



MEMORIES FOR LIFE

Mr Scott-Evans writes:

I am so proud to read the reports of our school trips again this year. All the year groups seem to have enjoyed incredible times. The conduct and character of our students has been complimented widely; they have been a real credit to us, to their parents and to themselves.

Our Twitter feed was running 'red hot' for the days when we were away as each trip worked hard to send messages and keep parents up to date. If you have not already done so – do take a look at the feed:
www.twitter.com/becketkeys

Our third Bushcraft Trip was a real triumph with all 124 students rising to the challenge of the woods. Sleeping under canvas or in their shelters, building fires and cooking their own meals, students pushed themselves in new ways. Fresh water swimming was once again a highlight! The students all camped in close proximity and there was a wonderful sense of community and togetherness over the weekend. Read more about the trip on page 3.

My trip to Madrid with Year 8 was a real treat. It was a wonderful experience for everybody involved.

Amongst other things, we had tapas, saw flamenco dancing, visited the Bernabeu, enjoyed dipping churros in hot chocolate and met our Spanish friends in the Retiro park. The students practised their Spanish and had many cultural experiences in great weather.

Year 9s headed to Bude in Cornwall for various watersports and caving. There were a number of students who thought it was rather a long way to go for a weekend, but all came back saying that it was well worth it. The instructors and the centre are of the highest quality; a really fantastic experience was had by all. Read a student's report about the trip on page 3!

Students who for whatever reason could not attend one of the residential trips had the chance to go to the excellent outdoor pursuits centre in Harlow for a day. Encouraged by the fine weather, students enjoyed all the activities. Each group got a choice of 3 different activities during the day. There was mountain biking, dirt boarding, canoeing and rock climbing.

Mr Hinds who led the trip said: "It was great to see students working together in teams and really pushing themselves to have a go at activities that they found challenging at first.

Most pupils managed to get to the very top of the climbing wall. Not easy! At 14 metres high, it is one of the highest in the South East."

Some students stayed at school for the two days and were treated to a 'mufti day' on Friday. There were special treats in the Bistro and enrichment activities in sport, art, music and problem solving. Again the conduct and character of the students was a joy to behold and it was a wonderful opportunity for new friendships to be made and new things to be tried.

Next year, we will be introducing a couple of new opportunities and looking to further improve and develop the trips and experiences from this year. My thanks to all the parents and students who have taken the time to write and send gifts of thanks to the staff. It is a huge responsibility, but ultimately a great privilege and joy to take our students away on these trips. We were delighted to be able to do so and we are certain that the memories and experiences will stay with the students for their rest of their lives.

Andy Scott-Evans
Headteacher

OTHER NEWS

SPAGHETTI BUILDING!

As part of the programme for students who stayed at school on Friday 22nd May, Miss Oliver and Mrs Keel challenged students to build a tower using spaghetti and marshmallows. The criteria given were that the tower had to be taller than 20cm, hold the weight of an egg for 30 seconds and be as 'cheap' as possible. Each piece of spaghetti 'cost' £5 and each marshmallow £10 - we kept a running total of the amount each group 'spent'. Students threw themselves energetically into designing, building and bartering for materials, creating some fantastic structures. Congratulations to Hannah Anderson, Hannah Bennett, Celeste Brien, Phoebe Partis, Holly Rowland and Eti Watson who created the strongest towers!



EXCITING SUMMER SCHOOL OPPORTUNITY

Students who want to get a taster of university life and studying ought to have a look at The Debate Chamber <http://www.debatechamber.com/summerschools/>. This organisation works with many outstanding Universities during the summer to provide opportunities for students between 11 and 14 to try out elements of a first year university course.

