

# Becket Keys Church of England School

8<sup>th</sup> March 2024

WORLD BOOK DAY – THURSDAY 7 MARCH 2024

IN THIS ISSUE

### Mrs Trebess writes.....

On Thursday, we celebrated World Book Day with Year 7 students reading a short story at the beginning of each lesson throughout the day. As an English teacher, I am always looking for reasons to talk about the power of reading, and World Book Day certainly qualifies!

Reading can be lifechanging. One study examined the habits of nursery to Year 12 students and found that just six extra minutes of reading time per day can make a huge difference to achieving academic targets in not just English, but in all subjects.

Reading can help students to develop their empathetic skills and to understand better the wider world around them. Experiments have been conducted to test this theory.

Participants in the experiment had to read a short story and then were required to answer a series of questions about the extent to which they had felt transported while reading the story. Did they have a vivid mental picture of the characters? Did they want to learn more about the characters after they'd finished the story?

The experimenters then said they needed to fetch something from another room and dropped six pens on the way out. *The people who felt the most transported by the story and expressed the most empathy for the characters were more likely to help retrieve the pens!*

Regular reading can lead to improved writing skills. As students read, they pick up on the different writers' language,

.....contd. on page 2



**BECKET KEYS**  
Church of England School

### Techognition

We thank and celebrate the technicians we have working throughout the school.

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### English Department

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Excellent sporting achievement from one of our Year 11 students.

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A showcase of the excellent work completed this week from our talented students.

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communication, and narrative styles, all of which can in turn influence how we use those skills in our own writing.

Reading can reduce stress levels by up to 68%. This makes it even more effective than other relaxation methods like listening to music.

Use the five-finger rule when choosing a book. Students should raise a finger each time they come across a word they are unfamiliar with. If by the end of page one they have more than five fingers raised, the book is probably too difficult. Fewer than five fingers, the book is probably too easy!

At the recent Year 7 Parents' Consultation Evening, I was talking to parents about the importance of the reading 'diet'. For reluctant readers, try to identify people, topics, places and events that your son or daughter is interested in and then see if you can find autobiographies, biographies, memoirs, articles, speeches and reviews about these things. Talk to them about their reading. What have they understood? What did they enjoy about the writer's style?

If you need any help or guidance around reading, please speak to your son or daughter's English teacher. Also you can see the 'recommended reads' section later in this newsletter and the Book of the Month on page 10.



**FREE EVENTS FOR PARENTS**

To help you support your child's career development

**Register Here**

Investin have free webinars, designed to help parents supercharge their child's career potential.

**Competing for Corporate Careers**  
Wednesday, March 20th, 7-8pm (UK time)  
Gain insights from industry professionals on diverse corporate opportunities and learn how to support your child's entry into the field.

**Effective Leadership & How to Follow**  
Wednesday, 27th March, 7-8pm (UK time)  
Learn strategies for skill development and discover how to nurture your child's ability to lead and follow effectively.

If parents are unable to join the sessions live, they can still register for the event to receive the recording and follow-up resources.

These events are designed to complement our series of free career tasters for students. The full timetable of the free webinars scheduled for this term can be found on the website [here](#)



Remember to complete the survey to give your view of the school:

Parents:

[Welcome to Ofsted Parent View | Ofsted Parent View](#)

Students, please use the survey here: <https://forms.office.com/e/jJpjFZFyxN>

## Easter, Sacrifice and Eggs

Easter is one of the most significant events in the Christian faith. It is the time when we can celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. The Easter story is a story of hope, love, sacrifice, and victory over death. During Lent we lead into the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The 40-day reminder of Christ’s days in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11), and His defeat of temptation. Lent is traditionally observed with prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Almsgiving is, in a religious context, the practice of giving food or money to poor in need.

Whilst I have certainly not been able to give up many proteins (traditional fasting) in the last few weeks I have been giving a considerable amount of time and effort to thinking about others less fortunate than myself and in need of support.

