



Becket Keys Church of England School

6th September 2024

BACK TO SCHOOL!

IN THIS ISSUE

Mr Scott-Evans writes.....

Back to school!

It has been a busy summer at Becket Keys with four major projects being started. We have completed one of them which was the rewiring of the school IT infrastructure. All the cables and cabinets and Wi-Fi boxes have been replaced to speed up and supercharge our signals. This will make teaching and learning faster and slicker and help us keep up with the latest developments in technology. This project has cost over £200,000.

If you have been to the site over the summer, you will have noticed that the astro turf has also been replaced. This project started late, but finished on time and we now have a beautiful new surface thanks to our partnership

with the sports trust. This has also cost around £160,000. Dr Hurdle has advised students that the new surface is very precious and in exceptional condition and thus we will only allow students to go on it if they are wearing training shoes.

Similarly, anyone even driving past will have seen the scaffolding and people on the roofs. All the flat roofs on Carey and Williams are being replaced. Fortunately, this project is running smoothly, to time and to cost (around half a million pounds). We expect the workers to be on site for a couple more months so access around the site is slightly reduced. Students will need to be patient and responsible as they move around to lessons and breaks.

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BECKET KEYS
Church of England School

Headteacher's Challenge

Have, you participated in the HT Challenge? Make sure you complete the form and bring your evidence to school.

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Exam Results

Excellent GCSE and A Level results for the 2024 cohort.

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Details of the recent trip that our Year 11 & 12 students took to Borneo.

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Headteacher Notices

Some useful information for the beginning of term.

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Finally, we have also begun the replacement of the student toilets in Carey. At the moment, we are having to use Portakabin toilets (which are very nice indeed – see photo).



We are in the process of designing the new arrangement which will include private individual cubicles with floor to ceiling doors and walls for separate sex facilities and a shared open space for handwashing. We expect these new toilets to be ready after the All Saints' Holiday in October. The cost of this work will be around £225,000.

In a time when school budgets are squeezed to such an extent, we are pleased to be receiving a lot of funding from RET for these projects. However, I would urge parents to be generous when we ask for donations on ParentPay. Running a school is a very expensive business and we

cannot expect to continue to have such amazing facilities and staff without your support.

It is not hard to walk around the school and see other things that we would like to have or to replace, with your support we can maintain the high standards we have all come to expect and enjoy.

Each term we ask for a voluntary contribution from parents towards the running of the school. A letter about this will come out later in the term. However, if you are inspired and want to give something today – it is open on [ParentPay](#) with a suggested donation of £36. Please give more if you can!

Thank you for your support and encouragement as our school continues to flourish and thrive. We look forward to a good year ahead!

Mr Scott-Evans
Headteacher



BECKET KEYS
Church of England School

The Headteacher's Challenge

Year 7



Hopefully, most students have been keeping entertained and spending time over the summer to complete Head Teacher's Challenge. There was a lot to do!

The full list of tasks to undertake is in the updated Family Handbook and this document also has a wealth of information about Becket Keys and the day to day running of the school.

You can find a link to a survey about Stage 1 of the challenge here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/zdCgjRA1BQ>

Please complete this with your son/daughter so that we know what has been achieved. Our tutors will be looking at the folders and books throughout September.

I look forward to hearing all about the students' experiences of the Headteacher's Challenge at a special Collective Worship.

Another Year of Outstanding A Level Results at Becket Keys

"For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. He holds success in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless."

Proverbs 2:6-7 (NIV)

Becket Keys Church of England School students and staff are celebrating another excellent set of exam results; with average grades better than ever before and more students getting top grades and being accepted at their first-choice university.

The school has students heading off to a wide range of interesting and prestigious destinations. You can read more about the future plan of many of our students on the school website here: [Becket Keys](#)



Mrs Downs (Chair of Governors) said:

"Beyond mere grades and university placements, our students embody exceptional qualities. They are inspiring, compassionate, and full of promise. As a school, we couldn't be prouder of their achievements. These young individuals are not defined solely by their academic success; they are wonderful human beings who contribute positively to our community and beyond."



