

## Becket Keys Church of England School

4th February 2022

### OPTIONS e

### Mr Scott-Evans writes:

### What is the option?

I hope Year 9 students and their parents found the on-line parents' evening yesterday useful. Next week, we are offering a curriculum meeting on-line with Mrs Trebess and Dr Hurdle to help students to decide which subjects to choose.

When I was 13, like most students that age, I had no idea what I would do in the future. I naively/optimistically thought that I would be a footballer, a drummer or a chef! Little did I know that I would decide to be a Primary School Teacher! Nor did I know that to be a Primary School Teacher I would need a Modern Foreign Language and a Humanity as an entry requirement to the degree courses that I wanted.

Fortunately, my teachers ensured that GCSE French and Geography were on my curriculum. These two subjects kept the door open to me.

There are certain facilitating subjects that keep doors open for students. Some are obvious: English, Mathematics and Science. Others less so: Religion and Philosophy, Modern Foreign Languages and Humanities.

If it were not for my teachers, I would have made a mistake and dropped French. I did not feel confident in it. Even though, actually, it was quite a straightforward one to pass.

The mistake I did make with my options was to select a subject that was new to me. Despite my passion for Food, Music and PE

.....contd. on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE



### **Guest Speaker**

Year 12 students had the opportunity to listen to John Slade.

Page 3

### **Mandarin Day**

A great day for the students this week as we celebrated the Chinese New Year of the Tiger.

Page 4

### **Apprenticeship Week**

There are details of some excellent opportunities offered for students who wish to find out more about apprenticeships.

Page 10-13

### **Biblical Pause**

Curiosity & Questions of Faith.

Page 20-21

### ....contd. from Page 1

(as mentioned above), I thought that none of these were 'academic enough' and instead I chose Economics which was new and therefore (I thought) exciting. Having studied the other subjects for 9 years and loved them, it was bizarre that I turned my back on them! My family are also traditionally good with our hands and so it was weird that I also turned my back on DT which had always been a strength. Looking back at my school reports DT was the subject I continually got the best marks in. My DT teacher even came to see me in hospital when I was very unwell in Year 9! How strange that I did not think his subject was the one for me! I cannot understand the lack of logic on my part and the lack of advice and guidance provided to me by the school at the time!



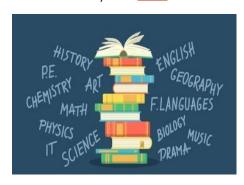
Economics? I never watched the news! I had no interest in how financial markets and systems worked. Why did I pick it? Well, my dad was a Bank Manager and so I suspect it seemed like a subject he would be pleased with. It ended up being my lowest GCSE grade. I wish I had picked DT, Music, Food or PE!



My advice to all Year 9s is to spend time really thinking about what you are good at and what you enjoy. No Year 9s can really be sure what they are going to be in the future. That is why we ensure that all doors are kept open for as long as possible with our highly facilitating set of compulsory GCSE subjects. Now it is up to them to think which of the other ones will interest them most.

Which one will they look forward to when they wake up in the morning? Which one will add balance to their academic curriculum? Remember: until now, every week at school has always included some creative element. How will they want to keep that in their timetable? Which subjects brings the most joy to them? There is no need at this point to try and add additional facilitatory subjects. Just because students think they want to do a particular A Level or have a particular career is immaterial. Our core offer ensures that every single course and career will remain open. Opinions and tastes change as students grow and develop. The simple pleasure of learning in their favourite subject is the priority at this point. Hopefully,

by the end of next week, every Year 9 student will know exactly what to pick. If not, we are here to help. Our website also offers a page of advice about options. It also has detailed descriptions of everything that is studied within every single course, term by term, over the two years here.



If Parents' Evening was not long enough, you can contact teachers via the school website. Form Tutors are the first port of call for general advice, subject teachers can be contacted for curriculum specific advice. Dr Hurdle and Mrs Trebess can also be called upon for additional help. They are the experts on the curriculum and can advise students by looking at their strengths and steering them in the way that I should have been!

