



Becket Keys Church of England School

19th November 2021

CURRICULUM

IN THIS ISSUE

Mr Scott-Evans Writes:

Over the past two years, alongside the small matter of dealing with Covid, our teachers have been getting on with the important job of reviewing the Key Stage 3 curriculum. This has involved thinking through its intent and implementation. We offer a broad and rich curriculum, giving our students a balanced education right through to GCSE when they focus their attention on the English Bacallaureate (English, Mathematics, Science, Spanish/Mandarin and History/Geography), RP and one other subject .

In terms of what to teach in Year 7,8 and 9, in the main, we have decided to continue to teach the National Curriculum. We know that this provides our students with a well-curated education decided upon by experts.

However, there are still important questions around additional topics to be taught and the sequence in which things are learned: "Why this? Why now?"

Having made these decisions, we have worked hard to communicate to our students the curriculum journey that is planned for them. This is referred to regularly in class, in displays and via our website which also allows parents easy access to the entire programme.

The next phase of our review has been to consider the impact of our curriculum. Most importantly on an individual basis (through assessment), but also on a macro level looking at each subject and how it performs compared to others. To help us to do this we have been developing stage ladders. I have written to parents

.....Contd on Page 2



BECKET KEYS
Church of England School

Mandarin Department

The Mandarin students recently learned about a Chinese festival called Singles Day.

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English Department

A new reading challenge for Year 7 students from the English Department.

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Food Department

A delicious recipe of the week for you to try this weekend.

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Biblical Pause

Don't Worry I've Got This.

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Sports News

Reports from the recent matches and a list of fixtures.

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.....Contd from Page 1

about these today and produced a 4 minute [video](#) to accompany my letter. Again, there are details about these ladders and how we will use them to report to parents on our [website](#).

We are confident in our curriculum and our assessment approaches, and we are sure that the small changes we have made will ensure students really enjoy the engaging and enriching experience of Key Stage 3. It is the bedrock of our school curriculum providing the perfect launchpad into GCSE and giving the broad experiences required to enjoy the stretch of A Level.

Of course, there are challenges, not least the impact of the lockdowns, the impact of imposed contact tracing isolations, and the fact that staff and students continue to have their attendance affected by Covid if they contract it. However, we will continue to tackle these with our usual optimism and energy, and with the support of our parents.

Parental interest in the curriculum here is really high, and we are often asked how parents can support. To finish, here are my top five tips:

1. Ask your son/daughter what he/she is learning about and ask him/her to teach you things. The more students do this the more they will remember.

2. Tell them how interested you are and how proud you are of them. Focus on being proud of their effort and diligence rather than 'cleverness'. Telling your son/daughter s/he is talented or smart sounds like a good thing to do, but it actually piles on the pressure. Never over celebrate high test scores, focus instead on congratulating the hard work that led to that high score.
3. Find documentaries, podcasts and books to share on the topics that they are studying. Remember, you can see exactly what they are learning term by term [on line](#). A great place to go to for extra on-line lessons and virtual tuition (completely free of charge) is [Oak Academy](#).
4. Visit museums, galleries, castles, gardens, coasts, rivers etc. Actual field work and trips have been low on the ground recently: can you make up for that?
5. Look in your son/daughter's bag! Check the books are organised, tidy, neatly presented. Can you see how the curriculum is being taught? Is your son/daughter keeping up? Is work up to date and finished? If you are not sure about anything, contact the subject

teacher using the [web-portal](#).

I hope you enjoy looking at our Curriculum [on-line](#). Although this article is about Key Stage 3, you can see Key Stage 4 and 5 on the website too. It has taken our teachers hours and hours to load all this up for families to see – make the most of it! It is a rich resource.

Mr Scott-Evans
Headteacher



School Community Prayer Group hosted by our Headteacher Mr Scott-Evans is now every 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



BECKET KEYS
Church of England School



Uniform

All students are required to wear smart leather shoes.

Students in Year 7-9, should have their long hair completely tied up. Year 10-11 – hair can be half up/ half down. Black, purple or neutral coloured hair ties please

Students should not have any extreme hairstyles and hair must not be dyed, no shapes cut into the hair e.g. stripes or undercuts.

Please remember that students should wear black tights and white socks and all students will be in need of a **COAT** – Plain **BLACK** without coloured flashes, logos or slogans, no 'fashion items', no 'puffer' jackets.

