

# All Saints' Day



## Becket Keys Church of England School

25<sup>th</sup> October 2024

### IN THIS ISSUE

**Mr Scott-Evans writes.....**

### The All Saints' Holiday

It is the end of term! We can all look forward to the All Saints' Holiday to come!

At this time of year, we have All Saints' Day (1<sup>st</sup> November), All Souls' Day (2<sup>nd</sup> November) and before these, All Hallows' Eve (Halloween). Naturally, we will also be thinking about Remembrance when we come back after the holiday. It is a time of year when we remember those who have died – or alternatively, those who have lived before us.

Christians pay particular attention to 'The Saints' – those famous Christians who have lived such lives as to be worthy of this title. In our school, our Patron Saints are Saint Peter and Saint Thomas of Canterbury. Both saints lived

such influential lives we still talk about them many years after their deaths.

Both stood up for the faith and tried to do what God wanted in spite of opposition and persecution.

However, we are all called to be Saints! The Apostle Paul wrote that "Christ loved the Church, and gave Himself up for her, to make her holy."(Ephesians 5: 25-26)

A holy life is not something to just strive towards, but a gift that has been given to us all. We all can be saints – we all ARE saints!

I have thoroughly enjoyed spending the last eight weeks with your 'Saints' here. Your sons and daughters have been wonderful in school! Teaching

.....contd. on page 2



**BECKET KEYS**  
Church of England School

### Mathematics Department

It was wonderful to see so many families attend the Open Events this week.

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### English Department

Year 7 took place in a House Competition to redesign a book they read over the summer and the results are in!

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### Art & Textiles

Excellent work from our talented students.

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### Sports News

Fixture reports from netball, football and results from the National Cross-Country Competition.

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.....contd. from Page 1

them the Christian values of respect, responsibility and forgiveness is my highest calling and one which I take very seriously. With your support from home, we are seeing students develop their Christian character each day.

It has been a joy, for example, to see students responding to the 'Harvest Foodbank Appeal'. Students have collected 142kg of food for the appeal! That's hundreds of pounds worth of food! Thank you! This has clearly come with your support from home, but together we have exposed the students to the joy of putting the needs of others first.

We have also seen students helping each other, working together, resolving problems and making friends. Each week, comments come in from members of the public about how students have helped in the community. Praise comes in from other schools for our sports teams and the good spirit they compete with. Visitors to the school comment consistently on the culture of excellence that they witness as they walk around the school and see students hard at work and caring for each other.

Of course, there are times when students make mistakes, and these are important opportunities to learn. All educational researchers agree that we learn more from making mistakes than getting things right! The

cognitive dissonance that comes from failing and letting yourself down is character building. Again, with your support we can help students to 'make the most' of these occasions.

Together, we are building Saintly Character, and this is not just from our own efforts, but from the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Each day, we pray for our students and ask God to build in them the Saintly Characteristics he wants: "Your will be done, Your kingdom come..."

It has been an engaging, exciting and enjoyable term and I look forward to hearing about the students' adventures of the All Saints' Holiday when they return.

If they are 'celebrating' Halloween, please try to remind them that this is a Christian festival and that at its heart is a time to remember those Saints who have gone before us. Not ghouls and ghosts, but lives lived, like our own, in earnest pursuit of "living life in all its fulness." One day someone will be remembering us! What will they say? What will they think?

As Henry Ford said: "You can't build a reputation on what you are going to do!"

Start today. Live a life worth celebrating now!

Enjoy the holiday.

**Mr Scott-Evans  
Head Teacher**



## Remembrance Day Memorial Service Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2023

We would like to invite all parents and carers to our memorial service for Remembrance Day on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2023

All are welcome to attend, but please keep in mind that this is an outside service held on the playground.

It will begin at 10:45am and will finish at approximately 11:05am.



**REMEMBRANCE DAY**  
*Let Us Not Forget*

After the All Saints' holiday poppies will be available for sale during tutor time and at reception.

## Sixth Form Information Evening

We are delighted to announce that we are holding our annual Sixth Form Information Evening for students in Year 11. It will take place on **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November**. It will start at 4.30pm and finish at 8.30pm. If you would like to attend, please register via Ticket Tailor:

[Buy tickets – Becket Keys Church of England School](#)

During the evening, you will hear from Mr Scott-Evans, Headteacher, and Mrs Course, Assistant Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form. They will inform you about:

- What the Sixth Form is like and our vision for the future.
- How to apply for a place in the Sixth Form and key steps and dates along the way.
- Which subjects will suit your skills and interests.
- Which combination of subjects will be possible.
- The entry requirements.
- How we will advise you when making difficult choices.
- The different ways in which you can discover more about the subjects you want to take.
- What an 'ordinary' day, week, term and year are like in the Sixth Form at Becket Keys.
- Extra-curricular opportunities in the Sixth Form.
- How we will support your preparation for the next steps after being in the Sixth Form.