Mr Scott-Evans Headteacher



Page **2** of **23** 

### Year 12 - Guest Speaker



On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January, Mr Jon Slade, Chief Commercial Officer of the Financial Times, came to Becket Keys to give us a talk regarding the news industry. In around an hour and twenty minutes, he expertly presented many of the core aspects of this field. He also clearly outlined parts of his job which he believes will change in the up-coming years, as well as discussed problems the Financial Times has faced since the dawn of the internet.

Mr Slade was incredibly engaging and left a lasting impact on the Sixth Formers in the room during both the talk and the Q&A session that made up the last part. He even patiently answered questions on journalism and marketing after the talk was over.

The talk was incredibly informative and educational. It also encouraged the listeners in the room to want to actively take part in learning what is happening in the wider world around them. Personally, I was intrigued by various aspects of the talk,

leading me to, for the first time, seriously consider a career in journalism.

Afterwards, Mr Slade wrote to Mr Peggs to inform him that he 'really enjoyed it very much indeed'. He also said that Year 12 'are wonderful students who listened very politely, demonstrated terrific manners throughout and, most importantly, engaged in the presentation'. Further, he said that we 'asked really smart questions at the end', that he 'was very impressed' and that there are clearly 'some bright stars amongst them for sure'. His interactions with Year 12 and his tour of the school meant he concluded that 'you're clearly doing a brilliant job at Becket Keys, if I may say so!' - which, of course, he can!

Many thanks to Mr Slade and 'Speakers for Schools' for his very interesting and captivating talk.

David Kirk Year 12





The office has a number of lost property items. These include pairs of glasses and jewellery. If you have lost something, please go to the office and describe the missing item to someone in the Office Team.



The School Community Prayer Group hosted by our Headteacher Mr Scott-Evans is every week on Wednesday 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, please enter via reception.

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

### **Mandarin Day**

Becket Keys Church of England School held a very successful Mandarin Day for all the Year 7 students and a group of Year 8 Mandarin students on 1<sup>st</sup> February. This special event was organised to welcome the Chinese New Year, "The Year of the Tiger".

On this day, we welcomed 3 different external quests -

 Mr. James Trapp: an expert of Chinese studies who was formerly China Education Manager at the British Museum. He currently works full time as a Chinese literary translator, translating prize-winning Chinese novels into English.



- Miss Zhong Wang: an expert of calligraphy who has worked in education for over 16 years as a schoolteacher, a local government education adviser, and an education business manager.
- Kudos Combat Martial Arts Academy: a full-time well-equipped studio with

instructors holding national and international recognition.



Students participated in six educational and fun-packed workshops; they experimented with designing clothes and accessories using traditional Chinese imperial patterns, had a go at Chinese calligraphy, learnt about Chinese culture through watching a documentary and examined several Chinese artefacts, watched the process of making gun powder, and practised some combat and defence moves. At lunch, students watched a sensational traditional Chinese lion dance and enjoyed delicious Chinese food that Bistro served. They also received a souvenir for the day.

The day has offered our students the opportunity to look beyond Chinese as merely a language and gain a deeper understanding of Chinese culture. It has been wonderful to see so many happy faces.

Here are some photo highlights of the day:









Miss Lin Head of Mandarin



### **Extra-Curricular Clubs**



12/01/2022



Would you like help with your maths?
Do you want some revision tips?
Need something explaining again?
Want to improve your understanding?
Drop into J23
Every Monday 3.15pm-4pm

what maths is needed?

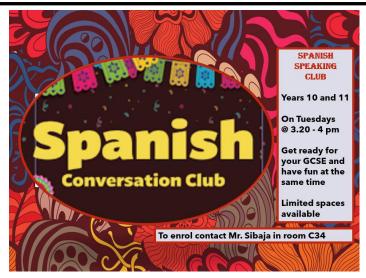
Write out any formulae or calculations needed.













