



Becket Keys Church of England School

2nd February 2024

VISITING STUDENTS FROM CHINA

Mr Scott-Evans, Headteacher writes.....

Dear Parents, Staff, and Students,

I am delighted to share with you the wonderful experience we had this week with our guests from Inner Mongolia. As part of our work with the **Global School Alliance**, our participation in the **Mandarin Excellence Programme** and our status as a **Confucius Classroom**, we had the pleasure of hosting 22 Chinese students between the ages of 11 and 16.

Our Chinese guests were paired with students of the same age and sex and participated in various lessons and clubs throughout the week. They also enjoyed lunch with their buddies and had the opportunity to explore the local area.

The week was filled with exciting events, including an opening ceremony with music, gymnastics, and speeches, and a closing ceremony where the Chinese students presented a traditional song. We also awarded certificates and gifts to all the students who participated.

Our Chinese guests were accompanied by five teachers, and we had the pleasure of teaching all 27 of them how to make a traditional English cream tea. We baked scones and enjoyed them with cream and jam. We also took them for a walk to Brentwood High Street, where we visited St Thomas' Church and the chapel ruins. We then went to some of the shops, including Boots and Sainsburys.

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Church of England School

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We are thrilled to hear that our guests enjoyed their stay with us and were very complimentary about our school. The organiser of the visit even said that we were the best school the organisation has ever used (he has been bringing Chinese schools over for ten years) and that we have an independent school feel!

We were sad to see our guests leave, but we hope that the memories of their visit will live long in the memory. We would like to thank everyone who made this visit possible and look forward to future opportunities to welcome guests from China and Spain in the future.

**Mr Scott-Evans
Headteacher**



Mid-Year Reports

Next week, if you are a parent of a Year 7-9 (Key Stage 3) student, you will be receiving a mid-year report. These reports are designed to help parents and students know whether they are 'above track', 'on track' or 'below track' in each of their curriculum subjects.

Students arrive to us with a score from primary school. We convert this into a personal target that students should aim to achieve by the end of the year. Teachers are continuously assessing how students are doing against these targets. Are they listening in class? Contributing to class discussions? Presenting work beautifully? Completing classwork and homework to a high standard? Together with assessment data, we are able to make holistic judgements about whether students are 'on track' to meet end of year target grades.

At Key Stage 3, we assess students using 'stages'. Each curriculum area has worked with our expert trust to generate meaningful stage ladders that students should progress through. The stage ladders and a very informative video by Mr Scott-Evans explaining stages and assessment at Key Stage 3 can be found on our website [Becket Keys](#). The stages are what we generate target grades against.

Another interesting feature of our website is the ability to see our entire curriculum online! This

means that you can see what your son or daughter is about to study next in each subject and how students will be assessed. Have a look at the online curriculum here [Becket Keys](#).

When students receive their report, it would be a good idea for parents and students to go through the report and discuss each subject. Where students are 'above track' or 'on track' – fabulous! Students should continue being excellent students in order to meet expectations at the end of the year. Where students are 'below track' - it would be useful to reflect on this. Am I working hard enough? Is my book a true reflection of my ability? Am I handing homework in on time? Am I listening and contributing regularly to the lesson? If students (and parents) feel they are working hard enough, this is the time to ask for help. Contact your son or daughter's teacher to ask for advice and support via the staff contact portal.

These mid-year reports are designed to keep you informed so that you can take action. Please remember that we want all students to succeed and are always here to help. There is still plenty of the year left to make it a success!

Mrs Trebess
Deputy Headteacher



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Autism Central Hubs offer guidance to families, carers and personal assistants of autistic people. All of our sessions are run by Peer Educators. These are parents or carers of autistic people, who are happy to share their knowledge and experience with you. They offer group and one-to-one sessions to help you and other parents and carers find the information and services available in your area. Hubs may also run events such as workshops, drop-in sessions, coffee mornings or virtual meet-ups.

[Essex County Council | Autism Central](#)

A Message for Year 9 Parents

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

Thursday 15th February 2024
6.00pm - Main Hall

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

BRENTWOOD FOODBANK HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS

The Brentwood Foodbank have recently shared concerning statistics about rising hunger and hardship in our local community. There has been a **67% increase in the number of people needing support over the past year.** Winter is proving to be difficult for many families who use their services. During 2023, Brentwood Foodbank provided 120,000 meals to Brentwood residents referred to them in crisis.



