



NEW STAFF WELCOMED TO BECKET KEYS

Mr Scott-Evans writes:

The New Year has brought five new teachers to Becket Keys Church of England School in English, mathematics, art and music.

Sam Adams and Tim Kwan have joined as senior teachers in our Music Department. Mr Adams will be known to many as the Director of Music from St Thomas' Church. His previous post was teaching music at St Edwards. Sam is an accomplished musician and can play many instruments. He is particularly well known as a pianist, organist and singer. He is joined by Mr Kwan who has come from Hall Mead. Mr Kwan also plays many instruments including organ, piano and violin; he has recently taught himself the Ukulele so that he can teach the club here! Between them they play over 20 different instruments!

Our new head of mathematics is Michael Hinds. Mr Hinds was head of mathematics at Woodford School in London and is excited about the challenge of ensuring our first GCSE cohorts excel in this important subject. Michael is a keen musician as well playing drums and bass guitar.



Mr Kwan, Mr Adams, Miss Oliver

Mrs Kilpin has joined our art team on a short term basis to help cover Miss Cooper's maternity leave. Having been a head of department for many years, Mrs Kilpin (now retired) has a great deal of experience that our Year 7s will benefit from, as she takes on all of Mrs Kennard's classes.

In English our new teacher is Charlotte Oliver. Miss Oliver has taught both primary and secondary students; her previous schools include Almond Hill Junior and Putteridge Secondary. Miss Oliver is another musician with a passion for woodwind orchestras; she plays the clarinet.

In addition to musical expertise, our new staff bring a lot of sporting prowess. Mr Kwan and Miss Oliver are both good runners with Mr Kwan running for Suffolk in National finals and both successfully completing marathons in the past. Mr Adams is a keen cyclist and is looking forward to riding to school. Mr Kwan is also a chess champion.

All our new teachers have been welcomed by students this week and we are all excited about what the New Year will bring to each of us.

Happy New Year!

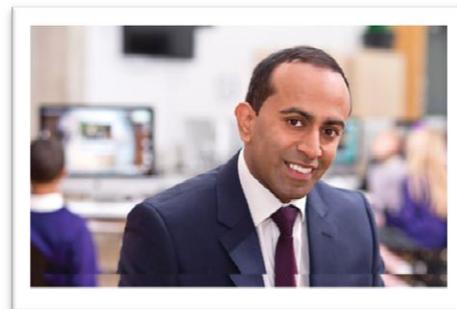
Al Scott-Evans

OTHER NEWS

ICT ENTREPRENEUR NICK MADHAVJI VISITS BECKET KEYS

Year 9 students were introduced to Mr Madhavji in their assembly today and after listening to a short talk were able to ask him questions about his career. Mr Madhavji is the managing director and founder of Joskos Solutions the award winning ICT company. His inspiring story gave some clear messages for all budding entrepreneurs and he shared what he regarded as the 'formula for success'.

Mr Madhavji also gave insights into what has made his education focused company so successful and why he likes working in the sector so much. As a STEM (Science Technology Engineering & Mathematics) Ambassador he was a great role model to our students who are interested in this area and know this is a fantastic area to work in.



We are always 'on the lookout' for speakers to come and speak to students about their career. If you would be willing or you know someone else who might be, please contact us: office@becketkeys.org.

SPANISH HOMEWORK

In Spanish, tasks have been set for all students to complete as homework, using 'www.vocabexpress.com'.

Each student has the details they need to access their own account. The expectation is that at least half an hour a week is spent completing the tasks, which all link to the work that is being done in lessons and the subsequent assessments. The homework is finished once either all tasks have been completed or the time spent on the activities is sufficient. Teachers are able to monitor this on-line. It is possible to view how each student is progressing, how much time they are spending, how many attempts they need and so on. It is a great way to learn vocabulary. If all tasks have been completed and students have time to spare, they can pick any of the units they feel are useful to practise.



OTHER NEWS

DEBATING COMPETITION

Mrs Ahlner reports:

Becket Keys was represented by two teams at the annual Rotary Club 'Youth Speaks' debating competition at Brentwood Council Chambers on Thursday evening.

Team Red, with Archie Mowatt as Chair, Peter Angeli as main speaker and Georgina Podd proposing the vote of thanks, gave an excellent performance based around whether a person's character is determined by nature or nurture.



Team Blue, composed of Ella Crowley as Chair, James Parker as main speaker and Jamie Wilson proposing the vote of thanks, gave an equally inspired performance talking about whether 'nothing' can actually exist.

The school was singled out and complimented for the variety and content of its speeches, whilst Peter received a special mention for how engaging his delivery was. Although the two teams did not win the competition, they have '*proved themselves a force to be reckoned with*' in the words of a parent! The standard of their speeches was amazingly high, despite the fact that they had never even seen a regional debating competition before, never mind participating in one.

Deputy Head Ms Endicott was a spectator and said '*The standard of public speaking was absolutely stunning! Mrs Ahlner has been working incredibly hard with these students and they performed with total confidence, eloquence and charm. Their speeches were truly thought provoking and fascinating*'.

Congratulations to all the members of the team who took part, with a special mention to Alice Keely who acted as a reserve speaker for all six speeches and helped with the coaching of their delivery.

If anyone would like to find out more about the debating club, we meet every Wednesday after school. On the agenda for this term are some circle discussions about various issues and possibly the development of a general election campaign as the country prepares for this in May.



NOTICES

PLEASE TOP UP SCOPAY

Parents are reminded to top up their child's SCOPAY accounts on a regular basis. We do not have an overdraft facility and students can only be provided with a basic lunch if they come without money in their account and the cost of this will need to be reimbursed.

LONGER BREAK SHORTER LUNCH

After feedback from students, parents and staff that break was a little short and lunch a little long, we have adapted the timetable so that lunch is now 50 minutes and break is 30 minutes.

CONTACT DETAILS



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VACANCIES

WE ARE NOW RECRUITING

Teachers:

English, Mathematics, Science, RE, Art, PE & Geography

Support Staff:

Medical Assistant – part time
Cover Supervisor/Learning Mentor – full time

Please check our website for more details.

Dates for your Diary

10th Jan Y9 Woman in Black Theatre Trip

15th Jan FoBK Meeting

19th Jan Parent Workshop (Social Media Safety)

25th Jan Education Sunday

29th Jan Y8 Parents' Evening

31st Jan Beautiful Forevers Theatre Trip

25th Feb Parents' Bistro Taster Day!

26th Feb Year 9 Vaccinations

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