As a Christian, I feel it is my responsibility to do my part and to help others. To this end I have been training for the 2024 London Marathon and raising funds for the fantastic work of the [British Heart Foundation](#). The BHF is a charity that support over £100 million of research each year into all heart and circulatory diseases and the things that cause them: heart diseases, stroke, vascular dementia and diabetes; something that globally affects about 1:13 people.



### Global Heart & Circulatory Disease Prevalence in 2021


In Essex, around 130,000 people are living with heart and circulatory diseases, and 1:4 people in Essex will die from heart and circulatory disease.

Brentwood & Ongar statistics are below:


 Around **10,000** people are living with heart and circulatory diseases in Brentwood & Ongar

 Around **2,800** people are living with coronary heart disease in Brentwood & Ongar

 Around **1,000** people have been diagnosed with heart failure by their GP in Brentwood & Ongar

 Around **2,300** people have been diagnosed with atrial fibrillation

 Around **920** people have a faulty gene that can cause an inherited heart-related condition in Brentwood & Ongar

 Around **14,000** people in Brentwood & Ongar have been diagnosed with high blood pressure

 **24%** of adults in Brentwood & Ongar have obesity

 Around **9%** of adults smoke in Brentwood & Ongar

 There are around **3,600** out-of-hospital cardiac arrests each year in the East of England

If you are able and willing to do so, may I ask you to donate even the price of a coffee, via this [link](#), or use the QR code on the last page of the newsletter to help raise funds and support a worthy charity.

<https://tinyurl.com/RTSBHFLM>

In school we shall be holding a giant Easter Egg raffle over the next couple of weeks to help raise funds. If you would like to enter, tickets shall be 50p per ticket, or £2 for 5. Students shall be coming around in Tutor time if you would like to enter, or pop into J15 in non-lesson time.

Thank you very much!

**Mr Taylor-Smith - Head of Geography**

## Techognition

# #TECHOGNITION

**Techognition** is a term used to celebrate and showcase the essential work of school and college technicians in the UK.

The event helps school communities and the wider public understand how important technicians are to student success and the beneficial influence they have on technical careers.

Technicians are highly skilled, very experienced and essential members of school and FE college staff whose value is often not fully appreciated.

Together we can raise the profile of these essential roles and celebrate these unsung heroes of education.



**Mrs Bailey**  
**Lead Science Technician**

With a background as an experienced microbiologist, Mrs Bailey, our lead science technician, brings a wealth of technical expertise to our science department.

### **Key Responsibilities:**

#### **Laboratory Management:**

Ensuring well-maintained and safe laboratories.

**Resource Allocation:** Strategic budget management for equipment and supplies.

**Technical Support:** Assisting teachers and troubleshooting equipment issues.

#### **Training and Development:**

Providing valuable training sessions for staff.

#### **Administrative Excellence:**

Maintaining accurate records and documentation.

### **Health and Safety:**

Implementing robust safety protocols for experiments.

**Collaboration:** Working closely with teachers and other departments for a cohesive approach.

### **Student-Centric Approach:**

Engaging students in hands-on learning, Mrs Bailey supervises laboratory sessions and supports science projects, fostering a positive educational experience.



**Mr Achillea**  
**Deputy Lead Science Technician**

With a background as a research biochemist, Mr Achillea, brings a wealth of skills and knowledge to our science department.

## What is a Technician?

A technician is a worker in a field of technology with a practical understanding of the subject.

Each day, a technician spends time tackling different tasks, such as analysing problems, running tests, and repairing equipment.

Technicians are everywhere. They are always happy to assist, but they are not just helpers!

Technicians are qualified and skilled workers.

Aprons, overalls and lab coats are their uniform and act as their PPE for the practical work.

**Key Responsibilities:**

Prepares and maintains lab equipment for seamless experiment.

Manages inventory, ensuring timely restocking of supplies. Provides technical support to teachers and students during lab sessions.

**Collaboration and Student Engagement:**

Works closely with teachers to align labs with the curriculum. Supervises and supports students for a safe and productive learning experience.

**Professional Contributions:**

Conducts routine equipment maintenance and coordinates repairs. Maintains accurate records and contributes to documentation. Stays updated on advancements in science education for ongoing improvement.