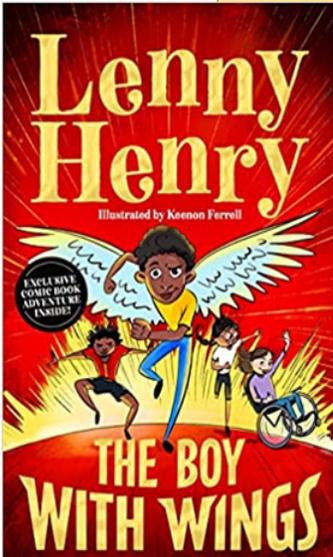
Bags should also be plain black.



Please see the website, if you need more details about the school dress code.



Book of the Month - November



Lenny Henry
Illustrated by Keonon Ferrell

THE BOY WITH WINGS

EXCLUSIVE COMIC BOOK ADVENTURE INSIDE!

This debut children's novel from Lenny Henry sees average kid Tunde suddenly sprout wings during a football match, embarking on an exciting and sinister journey of discovery.

Twelve-year-old Tunde is just your average kid: average friends, average parents, average grades. Sure, he has his quirks, but if he can avoid the school bullies and hang out with his ragtag group of friends, he's happy enough. But his life is about to get turned upside down when, in the middle of a football match, Tunde leaps for the ball and stays in the air - on an enormous pair of wings!

Everything Tunde knows is about to change. Under the guidance of a mysterious visitor known as The Seeker, he discovers new-found powers, a secret past, and some seriously powerful people who are determined to keep that past buried, whatever the cost. With strange things happening in a place known as The Facility and someone important in need of rescue, Tunde is going to need more than a little help from his friends. Join Tunde, Kylie, Jiah and Neville on an out-of-this-world adventure that brings Tunde face-to-face with his destiny.

An average kid is about to become an extraordinary hero!



Word of the Week



countenance

In sentences:

1. His impenetrable eyes and inscrutable countenance give little away.
2. We will not countenance any form of terrorism.
3. She was reluctant to countenance the use of force.

Meaning: face, or facial expression; also support or approval

Etymology: *From old French, meaning behaviour or expression of character*

Mandarin Department



We know 11th November as Remembrance Day. But did you know that in China, it is the Singles' Day – a festival celebrating people who are not in relationships?

Originally the date was celebrated as a cynical response to traditional couple-centric festivals by a small group of college bachelors; however, in 2009, Alibaba's CEO Daniel Zhang began to use the day as a 24-hour online shopping holiday. This day is now better known as the *Double 11 Online Shopping Carnival*, an event spanning 11 days. It has now become the largest physical, retail and online shopping day in the world. In 2019, Chinese consumers spent US\$42 billion (£31 billion) online in 11 days. In 2020, the number was US\$74.1 billion (£57.7 billion). Online retailers are hoping to create a new record in 2021.

Our Year 7 Mandarin group created posters to tell us about the festival. Here are three of the best productions and three honourable mentions.

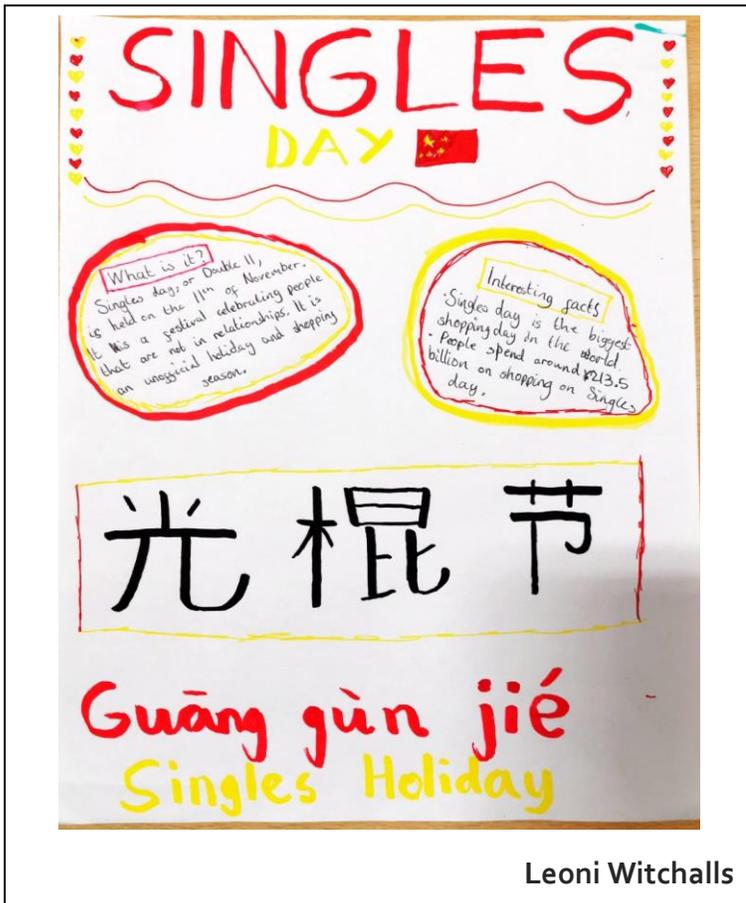
Miss Lin
Head of Mandarin



Evie Wiczorek



William Shotter, Jake Adams, Poppy Moorey



Leoni Witchalls



Samuel Nelson

LOST PROPERTY

If your son/daughter has misplaced anything at school, then kindly inform them that all lost property is taken to reception for collection.