Are you interested in entering a coding competition? Registration is now open for three competitions. Come along to Code Club to find out how to enter either as a team or an individual.







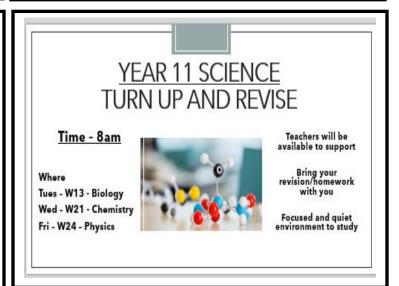
Young Coders Competition

do your :bit – micro:bit challenge

BAFTA Young Game Designer

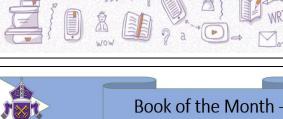
Day/Time: Mondays, afterschool (3:15-4:30)
Where: Computer Science Labs (W03) with Ms Pogoda
Open to: Y7-Y9

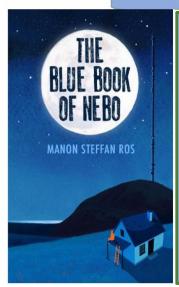






**February** 





Dylan was six when The End came; when the electricity went off for good, and the 'normal' 21st century world he knew disappeared. Now he's 14 and he and his mam have worked to survive in their isolated hilltop house above the village of Nebo in north-west Wales, learning new skills, and returning to old ways of living. Despite their close understanding, the relationship between mother and son changes subtly as Dylan must take on adult responsibilities. What mam misses, Dylan has no use for, being perfectly adapted to the new world and his place in it. And they each have their own secrets, which emerge as, in turn, they jot down their thoughts and memories in a found notebook - the Blue Book of

In this tender and tragic prize-winning novel, Manon Steffan Ros not only explores the human capacity to find new strengths when faced with the need to survive in a post-apocalyptic world, but also questions the structures of the contemporary one.



### In sentences:

- 1. Any public disclosure of this information would be very damaging.
- 2. The disclosure has already caused a furore among MPs.
- 3. Disclosure of information would compromise the proper conduct of the investigation.

### Meaning: The act of making something known

Etymology: from Old French desclos "open, exposed, plain, explicit



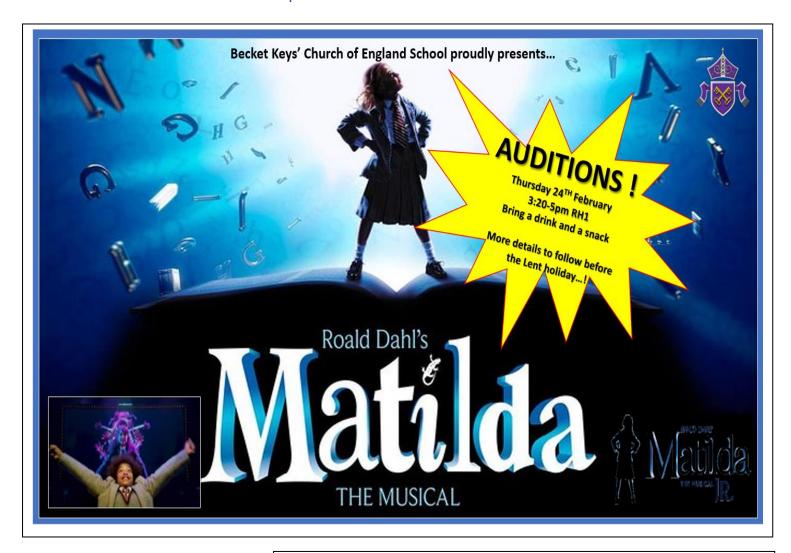
Remember that Homework Club is up and running! Every afternoon after school students can stay until 4.30pm and complete their homework in C11.