As a school, traditionally we have encouraged foodbank donations as part of our Harvest Festival offering. Considering the cost-of-living crisis and this appeal for help, we are now committed to encouraging and coordinating donations on a more regular basis, beginning with a collection throughout February.

Staff, students, visitors and friends of Becket Keys, can bring their donations directly to the

collection point in Main Reception from **now until Thursday 29th February.** The current shortage items are listed below. The list also contains essential non-food items required by families:



Thank you for your ongoing support and generosity.

Food

- UHT milk
- Tinned meat (hotdogs, meatballs etc.)
- Tinned fish
- Tinned fruit
- Sponge/rice puddings
- Coffee (small jars)
- Long-life juice
- Pasta sauce
- Tinned veg (potatoes, carrots, green beans, tomatoes)
- Tinned meals (spaghetti, chicken or veg curries, chilli)
- Tinned soup
- Jam and spreads

Non-food items

- Shower gel
- Shampoo/conditioner
- Deodorant
- Toilet rolls
- Washing up liquid
- Laundry detergent pods

Sixth Form National Apprenticeship Week

Monday 5th February until Sunday 11th February is National Apprenticeship Week. Degree Apprenticeships are fabulous opportunities for students to continue their studies after A Levels, while gaining experience in the workplace. Degree apprenticeships take three to six years to complete, depending on the course level and degree pursued. Students spend most of their time working and also study part-time at university. Overall, they spend about 20% of their time studying vs. 80% of their time working.

What we do at Becket Keys?

Many of our Year 13 students plan to apply to both university and for apprenticeships so they have the most choices presented to them on A Level results day. A minority have selected to go for apprenticeships only. Alongside our UCAS application support, we support our Year 13 students applying for apprenticeships throughout the year, by sending them a great variety of apprenticeship opportunities, arranging alumni presentations, mock interviews, delivering talks about apprenticeships, providing references and by facilitating their apprenticeship interviews on site or at home.

However, our work supporting apprenticeship applications starts in Year 12. During this National Apprenticeship Week Year 12 students will be learning about



the different types of apprenticeships, advantages and disadvantages of apprenticeships, how to find an apprenticeship, upcoming events and how to prepare so that they are ready to apply in Year 13.

Our apprenticeship work does not stop after National Apprenticeship week finishes. Our apprenticeship introduction in Year 12 includes hosting visiting and virtual speakers, a UCAS exhibition visit, weekly drop-in sessions, support on how to start looking and enrichment lessons on CVs, covering letters and interview skills. We also arrange mock interviews and forward to student apprenticeship opportunities.



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Church of England School

Year 13 Apprenticeships

Please find a selection of apprenticeships we have sent to students throughout the academic year below:

You can find an extensive list of current and live apprenticeships here:


[Higher-and-Degree-Vacancy-Listing-for-2024-PowerPo.pdf \(amazingapprenticeships.com\)](https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/higher-and-degree-vacancy-listing-for-2024-powerpo.pdf)




The 2024 Advanced Engineering (Level 3) Apprenticeship Campaign is Now Open!

Do you know someone who may be interested in an Apprenticeship with Ford? Particularly, if they would like to join in September 2024.




For more information about our apprenticeship opportunities go to: ford.co.uk/apprenticeships. To apply, use the QR code below:



SCAN ME



Ford is committed to diversity and equality of opportunity for all and is opposed to any form of less favourable treatment or harassment on the grounds of sex, marital status, civil partnership status, parental status, race, ethnic origin, colour, nationality, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, religion/belief, gender reassignment and gender identity, age and those with caring responsibilities

Please follow the link below for a film which promotes Teledyne E2V's Chelmsford Apprenticeship programme and their Open Day which is taking place 23rd February. Teledyne are based in Chelmsford and offer fully funded Advanced and Degree Apprenticeship <https://youtu.be/B7jEHrnR7BY>

Year 12 Apprenticeships

There are a number of exciting live events that students can attend throughout the week. Students can register and join online in school; please see sixth form staff if this clashes with lessons.

