

Becket Keys Church of England School

10th January 2025

IN THIS ISSUE



Book of the Month

January recommendation for the book of the month.

Page 6

Charities Update

Details of the recent fundraising efforts from the Becket Keys students.

Page 10

Careers

Information about some exciting work experience weekends for different industries.

Page 11-12

Art & Textiles

More excellent work from our talented students.

Page 13-17

Mr Scott-Evans writes.....

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Celebrating Success and Embracing New Beginnings at Becket Keys Church of England School

As we embark on this new term, I am thrilled to share some exciting achievements and developments at our school. Becket Keys has been named the best school in Brentwood by the Sunday Times and the second-best school in Essex. We are also ranked as the fourth-best school in East Anglia, with only two schools in Cambridge and one in Saffron Walden ahead of us (see page 2). This recognition is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our students and staff, reflected in our record-breaking exam results year after year. This year, were also named the second-best

school in Essex in the <u>Fairer</u> <u>Schools Index.</u>

Our school is not only excelling academically but also growing and improving physically. We now have brand-new toilets in the Carey Building, new roofs on all buildings, and two new state-ofthe-art science labs coming soon. Classrooms W15 and W24 will be transformed with modern furniture and equipment to enhance our students' learning experience. Our smart uniforms make us stand out as a community of excellence around town, and our dedicated teachers continue to support and inspire us every day. Be proud of our school; it is a gift!

Gifts from God

The Bible tells us about the Magi who brought gifts to the baby

.....contd. from Page 1

Jesus—gold, frankincense, and myrrh—recognising who Jesus was (Matthew 2:1-12). Similarly, our school has been blessed with excellent facilities, dedicated teachers, and opportunities to succeed. In Collective Worship this week, I have been telling the students that each of them has unique talents and abilities. I have been challenging them with the question: How far are you prepared to go to use them? The Magi undertook a long, dangerous journey to bring their gifts to Jesus. Are we willing to work hard, stay focused, and give our best to honour the gifts God has given us?

Courageous Advocacy and Overcoming Distractions

In today's world, it can be challenging to stay focused. The Wise Men followed a star, but in some parts of the UK, stars are invisible due to light pollution. Similarly, our lives can become cluttered with distractions that prevent us from seeing God's guidance. I wonder-what are our distractions? Mobile phones, social media, video games, and constant noise can pull us off course. What is our equivalent of light pollution? What's stopping us from seeing God clearly and following His path?

The average American man plays 10,000 hours of video games by the time he is 21. In that time, you could master a musical instrument, become an Olympic athlete, or even memorise the

Best secondary schools in the east

Comprehensive schools achieving the highest A-level and GCSE results

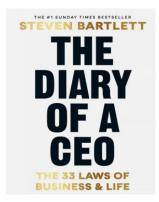
Key 🔵 Boy	rs 🛑 Girls	Mixed
-----------	------------	-------

te Comprehensive Private

Rank		School	Location	A-level A*, A and B	GCSE 9, 8 and 7
1	•	Impington Village College	Impington	74.4%	66.9%
2	•	The King's (The Cathedral) School, Peterborough	Peterborough	66.3%	42.9%
3		Saffron Walden County High School	Saffron Walden	63.8%	37.3%
4		Becket Keys Church of England School	Brentwood	58.2%	30.0%
5		Comberton Village College	Cambridge	51.1%	38.0%
6		Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School	Brentwood	44.0%	38.4%
7		Highams Park School	Highams Park	48.7%	26.6%
8		Kesgrave High School	Ipswich	49.2%	25.3%
9	•	St Benedict's Catholic School	Bury St Edmunds	49.7%	23.1%
10	•	St John Payne Catholic School	Chelmsford	50.7%	20.6%

Fairer Schools Index: <u>https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/fairer-schools-index-search-interactive-34393170</u>

entire New Testament. How you spend your time is how you live your life. Stephen Bartlett (in his book The Diary of a CEO) compares life to going to a casino with 700,000 chips, representing the hours you will live. Each decision you make is like placing a chip. Some decisions will lead to more chips, while others will be spent and never regained. We need to choose wisely. Spending 10,000 chips on TikTok may be a choice we want to make, but we need to be sure that when we reach the end of our chips, we will be pleased with how we played the game.



