



# ADVENT

Mr Scott–Evans writes:

For Advent we will be finding a variety of ways to bring the spirit of Christmas to our school.

## EUCCHARISTS

Firstly, on Friday 5th & Friday 12th December we will be holding optional lunchtime Eucharists for staff and students with local clergy coming to lead these short services. Parents are welcome to come and join us for a quiet time of reflection each Friday at 12:45pm.

In addition, on Thursday 18th December there will be a Eucharist at St Thomas of Canterbury Church in Brentwood. This will give the whole school community a chance to gather in our parish church with guests and parents attending as well.

## CAROL CONCERT

For those who can only make evening events, you may wish to get tickets for our wonderful Christmas Carol Concert. Accompanying our singing will be the Becket Keys orchestra and choir and the fabulous Tilbury Brass Band.

This has been a highlight of the past two years at Becket Keys Church of England School and I strongly recommend you try to come along on Monday 15th December.

Tickets can be purchased via the parent on-line payment portal.



# FESTIVE PERIOD

## AND THE TRIMMINGS!

Other Christmas events to look forward to this Advent include:

Becket Bistro Christmas Lunch (Thursday 11th December – Tickets available from the Bistro) Our chefs will be joined by additional chefs from the Accent Team to ensure a superb Christmas Lunch is enjoyed by all!

Student Christmas Disco (Thursday 18th December – only 300 tickets available) Friends of Becket Keys will once again organise our Christmas Disco. Tickets were on sale on Thursday and will be on sale again before school this coming Thursday between 8:00–8:45am.

In school this week we have been looking at the next part of the Christmas story from the Gospel of St Matthew. By examining how St Joseph accepts Jesus as his son, we have considered the things in our own lives which are hard to accept and can even make us fearful.

May you and your family enjoy a blessed Advent this year. We hope to see you at some of our special events over this festive period.

Best wishes  
Andy Scott–Evans  
Head Teacher

# OTHER NEWS

## **MANGA HIGH UK LEADERS**

After our mathematics day last Friday, we were pleased to receive a visit from Teresa Robinson (RET Senior Mathematics Advisor) this week. Teresa came for two days to work with students, observe teachers and offer expert advice to our mathematics team.

Teresa returns for another two days next week to undertake collaborative planning work with our entire mathematics team.

Meanwhile, our students have been working away on MangaHigh to try to get our school into the Number 1 position. At the time of writing we were in the top position and more than 1500 points ahead of the next school. Thousands of schools take part in the competition and over 3,000,000 questions are answered on MangaHigh everyday! The top ten schools are dominated by grammar schools and independent schools so it is a really prestigious position to be in.

## **FRIENDS OF BECKET KEYS AUTUMN BALL**

Our inaugural Friends of Becket Keys Autumn Ball was a great success at Stock Brook Manor last Saturday. Parents, teachers and guests all enjoyed the four course meal, entertainment and silent auction. This fabulous event raised nearly £2000 with generous bids in the auction and plenty of raffle tickets sold. Our sincere thanks to everyone who came and particularly Christine Williams and Alison Butler for all their organising and hard work.

We have booked Stock Brook Manor again for next year on **Saturday 28th November**. Please make a note of the date – we are sure that tickets will sell very quickly next year.

## **PARENT WORKSHOP**

We are holding a Parent Workshop on **8th December**. There will be three topics being discussed:

Character Education – Miss Nikki Gill (Assistant Head of Year 9)

*Insights into how the school supports you (and vice versa) in developing character in our students.*

The Teenage Brain – Mr Tom Wray (Assistant Head of Year 8)

*Drawing on Mr Wray's role in school and his previous work at Liverpool Football Club training the likes of Raheem Sterling, he will look at the wonders and dangers of the teenage brain!*

Cyber Safety – Ms Ellen Endicott (Deputy Head Teacher)

*Sharing recent materials used with Year 9 and latest guidance on this essential topic. This session will look at use of mobile phones and apps like Snapchat and Instagram.*

We know it is a busy time of year, but we are sure that these workshops will be extremely useful. You can book your place on line using our Parent Evening On-Line Booking System:

<https://becketkeys.parenteveningsystem.co.uk>

We always receive excellent feedback from these evenings with parents asking for more opportunities like this. Please do make every effort to come. You will not be disappointed!

The teachers will give a short presentation and then there will be time for discussion and questions.

# SEVERE WEATHER

During the winter months severe weather conditions may make it impossible for students and staff to come to school. These conditions are rare and are unlikely to occur every year and our aim is always to keep the school open, however, our priority must be the safety of our students and staff.

When such weather conditions occur we would like parents to be aware of the following routine:

- The school will post details of a school closure on our website and on our Twitter Feed to alert them to the fact that the school will be closed.
- In such circumstances, the decision to remain open or closed will also be emailed to parents using our database of priority contact details. (Please make sure that these are kept up to date)
- Parents may be told their children should not to attend at all or that the school will close early.
- Drivers should not attempt to make the journey to school, if their road conditions are dangerous.
- Please avoid telephoning the school directly so that lines can be kept free for important outgoing calls.
  
- If bad weather continues, every effort will be made to keep the school running to a normal working routine
- Parents may collect children early from school, but should inform the school, if they are planning to do this.
- Students may be allowed to use their mobile telephones to contact their parents to keep them informed. School telephones will also be made available for all students on request.
- Notices will be placed around the school and every effort will be made to contact parents about special arrangements such as the cancelling of after school clubs etc.
- In the most extreme conditions, parents can be assured that their children will remain in warm, safe and dry conditions until the situation improves.

# SPORTS NEWS

## BASKETBALL

BCHS 16 v Becket Keys 28

The Year 7 boys' basketball team enjoyed highly competitive game against Brentwood County High School. Many new players made excellent debuts and the team were thrilled to finish with a victory.

Becket Keys found themselves 2 points down after the first quarter and again at half-time. There were stages of the first two quarters where Becket Keys were able to put defensive plans into place effectively, but not the offensive ones, and then vice-versa.

In the third quarter, all of the plans started to come together at both ends of the court and Becket Keys scored 10 unanswered points by the end of the quarter.

Our team were then able to rotate players to keep fresh and see the game out and finish with a win. The boys are working hard in training to keep their good run going.



## DID YOU KNOW?

If your household income is less than £16,190 you can claim free school meals for your son/daughter.

Please contact Mrs Chapman ([n.chapman@becketkeys.org](mailto:n.chapman@becketkeys.org)) in confidence, if you would like assistance in claiming this support.

## SAVE MONEY IN THE BISTRO!

Each day our 'meal deal' offers the best value and most balanced healthy meal choice for your son/daughter. For £2.40 they get a main course and dessert.

You can see what choices your son/daughter is making through the on-line payment system.

Some families choose to set a daily spend limit. Please contact Mrs Chapman ([n.chapman@becketkeys.org](mailto:n.chapman@becketkeys.org)), if you would like to do so.

## NO VACANCIES

There are no specific vacancies at present, however, if you wish to contact us with your CV please send it to:

[vacancies@becketkeys.org](mailto:vacancies@becketkeys.org)

## Dates for your Diary

5th/12th Dec	12:40pm Advent Eucharist Main Hall – All Welcome
15th Dec	7pm Brass Band Christmas Carol Concert
11th Dec	Christmas Lunch
18th Dec	2pm Christmas Eucharist at St Thomas of Canterbury Church – All Welcome
18th Dec	FoBK Student Christmas Disco
19th Dec	Last day of term

You can keep up to date with a daily tweet from Becket Keys by following us on Twitter: @BecketKeys.



### CONTACT DETAILS

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