The Sixth Form Prospectus and the Sixth Form Course Guide will be available for you to take home. You can then discuss the different options available with your son/daughter. There will also be an opportunity to take a tour of the Sixth Form area in the Justin Welby building.

We have limited space so kindly book a ticket for each person attending.

Any questions please email: [sixthform@becketkeys.org](mailto:sixthform@becketkeys.org)

**We look forward to welcoming you that evening!**



## Mathematics Department

### UKMT Senior Maths Challenge

On Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October, 32 of our A level mathematicians across years 12 and 13 took part in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge. This consisted of 25 multiple choice questions over 90 minutes. Each student started with 25 marks, with 4 being scored for a correct answer, -1 for an incorrect one and 0 for no answer. The aim: score as many points as possible.

Once the challenge was completed, students marksheets are scanned and uploaded to UKMT for marking. Results have recently been received back, and congratulations go to George Ashton in year 12 who achieved Gold with a score of 100 points and was "Best in School". We also achieved 10 Silver, 13 Bronze and 8 Participation awards.

Well done to all those who took part.

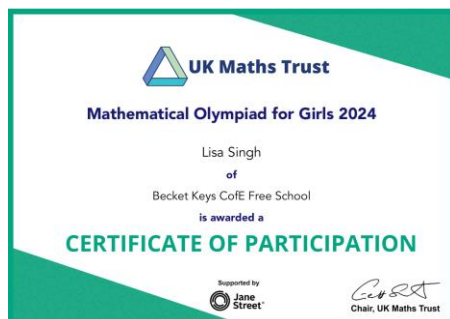
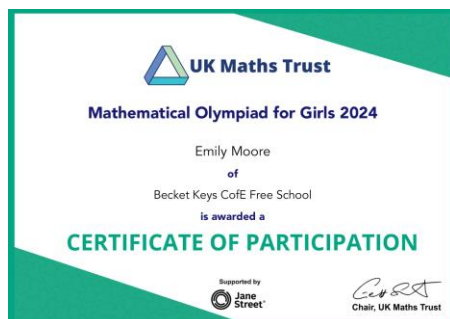
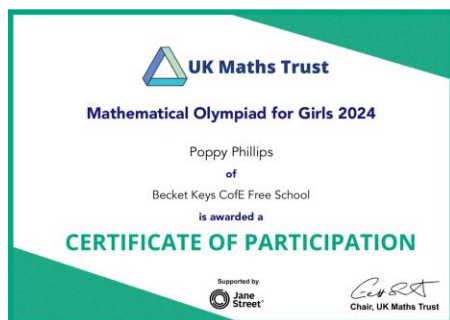
### Maths Olympiad for Girls

As well as competing in the Senior UKMT, 4 of our year 13 girls were also invited to compete in the UKMTs "Maths Olympiad for Girls". This is not a multiple choice event, but instead there are 5 questions worth 10 marks each, and all require a written answer. The aim is to get students thinking logically about a problem and then



communicating and applying their thoughts. Questions are particularly challenging - one of this year's questions is here:

In particular, students considering Oxbridge entry gain experience in how to approach these type of thinking problems, which can help them with their potential interview process.



Congratulations go to Poppy, Emily, Lisa who received a participation certificate. Anya did exceptionally well and achieved Best in School and Merit - which is very difficult to achieve.

Well done to all for taking part.

Below are a couple of the questions that the students had to tackle. Can you answer them correctly?

Two standard dice are placed on a table, with one on top of the other, so that only nine of the faces of the dice may be seen. The touching faces have the same number on them. The sum of the numbers on the visible faces is 33.

What is the number on the touching faces?

- A 1                      B 2                      C 3                      D 4                      E 6

**2. This question requires full written explanations.**

In Figure 2 below, each of the five circles  $A, B, C, D, E$  is to be coloured so that adjacent circles are different colours.

