



# Becket Keys Church of England School

9<sup>th</sup> February 2024

## IN THIS ISSUE

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

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

As we approach the Lent Holiday, I find myself reflecting on the intersection of tradition, faith, and modernity. Our school community at Becket Keys has always embraced the rich heritage of our Christian values while also adapting to the changing world around us. Today, I want to share some thoughts about a topic that has been making waves in the educational landscape: Artificial Intelligence (AI)

#### AI: A Blessing and a Challenge

In recent years, AI has become an integral part of our lives. From voice assistants to predictive algorithms, it increasingly permeates many of our daily

routines. But what will this mean for our school? How do we navigate the uncharted waters of this technological revolution?

Just last week, the BBC reported on the [bewilderment faced by schools across the UK](#) due to the rapid advancements in AI. As head teachers, we grapple with questions like:

- How can AI enhance our teaching methods?
- What ethical considerations should guide our use of AI?
- How do we prepare our students for a future where AI will shape industries and professions?

Meanwhile, RET have hosted a parent session about digital safeguarding and wellbeing. Parents will be sent a link and an attachment with this newsletter

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**BECKET KEYS**  
Church of England School

### Meet a New Member of Staff

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this week. There is also the new [RET on-line safety hub](#) which families can access free of charge. I suggest you bookmark the page to come back to in the future – it is being constantly updated. A good place to start is the parents' quiz [here](#).

### Lent: A Time for Reflection and Transformation

As we embark on the Lenten season, let us draw inspiration from the traditional practices of Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday next week. Shrove Tuesday, also known as Pancake Day, reminds us to clear away the excesses and distractions in our lives. It's a time to confess, repent, and prepare for the solemnity of Ash Wednesday and the Lent season ahead.

### Giving Up Devices for Lent



This Lent, I propose a unique challenge for our school community: [Digital Detox for Lent](#). Just as we often give up certain food indulgences during this season, let us consider temporarily parting with our digital devices as well or instead. Take a look at the article [here](#) and discuss as a family which of the 10 suggested disciplines may be right for you to take on.

In the [4<sup>th</sup> Chapter of the Gospel of Matthew](#), we read how Jesus spent 40 days and nights in the wilderness, fasting and praying. His journey was one of self-reflection, temptation, and ultimate triumph. Similarly, our digital fast during Lent can lead to deeper connections, increased mindfulness, and a renewed focus on our faith.

As we navigate the complexities of AI, let us remember that technology is a tool—a means to an end. It is our responsibility to wield it wisely, guided by our Christian values. Let this Lent be a time of intentional reflection, both in our spiritual lives and our digital habits.

May God's grace be with you all during this season of transformation.

Yours in Faith,

Mr Scott-Evans  
Headteacher

## The School Prayer

*Heavenly Father, we pray that Becket Keys Church of England School will be a blessing to the people of Brentwood.*

*Encouraged by the example of Peter, Thomas of Canterbury and all your saints, may its students know the beauty of your truth;*

*May its staff know the joy of your service;*

*May its headteacher and governors be led by a vision of your kingdom;*

*And together may the school community know your Holy Spirit in its midst.*

*This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

## Nearly New Uniform Sale

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

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

**School Reception**

**11.00am – 12.30pm**

Kindly bring cash if you can.

## Meet a New Member of Staff



### Mr Ison Acting Head of PE

It gives me great pleasure to take up the post as acting Head of PE at Becket Keys for Miss Schafer whilst she is on maternity leave. I am really looking forward to working with the students here and providing the opportunity for them to find a sport they enjoy and excel in. I come to Becket Keys with 7 years of experience as a PE teacher with my most recent role as Head of Boys' PE at another school within the county. Over the course of my career, I have had national and county success within a multitude of sports including Rugby, Football and Athletics and have mentored and trained many PE teachers including our very own Mr Lane.

Brentwood is a special place to me—it's where I grew up, I went to school at St. Martin's, and played rugby for Brentwood RFC.

It is a privilege for me to be able to work in an outstanding school and to be able to give back to the area and community which helped mould me.

Having a love of sport from a young age I represented my county at both rugby and athletics, I studied PE at GCSE and A-level and went onto study Sport and Exercise Science at the University of Portsmouth. I then went travelling around south-east Asia and Australia before beginning my teacher training and PGCE.

I am truly impressed by the commitment shown by the teachers here at Becket Keys in offering a wide range of extracurricular activities to enrich student experiences. I look forward to contributing to this effort. My aim is to create an environment where participation in physical activities is encouraged and enjoyable. Helping students develop a lasting appreciation for sports, whether they engage in them for fun or aspire to excel.

I very much look forward to meeting and working with you all, thank you.



**BECKET KEYS**  
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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

Remember the Guided Curriculum Choices (options) evening which will take place:

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February  
2024  
6.00pm  
Main Hall**

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 29<sup>th</sup> 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

## Harmony Unleashed: A Night to Remember at the Hermit Club

The Hermit Club came alive with a symphony of melodies as students from Year 7 to Year 13 showcased their musical prowess in a concert that left the audience wanting more. The concert, held last Friday, was a resounding success, with a full house eagerly anticipating the performances of the talented young musicians.

The event featured an eclectic mix of bands spanning various genres, providing a delightful musical journey for everyone in attendance. From the energetic beats of rock bands to the soulful tunes of acoustic ensembles, the concert truly had something for every music enthusiast.

The concert not only celebrated the musical accomplishments of the students but also highlighted the importance of the arts in fostering creativity and self-expression. The school's commitment to nurturing talent was evident in the polished and confident performances of the young musicians.