All year groups are welcome to attend, these sessions are supervised by members of staff so if students have any queries there are staff available.

If there are a lot of students who wish to make use of this opportunity, we will open other rooms.

Using Homework Club is just one way we provide for students who do not want to leave site at 3.10pm.

Avoid the traffic! Stay here for a while!



Year 11 Date Changes

Sixth Former for a Day

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022

Sixth Form
Bridging Event

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022



### THE SCHOOL NURSE IS AVAILABLE -





Help and advice in relation to:

### How can you make contact? Use 'CHAT Health'

This is manned by a School Nurse between the hours of 9-5pm Monday to Friday, and they will respond to all messages within 24 hours Monday – Friday. The aim is to provide a timely, and convenient access to confidential health advice for every young person in Essex.

Phone or text: 07520 615732

No parental consent required for students aged 13 and over.



Please ensure your son/daughter has the correct calculator for their Mathematics lessons.

Students will need the Casio fx-85GTX for all lessons.

These can be purchased from the school office for £11.50.





Please make sure that you topup 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 their ParentPay account 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 have any queries, please contact the school – office@becketkeys.org



### Careers Department – National Apprenticeship Week



## AllAboutGroup National Apprenticeship Week

National Apprenticeship Week starts on Monday 7th February 2022 and AllAboutSchoolLeavers is hosting a variety of virtual apprenticeship events with a range of employers, including BT and AstraZeneca, throughout the week.

Students can attend virtual apprenticeship events with leading employers who are hosting events throughout National Apprenticeship Week 2022. There will be an opportunity to meet employers and apprentices and ask questions to help students decide what they would like to do once they leave school or college.

### Students can register for these events for free here:

### https://www.schoolleaverfair.co.uk/auditorium/live-webinars

There is also an online hub for students, parents and careers advisers to access information throughout National Apprenticeship Week 2022 and beyond.

### Visit the hub here:

https://allaboutgroup.lpages.co/national-apprenticeship-week-2022/



## THE STEM LIVE TALKS: Post 16 construction apprentice to business owner

Tuesday 8 February from 8.40am to 9.10am Virtual on Microsoft Teams Live\*

Join Luke as he explains his path from Brick laying apprentice to self-employed business owner. Luke left school at 16 to pursue an apprenticeship in brick laying. Having worked his way up to management level he has completed qualifications equivalent to a PHD and now runs his own construction business.

Luke will tell his story, explain all about construction apprenticeships and answer students' questions.

### To book a place please

visit: <a href="https://post16construction">https://post16construction</a> apprenticetobusinessowner.eve
<a href="https://post16construction">ntbrite.co.uk</a>





LIVE TALK: Electrical
Engineering Apprentice Jasmine
Thursday 10 February from
8.40am to 9.10am
Virtual on Microsoft Teams
Live\*

Join Edwards Vacuum, Electrical Engineering Apprentice Jasmine, to find out what it's like to do an apprenticeship.

STEM Ambassador Jasmine, who is currently in her second year of an Electrical engineering apprenticeship with Edwards Vacuum, will give the low down on what it's like to do an apprenticeship in 2022. This will be followed by an interactive Q and A session for students.

### To book a place please

visit: <a href="https://livetalkwithelectric">https://livetalkwithelectric</a>
<a href="alengineerjasmine.eventbrite.c">alengineerjasmine.eventbrite.c</a>
<a href="o.uk">o.uk</a>



LIVE TALK: Meet Apprentices from Dovetail Games Friday 11 February from 8.40am to 9.10am Virtual on Microsoft Teams Live\*

Meet apprentices from Dovetail Games as they tell all about doing an apprenticeship in the video games industry.

Apprentices from video games company Dovetail games will give all the ins and outs about doing an apprenticeship in the video games industry along with answering all the students questions.

### To book a place please

visit: <a href="https://meetapprenticesfromdovetailgames.eventbrite.co.uk">https://meetapprenticesfromdovetailgames.eventbrite.co.uk</a>



## First intuition National Apprenticeship Week

FREE webinar planned for Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February.

