



# Becket Keys Church of England School

16<sup>th</sup> February 2024

## IN THIS ISSUE

**Mrs Penny Seithel writes.....**

### **Walking in Love**

What a pleasure being with each year group at Becket Keys School this week and sharing the work of I GOT SHOES charity. On Valentine's Day, we asked students this question, "What does walking in love look like?" You see, Jesus modelled and lived a life of love. And if we, too, are to follow and live like he did, what would this look like today?

For us, it is travelling to Uganda and seeing first-hand the need for more children to access education. Not just feeling empathy but allowing compassion to move us to action. How powerful collaborating with groups like Becket Keys and making a difference together can be.

To date, Becket Keys has raised £1,787 for I GOT SHOES. Each non-uniform day, when students bring a £1 or £2 donation, it is one of the easiest ways to change the narrative for a student in Uganda. You might think, maybe, this sounds far-fetched. Well, meet Rosemary.

Rosemary is one of our first graduates from the IGS vocational scholarship programme. She lives in a rural, impoverished community in Rakai District, Uganda. She was older when she sat her PLE (Primary Leaving Exams) and academically struggled. Yet, she desired to learn tailoring and one-day help contribute to the welfare of her family. We offered Rosemary a two-year tailoring programme which she recently completed.

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Church of England School

### **Student Achievement**

We have a number of students doing well in sporting activities they are involved with outside of school.

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### **Foodbank**

We are supporting the local foodbank with an additional collection in February.

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### **Mandarin Department**

It has been a busy time for this department organising a London trip and the Mandarin Day.

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### **Art & Textiles**

Examples of the excellent work from our talented students.

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Excitingly, she has been hired by the vocational school to make uniforms for the other secondary students. For the first time in her life, she has her own room; she's earning income and is thriving.

Rosemary's story is very different from many girls in Uganda. The more we learn about girls and women in Uganda it continues to fuel our 'why'. Inequality and gender roles in traditional, male-dominated societies are key barriers to girls receiving education. We shared these statistics with each year group:

"5 million Ugandan girls marry before the age of 18 and 1.3 million before the age of 15. Child marriage has a greater effect on girls living in rural and low-income households, with families often deciding to collect a dowry rather than continue to pay for their daughters' education."

Quoted from UNICEF.

According to Save the Children, "1 million child marriages in Uganda could be prevented if girls get secondary education."

Perhaps as you reflect on this reality and ask yourself again, 'What does walking in love look like?' For us, we see students helping students. Students at Becket Keys helping change lives today across the world.

With love & gratitude

**Penny Seithel**  
**Founder I GOT SHOES Charity**



## Student Achievement - Sports

### Trampolining Regional Qualifiers Challenge Cup



One of our sporting successes this week comes from Lola Wright in Year 9. Lola competed at the regional qualifiers for trampolining, securing 2<sup>nd</sup> place competing one year above her age group, falling just 0.4pts off the gold medal! She proudly informed the PE Department of her success and said, "I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and have progressed through to the semi-final 'thing'".

The date of this is scheduled to be the 14<sup>th</sup> April 2024 and we look forward to hearing more from Lola as she continues to increase her performance tariff.



### Brazilian Jiu Jitsu



On Saturday, Monty participated in an international Brazilian Jiu Jitsu tournament with over 1700 competitors from around the world.

Monty has been training in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu for 7 months and this was his first tournament. He had a great day and won the silver medal in his age/weight/grading group.

Monty is pictured here displaying his silver medal with his coach.



### Football Referees

Olivia James and Jack Falco  
Year 12

Olivia and James were at an awards ceremony recently.

These students have been selected by Essex FA to be assistant referees at football Cup final matches across Essex later this season.

Both students work hard as referees every weekend and their hard work and commitment has now been recognised as they were personally selected for these cup final matches.



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# 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

## Mandarin Department

### Happy Chinese New Year!

Becket Keys Church of England School held yet another successful Mandarin Day for all the Year 7 on 12<sup>th</sup> January. This special event was organised to welcome the Chinese New Year, “the Year of the Dragon”.

Students participated in six educational and fun-packed workshops:

#### Paper-Cutting workshop

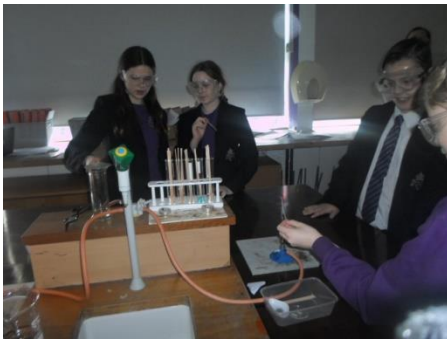
The students sharpened their paper cutting skills and cut out pictures that would traditionally be pasted on windows.

