



Becket Keys Church of England School

20th December 2023

IN THIS ISSUE

Mr Scott-Evans writes.....

I read recently that when we look up in the daytime, we may observe clouds and sky, but apart from the sun, we see no further than the Kármán Line (where the earth's atmosphere ends and space begins) around 62 miles away. This got me thinking about how much further you can see at night.

According to what I have read, it is generally agreed that the furthest thing observable to the naked eye is Andromeda, a collection of a trillion stars lying 2.5 million light years away! One light year is about 6 trillion miles. It is pretty hard to imagine that distance – let alone 2.5 million times that distance!

I have been pondering this thought all through Advent.

It seems to have had a number of applications for us at Becket Keys.

Firstly, I know some families are going through some really difficult times. I know that, for some of you, Christmas is a particularly tough time – a dark time. I pray that in the dark and difficult times, families will be able to see the light of Christ even more clearly. Perhaps those of us who are having an easier time of it are missing out on some of the depth and power of the love of Jesus.

Secondly, it has made me wonder whether with all the other trappings of the festive season giving off so much light we can

.....contd. on page 2



BECKET KEYS
Church of England School

A Level Presentation Evening

We were delighted to welcome back the class of 2023 to collect their certificates.

Page 3

Sixth Form

Details of the work that the Sixth Formers at Becket Keys have been involved with as part of the Courageous Advocacy initiative.

Page 4

Book of the Month

A great festive recommendation for this month. A great idea for a stocking filler!

Page 8

Art & Textiles

Examples of the excellent work from our talented students.

Page 9-12

.....contd. from Page 1

actually be distracted from the true meaning of Christmas. We can get so caught up in the busyness, excitement and 'other' traditions that we actually lose sight of what it is all about.

It is hard to really believe that something so far away as the Andromeda collection of stars is true scientific fact. It can be similar with the story of Jesus' birth. Is it real? Is it true? Is it important?

This Advent, at Becket Keys, we have been taking the opportunities we have to bring the light of Christmas to our community. Whether in music and song at our various Eucharists, Carol Concerts or other events like last night's Alumni Awards Evening or perhaps through our daily prayers, collective worship or tutorial programme – we have tried to both provide the light and draw near to it.



We now pass that baton onto you as families. What will you do this Christmas to search for the Christ child? Will you go to church? Will you read the first chapters of Matthew and Luke? Perhaps you will watch something together on television like a carol concert or one of the [Church of England's services](#)? Whatever it may be, I

pray that it will help you see a little clearer the light of Christ in your home. We all need that. That is where the real joy of Christmas is, and I pray that you find it.

God bless you all. Have a wonderful holiday. I look forward to seeing you in 2024.

**Mr Scott-Evans
Headteacher**

Lord Jesus,

Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.

We who are anxious over many things look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light.

To you we say, 'Come Lord Jesus!'

Amen.



BECKET KEYS
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A Message from Mrs Noble



To all of Year 10,

Firstly, I would like to give huge congratulations to you all on the completion of your first term of your GCSEs. You have risen to the challenge so well and have worked incredibly hard. It is always challenging starting year 10 with an increase in expectations and work, but you have all taken on this challenge and made a positive start.

It has been great to hear of our successful mentors helping out the Year 7s and many of you supporting each other through difficulties.

On many learning walks I have seen a mature approach shown and many of you asking for advice and help with your revision. It has been a pleasure being your head of year and I have enjoyed getting to know many of you.

I wish you all a very well-deserved rest and hope you have a fantastic Christmas and New Year! Merry Christmas!

**Mrs Noble
Head of Year 10**

A-Level Presentation Evening

We had a wonderful evening celebrating our 2021 – 2023 A-Level cohort and the excellent results they obtained last year. It was great to see so many familiar faces back at the school and again and we were delighted that so many former students were able to attend. Congratulations to William Endacott and Danilo De Vito who achieved The Outstanding Attainment Award. Alex Miller and Oluomachi Uche-Igokwe received the Outstanding Progress Award and the Character Awards went to Rebekah Smithers and Joshua Clarke.