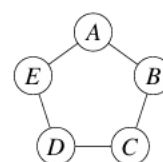
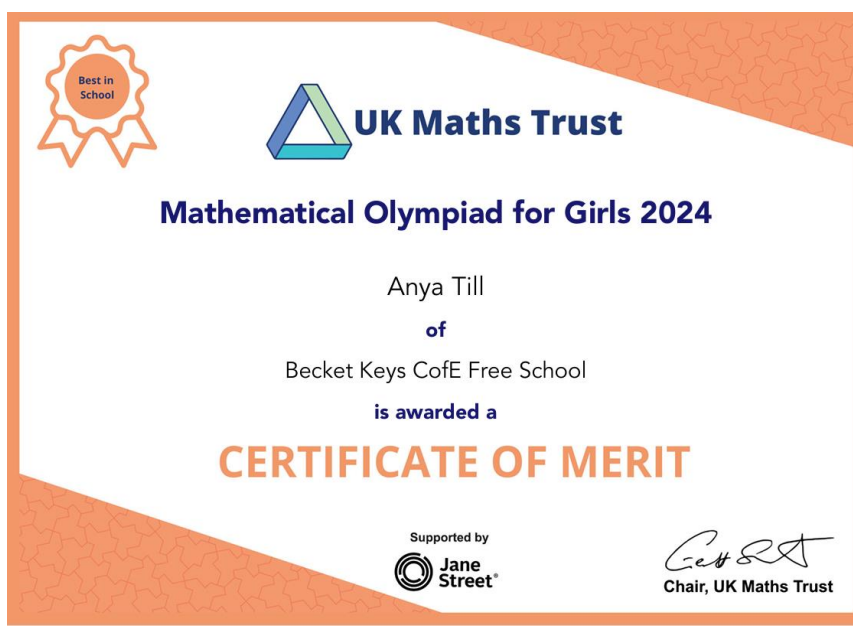


Figure 2

- (a) In this part, circle  $A$  is to be coloured red and circle  $B$  yellow.
- Copy the diagram and show one possible way to colour the circles using colours red, yellow and green. Write 'R', 'Y' or 'G' in each circle to indicate its colour.
  - Explain why it is not possible to colour all five circles using only red and yellow. You should use labels  $A, B, C, D, E$  to refer to the circles.
- (2 marks)
- (b) In this part, the colours to be used are purple, orange and white. How many different ways are there to colour the circles using these three colours, so that adjacent circles are different colours? (8 marks)



# English Department

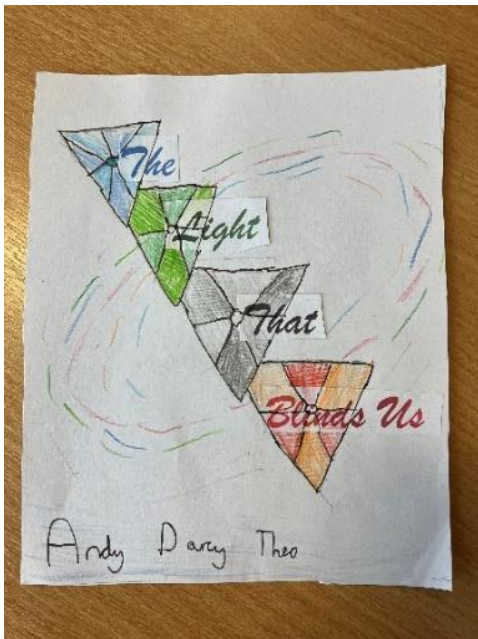
## English Interhouse Competition

This year we have launched the English Interhouse Competition. Over the course of this school year, students will have 6 opportunities to earn points for their house in an attempt to be the overall winner of the English Competition. Each term, we will run one round of this competition for Year 7 and 8.

Round 1 launched in September, which was to redesign the front cover of a book read over the summer.

There were lots of great entries and the judges struggled to pick their winners, but the results are:

