



ADVENTURES AHEAD.....

Mr Scott-Evans writes:

It was an exciting evening on Tuesday as we hosted three meetings back to back to discuss our forthcoming residential trips. I am extremely proud of our teachers for their on-going commitment to these important events. I ran my first school residential trip in the first year of my teaching career. I look back now in amazement that my head teacher let me loose with such an undertaking! However, he knew what I know now: that the rewards are so great that the hard work is well worth it.

As society becomes more and more litigious and increasingly risk averse it is a real shame to see so many schools avoiding residential trips. With young people spending more and more time inside playing on computer games and watching YouTube, the need to take them out and to experience risk and adventure has probably never been higher.

Young people think that they are streetwise, but in fact they are often far from it. Many wonderful learning experiences take place in the classroom every day and of course you can learn a lot on-line, but there is really no substitute for the sort of learning you can do on a residential trip.

Students may feel they know their classmates and teachers already, but we always find that living together in a community brings a completely new dimension. It also allows opportunities for interdependence, leadership, teamwork and trust.

In my experience, time and time again, students surprise us on school trips. Those who sometimes struggle to shine in the classroom come to the fore when out of it. This then feeds back into the school when we return. New leaders are discovered and self-esteem is raised.

Meanwhile, students who perhaps normally excel have to find a new skillset outside of what normally works for them in the school setting.

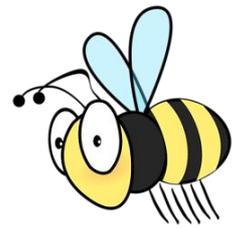
Of course, school trips also make a major contribution to the acquisition of skills, knowledge and understanding. Languages, sport, outdoor pursuits and adventurous activities are all key parts of our school trip provision and we know that the foundations of lifelong interests can be laid as well as address the health and obesity agendas.

Thank you to you as parents for generously supporting your son/daughter in attending one or other of the trips. By now you should have received all the final information you need. Please contact your son/daughter's form tutor if you need to ask a question.

Andy Scott-Evans
Headteacher

Help needed!

Bee Supportive - Bee on 'The Patch'



Are you willing to create a **buzz** at Becket Keys? Eco Club would like to invite you to join them on the vegetable patch on **Saturday 9th May** from **9.30am to midday**. We need your help to dig 6 further vegetable beds, a flower meadow strip and 4 areas for fruit trees.

Since winning the Secondary School Brentwood in Bloom category last July, the vegetable patch has been a key feature for green fingered members of Eco Club! The judges were very impressed by our students' horticultural knowledge and commitment to the project. This continued commitment and enthusiasm is shown through their ambitious plans to double the size of the allotment this year and incorporate fruit trees.



On the patch we are using organic farming methods and paying attention to the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle). For example, the supported mesh to protect young seedlings was made from some of the safety netting surrounding our school buildings during the replacement of windows! Last week, we made a herb spiral from old bricks. Next to our composter, a turf mound has started to take shape for squash. There are plans for a Coleoptera hotel and students are also looking forward to creating a Becket Keys scarecrow to protect our crops. Chef is already planning recipes in the Bistro to include our produce. The zucchini and chocolate cakes were very popular last year!

The theme for Brentwood in **Bee-loom** this year, as you might have already guessed, is **bee friendly** gardening. There is plenty of coverage in the media to heighten awareness of the need to protect bees. Our concern for the environment, biodiversity and developing the sustainability of the school, fits well with this theme. We are carefully incorporating plants perfect for pollinators into our designs. Brentwood in Bloom brightens up our borough and encourages everyone to work together. It is all about building community. Please do come along on the **9th May**. Bring a gardening spade and fork. Invite your family, friends and neighbours to help us too. We are finding the digging hard work and students are eager to get planting. If you have spare manure, vegetable and wild flower plants or seeds, these would also be welcomed.