Please make sure that all items, especially uniform are named, this will ensure that items can be returned to the student easily. In particular, there are a large number of trainers, water bottles and items of PE kit looking for their owner!



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 and 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 at school for a while!

English Department

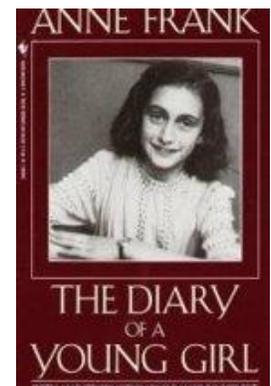
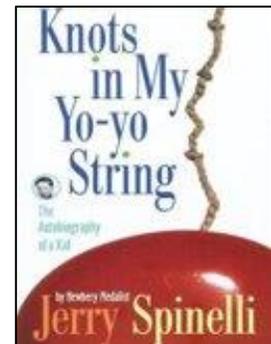
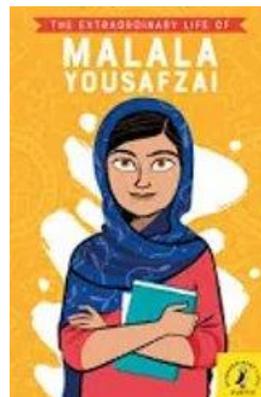
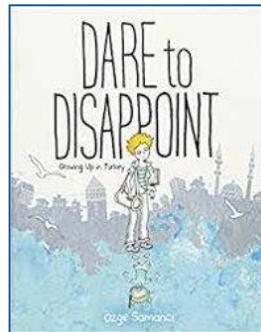
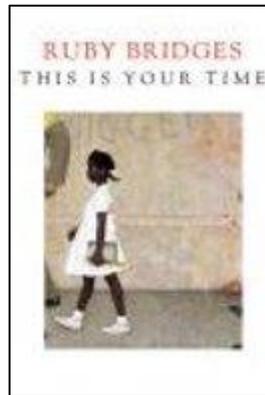
Year 7 Reading Project

Romance novels, historical fiction and adventure stories- these are three literary genres I would hate to read. These stories tend to bore me (yes, me an English teacher) and that's okay! I think it is so important that we figure out which genres we like so that we can see reading for what it truly is, an enjoyable pastime and not a chore. For this reason, I have created the Year 7 Reading Project.

Every month, Year 7 students are given an excerpt from a particular genre, in form time. So far, they have looked at a horror story, 'The Dead' by Charlie Higson and an autobiography, 'Boy' by Roald Dahl. Students discuss their thoughts on the story in form time and receive a creative homework task loosely based on the reading from their English teachers. As students will be introduced to a range of genres, by the end of the academic year each student

should have an idea of the types of books they enjoy.

Once a month, I will write a short piece in this newsletter with recommended texts that are of the same genre the students are looking at. Here are my recommended autobiographies and biographies:



Miss Romano
English Teacher



Becket Keys Christmas Dinner Wednesday 8th December

Tickets will be on sale
between the
24th November and
1st of December

Buy your tickets at
the tills during break
and lunch
£4.10



Those students who receive FSM can collect a free ticket at Reception from Wednesday 24th November.



This year's Christmas Carols Concert takes place on Tuesday 14th December 2021 in the Main Hall and will be a wonderful opportunity to listen to music performed by the many musical groups we have at Becket Keys including: Stage Band, Orchestra and Chamber Choir,

Doors open at 7pm, with a short reception (refreshments are included in the ticket price) and the concert begins at 7:30pm. As our Main Hall can only seat 300, we have to limit seats to three per family. More details about the cost and how to book will be available soon. All performers will be onstage throughout, so you do not need a ticket for your son/daughter if they are performing.

The Christmas Carols Concert is a wonderful tradition at Becket Keys and we are delighted that we can once again share this festive event with you and your family.

THE SCHOOL NURSE IS AVAILABLE –
JUST NOT ON SITE!




RELATIONSHIPS
 MENTAL BULLYING SELF
 HEALTH ALCOHOL HARM
 HEALTHY EATING
 DRUGS SMOKING

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.