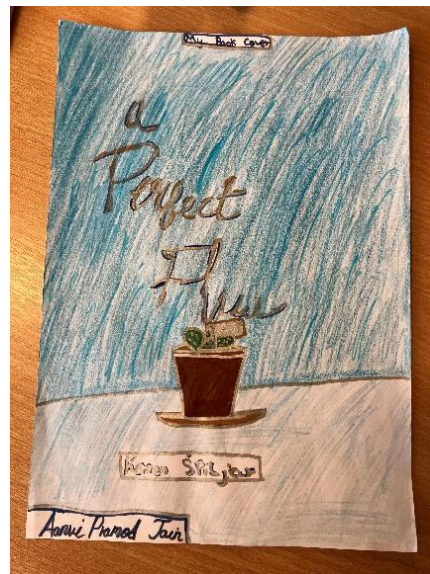
**1st Place – Sam Anderson 7AC**



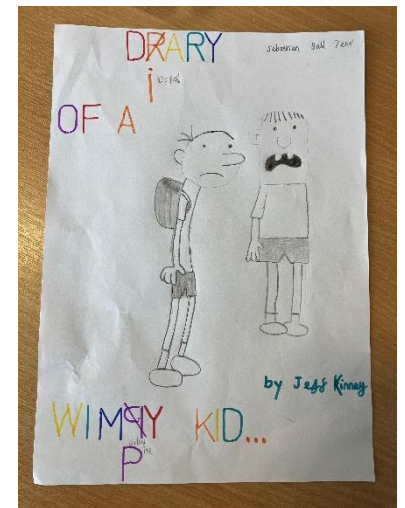
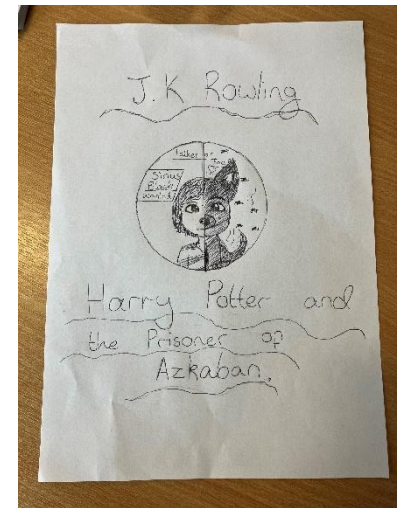
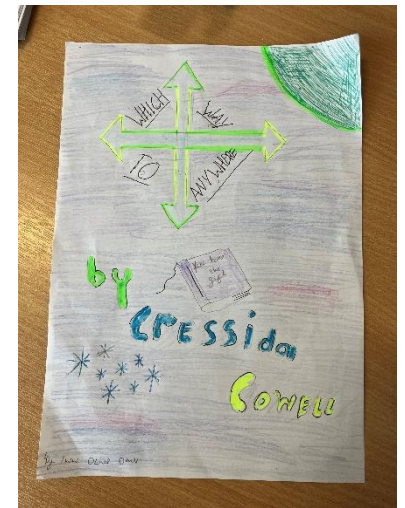
**2nd Place – Henry Bannister 7FS**



**3rd Place – Aanvi Pramod Jain 7EW**

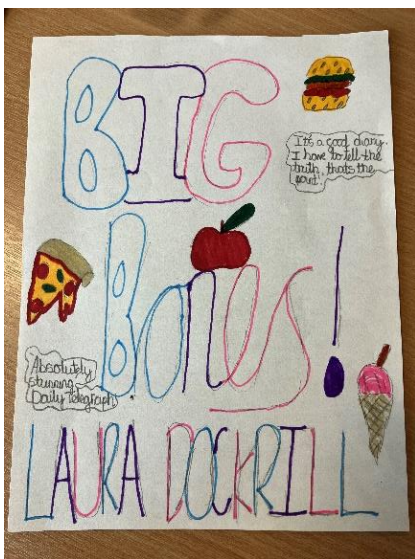
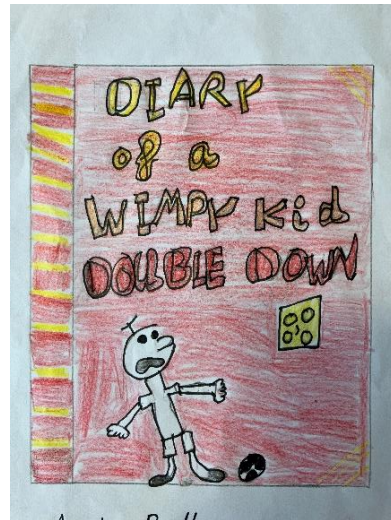
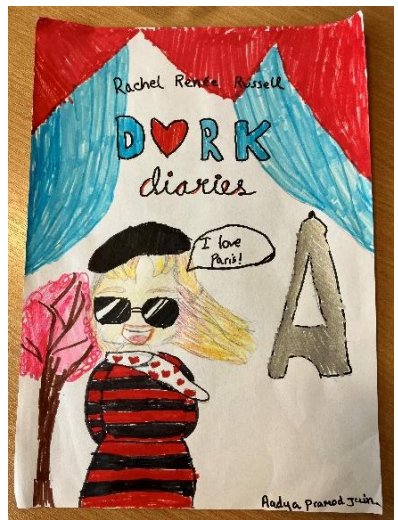
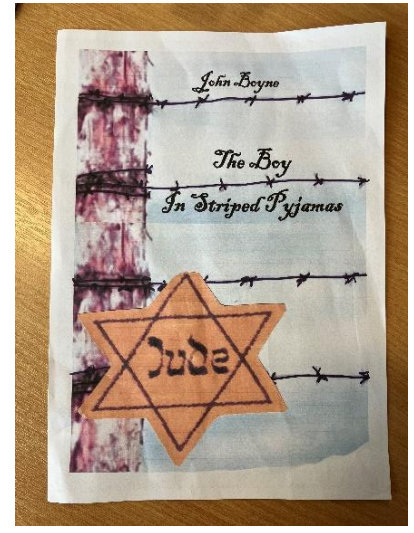
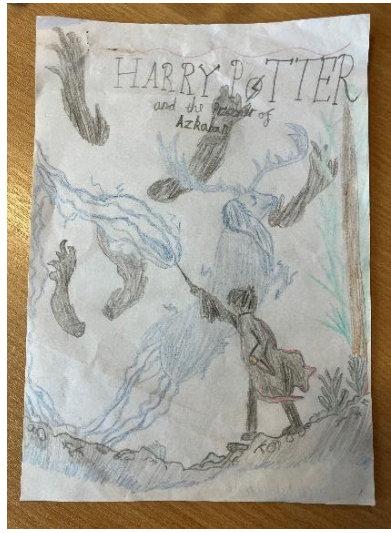
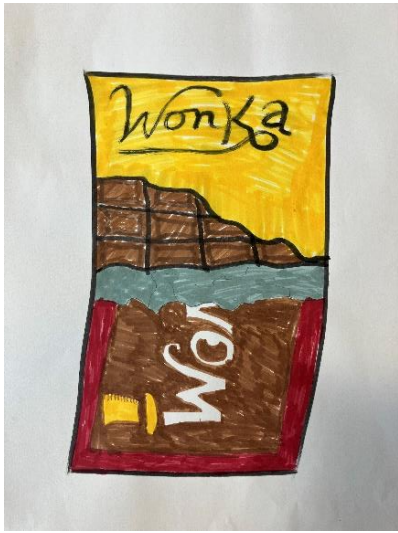