#### Chinese blow-painting workshop

The students had a go with the Chinese blow-painting techniques and created beautiful plum-tree blossom designs.

#### Science workshop

They experienced the process of making gun powder!





### Tea Culture workshop

They watched demonstration of the tea ceremony, delivered by the Goldsmith University, and tasted a few kinds of Chinese tea.



### Martial arts workshop

They practised some combat and defence moves with instructions from Kudos Combat Studio.

### Film workshop

They watched a compilation of 5 short films about Chinese traditions, myths and lion dancing celebration.

At lunch, students watched a sensational traditional Chinese lion dance and enjoyed some Chinese food that Bistro served. They also received a souvenir for the day.



The day has offered our students the opportunity to look beyond Chinese as merely a language and gain a deeper understanding of Chinese culture. It has been wonderful to see so many happy faces.

Happy Dragon Year to you all!

Miss Lin  
Head of Mandarin



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## Year 8 MEP – KS3 Mandarin study day at British Film Institute Southbank

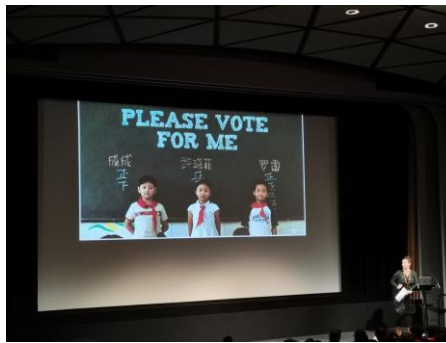
On Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024, our year 8 Mandarin Excellence Programme (MEP) went to BFI Southbank in London to participate in a film study day along with 6 other schools. This was the first time we were able to partake in this event as tickets always were sold out quickly!

In the morning, we sampled some video clips from different films and completed interactive language and culture activities. Amongst the films selected is a documentary about elections at school-level, which students enjoyed watching thoroughly.



In the afternoon, students watched the full film of a famous Chinese animated movie with record-high box office. Overall, it was a fantastic trip, and we look forward to any future exciting trips in the department!

**Miss Lin**  
Head of Mandarin





Essex County Council  
Basildon Council  
ActiveEssex

## Essex **ACTIVate** Half Term

**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.

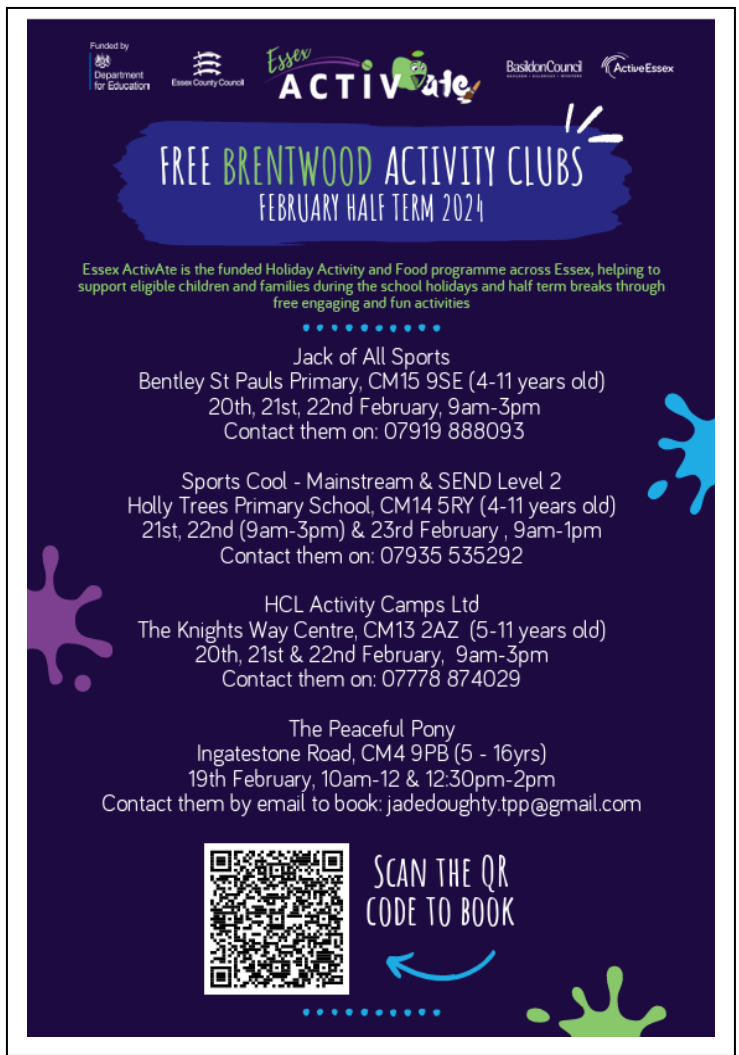
**WHAT DO THE CLUBS PROVIDE?**

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.



