Raffle to be drawn on Sunday 17th December 2023 after 10.00am Mass




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/becketkeyschoolbrentwood

If you are doing Christmas shopping online, why not see if you can help raise some funds for FoBK through your purchases. It takes 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.



Essex Partnership University
NHS Foundation Trust

FLU VACCINE CATCH-UP CLINICS

Time is running out to vaccinate your child with this season's flu nasal spray*.

The flu vaccine reduces the risk of serious illness and will top up their protection even if they've been vaccinated before.

Drop into one of our Essex catch-up clinics for primary and secondary aged children:

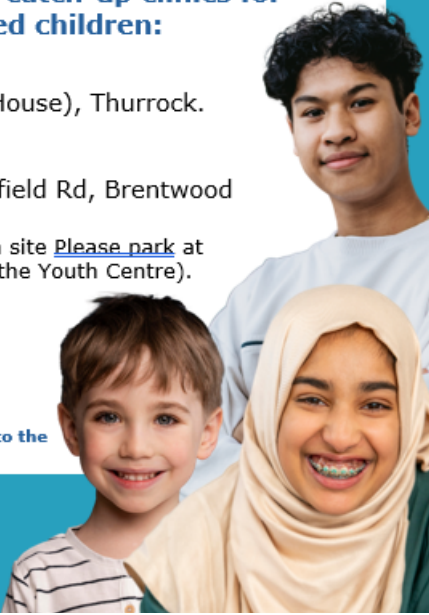
16 December, 10am – 2pm
Thurrock Hospital (Thameside House), Thurrock.

21 December, 10am – 2pm
The Hermit Youth Centre, Shenfield Rd, Brentwood CM15 8AG.
(Please note no parking available on site [Please park](#) at Brentwood Sainsbury's and walk to the Youth Centre).

**No booking required.
Just walk in.**

*flu injection is offered as an alternative to the nasal spray

#DOYOURBITESSEX



REMEMBER

A Message from the Admin Team

Remember that all correspondence to the school must come through the school office email: office@becketkeys.org or 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 for your understanding.

Post 16 Education Trip - Can you help?

We are looking for parent/community volunteers to attend the post-16 education trip on Tuesday 16th January 2024. This trip involves 30 Year 11 students exploring post-16 education at a local colleges (to be confirmed)

If you are willing to volunteer, please email:

office@becketkeys.org

Many thanks!



LOST PROPERTY

If your son/daughter has misplaced anything at school, then kindly inform him/her that all lost property is taken to Reception for collection.

Please make sure that all items, especially uniform, are named. This will ensure that items can be returned to the student easily.

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



Book of the Month - December



Twelve-year-old Flora Winter and her mother are off to the small seaside town of Helmersbruk for Christmas. When they arrive, Flora soon discovers an abandoned mansion straight out of a fairytale. But it is not just the manor that is mysterious - porcelain figures are appearing out of nowhere, a strange boy in a green cap seeks her friendship, and she hears eerie whispers in the night.

Flora is determined to unravel the secrets of Helmersbruk Manor - but as the clock ticks down to Christmas, Flora must solve the mystery before time runs out.

An enchanting Christmas mystery, with an illustrated chapter for each day of Advent.

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. Students are strongly encouraged to attend with their parents. However, if you ever have any concerns please contact the school via office@becketkeys.org or via the [contact page](#) on the school website.

Year 11

Thursday 11th January 2024

Year 9

Thursday

1st February 2024

Followed by a Year 9 – Options Evening

Thursday

15th February 2024

Year 7

Thursday 29th February 2023

Year 10

Thursday 13th June 2024

Sports News



Year 9 Girls' Football

The U14 girls having two games in two days opened up an exciting window for the ladies who have been working hard in lesson to show Mr Lane and Miss Plunkett their abilities whilst they are playing football in PE.

Those who were brave enough to accept the call up were Kiera, Skye, Harmani, Tilly and finally the self-proclaimed "Ronaldo" Lola. The staple of Lily (c), Ruby and Maddie were on hand to sure up the fixture with all eyes on tomorrow's cup game. Some exciting football saw Kiera making strong tackles at the back. The scoring was opened from range by Lily, leading by example! It took some time before Boswells broke forward and unfortunately their first effort trickled past Ronaldo in goal which the avid football fan would agree is a strange position for him

to play. The half time whistle blew at 1-1 and the three usuals went back into their 'actual' position as we looked to win the fixture. We created chances and both Skye and Ruby had chances with the post being struck! Lola had to go due to Boswell arriving late and Tilly bravely put the gloves on! Quick thinking from Maddie to Lily saw the captain head home and score the winner. Full time 2-1 with smiles all round and new faces to make the newsletter. POTM would be obvious for the required goal scorer but for bravery to put the gloves on, I will award this to Tilly!