I have suggested in Collective Worship that maybe the start of the new year is a good time for some reflection on this. A time for some new year resolutions. Here are my top three in case they are of any inspiration to you and your son/daughter:

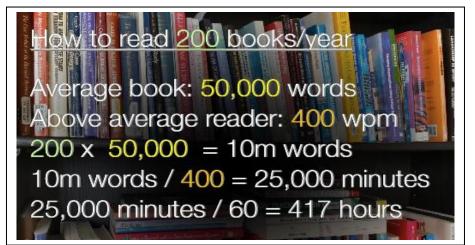
Make the Most of Silence and Solitude

Jesus often withdrew to quiet places for prayer and reflection (Luke 5:16; Mark 1:35). Research shows that regular silence and solitude improve mental clarity and emotional well-being. At our school, we dedicate seven minutes of silence in every lesson. I am going to be suggesting that students make the most of this time to be calm, mindful, connecting with God, reflecting, and praying.



Take a Sabbath: The Importance of Rest

God's gift of rest is vital. In Exodus 20:8-10, we are commanded to keep the Sabbath holy and rest one day a week. Studies show that taking regular breaks boosts productivity and creativity. A day of rest can rejuvenate you and make you more effective in all areas of life.



Read More: The Gift of Reading

Reading is not just educational; it's transformative. Research suggests that reading for just 20 minutes a day can reduce stress by up to 68%, increase empathy, and improve brain function. The average person reads at a speed of 200-400 words per minute, which means you could read 200 books a year in just over an hour a day. The average person spends 2,737 hours a year in front of a screen at home. Why not make a resolution to read more this year? You'll grow in knowledge, wisdom, and peace.

Charles Chu once said, "Here's the simple truth behind reading a lot of books. It's not that hard. We all have the time we need. The scary part, that we ignore, is that we're too addicted, too weak, and too distracted to do what we all know is important."

New Year's Resolutions

As we start this new year, I challenge each of you to choose to follow these resolutions or come up with your own better ones:

- 1. Make time for daily prayer and reflection.
- 2. Take one day of rest each week.
- 3. Commit to reading every day.

Conclusion

This year, let's use the gifts God has given us to their fullest. Let's remove distractions, embrace silence, take time to rest, and grow through reading. Remember the journey of the Magi and their willingness to go far for Jesus. Let's follow their example and make the most of what we've been given.

A prayer for the new year: "Lord, thank You for the gifts You have given us as a school and as individuals. Help us to use them wisely and to honour You in all that we do. Guide us through the distractions, and help us to focus on You this year. Amen."

Thank you, and let's make this year the best one yet!

Mr. Scott-Evans Head Teacher



Here are a few reminders about uniform and the high standards we have at Becket Keys.

Feedback from our families is crucial to our development; parents have mentioned to us that they appreciate consistency and firmness with regards to uniform, and so, with this in mind, we want to make a strong start in 2025.

Hair & Make-up

Students in Years 7-9 are not permitted to wear any make-up. The only make up allowed is concealer to cover up spots and blemishes. Students who do wear make up to school will be asked to remove it.

Obviously false eyelashes and/or nails are not permitted, please ensure such items are removed if they were a 'treat' for Christmas.

No extreme hairstyles i.e. not less than grade 2 in length, hair must

Main School Uniform

not be dyed (not even natural colours!), no shapes cut into the hair e.g. stripes, undercuts. Long hair for both girls and boys must be tied back at all times. Older students (Years 10,11) can have it partially tied up. Younger students (Years 7,8,9) must have it fully tied up. Any hairbands, clips or ribbons should be neutral, black or purple.

Black Bags & Coats

Please ensure, in all cases, that these items are **<u>black</u>**.

Year 7 & 8 students must have Becket Keys' bags from SmartyPants.

Older students are allowed to choose their own bags, but no large logos please.

Coats must be **plain black** for all year groups.

Shoes

Please ensure all students have returned to school in January with the correct footwear, trainers should only be worn, if there is a medical issue (a note must be supplied and kept in the student's blazer).