The webinar will be hosted by David Malthouse and Ben Bullman and will be held from 18:00 to 19.00.

This will be an opportunity for students to listen to some graduated accountancy apprentices talk about their experiences.

A link is here to register for this event: Meeting Registration - Zoom

FREE Accountancy Academy
will be held 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> July 09:30 –
15:30 in the Chelmsford Centre.
First intuition will cover:

- Career options
- Accountancy Taster (inc. Practical Exercises)
- CV and Interview preparation
- Employer Forum (Q&A)

This webinar is open to students in years 11-13 who may be interested in a career in accountancy or finance. Follow this link to read about why the Accountancy Academy is an opportunity that students will not want to miss: Why should you attend the Accountancy Academy? - First Intuition

To sign up click <u>here</u>

Martin Taylor, and Ben Bullman, will be hosting a FREE Introduction to Careers in Accountancy for All Ages webinar on 8<sup>th</sup> February

This webinar is aimed at school students of any age and will start at 17:00 and finish at 17.45

I will offer an opportunity for students to ask any questions they have on careers in the accountancy and finance sector and how they can start their journey. Register <a href="here">here</a>.



Join Essex Opportunities for their new weekly live shows! Each week will focus on a different topic relating to employment and training opportunities in Essex. They will be joined local employers, training providers, and employment advisors, who will be available to answer your questions typed in the live chat.

Find out about local employment opportunities in Essex with Essex Opportunities new live show

Every Wednesday at 6pm the team will host a show focusing on employment and training in Essex!

Registration linkshttps://jobsliveuk.com/essexopportunities-live/



Do you know someone who may be interested in an Apprenticeship with Ford? Particularly, if they would like to join in September 2022.

Ford Motor Company have opportunities this year in Engineering and IT.

Register for the online Information Events during National Apprenticeship Week 2022 (7<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> Feb), to learn more. Please book early to avoid disappointment.



**Higher Engineering Degree** 



Advanced Engineering



<u>Information Technology Degree</u>



Founded in 2010 by ITV's Political Editor, Robert Peston, Speakers for School's aim is to end educational inequality by giving all young people access to the same prestigious networks available to the top fee-paying schools in the UK. Talks from today's influential figures via the Inspiration programme and the work experience programme link state school students to industry-leading companies and networked support partners. Speakers for Schools is helping to level the playing field for young people of all backgrounds. The services for schools and students are entirely free of charge!

For more information visit their website: speakersforschools.org

### **SPEAKERS FOR SCHOOLS: UPCOMING TALKS**

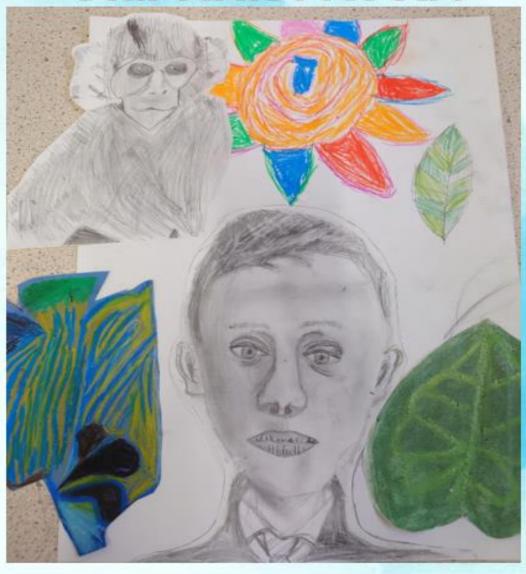
DATE	SPEAKER	INFO
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> February 10-10:45am	Alessandra Bellini, Chief Customer Officer, Tesco & President, Advertising Association	Ever wonder what a Chief Customer Officer does day to day? How do you maintain a brand's image, globally? How do you take on the challenge of working in a large organisation? Don't miss this opportunity to hear from Tesco's Chief Customer Officer.
	For KS4-5/S4-6	Click <u>here</u> to register
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Mathew Dunn, CFO, ASOS	More details to be announced
2-2:45pm	For KS4-5/S4-6	Click <u>here</u> to register
Thursday 24th February 2-3pm	In collaboration with Penguin Talks: Lewis Gordon, Philosopher and Author	More details to be announced
	For KS4-5/S4-6	Click <u>here</u> to register
Wednesday 2nd March 2-2:45pm	Jasmine Whitbread, Chair, Travis Perkins	More details to be announced
	For KS4-5/S4-6	Click <u>here</u> to register