Excellent GCSE & Ebacc Results

Becket Keys Church of England School celebrated another set of excellent GCSE results. Students in the 2024 cohort have achieved the highest results the school has ever seen with more students than ever before achieving Grades 4-9 in both English and Mathematics. In addition, a record number of students were entered for and passed the Ebacc. The average point score for students sitting the Ebacc is the highest the school has ever achieved!



Two of our top performing students were Ruth Pennant with ten Grade 9s, and Elizabeth Thompson with nine Grade 9s, one Grade 8.

Ruth will be staying at Becket Keys to study Spanish, History and Mathematics.

Elizabeth will be staying at Becket Keys to study Psychology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Biology.

Max Sanderson achieved the highest progress of any student in the school. Max achieved two Grade 9s, two Grade 8s, two Grade 7s and three Grade 6s. Max will be staying at Becket Keys to study Psychology, History and PE.

The full report is available on the school website here: [GCSE Results 2024](#)



World Challenge 2024



Becket Keys have been working with World Challenge since 2017. World Challenge is an organization that offers unique and inspiring experiences for schools through various programmes. Here are some key aspects of World Challenge:

1. Leadership Expeditions: These expeditions are student-led and focus on developing leadership skills.
2. Learning Service Journeys: These journeys are designed to foster global citizenship through cultural immersion. Students spend 7–13 nights in different countries, expanding their minds by sharing cultures and stepping out of their comfort zones.
3. Project Independence: For those who want to take the road less travelled, Project Independence offers independent trips with like-minded friends. It's an adventure of a lifetime for brave students.

The 2024 expedition to Borneo was an amazing adventure students visited a Orangutan rehabilitation centre, trekked through the rain forest, and learned to pitch a hammock and sleep under the stars.



The following is a reflection written by Joshua Witchalls (Year 11).

World challenge chucked me in the deep end so many times, putting me in situations I never thought I'd be in, and have never had to think about – like securing and sterilising water for the group. I've been in positions and places that I never could have dealt with a few years ago.

Everything was a challenge, but nothing was too challenging – it all felt achievable and within our grasp. There were problems that we were able to disregard and ignore, going beyond our comfort

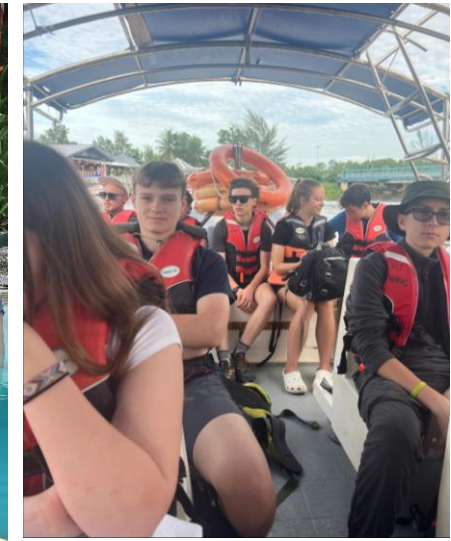
zones, helping us learn to appreciate every small bonus.

I've learned that enjoying something is a choice, and enjoying something doesn't mean that everything goes according to plan. We've learned to deal with situations we're unfamiliar with and adapt to changing situations – staying together as a team no matter what.

Most importantly, I've grown in my faith and grown in both appreciation and reliance on God. As Isaiah writes, "the people in darkness have seen a great light" – I have had the pleasure of being pushed increasingly into that light over this trip.

God is good, blessed be His name!





The 2026 expedition to Eswatini (formerly Swaziland) will be launched to students on the 18th of September. This will be followed by a presentation to parents on the 24th of September. Further details will be sent shortly.

World Challenge Expeditions



World Challenge

General Information & Notices from the Head Teacher

School Run

Please do not drive into Sawyers Hall Lane! I am sure a few of you have made that decision for yourselves already, but in case any of you are still driving in, please refrain from doing so. The road is dangerous and busy outside the school. Please drop your children off elsewhere and ask them to walk the last bit. Similarly, when picking up, perhaps ask them to walk to a local car park (Brentwood Centre or Sainsbury's) or Doddinghurst Road or Shenfield Road where there are plenty of places to park with no restrictions.

If you really do have to drive into Sawyers Hall Lane, please at least avoid the final part of the road and drop off further up beyond Burland Road. Even the laziest teenager can walk from there!