Jewellery

Students may wear one small silver or gold stud in the lobe of



the ear, but they must be removed for all PE lessons. It is not acceptable to put tape over the ears. No other body piercing or jewellery is acceptable and will be confiscated. Smart watches are not permitted.

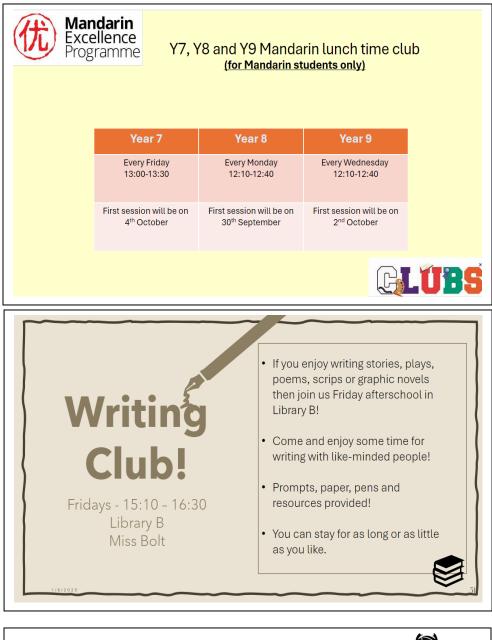
Any essential religious jewellery needed to be worn must be explained with a note from a parent (kept in the blazer).

Equipment

Please ensure you check your son/daughter's stationery. The January sales are a good time to top up pencil cases! Please check for red/black/blue pens, whiteboard markers, pencils, rulers, rubbers and calculators. These are all basic requirements at Becket Keys.

Full details can be found on the school website: https://www.becketkeys.org/uniform

BECKET KEYS CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL 10TH JANUARY 25



BECKET KEYS DRAM				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
KS3 'Time to Shine' 15.15-16.25 RUNCIE HALL (Mrs Palmer) Yr7-Yr9	Yr9 &Yr10 'Creative Space' 11.50-12.30 RH1 (Mrs Barr) KS4 & KS5 'Practical Showcase Rehearsals' 15.15-16.15 RH2 (Mrs Barr)	Yr11 ' Page to Stage ' 15.15-16.15 RH2 (Mrs Barr)	<u>Invitation only and</u> bookable space.	GCSE 'Theory Worksho 15.15-16.15 RH1 (Mrs Barr) <mark>Invitation Only</mark>
				Bookable space Yr7-Yr13



Please 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:

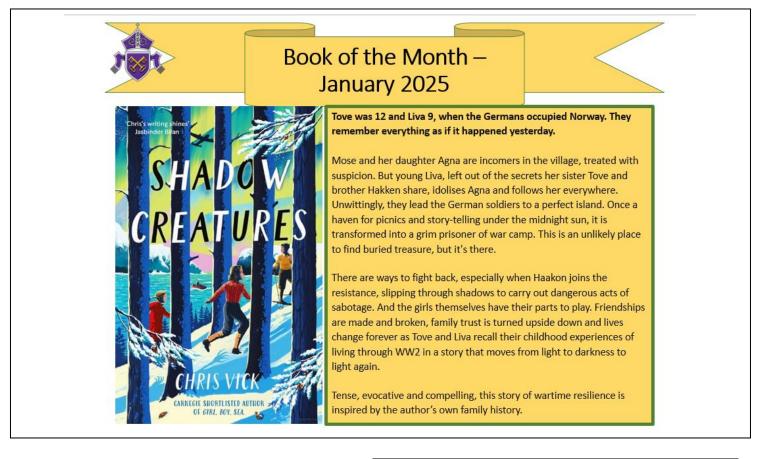
https://www.becketkeys.org/con tact-staff

You can also 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.







National Teen Book Club

SPEAKERS for schools

Join the inspirational online book clubs for schools and students

If you are a student in school who is 11-19-years old and ready to move towards some independent learning or looking for after-school inspiration, you will benefit from the National Teen Book Club.

Everyone should have a chance to enjoy reading and grow in confidence as part of a welcoming peer community – and there is a diverse range of sessions available with authors and related speakers who'll take part in Q&As, provide insights, and fuel career ambitions.