Many thanks to Mr Andy Drake the Chief Executive Officer of the YMCA in Essex who spoke about 'Faith in Learning' and gave the students some great life advice. Tom Archer from the class of 2023 and the Becket Keys Upper Voices Choir entertained us with musical interludes Thanks also go to Mrs Sharp, Miss Dent and all the helpers who made sure the evening ran smoothly.

We look forward to hearing about all the amazing adventures from all our alumni! Keep in touch!



Sixth Form – Courageous Advocacy



We are often asked to do an end of term review for the newsletter. This year I have decided to do something different.

When I was appointed to take on the role of Head of Sixth Form, I said from the outset that I wanted our Sixth Form students to be courageous advocates in all areas of school life. My first collective worship with both year groups addressed what this meant and how they could get involved. I am now excited to provide you with a little summary of what the Sixth Form has been up to this term. There will undoubtedly be some things that I miss, but I will try to share some key examples.

Firstly, we appointed all Year 12 students as prefects. This means that they serve the school by completing a small duty by assisting staff at lunch time. This gives the Sixth Form a lovely presence around the school and younger students feel reassured by their presence. Straight away some students took on extra duties and we have a team of prefects also welcoming students

as they arrive on the gate each morning.

A selection of students have offered their time in supporting lessons, and in one case delivering lessons with Mr Scott-Evans! One student who is looking to be a PE teacher has been shadowing lessons, helping with an extracurricular club and learning from our current trainee teachers. Mrs Noble has also been given a helper in some of her mathematics lessons.

We have numerous new clubs that have started or continued this term due to the leadership offered by Sixth Form students. We have speed cubing, Warhammer, the Lego First League, numerous sports clubs and music too! Some students decided to start a Gospel Choir and they have already performed at our Carol Service and are planning their next concert! During the recent Carol Service the Sixth Form students were superb in supporting the running of the event and giving their time to serve refreshments and help with the planning and organisation.

Our most popular request from students was to support in mentoring young students. Over 30 students attended a training course with Mr Shields and are now on our mentoring list. It is always exciting when Sixth Form students feel they can support

younger students – perhaps learning from their mistakes.

We have also been encouraging students to be courageous in seeking super curricular opportunities. We already have students who will be taking part in summer schools offered by Cambridge University such as the 'Think Like a Lawyer' programme. Others have secured exciting work experience places and have completed MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) and have broadened their knowledge by reading beyond the standard curriculum content. Students all have an Above and Beyond portfolio to complete so that they have a record of everything they do!



There are too many individual examples to share, and I do not want to miss anyone out. However, I am really excited for what the next term will bring! I hope we will see even more Sixth Form students supporting in lessons and delivering Collective Worship. I look forward to sharing more updates with you in future newsletters!

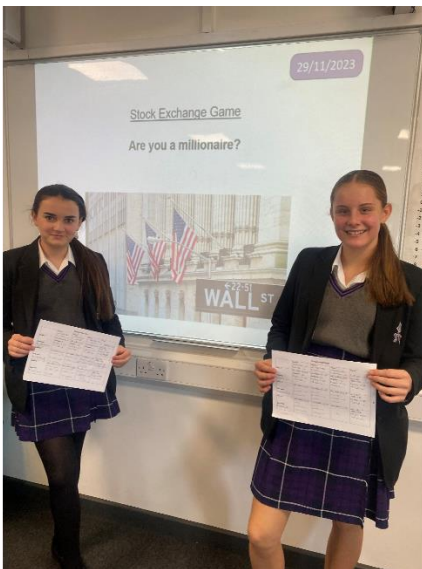
Mrs Course
Head of Sixth Form

Sixth Form – Courageous Advocacy

Competence with percentages benefits our students' functioning in society. This term, Year 8 students have been learning about borrowing and investing money, interest rates, and depreciation, for example, what happens to the value of a car. Through paired work, students have discussed mathematical concepts applied to everyday life.

During one mathematics lesson, we transformed the classroom into a trading floor: The London Stock Exchange. Students were buzzing with excitement. They had £100 000 to invest in a choice of companies and there were a series of three events where stocks either went up or down. I wonder who had the most money at the end of the lesson?