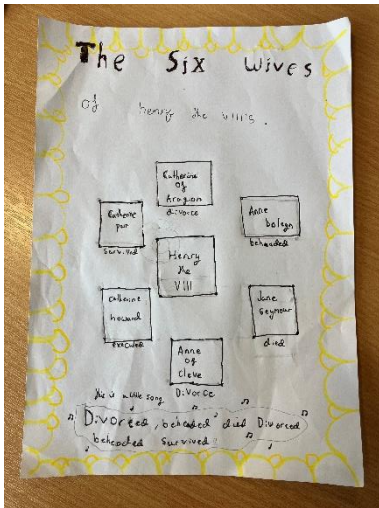
Here are some other notable entries.



The points so far stand at:

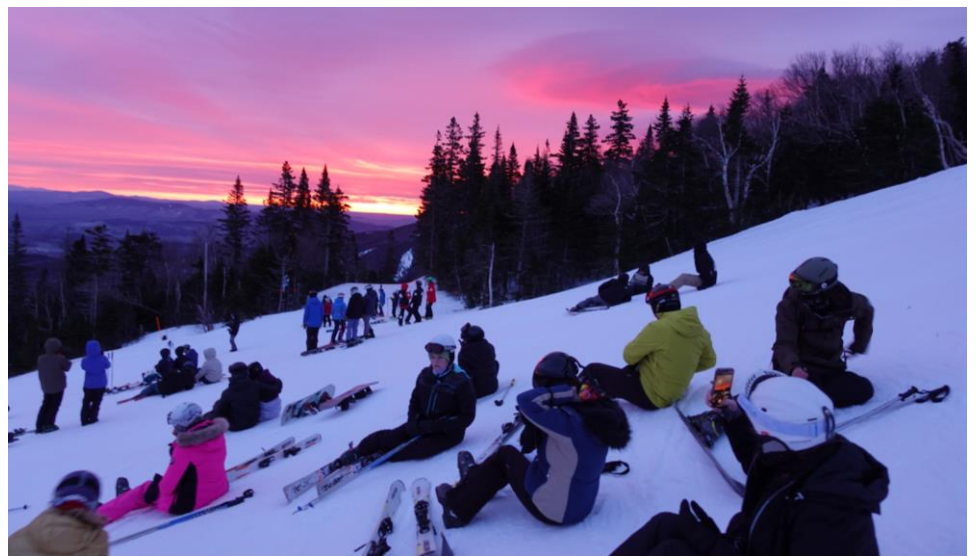
- 7AC - 20
- 7EW - 10
- 7FS - 18
- 7HS - 1
- 7PP - 1
- 7WW - 1





Round 2 starts from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November. Keep an eye out in News For Today and on SatchelOne.