Careers Information



Females of the Future with Vodafone

Have you ever considered a career in Technology and would like to know more about the wide range of roles available in the sector?...

Tues 23rd Nov | 18:00-19:00

[View Event](#)

[Females of the Future with Vodafone - Pathway CTM](#)

The Dyson Institute
Engineering Degree Apprentice

The Dyson Institute's Engineering Degree Apprenticeship programme is an amazing opportunity! As...



Location: South West Role closing: 21-11-2021

[Favourite](#) [View](#)

[Engineering Degree Apprentice - Pathway CTM](#)



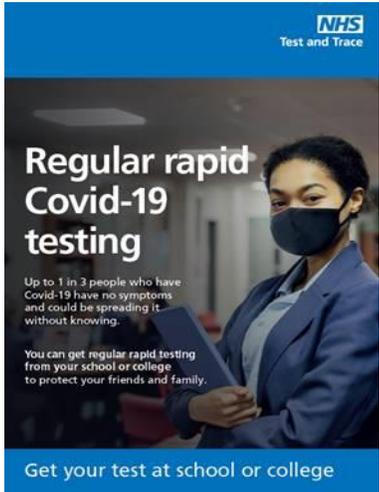
Influencer Evening with Vodafone, Allen & Overy, and BT

Parents and Teachers, join us for our first influencer event of the year! We want to help you understand more about the next steps...

Tues 30th Nov | 18:00-19:30

[View Event](#)

[Influencer Evening with Vodafone, Allen & Overy, and BT - Pathway CTM](#)



Regular rapid Covid-19 testing

Up to 1 in 3 people who have Covid-19 have no symptoms and could be spreading it without knowing.

You can get regular rapid testing from your school or college to protect your friends and family.

Get your test at school or college

Covid-19 Home Test Kits

All students are offered home test kits regularly. If your child has not received a kit and wants to test, please ask them to collect from their Form Tutor or reception. More tests are available if they are required and we would encourage all students to keep testing regularly in the run up to Christmas.

As a reminder, if your son or daughter is taking part in the Covid-19 home testing, please remember to conduct your tests on a **Wednesday and Sunday**.

[Please find here a step-by-step guide to COVID-19 self-testing.](#)

You must upload your results to: <https://testregister.co.uk/login> and then follow the steps to the Government website.

Test Register has been updated, if you need to change any details or if you have any queries regarding this process please contact: office@becketkeys.org

Food Department

I often see people buying pre-made gnocchi and jars of sickly sweet pasta sauce in the supermarket and I wish I could give them this simple recipe to make delicious Italian dishes at home. This is particularly true of gnocchi, where the supermarket version is very dense and does not have a great flavour. The sauce is extremely versatile and goes well with all kinds of pasta. This recipe is the one I use at home and in school as it is easy and the results are delicious.

Recipe of the Week Gnocchi with Arrabbiata sauce – serves 2

300g Floury Potatoes

1 egg – preferably free range
90g Plain flour, plus more for
dusting
Pinch salt

Cook the potatoes by lowering them whole in their skins into a pan of salted boiling water, bring back to the boil and simmer for 30 minutes until just soft. Drain and set to cool then peel. Hold them in a tea towel to peel if they are still hot.

Mash the potatoes – make sure there are no lumps.

Make a hollow in your pile of potatoes, then pour in the egg and sprinkle over some of the flour. Start to blend everything with your hands, adding more flour a little at a time.



Roll into long, thumb-nail thick cylinder on a lightly floured surface, again working lightly and quickly. As you roll you will also be gently stretching the dough. Keep the surface well-floured as you don't want the gnocchi to stick.

Cut the dough into thumb-nail long lengths.

Roll the gnocchi in a little flour. Holding each piece very lightly, form each into a small concave gnocchi shape: hold them against the prongs of the back of a fork, pressing just enough to get the imprint.

Bring a large, deep pot of salted water to the boil. Working with a few at a time (don't too many at once), drop in the gnocchi and listen for the wonderful kissing noise they make as they go in.

Let them cook for 2 minutes, you will know that they are ready when they bob back up to the surface, then scoop them out with a slotted spoon.

Taste - they should be *soffici e leggeri* (soft and light), the gnocchi equivalent of *al dente*.

Arrabbiata sauce

1 onion finely chopped
1 celery finely chopped
½ carrot finely chopped
1 garlic clove finely chopped
1 tsp tom puree
1 can chopped tomatoes
2 tsp olive oil
Pinch chilli flakes

Sauté the chopped vegetables until soft, add the other ingredients and simmer for 15-20 minutes.