For more information and registration follow this link: <u>National Teen Book Club After-School for Solo</u> <u>Learners</u>

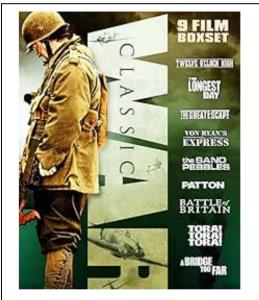
ParentPay

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 Bistro.

There is a small overdraft facility on the ParentPay accounts of £2 for emergency situations which covers the cost of a roll. 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. (You can check out the menu for the next week on the next page).

If you have any queries, please contact the school – <u>office@becketkeys.org</u>



Classic War Film Club

Day: Friday

Time: 3:15 PM - 4:15 PM

Location: Room J12

With: Mr. Bay

Drawing Club

When? Monday 12pm

Where? C24

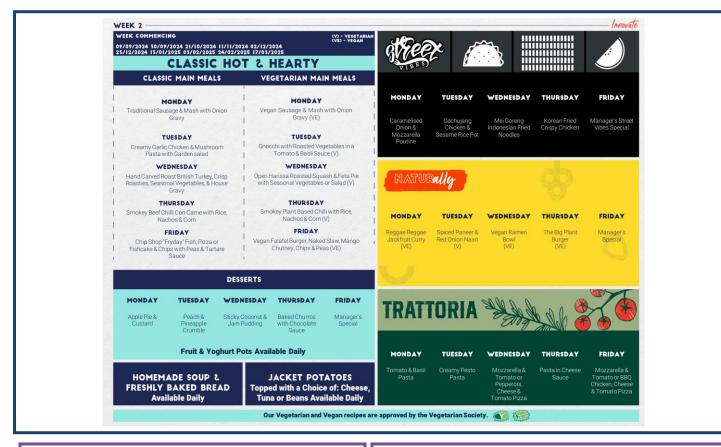
What? A relaxed approach to mindful drawing. We will practise some drawing techniques and share our creations



KS3 science club!

For Year 7,8 and 9 students. 3.10- 4pm in W23.

Come along if you would like to do some fun practical science experiments and activities you do not get to do in lessons!



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; this includes encouraging students to attend school regularly, and of course, on time.

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

Brentwood can be tough to manoeuvre 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.





Sixth Former for a Day Thursday 16th January 2025

This exciting event will be held on Thursday 16th January 2025. It is designed to ensure that students have a good idea of what their next steps after Year 11 will be like.

Year 11 students will get an opportunity to attend four lessons. They will be able to find out more about the subjects they want to study by speaking to teachers and Sixth Form students and will experience a Sixth Form tutorial period. Lunch and a snack at breaktime will be provided, students should bring their own water bottle to refill throughout the day.

Most Year 11 students will be at school for SFFAD, this year we have 260 students attending, making this our largest event to date and we have a long waitlist for places. A letter was emailed home last week with the final details. Please read it carefully regarding the plan for the day.

If you have any questions about this event, please email the Sixth Form team using this address: <u>sixthform@becketkeys.org</u>

For those who wish to continue their education elsewhere there is an opportunity to visit Chelmsford College on this day. Details have been sent to those who are interested, contact <u>office@becketkeys.org</u> with any queries.



Homework Club is available for all students.

Every afternoon after school students can stay for a supervised session until 4.20pm and complete their homework in C11. Using Homework Club is just one way we provide for students who do not want to leave site at 3.10pm.

Full details of all extra-curricular clubs are available on the school website here: <u>https://www.becketkeys.org/extra-curricular.</u>

Charities Update





We are continuing to support <u>SNAP (Special Needs and</u> <u>Parents)</u>, a local Brentwood charity whose aims are to inform, encourage and support parents so that they can grow in strength and knowledge and become better equipped to give the best possible help to their children with additional needs. We are also supporting <u>I Got Shoes</u>, a charity which assists children and young people in Uganda obtain a pair of shoes and gain access to education.

Prior to the Christmas break, we raised \pounds 785.00 from the proceeds of the non-uniform day, and this was divided equally between the two charities.

Many thanks to all who participated!