[Events | National Apprenticeship Week](#)



aircraft crew seating | executive jet passenger seating | electric galley inserts

CAREER BUILDER SCHEMES OPEN EVENING

DATE: 1ST FEBRUARY 2024, FROM 4.30PM
LOCATION: IPECO, SOUTHEND AIRPORT BUSINESS PARK



Join us! Take a tour of our state-of-the-art facilities and meet our friendly team

REGISTER TODAY
 Email trainingcentre@ipeco.com

Our **Career Builder Schemes** give you the chance to earn a **nationally recognised Level 2 or Level 3 qualification** while being employed

ipeco.com/careers



THALES


Navigating Apprenticeships

Mon 5th Feb 9AM

Win cool prizes

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK™

hosted by www.careermap.co.uk



Apprenticeships Ambassador Network

Apprenticeship crash course for parents, carers and young people advocates

Mon 5th Feb 12PM

Win cool prizes

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK™

hosted by www.careermap.co.uk



Employer focus: Apprenticeships with Dunelm

Find out everything you need to know

Dunelm is the UK's No.1 homewares retailer, delivering value and joy to help more and more UK consumers create a home they love.



Dunelm offer a range of apprenticeships across the organisation, with something for everyone. All their apprenticeships offer the chance to learn and grow in a friendly and reassuring environment, where your child will be welcomed with open arms and feel a real sense of belonging.

Dunelm's apprenticeship applications will open in January 2024 for a September 2024 start. Apprenticeship vacancies include:

- Retail x 5
(Nottingham, Cardiff, Dartford, Horsham & Basingstoke)
- Commercial: Buying x 1, Merchandising x 1, Ethics x 1
- Insight & Analytics x 1
- Product Engineering x 1
- Supply Chain x 2
- Finance x 1
- Procurement x 1



For more information on the above:

<https://www.dunelmcareers.com/>

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/resource/>



University of East London

Pioneering Futures Since 1898

Sixth Form students have been sent some information on an apprenticeship support day, Monday 5 February 10.00-14.00 at the Stratford Campus.

[Apprenticeship support session |](#)

[University of East London \(uel.ac.uk\)](https://www.uel.ac.uk)



A good starting point is the UCAS website, this will be launched to students before half term.

Useful websites:

Some useful websites listed below:

For more information on applying for apprenticeships:

<https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/apprentices/applying-apprenticeship>

Explore 650 apprenticeships.

<https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/>

Medical degree apprenticeships information can be found here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/dbUBjMgHWZ>

Please find a list of Higher and Degree apprenticeships here:

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/higher-degree-listing/>

Mrs Knowles
Deputy Head of Sixth Form

STOP

STOP is an effective parenting course for parents and/or carers of young people aged 11 – 16. This will give parents a greater understanding of their young person and strategies to help manage tricky situations which often occur during the teen years.

It is an 8-week step-by-step programme that runs for 75 minutes per session on ZOOM.

STOP covers a range of topics including:

- how to make changes
- teen development
- using praise and encouragement
- problem solving
- setting limits



The programme is starting on Tuesday 6th February 2024 at 9:30am

This course has been sponsored by Brentwood Borough Council working in partnership with St Martin's School. Parents whose children attend a Brentwood school or live in Brentwood are invited to attend.

To book a place on the programme email: lesleybentley2019@outlook.com



Becket Keys Sixth Form

Application Deadline:

9th February 2024

Join our distinctive Sixth Form at Becket Keys Church of England School by applying through our website. For tour dates please email sixthform@becketkeys.org.