**Mr Shapland
Food Teacher**

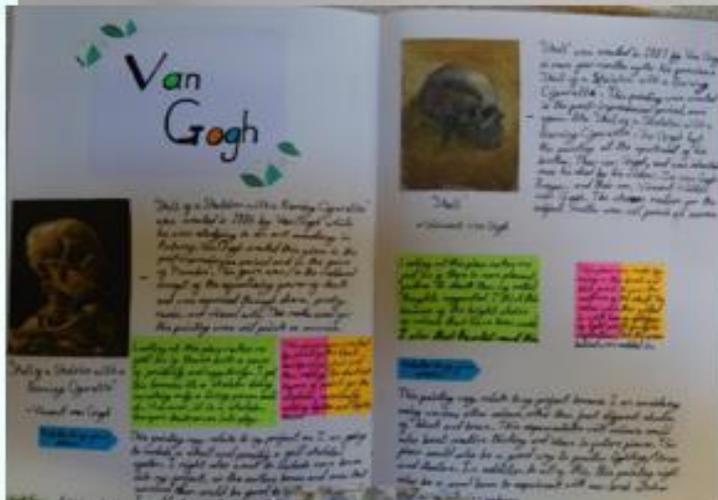


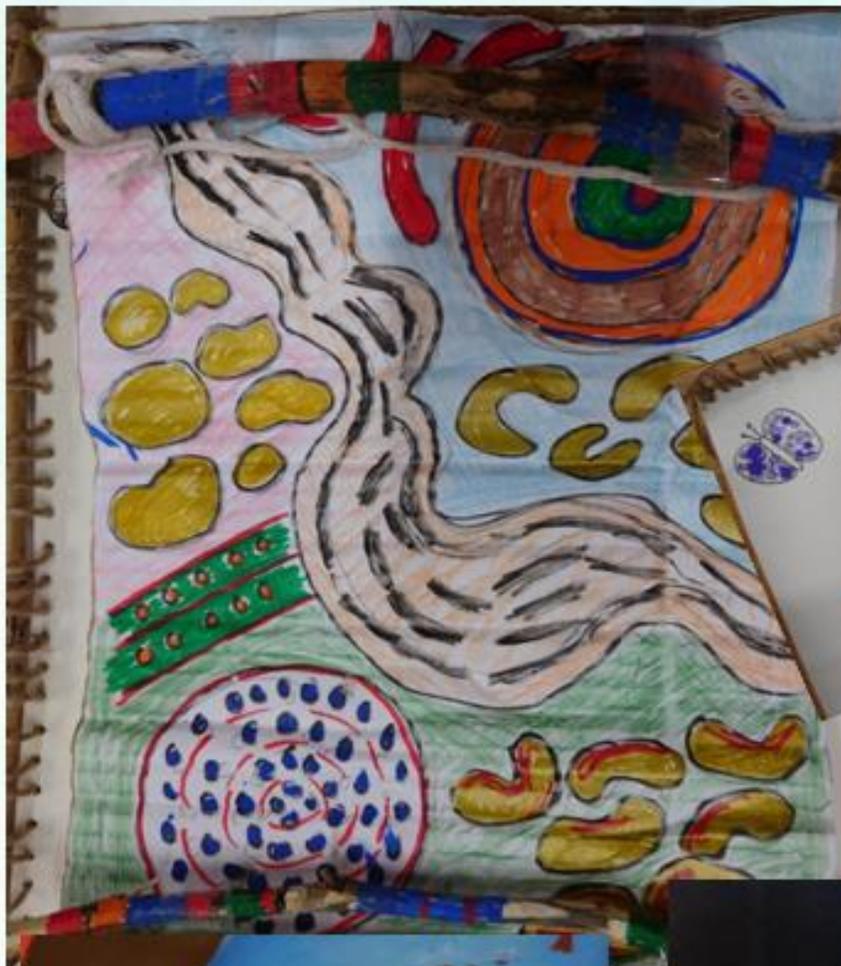
Art Department

Star Artist



Tom Morrison-Rees Yr 9





Levi Holmes

Yr 7



David Wilson

Yr 7



Megan McAdam

Yr 10



Isabel Evans Yr 11

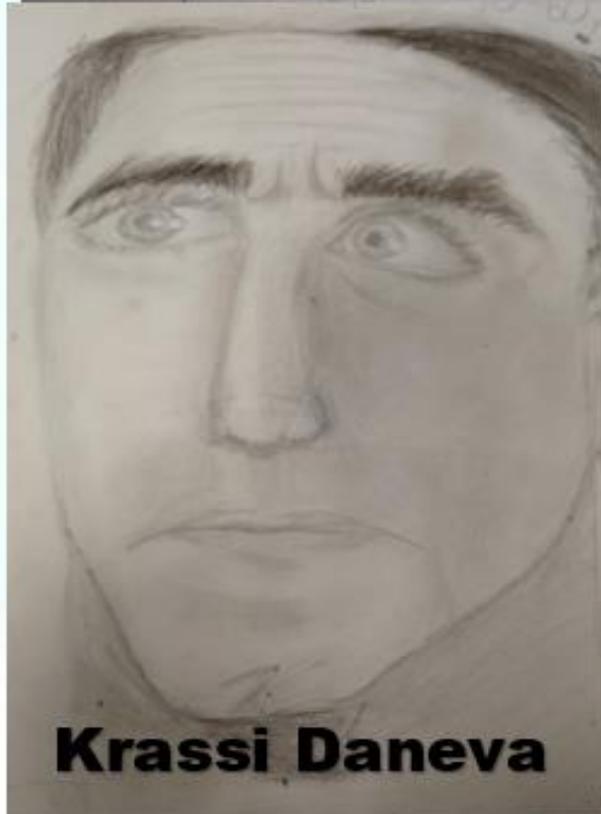
Year 8 'Portraits'



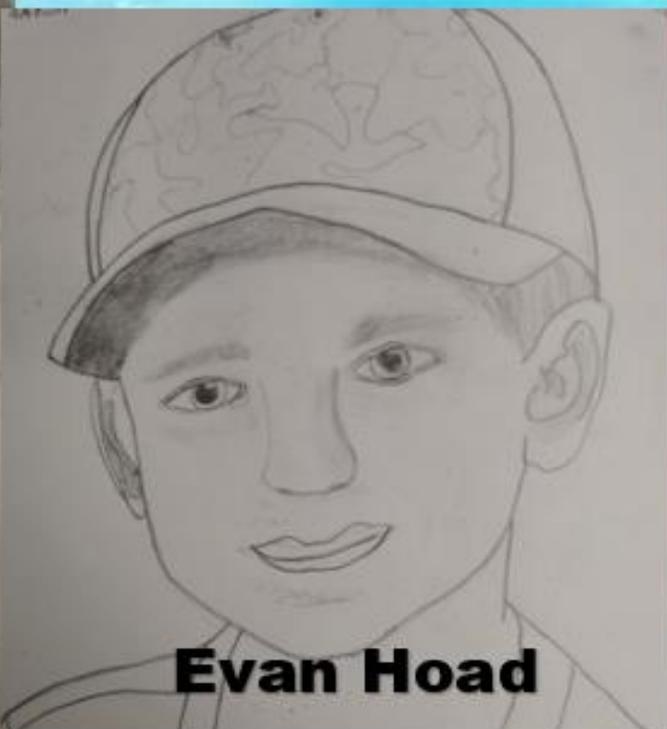
Mark Uthumpha



Summer Davies



Krassi Daneva



Evan Hoad

In Art & Textiles this week with Mrs Cherry

Star Designer for Textiles

Y13

Denise Tsankova



@becketkeysart

Key stage 3

Year 7 were asked to write and illustrate a story or poem, inspired by Australia, for homework. Here are some wonderful responses to this task.

Isabel Collins Y7

Dawn turns to dusk and Uluru glows red
 Remnants of the sky smoulder
 Ember's glow and turn to ash
 Aboriginal ancestors thrive in the outback
 Many will never leave
 Tales told of ancestral spirits
 In one with nature
 May we respect their heritage
 Earth and its landscape remain forever

Sophie Sharp Y7

DREAM TIME

The snakes slither everywhere,
 And the spiders crawl in
 your hair,
 The kangaroos are waiting to fight,
 watch the bugs they might bite,
 The alligator's run after
 me,
 And the koalas hang in trees,
 The sugar gliders fly from
 tree to tree,
 While I go surfing in the
 sea!

EVERYWHERE I LOOK THERE
 IS SOMETHING
 TO SEE, SOMETIMES
 THEY CHASE ME!