8 January 2025

Mr. Andy Scott-Evans, Headteacher Becket Keys Church of England Secondary School Sawyers Hall Lane Brentwood CM15 9DA

Dear Mr. Scott-Evans,

A huge thank you to your staff and students for their contribution to I GOT SHOES charity. We so appreciate your generous gift of £392.50 received on 3/01/2025. Your funding will help support students, especially girls, to stay in education this year at our new school, Zion Junior School, in Kamuli, Northern Uganda.

Through your generosity, this will also cover school fees which help towards staff wages and provides a daily meal for our students. It's been beautiful to spend time with our two existing schools and excitedly now extending our work further to Northern Uganda. How wonderful to see the direct impact of helping more children access education. It's quite remarkable what we can all do together!

Thank you again for your kindness and heart to make a difference.

With gratitude & love -Penny, Gary, & our I GOT SHOES team



I GOT SHOES LTD. 108 WOODMAN ROAD, WARLEY, BRENTWOOD, ESSEX CM14 5AZ +44 7387 274307 // <u>www.igotshoes.co.uk</u> // Registered Charity England & Wales - 1160896

Work Experience



Students have some great opportunities to explore their future careers this spring! With 15 different industries to choose from, these weekend programmes are designed to provide students with the perfect introduction to a potential career pathway.

The Young Vet Weekend

The Young Vet Weekend gives students a chance to test-drive life as a vet. Learn from real-life vets as they guide you through a series of interactive activities: examine animal x-rays, practise surgical techniques and take part in a simulated patient consultation. Students will also get expert advice on how to get into vet school, with coaching on how to excel in applications and interviews.

The Young Filmmaker Weekend

The Young Filmmaker Weekend gives students a chance to reside in the filmmaking industry. Learn from top filmmakers as they guide you through a series of interactive activities: deconstruct a scene with a director, learn editing and cinematography techniques, and turn a story into a screenplay.

The Young Investment Banker

The Young Investment Banker Weekend gives students a chance to test-drive life in the world of finance. Learn from top investment bankers as they guide you through a series of interactive activities: make deals, value companies and trade the markets.

The Young Doctor Weekend

This weekend gives students a chance to see what life is like as a doctor. Learn from top doctors as they guide you through a series of interactive activities: learn to suture a wound, examine patient X-rays and discuss diagnoses. You will also be coached on how to get a place at a top medical school, with expert guidance on how to excel in applications, interviews, the UCAT & BMAT, and more.

These programmes are all suitable for students aged 15-18 years old and there are more industries including art, fashion, computer science and entrepreneurship available on the website. Students will get expert advice on how to become successful in the industry of their choice, with guidance on study choices, extra-curricular activities, work experience and more.

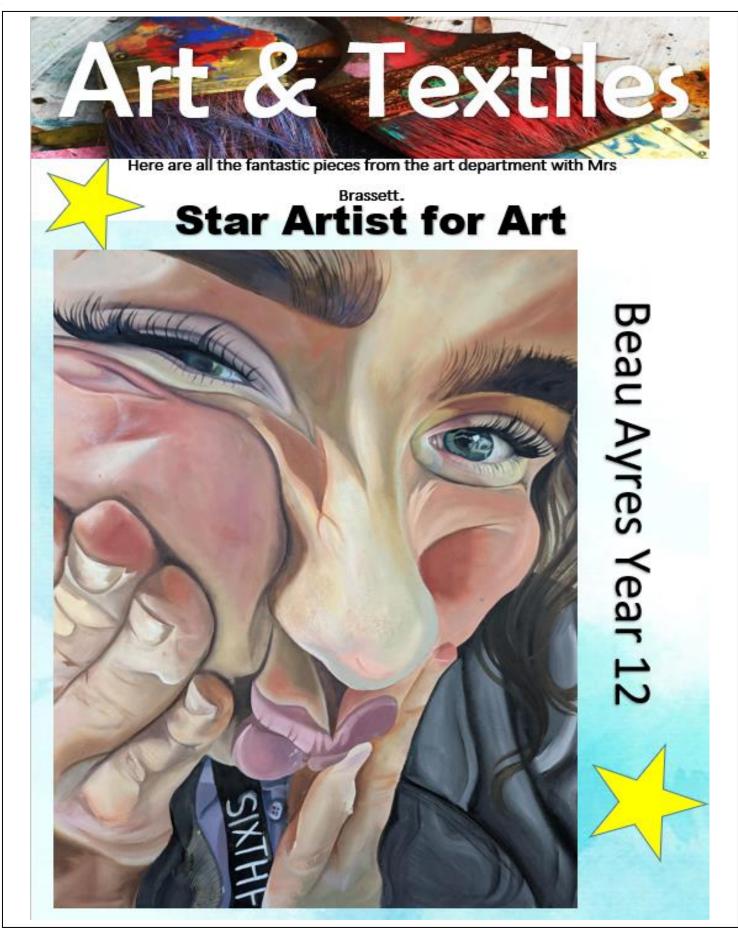
You can attend either in-person in London or live online. Register now to gain an edge over other aspiring students, and a supercurricular experience to add to your university application.