Year 8 Girls' Football

The girls played a great 7-aside game against Boswells this week. Only a few minutes into the first half and Abi Fisher scored a brilliant goal, securing a 1-0 lead for Becket Keys. The opposition were fired up and soon evened up the score to 1-1. Amazing defence from Charlotte, Oprah and Florence meant we kept possession and Abi came through again with another beautiful goal. Go Abi!! The first half finished 2-1. After an encouraging team chat the girls started the second half with a lot of enthusiasm to get the score up and boy did they deliver! Impressive tackling from the back resulted in Oprah taking a long range shot at goal and Isabella came through for the finish, bringing the score to 3-1.

Despite suffering from injury, our keeper Lena, (who was still determined to secure the win for the team), saved two consecutive goals from the opposition and Bella came through to score her 2nd goal!



With the score now 4-1 and not much time left on the clock both teams were battling for possession. Becket Keys gets the ball to Bella, and she scores her third goal! Boswells were still not defeated however as in the last few minutes they scored again, leaving the score 5-2 to Becket Keys. All players had a fabulous game, but I have to give player of the match to our hat-trick scorer Bella Crawford. Great work Year 8s!

Players:

Isabella Crawford
 Oprah Amode
 Abi Fisher
 Grace Weeden
 Lena Wierdak
 Tilly Holder
 Charlotte Hogdson
 Florence Holdgate
 Vienna Hayes

Sixth Form Boys' Football

The combined forces of Year 12 and 13 were back on display, this time away vs Shenfield in a recorded match for A Level assessment purposes. After a disappointing penalty loss in the last fixture the boys were motivated to come away victorious against a notoriously strong football school.

We lined up with Charters in goal and a back 4 of JT, Archie, Sam and Bendelow. Ahead of them, the two holding roles of Jacob and Jake allowed for the attacking trio of Gerrard, Micah



and Goodey to drive forwards or feed the solo striker of Harry. The boys started well, forcing saves and making strong tackles at the back. The high press we set forced the Shenfield keeper to rush a clearance as Harry Adams bore down on him to block the clearance which rebounded fortuitously into the SHS net. Goal scorer then became an assister, as Micah weaved past two and played a wide pass to Harry whose cutback was bundled home by Micah for our second. The game had a spell where frustrated tackles flew in as the third goal was going to be important and Callum Bendelow's well timed crunching slide tackle (which turned into a pass to Jake) delivered to the back post where Callum Goodey was able to powerfully strike home the half volley with good technique. At 3-0 many teams would try to slow the game down but this is not our style. A Goodey corner was attacked by several players at the same time in scrappy fashion, and as the ball bounced amongst the bodies, Gerrard was first to react and poked home a deserved fourth. Will in goal was not as quiet as this report makes out as the tricky SHS attacker won a

penalty. Will remembered 'the system' which I told him before he made the save that won us the MESSA cup last year, and was able to comfortably get down low to his left to make the save. There was still time in this first half for us to copy Shenfield and see Micah's penalty saved and on the stroke of half time, strong pressing from Harry allowed him to get his second and our fifth to conclude a solid half. The 4 changes at half time were made as Buckland, Giddings, Henry and Falco came in and made immediate impacts on the game. The game thankfully settled as another five goals would have turned the newsletter into its own book! Truth be told, very little happened in this half apart from a rather impressive SHS goal against the run of play. There was just enough time for Giddings to cut back to Jacob to score the game's final goal to wrap up a 6-1 win away at Shenfield. With 5 different scorers and a penalty save in the mix, POTM was a hard selection but for being the happiest man in the photo, it has gone to Micah.

Mr Lane
PE Teacher

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

A-LEVEL PRESENTATION EVENING
TUESDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2023

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LAST DAY OF TERM
STUDENT HALF DAY

WEDNESDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2023
SCHOOL WILL FINISH AT 12.40pm
NO LUNCH SERVICE ON THIS DAY

*

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
THURSDAY 21ST DECEMBER 2023 –
WEDNESDAY 3RD JANUARY 2024

*

INSET DAY
(NO STUDENTS IN SCHOOL)
THURSDAY 4TH JANUARY 2024

*

SIXTH FORMER FOR A DAY
TUESDAY 16TH JANUARY 2024

*

CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION
MONDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2024

*

LENT HOLIDAY
MONDAY 19TH FEBRUARY - FRIDAY 23RD
FEBRUARY 2024

Becket Keys Church of England School

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[Facebook: Becket Keys Church School](#)