All Year 7

All Year 7s

Chinese New Year Celebration

Chinese tea ceremony
 Chinese paper cutting
 Lion dancing
 Chinese blow painting
 Science – Fun Snap Bangers
 Martial Arts
 Film

February 12, 2024
 — Monday —

Organised by British Chess in partnership with Brentwood School and the Essex Junior Chess Association

8th Brentwood Junior Tournament

Sunday, 3rd March 2024

Courage Hall, Brentwood Senior School, Middleton Hall Lane Brentwood, Essex, CM15 8EE

This stand-alone tournament is also part of the Essex Junior Chess Association Grand Prix

£20 ENTRY FEE
 Half-price entry for Brentwood School students

British Chess
www.britishchess.co.uk



EJCA

enter online at www.britishchess.co.uk

WOW! GIRLS RUGBY

Taster session

Year 6 and 7 girls come and try **GIRLS ONLY** rugby

Sunday 4th February
 10.30 or 11.30

40 minutes
 Followed by a drink and snack in the clubhouse

GIRL POWER



hosted by Tigan Renshaw



PLAY

King George's Playing Fields
 Ingrave Road, Brentwood
 Essex, CM13 2AQ

Scan to secure a space



Spring Term Parent Support Series

Free Parent Webinars

Join us and Elevate Education for FREE 60- minute webinars designed to help you support your child's studies at home.

[Click here to Register](#)

In the Spring Term we'll cover:

- How To Help Your Child Improve Their Note Taking**
- 23rd January @6:00pm
- How You Can Make Technology an Ally (& Not the Enemy!)**
- 6th February @6:00pm
- How You Can Help Your Child Prepare for Exams**
- 5th March @6:00pm
- How You Can Support Your Child During Exams**
- 19th March @6:00pm



Register for the Elevate Parent Webinar Series.

This term Elevate Education will deliver high-impact workshops to students that will help to develop their study skills, motivation, and exam preparation. Over the next term, parents are invited to join the webinar series, this will enable you to help support your child at home by reinforcing the skills they are learning at school.

Upcoming Webinars:

How You Can Make Technology an Ally
6th February 6:00pm

Register for the series by clicking the link below and learn some great practical strategies to help support your child this year.

<https://go.elevateeducation.com/ukschoolwebinar>




Rise up to the challenge

CyberFirst Investigators 2024

Inspired and led by the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) - a part of GCHQ, students in Year 8/9 in England and Wales and Year 9/10 in Northern Ireland and S2/S3 in Scotland, can join free cyber security development days running throughout February and March 2023.

The CyberFirst Investigators 2024 initiative is designed to increase understanding of the different specialisms within cyber security and equip students with valuable, in-demand skills.

There is a series of fun, interactive face-to-face one-day courses as well as virtual courses, to choose from. On the day, the girls will be role playing as cyber security experts working for a fictitious app company, Sirius Cyberworks. Unfortunately, disaster has struck and there has been a serious breach of the company network - a new flagship app has been leaked. The students role is to work through four different parts of the company, uncovering how the leak happened whilst learning new cyber skills along the way.

FACE-TO-FACE COURSE DATES

Face-to-face courses are run on a Saturday from 9am to 4pm. For safeguarding purposes, specific venue details are released only to registered attendees closer to the time.

- Saturday 9th March - Central London
- Saturday 9th March - Canterbury
- Saturday 16th March - Leicester
- Saturday 23rd March - Ipswich

HOW TO BOOK

For parents or guardians looking to book their dependant please register them at: bit.ly/Investigators2024

Places are limited, so if you have students who might be interested, please share this information with them so that they don't miss out.

Teachers, if you have any questions please contact our team at cyberfirstadmin@qa.co.uk we're happy to help.






In partnership with 

Nearly New Uniform Sale

We are pleased to announce our next nearly new uniform sale.

Saturday 10th February 2024

School Reception

11.00am – 12.30pm

If you have any donations they would be happily accepted, please bring them to the school reception.

BOOK ONTO A HALF TERM ACTIVITY CLUB WITH ESSEX ACTIVATE!

Eligible children and young people are invited to book onto FREE, fun-filled activity clubs who are run by a network of locally, trusted organisations across Essex, brought to you by Active Essex on behalf of Essex County Council!

IS MY CHILD ELIGIBLE?

Essex ActivAte offer free, club spaces to primary and secondary school aged children (4-16 years), who are eligible for benefit based free school meals, or from 'low-income' working families, as well as children who may be vulnerable to inactivity or social isolation.

WHERE WILL THE CLUBS BE RUN?