Parents, teachers, and fellow students alike were treated to an unforgettable evening of musical talent, leaving the Hermit Club buzzing with excitement and admiration. The success of the concert serves as a testament to the vibrant arts culture within the school, where students are encouraged to explore and showcase their talents.



A huge thank you to Tony and Josh who have helped with the bands over the past 2 months and for allowing us to use the Hermit Club.

**Mr Romhany & Mr Menexes**  
Becket Keys Music Department



**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](http://www.britishchess.co.uk)



**EJCA**

enter online at  
[www.britishchess.co.uk](http://www.britishchess.co.uk)

# WOW! GIRLS RUGBY

## Taster session



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

**GIRL POWER**



Sunday 4th February  
10.30 or 11.30

40 minutes  
Followed by a drink and snack in the clubhouse

hosted by Tigan Renshaw



**PLAY**

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

Scan to secure a space

## 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](mailto:jadedoughty.tpp@gmail.com)

SCAN THE QR CODE TO BOOK

# Considering university as your next step?

The Universities of Bath, Cardiff, Exeter, Keele, Lancaster and Warwick are hosting a series of online conferences aimed at providing information, advice and guidance on what is available and how to apply.

**Saturday 2nd March 10:00 – 13:00**  
This conference includes the following sessions: The UCAS process and personal statements, choosing a course and university, and applying to competitive universities, as well as panel sessions with admissions experts and current university students from each of the host universities.

**Register at: [exeter.ac.uk/iagconferences](https://exeter.ac.uk/iagconferences)**



## 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](mailto:sarahhoward84@icloud.com)

LAMDA exams | Drama & Acting | Public speaking

[www.standupuk.com](http://www.standupuk.com)

# Stand UP

Confidence. Communication. Creativity

standup THEATRE SCHOOL

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**

[info@standupuk.com](mailto:info@standupuk.com)

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



# In Art & Textiles this week with Mrs Cherry

## Star of the week



**Y10**  
*Eleanor Xi Cheng*



@becketkeysart

# Key stage 3



Oskar Golba Y7

Anca Brescan Y7



# Key stage 3



Nina Linnecar Y9

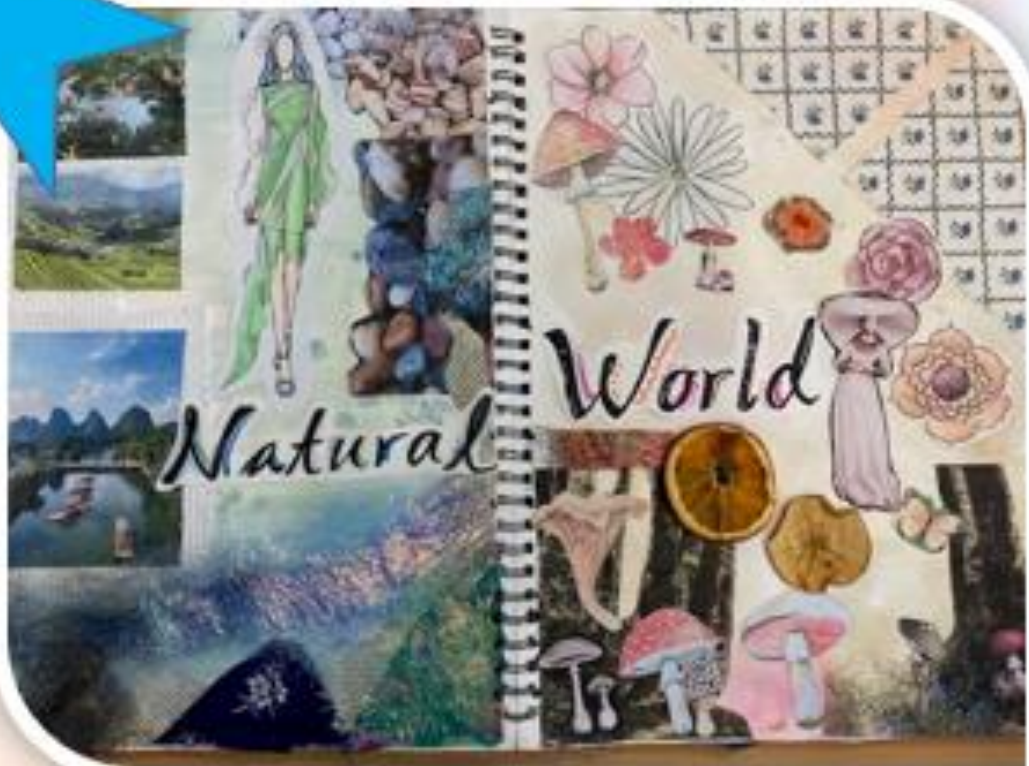


# Key stage 4 & 5



Isabelle Selwyn Y11

Eleanor Xi Cheng Y10



# Spotlight!

Y9 students get creative with the  
'Bin Bag Challenge'!



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### CLOSING DATE FOR SIXTH FORM APPLICATIONS

9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024

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### YEAR 7 CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

MONDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024

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### YEAR 9 OPTIONS EVENING

THURSDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024

6.00pm MAIN HALL

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### LENT HOLIDAY

MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY - FRIDAY 23<sup>RD</sup>  
FEBRUARY 2024

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### YEAR 11 & YEAR 13 MOCKS

BEGIN MONDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024

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### YEAR 9 VACCINATIONS

MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> & TUESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

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### WHOLE SCHOOL EUCHARIST

TUESDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024

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### INSET DAY

THURSDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024

NO STUDENTS AT SCHOOL

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### EASTER HOLIDAY

FRIDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH – FRIDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL  
2024

## Becket Keys Church of England School

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Brentwood, Essex

CM15 9DA

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[Facebook: Becket Keys Church School](#)