



Neurodiversity Celebration Week

Becket Keys Church of England School

22nd March 2024

IN THIS ISSUE

Mrs Dowsett writes:

This week we have recognised Neurodiversity Celebration Week at Becket Keys. The purpose of the week is to help the world to understand, value and celebrate the talents of neurodiverse minds.

Throughout the week I have been sharing with Becket Keys staff and students extracts from books, both fiction and non-fiction, that focus on the topic of neurodiversity. I was inspired to do this by the sad passing of Benjamin Zephaniah. Zephaniah's life was varied, and his career included being a poet, actor, author and campaigner.

However, his path was not an easy one. Zephaniah left school aged 13 unable to read or write and he later found out he was dyslexic aged 21 when attending an adult education college. Despite these challenges, he did not let these barriers hold him back from success and achievement.

Zephaniah found himself a champion of children who struggled with dyslexia and he encouraged them to embrace and celebrate the skills that neurodiverse people can bring to society. He wrote in *Creative Successful Dyslexic. 23 High Achievers Share Their Stories*: "Having dyslexia can make you creative. If you want to construct a sentence and can't find the word you are searching for, you have to think of a way to write round it. This requires being creative and so your "creativity muscle" gets bigger."

In Corinthians Chapter 12 verses 12-14 the Bible says: "Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ." God created the world and its people to be unique and diverse. He blessed us with different skills and

.....contd. on page 2



BECKET KEYS
Church of England School

Mathematics Department

An excellent result for students who took an additional algebra qualification.

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GCSE Awards Evening

A wonderful evening celebrating the achievements of the 2023 cohort.

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Music Department

Some of our talented students were involved at a concert at St Thomas of Canterbury Church.

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Book of the Month

Another great recommendation for students to read.

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.....contd. from Page 1

strengths so that we can work together in unity to build a rich and strong society.

I could give you many more examples of famous individuals who are or were neurodiverse and have enriched our life today with their brilliance. For example, the scientist Albert Einstein, actor Ryan Gosling and environmental campaigner Greta Thunberg. For more please look at the website for Neurodiversity Celebration Week.

[Neurodiversity Celebration Week \(neurodiversityweek.com\)](https://neurodiversityweek.com)

As SENDCo and a History teacher at Becket Keys I am constantly inspired and encouraged by our students and colleagues who share their diverse skills and continue to strive for excellence. I urge us all to enjoy and embrace our uniqueness and celebrate the diversity of others.

Mrs Dowsett
Assistant Headteacher/SENDCo

[Benjamin Zephaniah on racism, refusing an OBE and football - BBC News](#)



Neurodiversity Celebration Week

18th March 2024

The purpose is to help the world to understand, value and celebrate the talents of neurodiverse minds.

This year Mrs. Dowsett (SENDCo) was inspired to focus on books (fiction and non-fiction) that focus on neurodiversity by the sad passing of Benjamin Zephaniah.

In December 2023 a famous poet, actor, author and campaigner named Benjamin Zephaniah died. Zephaniah left school aged 13 unable to read or write and he found out he was dyslexic aged 21. Despite this he did not let his barriers hold him back.

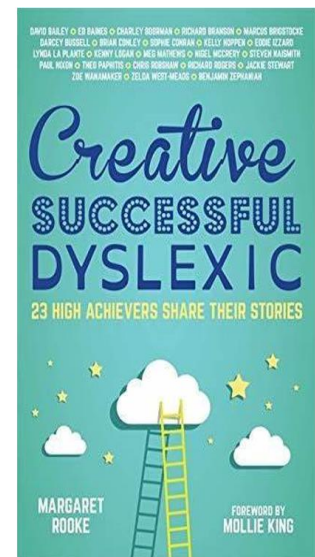


18.03.24

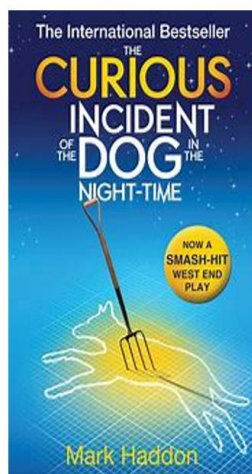
Benjamin Zephaniah wrote in *Creative Successful Dyslexic. 23 High Achievers Share Their Stories:*

Having dyslexia can make you creative. If you want to construct a sentence and can't find the word you are searching for, you have to think of a way to write round it. This requires being creative and so your "creativity muscle" gets bigger.