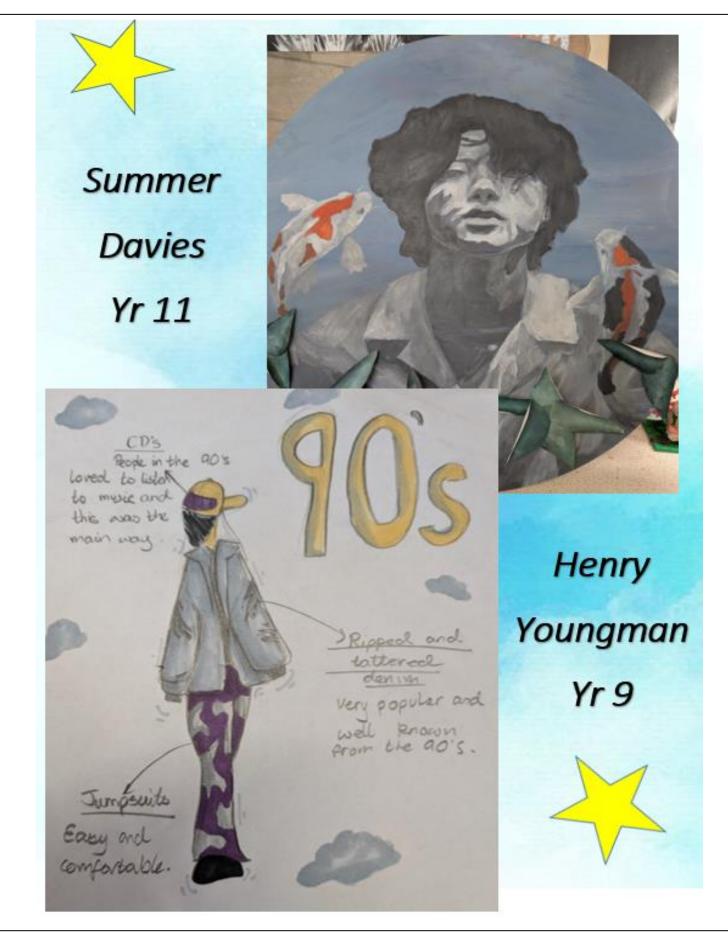
InvestIN | The Ultimate Work Experience – InvestIN Education