Miss White  
English Teacher



## Sugarloaf Mountain Ski Trip 2026

We are looking forward to another fantastic ski trip for students in Year 10 and above (current Year 9 and above) to the wonderful resort of Sugarloaf Mountain, USA for 2026. There are now some additional places available on this exciting opportunity.

We are working again using a specialist group tour operator, Rayburn Tours. We have used this company before and have been extremely impressed with their excellent levels of support and expertise. Rayburn have been operating trips for schools since 1965. Rayburn Tours is ABTA bonded and ATOL protected, as well as being accredited by 'Learning Outside the Classroom and the School Travel Forum'.

You may wish to watch our YouTube videos of previous trips. These give you some idea of what the trip is like.

Most recent trip (2024): <https://youtu.be/DPwukxLuVQM>

Previous trip (2018): <https://youtu.be/er1WwtNCLnU> (NB this trip will not include a stopover in New York)

Information has been sent out again this afternoon so please complete the [survey](#) if you are interested in your son/daughter attending the trip





## Mandarin Department

### 21st Annual Chinese Teaching Conference New Perspectives: New Horizons

We are excited to share highlights from the 21st Annual Chinese Teaching Conference, themed "New Perspectives: New Horizons," which took place last Saturday. The event was a remarkable opportunity for professional development, featuring valuable CPD workshops aimed at enhancing the teaching of Chinese language and culture.

A special mention goes to our Year 9 student, Bhavana Chatti, who showcased her exceptional talent by winning first place in the British Council Chinese Speaking Competition this year. Bhavana was invited to perform at the conference, where her fluent Chinese and engaging storytelling captivated the audience, earning her a well-deserved round of applause from all the attending educators. We are immensely proud of her achievements, and her mother was moved to tears by her performance.

The conference also celebrated the Year 9 Mandarin Excellence Programme (MEP), which included an intensive study visit to China. This programme, delivered by the Department for



Education in partnership with the IOE and the British Council, involved a significant collaboration with the Centre for Language Education and Cooperation (CLEC) and 18 host institutions across 10 cities in China. 1,187 Year 9 students in UK schools participated in this year's programme, marking it as a tremendous success.



**Yanyan Zhang - 2024 Excellence Award winner**

“Yanyan has grown in her skills each year she has been with us at Becket Keys. Her journey from an unqualified teacher through to getting QTS and more recently being promoted to Head of Department is a testament to how she has flourished in a school environment. She leads on the Mandarin Excellence Programme which is popular with our students and has had excellent success in various national Mandarin competitions. She is a valued colleague and has helped to move the Mandarin department forwards.”

In recognition of her dedication and the contributions to the Mandarin Excellence Programme, Mrs. Zhang, our Head of Mandarin, was honoured with the Excellence Award. This accolade not only acknowledges her hard work but also highlights the collective efforts of our school in promoting Chinese language learning.

Thank you for your continued support as we strive to foster excellence in language education.

Warm regards,

Miss. Tian  
Mandarin Teacher



**BECKET KEYS**  
Church of England School



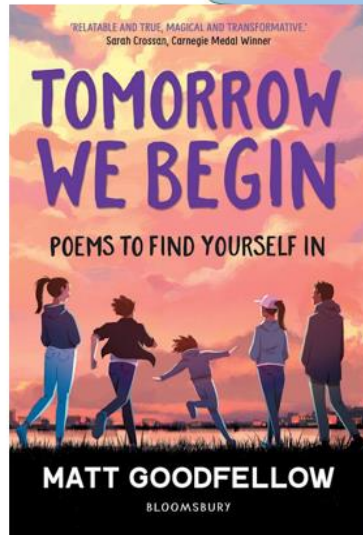
**THANK YOU**

**Becket Keys  
Church of England  
School**

**For your generous  
2024 Harvest Festival  
donation  
Weighing 142Kg**



## Book of the Month - October



'Nobody ever told me there was a space called poetry where I could find a shape for all the thoughts I carried.'

This first-person poetry narrates the journey of a boy navigating the highs and lows of secondary school – from a first day of long sleeves and clumpy shoes, to burning textbooks on graduation.

The poems vary in style, structure and theme, but this book takes the reader on an emotional rollercoaster; from anger at your teachers to those blissful, simple days with your mates. There is a space in Matt's poetry for all teens to feel seen, whether poetry is their thing or not!

It should be noted that this book contains swear words and includes content which readers may find challenging. However, while difficult themes are addressed, they are explored sensitively and with plenty of lightness to balance the darker moments.