Bikes

Students riding bikes should wear a helmet and we recommend a bright yellow vest or jacket too. Students will need a padlock to secure their bike in our special area. It is great to see so many students cycling to school. Remember! **No scooters or skateboards please.**

Holidays & Appointments

Please make every effort to avoid unnecessary holidays and appointments during term time. Holidays will not be authorised and all absence **must** be authorised. Parents have been fined by the courts for not following this advice. Students will get more out of school, if they attend well!

Uniform

The students look excellent in their new uniform; thank you for supporting our school policies so closely. We know it is important to all of us to see our students looking smart in their uniform at all times.

Remember that all main school girls should have a reversed collar on their blouse and should not wear other types of shirt.

Please see the website if you need more details about the school dress code.

<https://www.becketkeys.org/uniform.php>



Gaming



Help your son/daughter do better at school by managing use of social media and gaming. There is a clear link between success at school and a limited amount of time wasted on these addictive time zappers.

LOST PROPERTY

Please make sure that **EVERY** item of uniform, PE Kit and equipment is named. There are over a thousand students at the school all wearing the same uniform.

There are many items that we are unable to return as we do not know to whom they belong.

Lost Property can be collected from Reception.



Remember that all correspondence to the school must come through the school office email: office@becketkeys.org

Your message will be forwarded to the member of staff concerned.

You can also send a message via the contact page on the website:

<https://www.becketkeys.org/contact-staff>

You can also now reply directly to any message you receive from the school via Bromcom, just hit the reply button and it will go to the office.

Students can contact their teachers via Satchel One if they have any queries regarding their lessons.

Please do not email staff directly as any message received in this way will not receive a response.

Many thanks for your understanding.



We are pleased to announce that the Parent & School Community Prayer Group hosted by our Headteacher Mr Scott-Evans is starting again on 13th September 2023 and will be every Wednesday during term time at 8.45am. This is a short meeting where we pray together for local and national events and for any intentions of those in our school family. **All are welcome.**

If you have any prayer intentions, please send them into the school via the office email: office@becketkeys.org



BECKET KEYS

Church of England School

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;

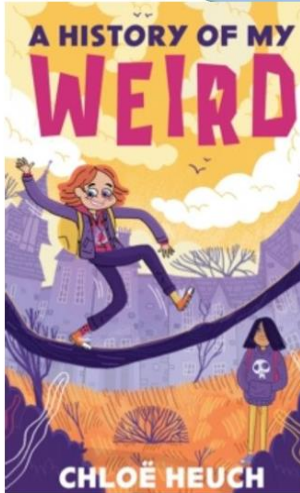
And together may the school community know your Holy Spirit in its midst.

This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



Book of the Month- September



Starting secondary school was never going to be easy for Mo, but a fall out with her so-called 'friends' leaves her lonelier than ever. Then she finds Onyx. Exploring an abandoned Victorian asylum may seem a weird way to develop a friendship, but then Mo has always found she does things a bit differently. Determined to keep the pair apart, Onyx's dad's actions force them back to the secrecy of the asylum. Until one night, with the old building due for demolition, the two friends enter for the last time...

This is a comic, compelling and poignant story of self-discovery and acceptance, for readers aged 11+



ParentPay

Please make sure that you top-up your son or daughter's account each week so that he/she is able to access all the delicious meals in the school restaurants.

There is a small overdraft facility on ParentPay accounts of £2 for emergency situations, which covers the cost of a sandwich.

Due to the cashless system in place, there is no other back up.

We do not want any student to miss lunch or the great choice of food available every day in our restaurants. The chefs work hard each day to provide a variety of delicious meals for the school.

If you need assistance navigating the site then help is available here: <https://support.parentpaygroup.com/hc/en-gb/sections/6089568194577-Parents-and-guardians>

If you have any other queries, please contact the school – office@becketkeys.org

Late Gate

*Early is on time,
On time is late,
And late is unacceptable!*

At Becket Keys, we look to ensure that we are preparing students for life beyond school. We encourage students to attend school regularly and on time.

Remember that the school gate closes at **8.25am**. This allows students enough time to be at their first lesson on time. Period 1 begins at 8.30am.