Kids come up to me and say, "I'm dyslexic too," and I say to them, "Use it to your advantage, see the world differently. Us dyslexic people, we've got it going on – we are the architects. We are the designers."



19.03.24



Christopher the main character in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* is Autistic. In the book Christopher says:

"Everyone has learning difficulties, because learning to speak French or understanding relativity is difficult."



Mathematics Department

The Becket Keys Mathematics department were delighted that 24 of our year 11 students successfully passed the Level 3 Additional Certificate in Algebra. The students had to master GCSE algebra and many topics that we currently only study at A level.

- Students build on their understanding of algebra and mathematical techniques.
- The content includes more advanced topics related to algebraic concepts and applications.
- These awards also contribute to a strong foundation for further study in mathematics or related areas

In order to be successful, the students had to undertake many additional hours of further study at home and they also attended several additional after school lessons. These students put in time and dedication showing a true passion for the subject. We are very proud of their achievement.

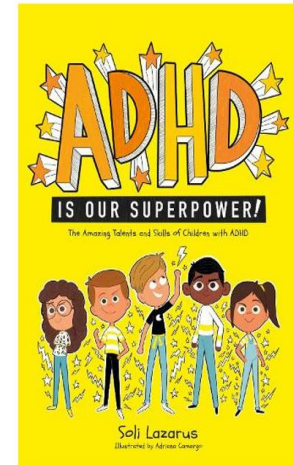
Mrs Musharbash
Mathematics Department

20.03.24

Sam has ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder). He says: "It's a bit complicated but let me try and explain what ADHD is... My brain sends messages to different parts of my body..."

Sometimes the messages get through and everything is okay.

But sometimes the messages don't get through and I may get things wrong. My body is not receiving the messages from my brain. I get into trouble. Grown-ups tell me that I should try harder. But honestly, I am trying as hard as I can."

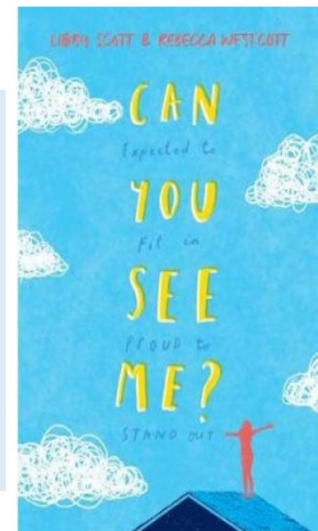


21.03.24

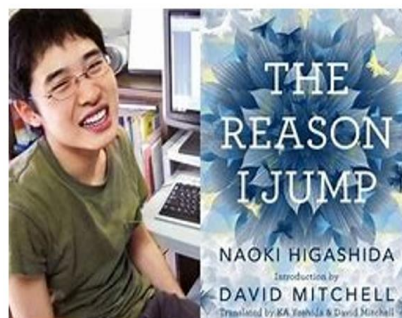
In the book *Can You See Me?* the main character is Tally an Autistic girl.

Tally says:
"They make it look so easy. Maybe life is simply if you're the same as everyone else. Maybe they don't have to plan everything in advance and figure out what they might say in reply to a hundred questions or what their face is supposed to look like when they feel excited or happy or surprised or scared. Maybe they never feel scared."