Join us in applauding Mr Achillea's dedication to enhancing the science education journey at our school!

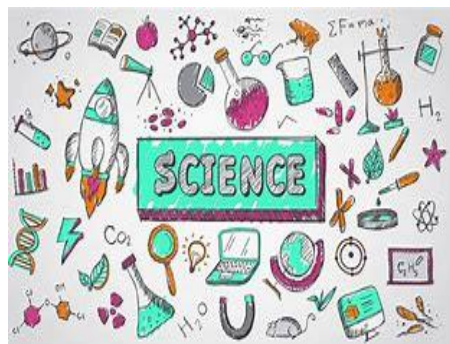


**Mrs Stevenson  
Food Technician**

It's time to spotlight Mrs. Stevenson, our exceptional Food Technician, whose passion for the culinary arts brings a dash of creativity and flavour to our school's learning experience. Her expertise elevates the culinary education experience, making it a truly delectable journey for our students.



Responsible for ensuring students have the right tools and fresh ingredients, food technicians work collaboratively to enhance our curriculum with exciting dishes and food science. Continuous improvement is their mantra, collecting feedback to refine recipes and methods. Budget-savvy, they ensure all students, including those with dietary preferences, enjoy top-quality ingredients.



Stepping in for absent teachers, they ensure no student misses out on our engaging curriculum. Join us in fostering a love for!



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**Mr Taylor  
DT Technician**

We are excited to shine a spotlight on Mr. Taylor, our esteemed Design and Technology (DT) Technician, whose contributions are instrumental in fostering a dynamic learning environment within our school.

**Workshop Wizardry:** Mr. Taylor ensures our DT workshops are well-equipped, organized, and ready for creative exploration.

**Technical Expertise:** With a wealth of technical knowledge, he supports both students and teachers in navigating the intricacies of design and technology projects.

**Resource Management:** From tools to materials, Mr. Taylor is

the go-to person for managing and maintaining the resources essential to our DT curriculum.

**Collaboration and Student Impact:**

**Team Player:** Collaborating closely with our DT faculty, Mr. Taylor aligns workshop setups with the curriculum, enhancing the overall learning experience.

**Student Support:** His guidance extends beyond the workshop, providing students with the assistance needed to bring their design visions to life.

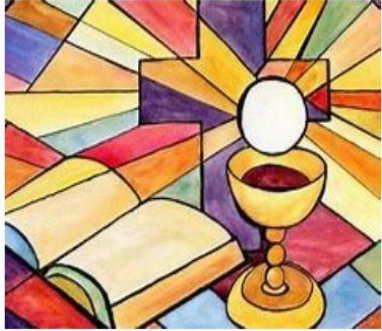
**Safety Advocate:** Mr. Taylor is committed to maintaining a safe and secure workshop environment, ensuring all safety protocols are diligently followed.


**Innovation Enabler:** He keeps abreast of the latest trends in design and technology, incorporating new ideas into the department to support the curriculum.

Thank you, Mr. Taylor, for being an integral part of the Becket Keys community


We thank all of our Technicians for all they do for the school and to assist our students.








During Lent there will be an additional Eucharist before school at 8.00am each Tuesday in the John Wraw Chapel. The usual 1.00pm Friday Eucharist will continue. All students are welcome to attend these short services to pray and reflect during this Holy season.





Elevate Education's Spring Term

## Parent Webinar Series

Elevate Education delivers high-impact workshops to our students that help to develop their study skills, motivation, and exam preparation. Over the next term, you're invited to join their parent webinar series, where you can help support your child at home by reinforcing the skills they're learning at school.