It is a great example of the power of poetry as a form of expression for young people.

**School  
UNIFORM  
SALE**

Many thanks to all those who support the sale we raised £939 for the school.

Remember you can donate pre-loved uniform at any time, just send it into reception with your son/daughter.

**NHS**  
Essex Partnership University  
NHS Foundation Trust

## Flu Vaccine Catch up Clinics

**Has your child missed their school vaccinations?**

**We are running local flu catch up clinics this winter, your nearest clinic is:**

**Thameside House, Thurrock Hospital, RM16 2PX**  
10am to 3pm

- Friday 1 November (Half term)
- Saturday 30 November 10am – 2pm
- Monday 23 December (walk in clinic only)

**The Hermit Youth Centre, Brentwood, CM15 8AG**  
10am to 2pm

- Saturday 19 October
- Wednesday 31 October (half term) 10am – 3pm
- Saturday 9 November
- Saturday 14 December 10am – 3pm

**Tilbury Children's Centre, RM18 8EY**

10am to 3pm  
• Monday 30 December (Christmas Holidays)

**It's easy to catch up, book your nearest clinic NOW on 0300 790 0597.**

For information on school aged vaccinations please visit our website:  
[eput.nhs.uk/childrensvaccines](http://eput.nhs.uk/childrensvaccines)