Alex Kerry Y7

Illustrated poem

What's that I hear?
 Sound of a kookabura singing in my ear
 Here comes a kangaroo bouncing on the grass
 Snakes and spiders, better let them pass
 These are the animals, native to our land
 Dreamtime in Australia
 Is beautiful and grand

Kitty Barr Y7

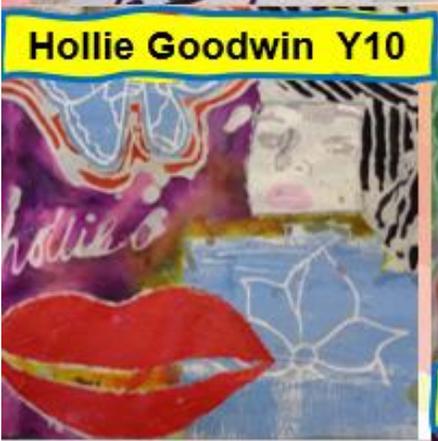
The animals of Australia

Hope is the best gift that the Australian
 nature has to give
 Kookaburra, Kangaroo, Koala
 and many more are the animals
 that make up the great
 Australian bush. Kangaroos
 are found in the south
 eastern part of the country
 and are the most common
 of the animals. They are
 found in the south eastern
 part of the country. They
 are found in the south
 eastern part of the country.
 They are found in the south
 eastern part of the country.
 They are found in the south
 eastern part of the country.

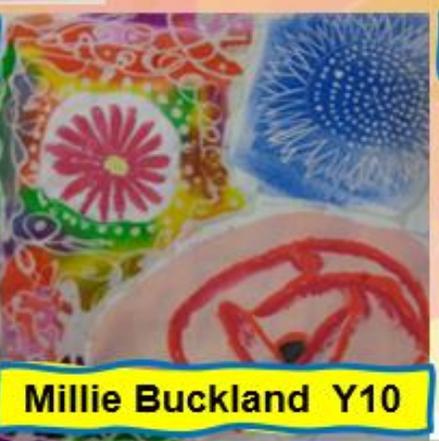


★ Key stage 4 & 5

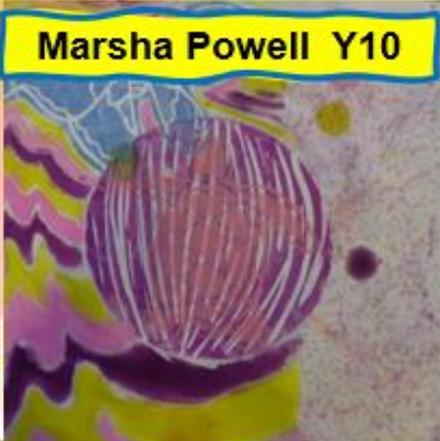
In Year 10, we have been experimenting with various Textiles techniques this week to decorate the front of a cushion cover. They produced exciting and vibrant results. Well done Year 10!



Hollie Goodwin Y10



Millie Buckland Y10



Marsha Powell Y10

PAUSE

Don't worry, I have got this!

Next week, the first series of mocks begins. This can be a challenging and stressful time for students. It is natural to feel anxious and in some students, the adrenaline can actually boost performance. However, it is essential that students do not begin to place their value on an exam grade. The truth is, though, God is always with us, always fighting for us, and is always faithful to us. In our successes and struggles, the Lord never fails us and never gives up on us. We can put our trust in him.

Remember the words of James 1:12:

"Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him."

We are called to persevere in the hardships in our lives as a form of obedience to God. Let us focus on these words "... the testing of your faith produces perseverance." Students need to first have faith that God is big enough, strong enough, and loves them enough to bring them through any difficulties they are facing. Then that faith is able to produce perseverance in them. When they established that strong faith in God's power and control in whatever trial they are facing, they are able to face any kind of hardship because they know that God will always sustain them.



Please pray for our Year 11 and 13 students, but also encourage them to pray too (perhaps using the prayer below). Encourage them to pray, work hard and trust God! Praying and having faith that God will give them the energy, wisdom, strength and endurance to study for and take their exams. It will calm them down because they know that He is in control of all things. This is the peace that surpasses all understanding that the Bible talks about in Philippians. They need to know that God has got them in His hands and He will never let them go. He has plans for them. Plans that will prosper them and not harm them, plans to give them hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11). Teach them not to worry. God has got this! All they need to do is come to Him in prayer.

A Prayer for Year 11 and 13 students to use:

Jesus,

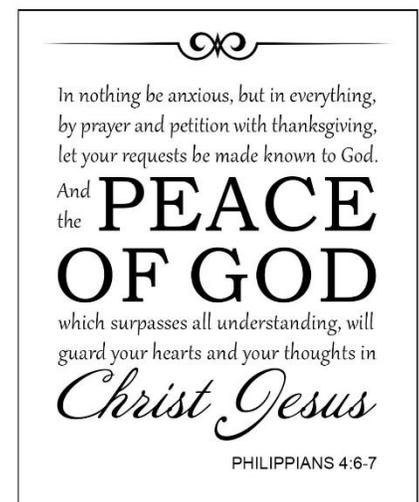
This mock season is challenging, and I have mountains of work ahead of me, yet I trust in you. I know that when I put my faith in you, even when it is as small as a mustard seed (Luke 17:6), miracles can be accomplished.