**How You Can Support Your Child During Exams**  
19th March 6:00pm

Register today at: <https://go.elevateeducation.com/ukschoolwebinar>

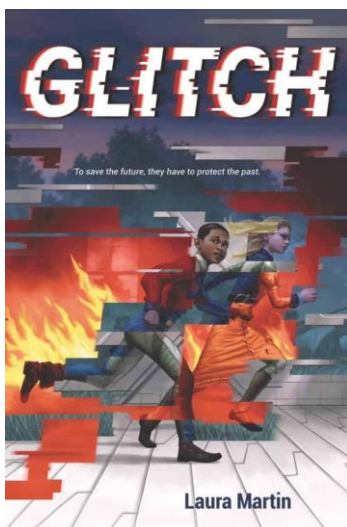
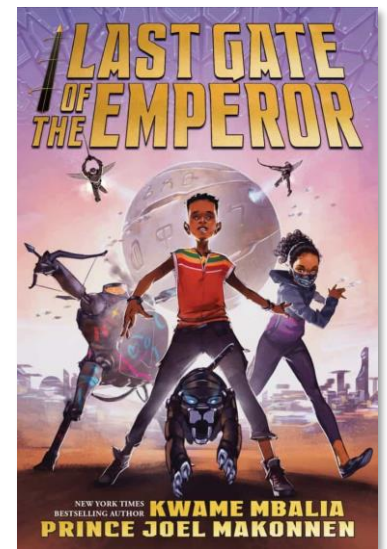
## English Department - Book Recommendations

This month the Year 7s have been reading 'Found' in form time. This is a Science-Fiction novel that tells the story of a mysterious plane that shows up in an airport full of babies! If you enjoy this genre, here are some of my recommended reads!



A Wrinkle in Time is the story of Meg Murry, a high-school-aged girl who is transported on an adventure through time and space with her younger brother Charles Wallace and her friend Calvin O'Keefe to rescue her father, a gifted scientist, from the evil forces that hold him prisoner on another planet.

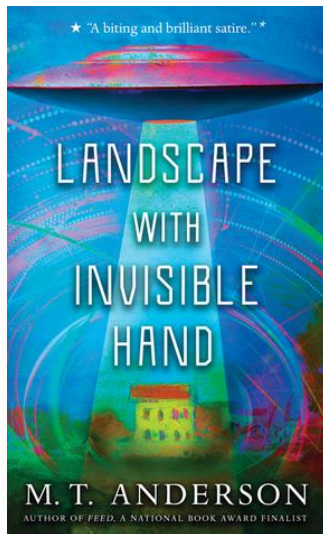
Yared's Uncle Moti moves them around frequently so when Yared gives his real name during an augmented reality game, he doesn't think the soldiers that arrive are after him. But they are. And everything he believed about his life turns out to be a lie...including his identity. Yared partners with another game player, the Ibis, to escape the troops and the giant monster and find the truth. The two clever, quick-witted kids face incredible danger, insurmountable odds, and a galaxy-spanning war but Yared has been trained for this and he is ready to fight. **Set in a futuristic Ethiopian empire, this exciting adventure grabs your interest and keeps it through wild twists and turns that feature heroic main characters!**



In this world, **some people have the genetic ability to time travel.** Regan is one of those people. Like all kids with this ability, she's required to train as a Glitcher so as teens and adults, they'll be ready to stop the bad guys from interfering with historical events. She gets an illegal message from her future self that she could go to jail for— and starts to suspect that things aren't as they seem. Then, she and her nemesis, another kid called Elliot, get sent to a secret partner program. They're forced to work together clandestinely to stop a catastrophe that could destroy the entire Glitch program. **Fast-paced, unique, and entertaining!**

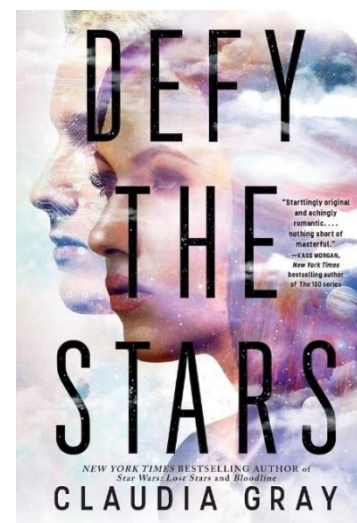
This month the Year 8s have been reading 'Life as we knew it' in form time. This is a Science-Fiction novel that tells the story of what happens on Earth when the Moon is knocked out of orbit! If you enjoy this genre, here are some of my recommended reads!