"Don't be scared," Tally whispers. "Can you see me?"
She used to ask this question all the time when she was younger. Every time she put on the mask. And she was never quite sure what she wanted the answer to be. Whether it was better to be hidden or to be seen."



22.03.24



Higashida was diagnosed with Autism when he was five years old and has limited verbal communication skills. When he was 13 years old, he wrote his book *The Reason I Jump* using a communication board with help from his mother.

He writes, "I've learnt that every human being, with or without disabilities, needs to strive to do their best, and by striving for happiness you will arrive at happiness. For us, you see, having autism is normal -- so we can't know for sure what your 'normal' is even like. But so long as we can learn to love ourselves, I'm not sure how much it matters whether we're normal or autistic."

GCSE Awards Celebration

Last night we celebrated with our Year 11 cohort from 2023 at our Annual GCSE Awards Evening. Students were presented with their exam certificates and their RET Ebacc Certificates. This group of students were our highest performing yet, both in terms of progress and attainment. Our 2023 cohort demonstrated excellent character throughout Year 11 and we had exceptionally high expectations of them.



Our GCSE awards evening rightly celebrated outstanding individual performance. Bea Connor achieved nine Grade 9s and she is now studying Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Further Mathematics at Becket Keys. Sam Carey achieved eight Grade 9s one Grade 8, and one Grade 7, he is also at Becket Keys studying Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics and Music.

The progress awards were given to Greta Rockute (unable to attend the evening), Arissa Malik and Connie Gibson. These students were those who made

the most progress during their time at Becket Keys, this award is about the distance travelled.



However, we also recognised the achievement of the whole cohort. This year a greater number of students than ever before achieved Grades 4-9 in both English and Maths. In addition a record number of students were entered for and passed the Ebacc. This will continue to go up and up as more and more students now sit a language as a GCSE.

At Becket Keys students are well ahead of the average student in Essex. That takes significant hard work and everyone should be proud of what we are doing here. As you can tell, I am incredibly proud of this group, and I was on a real high last night celebrating with them! Mrs Noble shared some of her memories and created a video of clips and photos from over the years.

Becket Keys cares about the grades, we care about what students go on to do, but what



we care about most is a student's Christian Character and faith. Our final two awards were given with this in mind: Matthew Stephens and Sophie Booth were chosen to receive the Outstanding Character Awards. Two very worthy winners from a year group where there were many more who could also have won.

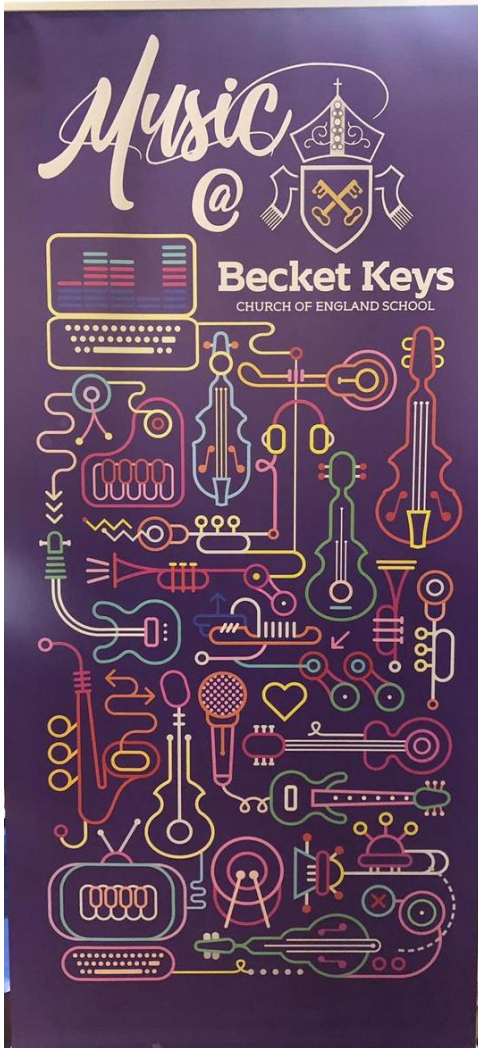


I hope that everyone who came along enjoyed the evening: the awards, the refreshments, the music and the speeches. My congratulations to every student who collected certificates last night. I am delighted with you all.