Tea/coffee and homemade cake will be served mid morning in the beautiful sunshine (hopefully) to maintain energy levels. To ensure we have sufficient refreshments, please let us know the number of people in your group by **registering on the Parents' Evening System**. The event has been set up as 'Bee on the patch'. There is a link on the home page of our website. If you are unable to commit for the whole morning, please drop in for even half an hour. We are very grateful for any time that you can spare. We are also **looking for new student members of the club**. Even if you cannot come on a Wednesday after school, you can still join the watering rota and help at lunchtimes. We look forward to welcoming you soon. *Mrs Sharp (on behalf of Mrs Pead and the Eco Club)*



MORE NEWS

Charity Committee update

To date total raised for our nominated school charities, (Great Ormond Street Hospital and World Vision) is over £2400! Coming up next on the committee's agenda is 'Charities Week' during the week commencing Monday 29th June. Each house will be responsible for running an activity in one of the lunchtimes to raise money for our school charities and we will be looking for a form charity representative to liaise with the Charity Committee shortly.

Becket Keys' Got Talent Auditions

Auditions are now over. Thank you to all those who auditioned for BKG.T. Unfortunately due to the vast amount of applicants and talent we had, the competition for places was quite high and not everyone made the cut. But if you didn't make it this time round, please don't give up. As we have learned through many assemblies this year, with hard work, determination, perseverance and passion you will be much improved for next year's show. Congratulations to the Becket Keys Got Talent Finalists:

Up Beat (Denzel O, Will U, Sam O), Katherine Ellery, Cool Cheer (BK Cheerleading Club), Enigma (Yasmin Reader), Louise White & Caitlin Ruth, Jazz Tunes (Euan Inverarity), Cloud 9 (Rhiannon B, Evie S, Emily Daws, Amy Ince), Connor Strachan, Bob Mahoney, Dancemania (Josh McLean), Chloe Bunce, Sophie-Morgan, Melissa Moore, Nicole Lastauskas, Claire Ransley, Catherine Barker & Daisy Benson.

In addition to this, a list will be distributed for the BKG.T Team for those students who applied to help with the development and running of the show. Rehearsals will commence the week beginning 13th May. Mr London says: "*The auditions were great. It takes a lot of courage for students to perform and showcase their talent and I think there are going to be some tough decisions to make on the night. The talent we have is phenomenal*".

Music matters

This week in the newsletter we put the spotlight on Ukulele Club. Ukulele club takes place in R01 every Tuesday lunchtime. Ukulele enthusiasts are given access to chord sheets and are encouraged to develop their own music or work out accompaniments to songs. Some like to work in groups, and others prefer going solo! Here we see a group of Year 8 students who have formed their own ukulele ensemble. It's a lot of fun! Bring your own instrument or use one of ours. We hope to see you there!



Recent exam success

Congratulations to the following students who have recently passed ABRSM and Rock School examinations:

- Rachel Bull Grade 2 Piano (Merit)
- Nifemi Makinwa Grade 2 Flute

If you know anyone who has recently passed a music exam, please let Mr Adams or Mr Kwan know via peripatetic@becketkeys.org

Future concert date!
Tuesday 23rd June
'Summer Concert'
at St Peter's Church.

Please reserve this date in your diaries!

SPORTS NEWS

ParkRun Update

Brentwood 'parkRun' is nearly 6 months old and is growing in popularity with now over 100 runners most Saturdays. We now have several students from Becket Keys who run regularly and some on an infrequent basis. It is a 5km run at South Weald park every Saturday morning at 9am. This event is for anyone who wishes to run, top athletes who want to practice in preparation for competitions, people who want to develop their levels of fitness, or simply people who wish to start the day with a bit of exercise.

Elliot Burke now has 6 park runs under his belt, of which 3 have been PBs showing great improvement in his levels of cardiovascular fitness. More recently Astrid and Olivia Mullan have taken to park run. They have now taken part in this event twice and thoroughly enjoy it.