Clubs will run in Braintree, Basildon, Brentwood, Castle Point, Chelmsford, Colchester, Epping, Harlow, Maldon, Rochford, Tendring and Uttlesford! Due to half term programmes being solely funded by Essex County Council, unfortunately there will not be any clubs running in Thurrock.

WHAT DO THE CLUBS PROVIDE?

Clubs provide a range of different physical, enrichment and food activities to support children's physical and mental wellbeing, as well as a delicious, nutritious meal!

HOW DO I BOOK ONTO A CLUB?

As half term programme are smaller and offer less activity days, you will not book on with your HolidayActivities voucher, but book on through the Essex ActivAte website instead. Simply find your local area and book on with the link provided or contact the club directly.

[Find out more about February half term clubs and book on here.](#)

FREE BRENTWOOD ACTIVITY CLUBS FEBRUARY HALF TERM 2024

Essex ActivAte is the funded Holiday Activity and Food programme across Essex, helping to support eligible children and families during the school holidays and half term breaks through free engaging and fun activities


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Jack of All Sports
Bentley St Pauls Primary, CM15 9SE (4-11 years old)
20th, 21st, 22nd February, 9am-3pm
Contact them on: 07919 888093

Sports Cool - Mainstream & SEND Level 2
Holly Trees Primary School, CM14 5RY (4-11 years old)
21st, 22nd (9am-3pm) & 23rd February, 9am-1pm
Contact them on: 07935 535292

HCL Activity Camps Ltd
The Knights Way Centre, CM13 2AZ (5-11 years old)
20th, 21st & 22nd February, 9am-3pm
Contact them on: 07778 874029

The Peaceful Pony
Ingatestone Road, CM4 9PB (5 - 16yrs)
19th February, 10am-12 & 12:30pm-2pm
Contact them by email to book: jadedoughty.tpp@gmail.com



SCAN THE QR CODE TO BOOK

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Python Code Club


Mondays after school 3:20 – 4:30 in W03

5th February – April 22nd

Prioritising Y9 who are considering taking GCSE computer science and Y10 students not currently taking GCSE computer science but are considering taking A level computer science.

This club will support preparation for the computer science GCSE and A level entrance exams.

Please see Ms Pogoda in W03 to sign up if you are interested.





Book of the Month - February



A stunning new story about family love, friendship and hope.

James is stuck in the present and that's the last place he wants to be. His parents have suddenly separated, and he has to get used to living two completely different lives. Now, he has two homes to stay in, two bedrooms to divide his things between, and two different routes to take to school. Unfortunately, nothing is adding up to the one great life James used to have and he wishes he could go back to the past, to his Top Six good memories with Mum and Dad. Then during Science Week, James meets the enigmatic Yan, a girl who looks at the world with x-ray eyes, and he discovers that travelling back in time might not be impossible after all. But are his best memories as perfect as he remembers?

Join 2nd Brentwood Scouts & Friends of St Thomas'



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Café

£3 for 2 Pancakes and Toppings

St Thomas of Canterbury Church hall

FEBRUARY 13th, 2024


Café Open 5.45PM-8PM (Last orders 7.45)

Please confirm if attending and number of guests

email sarahhoward84@icloud.com

LAMDA exams | Drama & Acting | Public speaking

www.standupuk.com



Stand UP

THEATRE SCHOOL

Confidence. Communication. Creativity

Brentwood Theatre School

Juniors
(age 5-10)
5:00pm - 6:30pm

Becket Keys Church of England Secondary School
Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood CM15 9DA

Seniors
(age 11-18)
6:30pm - 8:00pm

Every Friday during term dates, commencing 26th January 2024

Please contact us for details.

07545 999 046

[f](#) [@](#) [standupuk](#)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

YEAR 8 MANDARIN BFI TRIP
THURSDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2024

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YEAR 7 CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION
MONDAY 12TH FEBRUARY 2024

*

YEAR 9 OPTIONS EVENING
THURSDAY 15TH FEBRUARY 2024
6.00pm MAIN HALL

*

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

*

INSET DAY
THURSDAY 28TH MARCH 2024
NO STUDENTS AT SCHOOL

*

EASTER HOLIDAY
FRIDAY 29TH MARCH – FRIDAY 12TH APRIL
2024

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