In the series starter, *Warcross*, millions of players log into Warcross each day. Teen hacker Emika Chen is a bounty hunter, tracking down players who place illegal bets on the game. Then one day, low on cash, Emika accidentally hacks her way into the first game of the Warcross Championships and goes viral. Not only does she not get penalized, the game's creator, a youthful billionaire named Hideo Tanaka, recruits her to spy on the tournament to expose a security problem. Emika says yes and is launched into the uber-rich world of Warcross tournaments. If she can keep a cool head, Emika might just save the world.



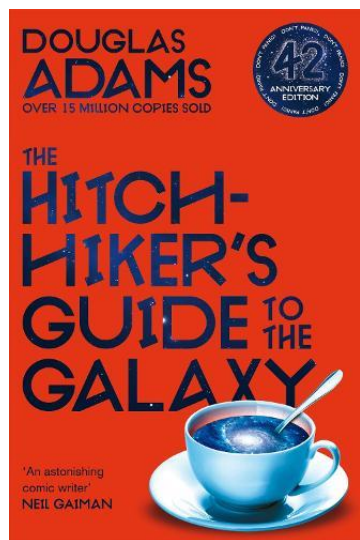
An alien race might have just invaded the Earth, but teen artist Adam is just trying to make it through his adolescence. While the aliens—known as vuvvs—have brought good things to their new host planet, like cures for illnesses and free advanced technologies, they've also ripped up the only life Adam has ever known, and now alien tech has replaced his parents' jobs, creating a ripple of existential and financial crisis among adults. To survive and hopefully entertain the vuvv, Adam and his girlfriend, Chloe, film episodes of them going on quaint dates like those in 1950s America since the vuvv enjoy "classic" Earth culture. But no amount of acting can shield the truth, and it's only certain the vuvv will find out soon enough: Adam and Chloe can't stand each other and couldn't be less in love. Can they fake it forever?

Noemi is a proud and lethal soldier on the planet Genesis, eager to protect her home from enemies both foreign and domestic. Abel's AI is starting to break down. The people on Genesis see him as an abomination. Together, Noemi and Abel embark on an interstellar journey that will have them questioning everything they thought was fact.





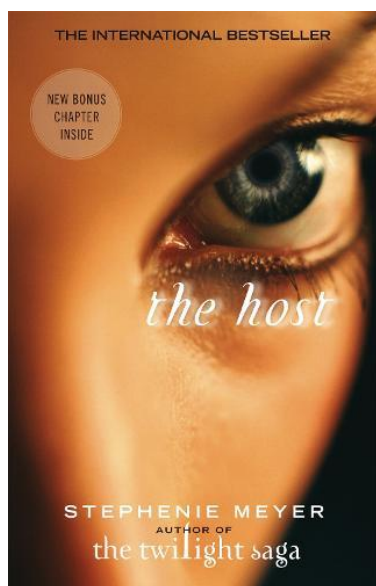
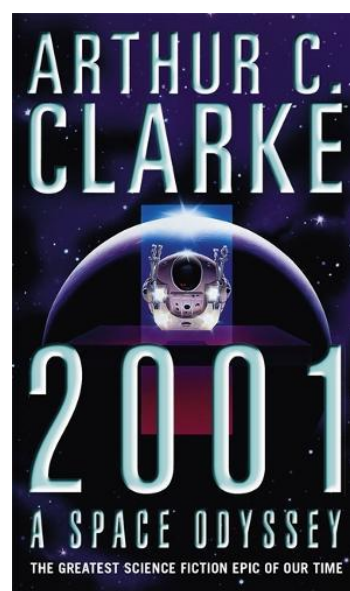
This month the Year 9s have been reading 'Ready Player One' in form time. This is a Science-Fiction novel that tells the story of a virtual reality world with hidden keys that lead to a huge fortune! If you enjoy this genre, here are some of my recommended reads!