Funded by Department for Education  
Essex County Council  
Basildon Council  
ActiveEssex

## Essex **ACTIVate**

**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


**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



## PE Extracurricular Timetable 23/24

Day	Before School 7:30-8:20	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lunch 12:40-1:20	After-School 3:10-4:30
Monday	STAFF BRIEFING	TUP Badminton	All Years Boys' Football GCSE Filming (Invite)
Tuesday	Year 7&8 Mixed Futsal	-	Year 7 Mixed Basketball
Wednesday	STAFF MEETING	YR7&8 Girls' Futsal	All Years Netball
Thursday	Year 8+9 Mixed Basketball	TUP Basketball	KS3 Rugby Training
Friday	STAFF BRIEFING	-	All Years Girls' Football



Keys:

- Astro
- Sports hall
- Main Hall
- Field
- Netball Courts





## 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)**

## Nearly New Uniform Sale

Many thanks to all those who attending the sale last week we raised nearly £650 for the school funds.

The next sale will be in May.

Remember that we are happy to accept any donations throughout the year. Send them into reception with your son/daughter and we will rehome any items we can.

# Art & Textiles

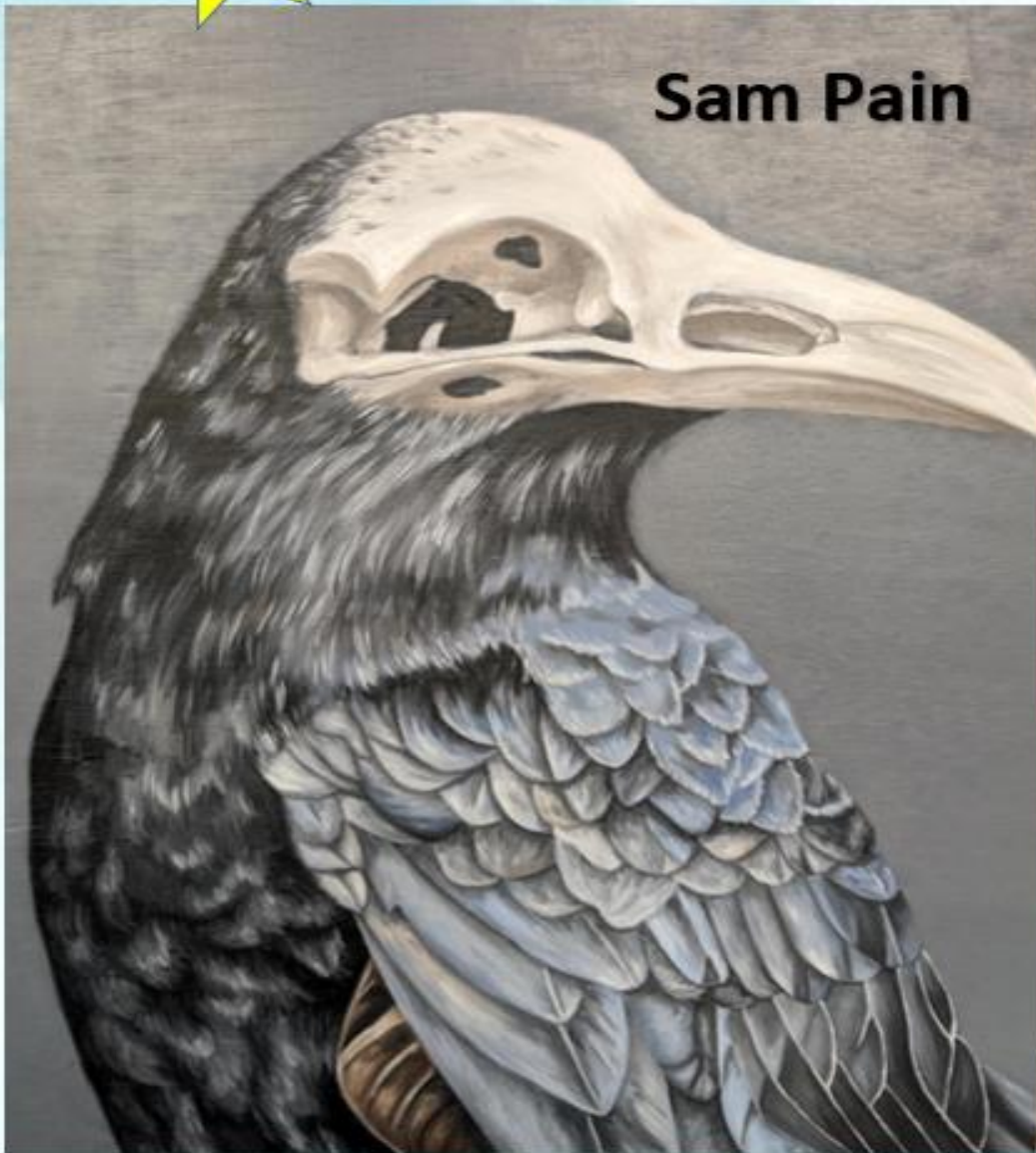
with

Mrs Brassett

**Star Artist Year 13**



Sam Pain



@becketkeysarttextiles





**Avidan George**

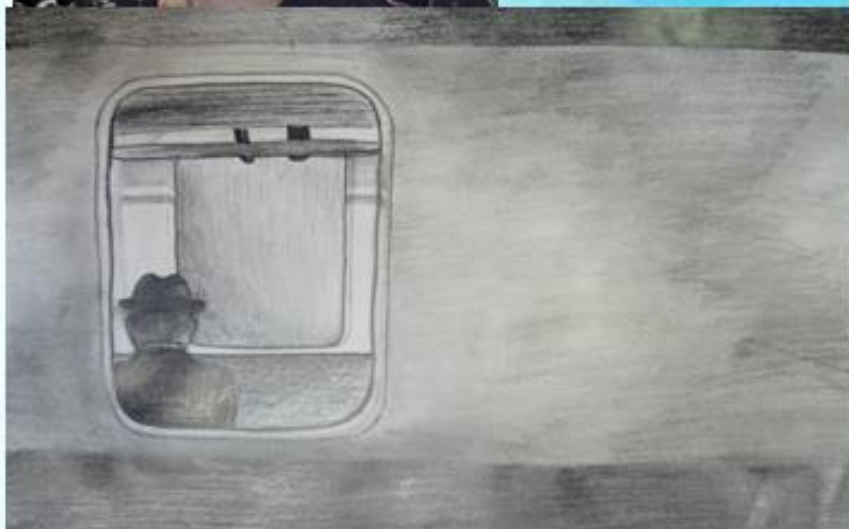
**Yr10**

**Thomas Swan**

**Yr 7**



**Charlie Phillips Yr 8**



**Chloe Persad**

**Yr 10**

## Harry Cooper Yr 7



**Year 7 Art Club**

**Pinch Pots!**





**Amber Sharp Yr 9**



**Lois  
Gilbey  
Yr 11**



## Sports News

### Girls' Football Year 7



In a commanding display of skill and teamwork, the Year 7 girls secured a resounding 8-0 victory in their latest football match. From the opening whistle to the final moments, the team worked hard on the pitch. The first goal came early from Scarlett, setting the stage for what would become a dominant performance. Throughout the match, they controlled possession, dictating the tempo of the game and consistently putting pressure on their opponents' defense. Defensively, we remained resolute and organized, with fantastic top corner saves from our keeper Erin. An all round amazing performance.