Mr Scott-Evans
Headteacher



Music Department



On Saturday evening, Becket Keys School Choir took part in a concert at St Thomas of Canterbury Church with Brentwood Choral Society, Ingatestone Choral Society, and members of the Brentwood Philharmonic. Together, they brought to life the evocative masterpiece, "The Peacemakers" by Karl Jenkins.

Lasting for over an hour and a half, the piece took the audience through a range of emotions, from beautiful tranquil moments with the bass flute and soprano



saxophone to loud bursts of percussive drumming with chime bells and timpani. A thoroughly enjoyable and memorable evening for all involved.

Mr Romhany
Director of Music



BECKET KEYS
Church of England School



Apprenticeship and traineeship vacancies

If you are interested in an apprenticeship then it would be a good idea to follow [Find an apprenticeship](#). You will then be alerted to each week's apprenticeship and traineeship vacancy reports for your area and get an alert if there is a new opportunity. If you use the filter tool, you can view only the vacancies that meet your requirements (such as vacancies within a set region, start date and wage etc).

If you would like any advice on further education pathways please speak to your tutor or Ms North and we can arrange a meeting with our Careers advisor, Mr Williams.

For more information on apprenticeships visit apprenticeships.gov.uk or follow [@Apprenticeships](#) on Twitter.



Recruiting for primary and secondary trainees from October 2023

NESTT seeks to train highly effective teachers for our local schools.

We focus on developing professional expertise, supporting trainees to realise their potential and empowering them to engage critically with evidence-informed practice and subject strategies.

We provide new teachers with the knowledge, skills and professional attributes to enjoy a life-long career in teaching.

We'd love you to join us!

Norfolk • Essex • Suffolk

Why choose NESTT?

We treat you as an individual, and support your journey by working closely with schools and partner organisations to bring you the best possible experience.

Proven track record
The organisations who have formed NESTT collectively have more than 45 years of experience in delivering high quality teacher training in our localities.

Approachable & responsive
Our locally-based teams will continue to build on existing relationships with schools to meet individual trainee needs and personalise the training journey.

Retention & employment
Our programmes have high retention and employment rates. Our course fully supports trainees to achieve, ensuring they are ready for their first teaching post.

Ambitious curriculum
Our curriculum is rich, ambitious and evidence-informed. It aligns seamlessly with the Early Career Framework - supporting the journey from trainee to Early Career Teacher.

Supportive partnerships
We have strong and constructive relationships with a wide range of local schools. We work closely with our schools to ensure they are fully supported with delivering the requirements for high quality initial teacher training.

Face to face
Our training will be predominantly face to face securing better engagement from trainees and mentors.

Whether you're thinking about getting into teaching, or you're interested in developing partnerships, we'd love to hear from you.

enquiries@nestt.org.uk

www.nestt.org.uk

Careers

When it comes to applying for medicine or dentistry, a crucial hurdle in the UCAS application is creating a stand out personal statement. It is all about letting your unique personality take centre stage while demonstrating an unwavering commitment and passion for a medical or dental career.

With over 15 years of experience in university administration, and having helped thousands of students secure a spot in medical and dental school, I know the secret to a memorable application. That's why I would like to invite you to an upcoming Get Into Medicine or Dentistry conference.

For aspiring Doctors: FREE LIVE VIRTUAL Get Into Medicine conference dates:
 Sunday 24th March
 9:30am - 3:30pm
 Sunday 14th April
 9:30am - 3:30pm

For aspiring Dentists: FREE LIVE VIRTUAL Get Into Dentistry conference date:
 Saturday 23rd March
 9:30am - 3:30pm

At this conference, Dr Kennedy and I dive into the specific qualities and experiences that admissions committees love to see in a personal statement, and most importantly, how to make sure you obtain these experiences in time for your application.