It's an ordinary Thursday lunchtime for Arthur Dent until his house gets demolished. The Earth follows shortly afterwards to make way for a new hyperspace express route, and his best friend has just announced that he's an alien. At this moment, they're hurtling through space with nothing but their towels and an innocuous-looking book inscribed, in large friendly letters, with the words: DON'T PANIC.

The weekend has only just begun . . .

The discovery of a black monolith on the moon leads to a manned expedition deep into the solar system, in the hope of establishing contact with an alien intelligence. Yet long before the crew can reach their destination, the voyage descends into disaster . . .



Melanie Stryder refuses to fade away. The earth has been invaded by a species that takes over the minds of their human hosts while leaving their bodies intact, and most of humanity has succumbed.

Wanderer, the invading 'soul' who has been given Melanie's body, knew about the challenges of living inside a human: the overwhelming emotions, the too-vivid memories. But there was one difficulty Wanderer didn't expect: the former tenant of her body refusing to relinquish possession of her mind.

Melanie fills Wanderer's thoughts with visions of the man Melanie loves - Jared, a human who still lives in hiding. Unable to separate herself from her body's desires, Wanderer yearns for a man she's never met. As outside forces make Wanderer and Melanie unwilling allies, they set off to search for the man they both love.

## Student Achievement

### Max Sanderson Year 11



On the 25th February in London, Max Sanderson took part in the London 10k Winter Run for Cancer Research.

He has raised over £1100 to date, for Cancer Research (including gift aid). This is a charity very close to Max's heart, as his Grandad completed treatment for Prostate Cancer last year. His fund-raising page is noted below. Many thanks to all those from the Becket Keys school community who have donated to his fundraising goal.

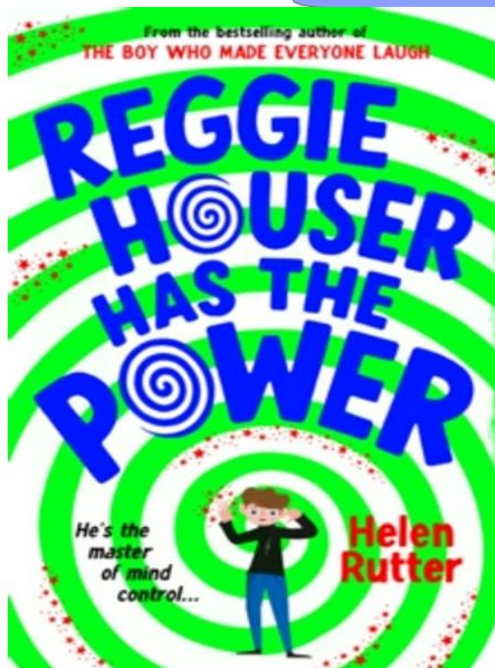
Max finished 17th overall, racing alongside the experienced Elite runners on the day. He powered through to achieve an amazing time of 32 mins and 41 seconds! This time puts him joint fastest U17 male for 10k in the UK this year.

<https://www.winterrun.co.uk/fundraisers/MaxRaySanderson/winter-run-2024>





## Book of the Month - March



Reggie's busy brain makes it hard for him to follow rules and make friends, plus his mum and teachers seem constantly weary about his erratic, high-energy ways. But when he sees a hypnotist perform on stage at the holiday park he visits, Reggie becomes *obsessed* with learning the skills of mind control - and he discovers he has an incredible talent for it! He's sure this will be his passport to popularity.

First of all he hypnotises the dog to think he's a frog, then makes his headmaster cluck like a chicken in assembly in front of the whole school - but then a group of mean kids supposedly take him under their wing and make him use his hypnosis talents for bad: stealing a chocolate bar from a shop and escalating to a bigger theft. Reggie must decide to use his skills for good only and come to trust his own brain to make decisions.

A funny, sensitive story, featuring a hilariously likable protagonist and a sympathetic, well-informed portrayal of ADHD, packed with brilliant jokes and one-liners.