Brentwood can be tough to negotiate during rush hour, so we encourage students and parents to contact the school in the case of **genuine** lateness, such as delayed public transport.

Parents can call the main school line 01277 286600 or use the "Studybugs" app.

We thank you for your support.





All new parents will have received details of how to log in to Satchel One. This learning platform will give you important information about your son/daughters' learning at school. You can see timetables, the homework that has been set and messages from teachers.

An individual QR code has been provided to Year 7 families so that you can access this system easily.

Those who have been using Satchel One previously will be able to log in using the same details as last year.

 A reminder poster with a light blue background and a vertical strip of colorful abstract shapes on the right. The text reads:

Reminder
All feminine hygiene products are free to students in school.
Please collect from Medical or Reception.

[Nationally Televised Advert](#)

**DON'T
FORGET**

If you wish to play football on the Astroturf at lunchtime you will need to bring in your trainers. The surface has been recently replaced and so only trainers are allowed on there and no food is to be consumed. Students are not permitted to play in their socks.

**MEDIC
MENTOR** 
YOUR MEDIC FAMILY

Transitioning into Medical/Dental School
Saturday 21st September (Medical)
Sunday 22nd September (Medical)
Sunday 29th September (Dental)
9.30am – 3.30pm

During these Medic Mentor conferences, students will receive a complete guide to the medical or dental application journey. Students get essential insights into the medical/dental UCAS application process (such as the NEW personal statement structure), connect with professionals, fellow students, and gain a deeper understanding of a future career in medicine or dentistry.

Register here for medical:

<https://airtable.com/appgXnyzN5ZD9lwk6/shry7MZYtt3MGPjvO>

Register here for dental:

<https://airtable.com/appgXnyzN5ZD9lwk6/shrBuiR7SBAC19kE>

PE Extra Curricular - Term 1



Day	Lunchtime (12:40-1:20)	After-School (3:10-4:30)
Monday		Year 9 Netball Year 8 Rugby Year 9 Rugby
Tuesday	GCSE Practical Intervention	Year 8 Netball Year 7 Rugby
Wednesday	Year 7 Netball – Invite Only	Year 10 & 11 Netball
Thursday		Year 7 Netball Year 10 & 11 Rugby
Friday	Staff Meeting	

Keys:

- Astro
- Sports hall
- Main Hall
- Drama Hall
- Field

The start of the new school year is a great time to take on a new challenge. According to British concert piano James Rhodes, *'learning an instrument can unlock a door to a new dimension that we didn't know existed'*.

We offer tuition in a wide range of musical instruments including voice and offer a large enrichment programme with something for everyone.



We offer instrumental tuition in the following instruments:

- | | | | | | |
|--------|-----------|--------------------------------|----------|---------|-------|
| Violin | Saxophone | Drum Kit | Cello | Trumpet | Piano |
| Flute | Trombone | Electric/Classical/Bass Guitar | Clarinet | Voice | |

How to apply

If you are interested in applying for instrumental lessons, please email the school and this will be dealt with by the music department. You will then receive an email from the instrumental tutor to discuss times and costs. Lessons times will be arranged by the instrumental tutor and be on a rotating timetable to minimise time missed in other curriculum lessons. It is the responsibility of your son/daughter to catch up on any work missed.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

OPEN SCHOOL

WEDNESDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 2024
 A CHANCE FOR PARENTS TO COME AND
 SEE THE SCHOOL AND MEET THE TUTORS
 ALL YEAR GROUPS WELCOME

*

OPEN EVENT FOR PROSPECTIVE YEAR 7 STUDENTS

THURSDAY 10TH OCTOBER 2024

*

INSET DAY

(NO STUDENTS IN SCHOOL)
 FRIDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2024

*

ALL SAINTS' HOLIDAY

YEAR 11 INTERVENTIONS
 MONDAY 27TH OCTOBER –
 FRIDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2024

*

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENT

TUESDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2024

*

LAST DAY OF TERM STUDENT HALF DAY

FRIDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2024

*

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

MONDAY 23RD DECEMBER 2024 –
 FRIDAY 3RD JANUARY 2025

*

INSET DAY

(NO STUDENTS IN SCHOOL)
 MONDAY 6TH JANUARY 2025

Becket Keys

Church of England School

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 01277 286600

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