We will also explore:

- Tactically choosing universities
- Entrance Exams: UCAT
- Medical school interview skills
- Medical Leadership Programmes
- Medical Awards Programmes
- Extracurricular activities
- Work experience
- Building a medical CV
- Applying for scholarships to study medicine

The aim is to equip aspiring medical and dental students with the tools to sidestep common mistakes and pitfalls and ace their application to university.

Students aged 14 - 18 are invited to attend with a parent or guardian, equipped with a working camera and microphone.

For those who can't make it to the upcoming conference, don't worry. These events are hosted nearly every weekend to ensure everyone has access to vital information for their applications.

Register for the Get Into Medicine Conference on Sunday 24th March, 9:30am - 3:30pm:
<https://airtable.com/appgXnyzN5ZD9lwk6/shry7MZYtt3MGPjvO>

Register for the Get Into Dentistry Conference on Saturday 23rd March, 9:30am - 3:30pm:
<https://airtable.com/appgXnyzN5ZD9lwk6/shry7MZYtt3MGPjvO>

If you have any questions at all, please feel free to drop me an email education@medicmentorfamily.org or call our team on 01530 417299.

Enquiry Form:
<https://airtable.com/shrM6UPT8Z2uxx7OL>

Medic Mentor Helpline: 01530 417299 (Open 10am - 5pm Monday - Friday)

Careers – Work Experience Opportunity



University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust

Applications for the free National NHS Virtual Work experience programme have now reopened for spring! This programme has supported over 30,000 secondary school students obtain free work experiences last year. Virtual work experiences have been accepted by the Medical Schools and Dental Schools Council as valuable alternatives to in-person shadowing, backed by the Health Education England Discovery report on the impact of virtual work placements.

This programme is brought to you by Birmingham Universities Hospitals Trust in collaboration with Medic Mentor, and it is completely free. Not only is this a reliable alternative to in-person shadowing, but it also plays a significant role in preparing students for their in-person work placements with structured teaching and opportunities to speak directly with healthcare professionals. The opportunity is open to any student across the UK from 14 years old and above.

Students can apply for a placement, for free at this link: <https://medicmentor.org/university-hospitals-birmingham-trust-virtual-work-experience/>

Crafted in collaboration with Birmingham Universities Hospitals Trust, this thoughtfully curated 6-month medical and 4-month dental programme provides a unique glimpse into the medical and dental fields. The E-learning format enables students to fulfil their placements at their own pace, covering ethics, procedures, broader team roles, and fostering direct dialogues with doctors and dentists. This virtual experience creates a strong foundation for students' future careers, not only enhancing their UCAS applications but also strategically preparing them for practical work experience opportunities.

Taking part in the Virtual Work Experience will provide:

Comprehensive Insights: The programme covers a range of specialities, providing a holistic understanding of medical and dental practices. Each month, a new focus area is introduced, allowing participants to delve into different aspects of the field.

Flexible Participation: Tailored for students from years 10-13/S3-S6/NI10-14, the programme accommodates various schedules by being virtual. Participants have one month to complete each specialty, ensuring flexibility and ease of participation.

Recognised Certification: Upon successful completion of all

specialities, students will receive a certificate from Medic Mentor and UHB, validating their active participation to include in their UCAS and apprenticeships applications.

This month's spotlight is on Obs & Gynaecology or Paediatric & Dental Surgery. It's a chance to get a firsthand look into the inner workings of the medical and dental fields, helping your students shape their career aspirations in their chosen path.

Registering for these programmes is simple—students just need to complete the free online application form: <https://airtable.com/appuQX2ouadvjQUSU/shrroljLczgdggULw>

We are eager to welcome students to our exceptional free work experience programmes and support them in their journey toward a fulfilling career in medicine or dentistry.