Although the courses are expensive at over £300 - there are Bursaries available. One Year 9 student has already successfully gained a place on the course with an 80% Bursary! There are even 100% Bursaries available! We support families with references once you have applied online. There are summer schools for Young Lawyers, Young Doctors, Young Writers and Young Thinkers. The details of the Young Lawyers Course are here and give you a flavour:

Over the course of the four-day Young Lawyers Summer School students aged 11-14 will have the opportunity to explore questions of what law is, how laws are made, and how courts and the justice system work, as well as getting a taste of a variety of different legal areas including criminal, family, contract and human rights law. On day 4, the Young Lawyers will take the role of barristers in a full Mock Crown Court Trial. Dressed in wig and gown students will build their case from the available evidence, question their witnesses and make speeches to the jury.

As well as being lots of fun, and giving students a first look at a possible career path, an important goal of the Young Lawyers course is to develop a core set of transferable skills. The Mock Trial and debating elements of the event, for example, will stimulate students' skills of analysis, teamwork, and public speaking (as well as giving a great confidence boost). This course will give students the opportunity to take their first steps towards a legal career in an extremely lively, challenging and enjoyable environment together with others who have an interest in law or who are keen to learn about it. The tutors are friendly, engaging and experienced at working with younger students, and will ensure that everyone feels confident and comfortable in participating.

MORE NEWS

YEAR 7 BUSHCRAFT TRIP 2015

Mrs Sharp writes:

We lived in the wild, slept under canvas and cooked over open fires! What could be better? Cornbury Park in the Cotswold town of Charlbury in Oxfordshire, with its ancient woodlands and beautiful lakes, formed an idyllic setting for our tented village and activity programme. The highly trained Bushcraft staff led sessions on fire starting, camp crafts, shelter building, wilderness First Aid, freshwater swimming, camouflage and concealment, cutting tools and trap making. In addition, a crashed plane in the woods enabled students to put their new first aid skills to the test and a demonstration of salmon panassing added to our culinary skills. Bushcraft challenges and fish eye eating added to the excitement! At night, the woodland was lit by lanterns and campfires. After night-time, stalking games and hot chocolate, all were ready for bed; well Becket Keys teachers and Bushcraft tribe leaders were anyway!

Student comments included 'I am stuffed! The food is fantastic', 'It is great to see people come out of their shells' and 'I might make a Bushcraft area in our garden at home and ditch the X-box!' More profoundly, after worship on Sunday morning; 'Look, see what God has created' and 'God will guide your soul'. For a couple of students there were emotional farewells with tribe leaders as they did not want to leave.

Our 'tribes' of Year 7s grew in confidence throughout their time at Bushcraft and were wonderful ambassadors for our school. They began to think practically as well as creatively about the natural world around them and forged new friendships. Their shared experiences have added to the feeling of community in school. A trip to remember!



YEAR 9 BUDE TRIP 2015

Ruby Wyndham of 9EW writes:

Whilst Year 7 went to Bushcraft and Year 8 went to Madrid, Year 9 had a trip to Bude. To break up our long journey, we visited Wells Cathedral. Our guides gave us a tour around the magnificent building. The architecture was incredible. Once at Bude, each morning it was early starts, if you were not fully awake straight away, you soon would be after a fresh water swim! When I look back on it, I am glad I did it, but at the time I found it a struggle! There were two activities I had personally never experienced before, one of which was surfing. This was so much fun and it was an opportunity that we were all extremely grateful for. The second has permanently stuck in everyone's minds: the teachers singing Wrecking Ball by Miley Cyrus. This was just shocking, in a funny way. The night was thoroughly enjoyed by all, but before we knew it, it was time to leave.

EVENTS NEWS

PATRONAL FESTIVAL PICNIC

Saturday 4th July 12:00 – 4:00pm



Inflatable (pay on the day), extra-curricular club demonstrations and other fun activities.

Time for Year 6 and existing students and their families to meet and chat.

Domino's Pizza stall and/or bring your own picnic and picnic blankets - relax and have fun!

Tickets can be exchanged for a speciality coffee or tea (adults) or an ice-cream (children)

Tickets: Adults - £3.00

Children under 13yrs - £2.00 (under 3yrs free)

Tickets available from Reception. Cheques made payable to 'The Friends of Becket Keys'. All profits will go to our school charities: WorldVision and Great Ormond Street Hospital

CHARITY UPDATE

A total of over £500 has now been raised by students and staff for the Nepalese earthquake appeal and the total amount raised for our two school charities – Great Ormond Street Hospital and World Vision is over £2500.