**#GetWinterStrong**



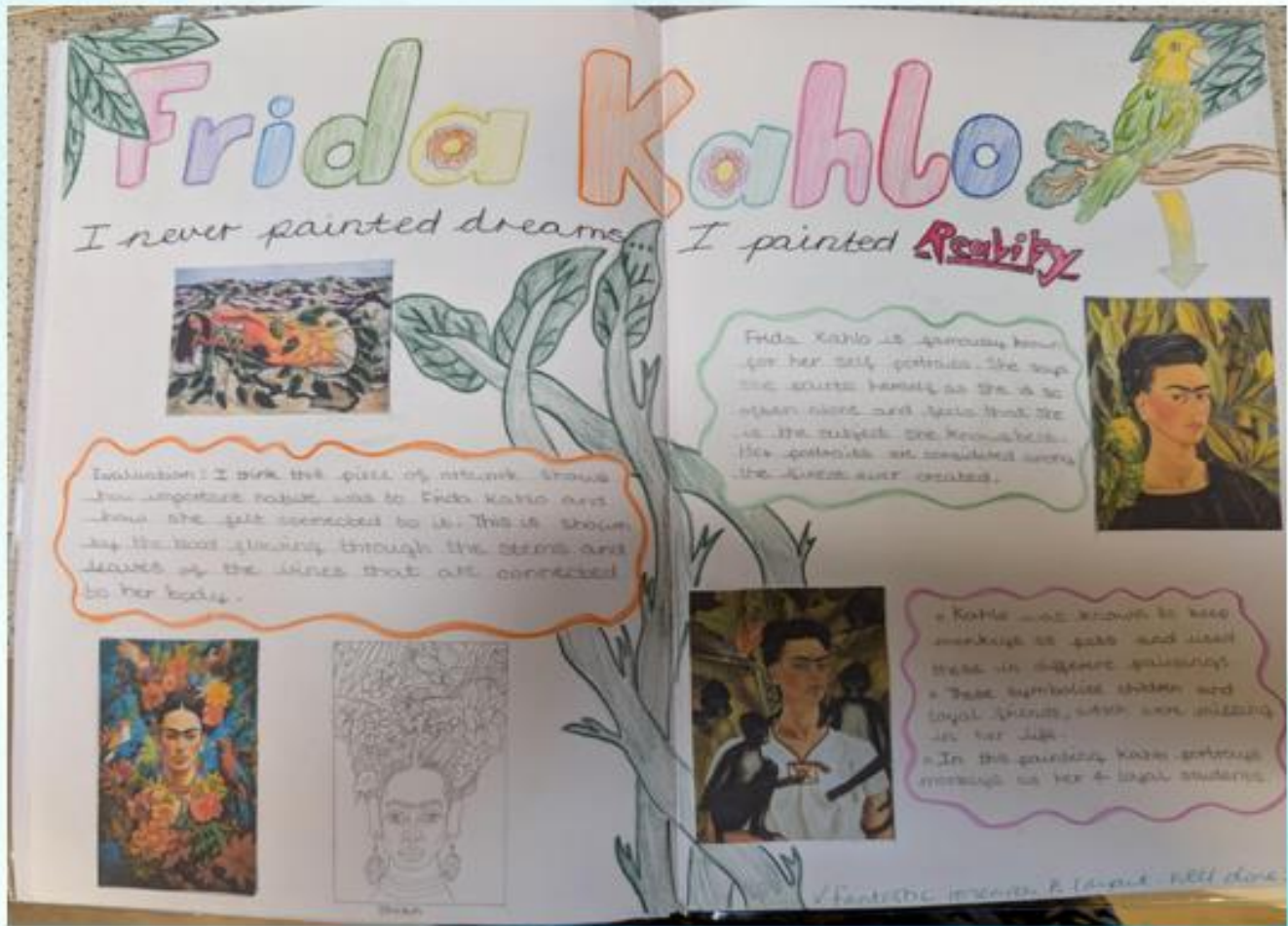


# Art & Textiles

## Star Artist for Art

Macey Laker Year 13





## Imogen Forbes-Buckingham

Year 8



**Elle Holdcroft**

**Year 11**



**@becketkeysarttextiles**





**Poppy Wilkinson**  
**Year 12**



**Rose Whitaker**  
**Year 8**

**Maddy Phillips**

**Year 10**



**Kaitlyn Bell**

**Year 11**



## Sports News

### National Cross Country

The National Cross Country Competition took place recently, and Becket Keys put on a fantastic display of endurance, skill, and team spirit. It was our first time entering this competition which was fiercely competitive, with schools from across the country, but our school rose to the challenge in every category. We entered teams in every age group and category, and the results reflected the depth and strength of our students. The boys' and girls' teams across all year levels performed exceptionally well, many of them finishing within the top 10 of their respective races.



One of the standout performances of the day came from Evie W who took first place in her race. She ran a strategically brilliant race, starting strong and maintaining a solid pace throughout before surging ahead

in the final sprint to claim victory. The Senior boys achieved the highest overall points as a team, demonstrating exceptional resilience throughout the competition.

Overall, Becket Keys' success at the National Cross Country Championships was a reflection of the hard work of the students. Thank you to Josh for helping on the day. We look forward to building on this achievement in future competitions!





The team hit the ground running

## PE Extra Curricular - Term 2



Day	4.1 Lunchtime (11:50-12:30) 4.2 Lunchtime (12:40-1:20)	After-School (3:10-4:30)
Monday	Year 7 Basketball Club	Year 8 Netball Year 8 Rugby Year 7 Rugby
Tuesday	TUP Futsal	Year 9 Rugby Year 10 & 11 Basketball
Wednesday	Year 7 Netball – Invite Only	Year 9, 10 & 11 Netball Girls' Football All Years
Thursday	(4.1) Year 8 Basketball (4.2) TUP Basketball	Year 7 Netball Year 10 & 11 Rugby Boys' Football All Years
Friday	(4.1) Year 9 Basketball (4.2) TUP Badminton	

Keys:

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

### Football Tournament

The Becket Keys Year 7 and 8 Girls' Football Team showcased remarkable talent, teamwork, and determination at last weeks District Tournament. From the first whistle to the last, the team was dominant, conceding just one goal over the entire tournament and losing only a single closely contested match.

Their outstanding performance left a strong impression on both spectators and opponents alike. We are very proud of the Year 7 and 8s who performed in this challenging tournament.

Well done team!



### Year 9 Netball

The Year 9 Netball Team put on an outstanding performance at the District Tournament last week, securing a fantastic 3rd place finish in an exciting three-way tie for first place. The girls dominated throughout the tournament, showcasing their skill, teamwork, and determination from the opening

whistle, winning their first few matches convincingly. Their sharp passing, tight defence, and well-coordinated attacking play made them a force to be reckoned with. Oprah took player of the tournament for her outstanding defensive work, making the opponents struggle with their attacks. Well done to everyone!

**Miss Plunket**  
**PE Teacher**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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ALL SAINTS' HOLIDAY  
YEAR 11 INTERVENTIONS  
MONDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER –  
FRIDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2024

\*

ENRICHMENT DAY  
YEAR 8 PARENTS' EVENING  
THURSDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2024

\*

YEAR 7 HOUSE MUSIC COMPETITION  
FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2024

\*

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE  
10.45AM MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2024

\*

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENT  
TUESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2024

\*

YEAR 12 PARENTS' EVENING  
THURSDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2024

\*

YEAR 9 MADRID MEETING  
THURSDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER  
5.00PM MAIN HALL

\*

LAST DAY OF TERM  
STUDENT HALF DAY  
FRIDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2024

\*

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY  
MONDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER 2024 –  
FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY 2025

# Becket Keys Church of England School

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