Goal scorers: Scarlett, Anna and Ama all scored 2. Kessiah and Imogen scored one each.

POTM: Scarlett O



### Boys' Basketball Year 7

In a thrilling victory for Becket Keys, our basketball team triumphed over St. Martins in a standout performance. With a final score of 43-7 in our favour, our players showcased exceptional skill and determination throughout the game. A highlight came at the buzzer, as Oskar sank a spectacular 3-point shot. Leading the charge was Ollie, who contributed an impressive 20 points to our team's tally. He led us to victory and was subsequently named player of the match. Defensively, our team was outstanding, conceding a mere 7 points, a testament to our discipline and teamwork. This victory reflects the hard work and dedication of our players and sets a promising tone for the rest of the season.

POTM: Ollie E

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### Girls' Netball Year 8 & 9

In a thrilling display of netball, the Year 9 girls (with the help of a few Year 8s) emerged triumphant in their plate competition match with a commanding 25-10 victory. From the first whistle the girls demonstrated their skill, teamwork, and determination on the court leaving their opponents struggling to keep pace. With only 7 players, no subs, the girls worked so hard every quarter to ensure the win. They are now in the final 4 of this competition. Every player contributed to the team's success, with seamless transitions between attack and defense and unwavering commitment to the cause. Bring on the next round!

POTM: Olivia M



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### LENT HOLIDAY

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

\*

### YEAR 11 & YEAR 13 MOCKS

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

\*

### YEAR 9 VACCINATIONS

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

\*

### GOVERNORS' SPEECH & AWARDS

#### EVENING

THURSDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2024

\*

### 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

\*

### 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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