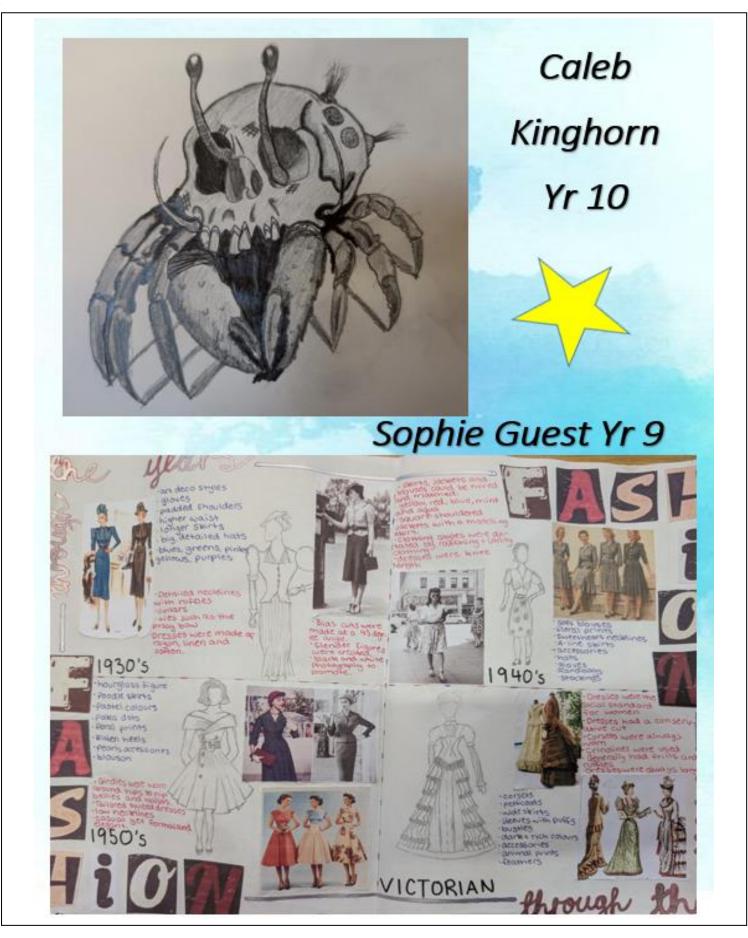


Speakers for Schools were founded in 2010 by ITV's Political Editor, Robert Peston, their aim is to end educational inequality by giving all young people access to the same prestigious networks available to the top feepaying schools in the UK. There are many talks from today's influential figures via the Inspiration programme, noted below are a few that are available week commencing 10th January are listed below and are all free of charge. There is also a library with hundreds of recorded sessions available. For a full list of the talks available, information about work experience and details of the National Teen Book Club go to <u>Speakers for Schools: Leading</u> <u>Social Mobility Charity</u>

DATE	SPEAKER	INFO
Monday 10th January 2025	Unlocking A Career in Housing With Kevin Williams Register <u>here</u>	An inspiring talk from Kevin Williams, Group Director of Development & Commercial Services at The Guinness Partnership, a leading Social Housing organisation. Discover in more detail the social housing industry and go behind the scenes of the different type of roles available, plus hear an insight of Kevin's career journey to date. Don't miss out on this amazing insight that
Wednesday 15 th January 2025	Making Change Happen: How Sustainability is Shaping Careers Register <u>here</u>	shows it's not just bricks and mortar. Join Solitaire Townsend, Co-Founder of Futerra for an inspiring talk about building a career in the green economy. With over 30 years of experience as a passionate change-maker, Solitaire will share her journey of turning sustainability into a thriving business model and offer insights into the diverse career opportunities available. Whether you're interested in sustainability, innovation, or simply curious about the possibilities, this talk will leave you empowered to imagine and pursue a greener future 😤 📕 🚔
Thursday 16 th January 2025	A Career Building A Green Energy Future Register <u>here</u>	Infrastructure like rail, roads, water systems, fibre and power grids underpin our daily lives. Decarbonising our world requires building new, and adapting existing infrastructure. A job in the infrastructure sector offers an exciting opportunity to build this future. Join us and the Infrastructure Industry Foundation to hear from a range of speakers on how they're making the world more sustainable through their industry.











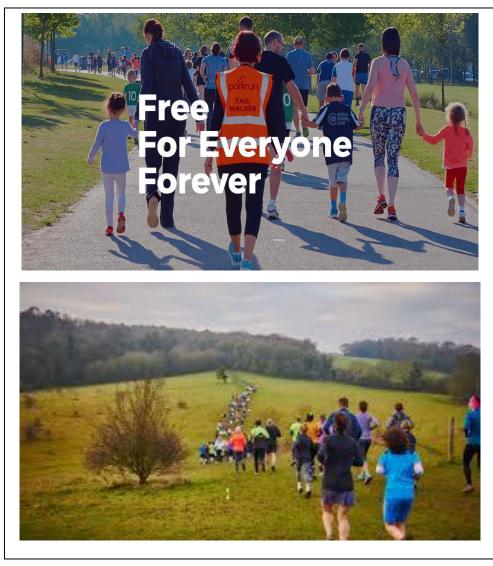


This week the students have been getting tips on how to look after their Mental Health. It is important to spend time outdoors in nature and to be active. Spending time in nature has been found to assist with anxiety and depression and there are also links between nature and relaxation and being outside gives our bodies much needed vitamin D from sunlight. Being active is good for both your mind and body and every minute of activity counts; the more you do the more you will benefit. Exercise can improve your sleep, clear your mind, boost your energy and help with back or joint pain.