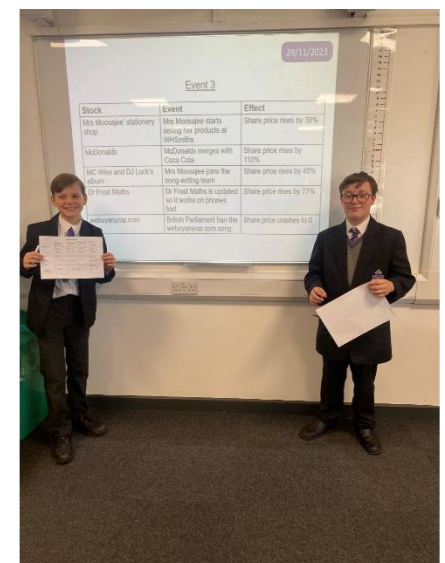
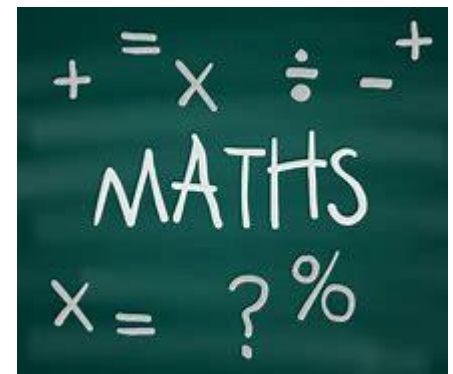
Mrs Moffat
Mathematics Teacher



| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 20 000 |
|---------|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| | McDonalds | Dr Frost | Stationary | |
| | 50 000 | 20 000 | 10 000 | |
| Event 1 | $(+) 50\,000 \times 1.35 = 67\,500$ | $(-) 20\,000 \times 0.9 = 18\,000$ | $(-) 10\,000 \times 0.75 = 7\,500$ | $(+) 20\,000 \times 1.05 = 21\,000$ |
| Event 2 | $(+) 67\,500 \times 1.33 = 89\,775$ | $(+) 18\,000 \times 1.45 = 26\,100$ | $(+) 7\,500 \times 1.05 = 7\,875$ | $(+) 21\,000 \times 1.05 = 22\,050$ |
| Event 3 | $(+) 89\,775 \times 2.1 = 188\,527.50$ | $(+) 26\,100 \times 1.77 = 46\,197$ | $(+) 7\,875 \times 1.38 = 10\,867.50$ | $(+) 22\,050 \times 1.05 = 23\,152.50$ |
| | | | | |
| | | | | Total = 281628.86 |

In mathematics, we have learnt how to use multipliers, which is an efficient way of making percentage calculations. We have explored the difference between compound and simple interest and we have had to make informed decisions using interest rates to decide on the best bank to invest in. In some situations, I found that for a short term investment I would recommend simple interest, however for a long term investment I would recommend compound interest. Sometimes you cannot predict the future so when we played games we had a choice to lock some money away as a safety net. We learnt a lot about percentage increase and decrease.

Kieron Debond
Year 8



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.

The book pile is getting bigger by the day! Many thanks to those who have already contributed. The school is open Thursday and Friday for more donations or they can be brought to school in the New Year.





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

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.

Student Achievement Alex Pearson – Year 7



After a busy day at school Alexander Pearson, a Year 7 student at Becket Keys and his brother, Sebastian have walked the streets of Upminster with The Havering Rotary Club Christmas float to raise money for local charities.

The collection last Friday evening collected over £1000! Here are the boys with their collection buckets after an evening of collecting.

Well done boys!

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.

FLU VACCINE CATCH-UP CLINICS



Essex Partnership University
NHS Foundation Trust

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



Art & Textiles

with

Mrs Brassett

★ Star Artist Year 12

Matilda Smith ★



@becketkeysarttextiles



**Anna-Kaye
Fullerton
Yr11**



**Matthew Sala
Yr 9**

Sophia Cohen Yr 9



Emily Rokoszynski

Yr 13



Farley Haslam

Yr 7

Amelie Coleman Yr 11



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

*

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

THURSDAY 21ST DECEMBER 2023 –
WEDNESDAY 3RD JANUARY 2024

*

INSET DAY

(NO STUDENTS IN SCHOOL)
THURSDAY 4TH JANUARY 2024

*

FRIDAY 5TH JANUARY 2024
ALL STUDENTS AT SCHOOL

*

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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@BecketKeysSci
@BecketKeysDT
@BecketKeysExams

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