It has been a brilliant week in Art.

Well done for all the great work throughout the Year groups, you are making fantastic progress!

### **Star Artist for Art**



Daniel Slater Yr 8





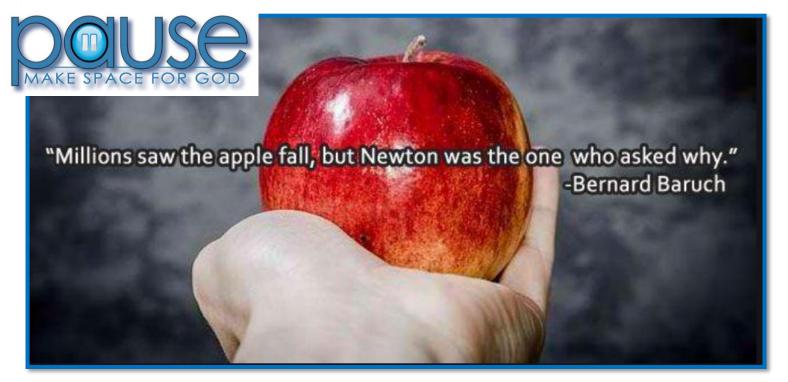




Page **18** of **23** 



Page **19** of **23** 



## Curiosity and questions of faith

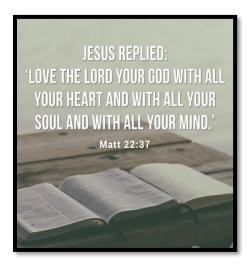
The gift of our curiosity is its power to open us up to new and greater possibilities in every moment. Curiosity is essentially the state of being in constant, unhindered question, inquiry and wonder.

Discussions around the psychological benefits of curiosity indicate that not only is it key to creating lasting happiness, it also has the power to change your life and the world around you. Even Albert Einstein, one of the greatest minds of our time, credited his curiosity above his talent or intellect. Newton is also remembered for his curiosity. Bernard Baruch said; 'Millions saw the apple fall, but Sir Isaac Newton was the one who asked why'.

Spiritual health is in many ways enhanced by this curiosity. The big questions of faith we ask in our lives include, 'Why do I exist?' and 'What is the purpose of my life?' There are perhaps no bigger questions than these. It is essential that we are curious and give time to exploring these questions. They shape the way we live our lives.

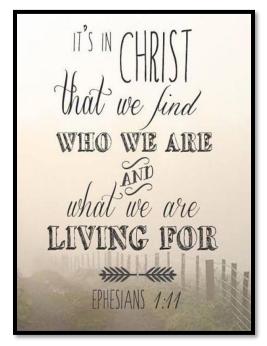
To answer these questions, we need to understand God. The Bible says, 'God is love.' It does not say He has love; it says He is love. It is part of His nature, His character and is the essence of His being. God is love. Love is not of great value unless it is bestowed upon something and the Bible says, 'God made you to love you'. You were created as an object of God's love. If you want to know why you are taking a breath right now, why your heart is beating, it is because God made you to love you. It is the sole reason. You were made to be Page 20 of 23

loved by God and to bring Him pleasure.