## 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 Squad Gymnastics	GCSE PE intervention drop in	Year 7 Mixed Basketball
Wednesday	STAFF MEETING Squad Gymnastics	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

# Art & Textiles

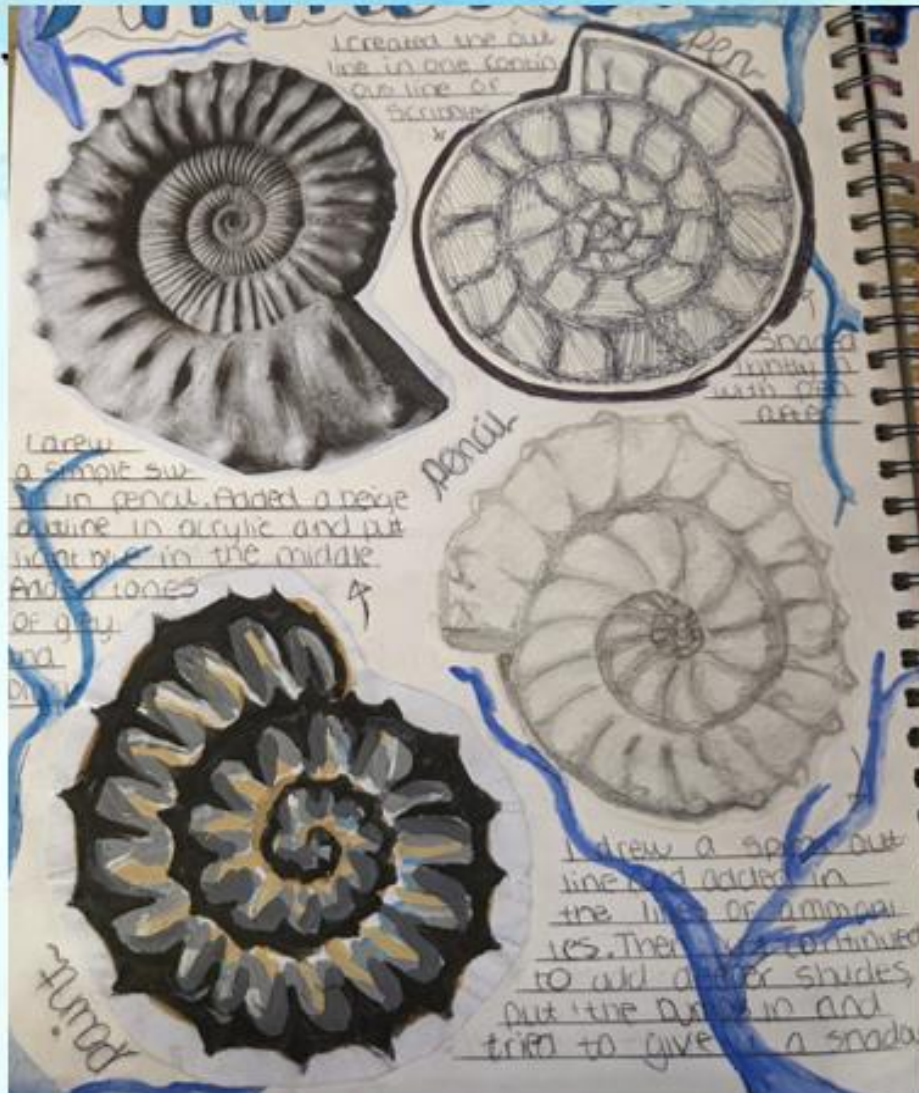
with

Mrs Brassett

Star Artist Year 7

Harshika Sundaresan





**Amy  
Drysdale  
Year 10**

# Imogen Course Yr 7



@becketkeysarttextiles



Niah Atkinson

Year 7



**Megan  
Gazzard  
Yr 13**



**Amy  
Maher  
Year 9**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### YEAR 9 VACCINATIONS

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

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### GOVERNORS' SPEECH & AWARDS EVENING

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

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### WHOLE SCHOOL EUCHARIST

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

11.00am

\*

### 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



QR Code to donate to Mr Taylor-Smith's  
marathon run.

# Becket Keys Church of England School

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