Charities' week starts **Monday June 29th**; each house will be preparing and running an event. More information next week about the activities that will be running, but start putting your pennies or pounds aside to take part. Help us to raise a further £1000 by the end of the school year to meet our target of £4000 from charity donations.

BECKET KEYS' GOT TALENT

Tuesday 30th June 7:00 – 9:00pm

Tickets for Becket Keys' Got Talent are now on sale.

Purchase tickets Monday & Wednesday breaktimes on the 1st floor of Carey Building.

Tickets: £3 per person

£10 for a family of 4 (any combination of adults & children).

When you purchase your tickets, you will be able to choose which row you would like to sit in. Any seat is a good seat but the sooner you buy your tickets the more choice you have of where you would like to sit. It will prove to be a wonderful evening and I am sure the students would really appreciate your support.

**BECKET KEYS GOT
T★LENT
2015**

SPORTS NEWS

Rounders v. St Martins

Year 7A

The girls recently had their first rounders match against St Martin's. This was a great opportunity to put the skills they had newly learnt to the test. There was some excellent batting from Rebecca Sharp and Isabella Connelly, who scored 4 rounders between them when they were the only pair left in at the end of the match! Olivia Mullan also made two excellent catches to reduce the squad of St Martin's. Decision making when fielding is an aspect that the girls need to work on, however, this did improve as the game went on. The final score was 12.5-8.5 to St Martins.

Year 9A

The Year 9s fielded first against St Martin's and kept the score in the first innings low. Charlotte Todd made some great catches to get some of the opposition out and some great throws from Hannah McCarthy and Eden Hatch, back to Charlotte and Farran Deal ensured that St Martin's only scored one rounder, and made the rest of their score up from half rounders.

However, when it was our turn to bat, St Martin's were quick to react and prevented us from getting to second post to score many of our good bats. Some hesitation from us played a part in this however, credit to their team for some very slick fielding!

In the second innings we were able to sharpen up our fielding skills and were able to stump out more of their players, while we placed our shots more tactically allowing us to score more. The final score was 15.5 – 6 to St Martin's.

Year 9B

The year 9B team played a friendly game against St Martin's. They were lacking a couple of players due to absence, but continued on anyway! St Martin's did dominate the game, however, it was a good opportunity to compete properly for students who have been attending training and enjoying rounders! The final score was 12.5 – 3 to St Martin's.

Rounders v. Brentwood School

Year 9

The Year 9s played their first match of the year against Brentwood School on Monday. Due to a school trip, the squad was depleted and so several Year 8s stepped up to play and fill in. Brentwood Scored 17.5 over the two innings, while Becket Keys scored 8. It was a good friendly game in which the girls were able to identify what they need to work on and to get back into playing

competitively before the rounders tournaments begin!

Cricket

Our students had a wonderful time at the Essex County Cricket Ground this week. As a recognised 'Inspirational Cricket School' we are regularly involved in these special opportunities. Our students really enjoyed the day and benefited from some insightful coaching.



NOTICES

KILTS

Special order sized kilts need to be ordered from Smarty Pants by **13th June** to guarantee in time for September.

LOCKERS

Lockers for the next academic year are now available to reserve for **£12** for the year, allocated on a first come-first served basis. Application forms can be picked up from Reception.



CONTACT DETAILS

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VACANCIES

WE WILL SOON BE RECRUITING AGAIN!

Keep an eye on our website for details:

www.becketkeys.org/vacancies.php

We are always looking to 'over staff' with teachers in any subject. Please send CVs to our school whether we have an advert placed or not.

Dates for your Diary

12 th June	Non-Student day
15 th June	Non-Student day
23 rd June	Summer Music Festival
30 th June	BKGT 7-9pm
4 th July	Patronal Festival Picnic
10 th July	Sports Day
14 th July	Governors' Speeches & Awards evening

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