Oliver Bradbury has now run 10 park runs, 4 of which are PBs! Well done. For this, the organisation will award him with a t-shirt to acknowledge this achievement. Oliver is now 6 minutes quicker than when he first started.

James Jackson and Freddie Summers have run a couple of times and last week they both shaved 3 minutes off their original times. Jack Buckland and Ben Cooper have both completed 11 races and both have 11th place as their best placed finish. Roisin Clarke has completed 9 'parkRuns' and will receive a t-shirt next time and Guy Rodwell set a PB in his last race.

Other students have taken part in this popular and rapidly growing event. It's also great to see parents joining in too.

If you are interested in having a go then go to www.parkrun.org.uk and register. It is free.

Girls' Basketball Year 7

Congratulations to the Year 7 girls' Basketball team who came joint first with Boswells in the MESSSA league! The girls gained 28 points, by winning all their games except one which is a fantastic achievement especially as the league is full of some strong performing teams! The squad consists of Elizabeth Endicott, Anna Jackson, Maria-Eden Smith-Gonzalez, Isabella Connelly, Molly Whymark, Grace Middleditch, Rebecca Sharp and Lola Webb.



Mr London said:
"Congratulations for finishing joint 1st in the league, level on points with Boswells (who we actually beat). It has been a fantastic year for Mr London's Dream Team as they also won the district championships earlier in the year. Well done girls!"

Year 8

The Year 8 girls came 5th out of 6 teams in their MESSSA league with a total of 17 points. Despite not finishing higher in the league, the squad has made some good progress this year and should commit to training regularly next year to see if they

can beat this year's performance. In the squad are: Rebecca Daley, Lauren Pamerter, Divine Okwuosa, Scarlett Mellor, Olivia Horne, Sydney Macaulay, Cleo Cooke and Katie McCarthy.



Year 9

The Year 9 team had a very strong league to play in this year and came 4th out of 5 teams in their league. Despite enthusiasm and potential, it was difficult to dominate against the opposition. The girls who represented the school include Bethany Hancox, Cara Tait, Tilly Richardson, Daisy Mattock, Grace Duffy, Charlotte Todd, Hannah McCarthy, Uchechi Nze, Lily Wright, Elisabeth Hayes and Farran Deal.

NOTICES

NUT FREE SCHOOL

A reminder that this is a nut free school. We have a few students with very severe allergies to nuts and as such even coming into contact with someone who has eaten a product with nuts in can cause them a severe reaction. Therefore, please do not allow your child to bring nuts to school as a snack or as part of a cake or snack bar, or in the form of peanut butter. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

LOST PROPERTY

There are 12 coats in lost property. If your son/daughter has lost a coat, please ask them to check at Reception.

LOCKERS

Lockers are now just £2 for the rest of the year instead of £10 (whole year price). To purchase a locker, students should complete an application form available from Reception.

PE BAGS

Please do NOT to leave PE bags in the changing rooms overnight as other people use our facilities.

ABSENCE IN 'EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES'

Parents wishing to apply for consideration for their son/daughter to be granted absence in **exceptional circumstances** need to give the school at least one month to deal with the request. Requests that come with less time than this are more likely to be unauthorised. All leave of absence requests (not medical) must have a Leave of Absence form completed in advance. Forms are available from the school office.

CONTACT DETAILS



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VACANCIES

WE ARE NOW RECRUITING!

Check our website for details:

www.becketkeys.org/vacancies.php

Dates for your Diary

4th May	Early May Bank Holiday
Trips:	
21st May -24th May	Year 8 Madid
22nd May- 24th May	Year 7 Bushcraft
22d May - 24th May	Year 9 Bude
22nd May	Harlow
25th May – 29th May	Whitsun Holiday
3rd June	Whole school photograph
12th June	Non-Student day
15th June	Non-Student day
30th June	BKGT 7-9pm

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