In order to combine nature and exercise why not join the Parkrun? Parkrun is a free, community event where you can walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate. Parkrun is 5k and takes place every Saturday morning. Junior Parkrun is 2k, dedicated to 4-14 year olds, and their families, every Sunday morning.

Parkrun is positive, welcoming and inclusive, there is no time

Vitality



limit and no one finishes last! Everyone is welcome to come along.

Parkrun is free and you only need to <u>register once</u> whether walking, jogging, running, volunteering or a combination.

There are currently 1,163 parkrun events around the country taking place every weekend, with more locations being added all the time. You can go along to any event, any weekend. Find out more here:

https://www.parkrun.org.uk/



> BROOKS



WithU WithU WARATHON

Day	4.1 Lunchtime (11:50 -12:30) 4.2 Lunchtime (12:40 -1:20)	After-School (3:10-4:30)	
Monday	GCSE Intervention	Year 9, 10 + 11 Girl's Football Year 9, 10 + 11Boys' Football	
Tuesday	TUP Futsal	Year 7 Basketball Year 8 Boys' Football Year 8 Girls' Football	
Wednesday	Year 7 Netball For All/Invite Only	Year 7 Girls' Football Year 10 + 11 Basketball Club	Keys: - Astro - Sports hall
Thursday	(4.1) Year 8Basketball (4.2)TUP Basketball	Year 7 Boys' Football	- Main Hall - Field - Playground
Friday	(4.1) Year 9 Basketball (4.2) TUP Badminton		

All after-school clubs will begin next week commencing 13th January 2025.



U16 Girls' Football

The U16 girls' football team had their first game against Orminston River this week, despite the frozen conditions, the players left everything on the pitch giving it their all and taking an 8-2 victory. Lily got the first goal in the first 5 minutes of the game with a lovely assist from Betsy. Abi then went on to score 4 goals! Maddie scored 1, Lily got another and Betsy drove home the last.

Players of the match went to Oprah for her lovely defensive work and pushing forward through players and Maddie for running down the line taking on players and putting brilliant balls in and Betsy for being the play maker in the middle.

Well done girls!

Miss Plunkett PE Teacher



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SIXTH FORMER FOR A DAY YEAR 11 COLLEGE TRIP THURSDAY 16TH JANUARY 2025

YEAR 12 EXAMS THURSDAY 9TH - FRIDAY 17TH JANUARY -2025

DEADLINE FOR SIXTH FORM APPLICATIONS MONDAY 20TH JANUARY 2025

> <u>YEAR 9 PARENTS' EVENING</u> THURSDAY 30TH JANUARY 2025

YEAR 7 MANDARIN DAY CELEBRATION FRIDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2025

* <u>YEAR 9 OPTIONS EVENING</u> THURSDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 2025

YEAR 10 SEVILLE TRIP THURSDAY 13TH- 17TH FEBRUARY 2025

* <u>LENT HOLIDAY</u> MONDAY 17TH FEBRUARY – FRIDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2025

YEAR 7 SUBJECT CONSULTATION EVENING THURSDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2025

YEAR 11 & YEAR 13 MOCK EXAMS THURSDAY 13TH FEBRUARY – FRIDAY 7TH MARCH 2025

Becket Keys Church of England School

Sawyers Hall Lane Brentwood, Essex CM15 9DA 01277 286600

www.becketkeys.org office@becketkeys.org finance@becketkeys.org

X: @BecketKeys @MrScottEvans @BecketKeys6th @BecketKeysMusic @BecketKeysPE @BecketKeysArt @BecketKeysSci

@BecketKeysDT
@BecketKeysExams

@BecketKeysTrips

Facebook: Becket Keys Church School