Dr Siva
Chief Mentor






Animal Behaviour Research at Colchester Zoo

A fantastic opportunity to apply for a 2 week Research Placement for year 12 students at Colchester Zoo

Your research and findings will be vital to ensure a high standard of care for all animals



Research The Visitor Effect on Zoo Animals and how behaviour changes in different conditions



You will meet and be supported by staff at the zoo ranging from keepers to educators



Species which you might focus on in this work include otters, lemurs, sloths, tamanduas and monkeys.

And much more!

Date: 22nd July - 2nd August
*Dates are subject to change

Location: Colchester Zoo, Colchester CO3 0SL
Cost: Free to attend and participants will receive travel expenses



Mandarin Excellence Programme

Year 9 students who are involved with the Mandarin Excellence Programme were invited to Anglo European School today to meet with Alex Burghart the local MP and speak about the upcoming trip to China.

How to apply

Visit: www.nuffieldresearchplacements.org



Complete registration details



In personal statement section, write:

"I am interested in the Animal Welfare placement at Colchester Zoo"

and briefly why you are interested in this placement



Deadline 17th April 2024

For further information, contact:
j.law@stempoint.org.uk



Funded by



Department for Education



Essex County Council



thurrock.gov.uk



FREE EASTER HOLIDAY CLUBS WITH ESSEX ACTIVATE!

1st April - 12th April

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





IS MY CHILD ELIGIBLE?

Clubs offer spaces to primary and secondary school aged children (4-16 years) who are eligible for benefit based free school meals. Limited spaces are available for young people who are also 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 be running across Essex in Braintree, Basildon, Brentwood, Castle Point, Chelmsford, Colchester, Epping, Harlow, Maldon, Rochford, Tendring, Thurrock and Uttlesford!

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! We also offer specialist youth, SEND and mental wellbeing clubs.

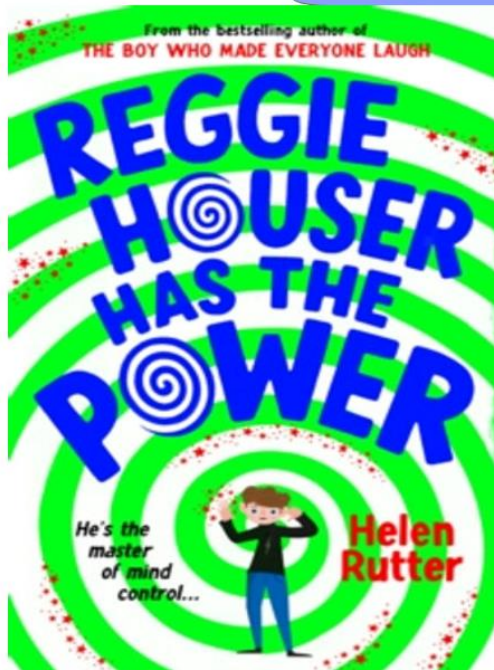
HOW DO I BOOK ONTO A CLUB?

If you have received a Holiday Activities voucher code, click the link on the voucher to book your child/ren onto a club. If you're still awaiting a voucher code, please contact your school. If you aren't eligible for a Holiday Activities voucher as your child/ren do not receive benefits based free school meals, please contact a local club directly to book on by heading to our website below.

www.activeessex.org/children-young-people/essex-activate



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 nd 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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

WHOLE SCHOOL EUCHARIST

TUESDAY 26TH MARCH 2024

11.00am

*

LAST DAY OF TERM

WEDNESDAY 27TH MARCH 2024
STUDENTS AT SCHOOL ALL DAY

*

INSET DAY

THURSDAY 28TH MARCH 2024
NO STUDENTS AT SCHOOL

*

EASTER HOLIDAY

FRIDAY 29TH MARCH – FRIDAY 12TH APRIL
2024



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

Becket Keys Church of England School

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