In Matthew 22:37, Jesus' gives his first and greatest commandment; 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind'. This leads to the first purpose in our lives, to learn to love Him back. We need to love Him more dearly and know Him a little better day by day. This is fundamental to understanding our purpose in life. Until we understand that we were made

by God and we were made for God, life will not make sense. God has an incredible plan for each and every one of us.



The only way to know the purpose of our lives (God's plan for us) is to talk to the creator who made us or read His Word. Take time to meet with Him in prayer and let the Bible speak to you. Answers sometimes do not come immediately, but He alone is the source of the answers. Persist in prayer. Take time to discover your purpose, for with this comes a lifestyle based on eternal purpose, not cultural values. In the words of Ephesians 1:11 (The Message):

'It is in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for.

Long before we first heard of Christ...he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.'

At Becket Keys, we make room in our curriculum, worship and pastoral care to encourage curiosity, embrace deeper questions and foster enquiring minds. Wherever students and staff are on their faith journey, they are nurtured, encouraged and respectfully challenged in their search for meaning and understanding.

### Let us pray:

Dear God, great giver of life, continue to help us discover our purpose in you. Reveal yourself to us in prayer and through your Word. Thank you that you care about every detail of our lives. Help us know you more and depend on you for guidance in all aspect of our lives. Help us follow you and trust you. In your name we pray. Amen.

Mrs Sharp Deputy Headteacher



### **Lunchtime Eucharist**



Lunchtime Eucharists have now resumed and are held in the John Wraw Chapel.

### Year 8, 9 and 12

12.10pm on Tuesdays with Father Hamilton

### Year 7, 10, 11 and 13

1.00pm on Fridays with Father North

Students are able to get a lunchtime pass from their Tutor so they can get early access to the front of the queue for the Bistro or Orangery for their lunch prior to the service.







### **OLD BRENTWOOD RFC 'ACORNS'**

### ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PLAYING CLUB RUGBY ON SUNDAYS?

THE U12 (Year 7), U13(Year 8) and U14 (Year 9) boys' teams are actively recruiting players! You are even welcome do a free trial for a few weeks. It does not matter if you have not played previously as the RFU Qualified Coaches will teach you all you need to know.





INFORMATION AND CONTACT DETAILS FOR YOUR PARENTS:

Training: Sunday & Tuesdays

Matches: League & Cup Matches on Sundays

Contacts:

U12 John Green — 07831 49444 U13: Paul Walker — 07772 865955 U14: Jason Ives — 07977 045264

Clothing: Wear warm sports clothing & football boots. IMPORTANT: A Gumshield is essential!!

Address: Old Brentwoods Club, Ashwells Road,

Brentwood CM15 9SE

### **Upcoming Sports Fixtures**

### Monday 7th February

Year 8 Girls' Football v Chelmsford County High (A) Year 9 Girls' Netball v Chelmsford County High (H)

### Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February

Year 7 & 8 Girls' Football v Sandon (H)

### Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February

Year 11 Girls' Netball
v St John Payne (A)
Year 7 Boys' Football v Chelmer Valley
High School (H)
Year 11 Boys' Basketball v
Shoeburyness (H)

### Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> February

Year 9 & U16 Girls' Football v Sandon (H)



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### YEAR 9 OPTIONS EVENING

TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2022

6.ooPM

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### **LENT HOLIDAY**

MONDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY –
FRIDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2022

\*

### **INSET DAY**

(NO STUDENTS AT SCHOOL)

MONDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2022

\*

YEAR 11 & YEAR 13 MOCKS

TUESDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY –

FRIDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2022

\*

**SIXTH FORMER FOR A DAY** 

WEDNESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH 2022

\*

**LAST DAY OF TERM** 

FRIDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2022

STUDENT HALF DAY

# Becket Keys Church of England School

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### **Twitter:**

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- @BecketKeys6th
- @BecketKeysMusic
- @BecketKeysPE
- @BecketKeysArt
- @BecketKeysSci

Facebook: Becket Keys Church School