I pray that as I study in these coming weeks, as I soak up knowledge and memorise facts, as I read and process and write, that you would be

renewing my mind and strengthening my spirit. Help me to persevere through the busy schedule, and help me to keep my eyes fixed on you.

As I enter my classrooms and exam rooms, I pray you would enfold me in your peace. Ease any anxieties, calm my restless mind, and help me focus on the task at hand. I pray that I would know my worth is in you alone, not in any grade I do or do not get. I pray that I would feel your presence during my exams and that I would be comforted by your nearness.

Thank you for the gift of education. I pray that these exams would be a celebration of all I have been learning. May I be grateful for all that I have experienced and for all the ways I have grown. Amen



Brentwood Foodbank Christmas requirements

Many thanks again to all those who generously supported the Harvest Appeal. The following message was sent from the organisers:

"Thank you all for your tremendous support of our Harvest Festival appeal. Owing to the generosity, from churches, schools and local businesses, it was a great success. Thank you! We were so blessed and this will give us a good foundation for the coming months."

During November and December as well as the usual food and toiletries it would be wonderful if you would think about donating some seasonal items for those families who need support during the festive season.

Over 90% of the food distributed by foodbanks in The Trussell Trust network is donated by the public – that is why your food donations are absolutely vital to their ability to give everyone referred to us a balanced and nutritious three day supply of food.

To find out more about the Brentwood Foodbank and how you can help please visit their website:

brentwood.foodbank.org.uk

BRENTWOOD FOODBANK HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS

**CHRISTMAS CAKE
DATES
BISCUITS
JARS OF PICKLES
SELECTION BOXES
CRISPS/SAVOURIES
CHOCOLATES
GRAVY GRANULES
SWEETS/TREATS
CRANBERRY SAUCE
JELLIES
BISCUITS FOR CHEESE
CRACKERS
PUDDINGS
EVAPORATED MILK**

**FOR CHILDREN:
ADVENT CALENDARS
GIFTS**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

You will find details of where you can donate food and the most needed items. St Thomas of Canterbury Church has a donation point and there is a box

available at the front of the Sainsbury's store in Brentwood that you can add to when if you do your weekly shop there.

Sports News

Year 11 Boys' Football



The boys started brightly and capitalised on a Sandon mistake inside the first five minutes and we found ourselves leading. The pressure was still being applied as some quick feet out wide created space for a cross which was scrambled home for a 2-0 lead. The team came off the boil, and possession was changing hands quite a bit before some timid tackling saw a Sandon player ride three tackles and finish well just before the end of half. HT 2-1.

The second half started very much in favour of Sandon who converted from a well taken corner after a goal mouth scramble. At 2-2 the game was going to be won by the team that scored the next goal... Thankfully this came the way of BKS after some more excellent wide play which saw a perfect cross converted with a delicate lob over the keeper. With 10 minutes to play, the boys continued to battle and their efforts paid off as a corner was whipped in, finding the unmarked man to nod home the final goal of the game! Full

time 4-2. Goals from Melchi, Obi, Dan and Sam. Man of the Match.

Boys' Swimming Year 7,8 & Senior Teams

The recent swimming gala was a huge success and the boys were able to show off their talent in the water. Our already superb senior

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Upcoming Sports Fixtures November/December

Monday 22nd

Year 7 Netball v Anglo (A)

Wednesday 24th

Year 7 & 8 Girls' Basketball v St John Payne (A)

Year 8 Boys' Football v Brentwood County High School (H)

Thursday 25th

Year 9 Boys' Football v Plume (A) on field

Year 9 Girls' Football v William de Ferrers (H)

Monday 29th

Year 8 Boys' Football v Ormiston (H)

Year 7 Netball v Hylands (A)

Monday 13th December

Year 7 & 8 Girls' Football v William de Ferrers School (A)

Year 8 Boys' Basketball v Boswells (H)

Tuesday 14th December

Year 7 & 8 Boys' Sports Hall Athletics

team continued to showcase their prowess and the younger 7s and 8s who were representing the school for the first time were able to put on a show! With multiple close races the overall position was always going to be tight with the competitiveness in the pool. We can proudly say that we finished third overall!

Well done to all involved! times they are available for collection at the PE office.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

YEAR 11 MOCK EXAMS

YEAR 13 MOCK EXAMS

22ND NOVEMBER - 3RD DECEMBER 2021

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STUDENT CHRISTMAS LUNCH

WEDNESDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2021

TICKETS ARE REQUIRED, PLEASE
PURCHASE PRIOR TO THE EVENT.

*

CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

TUESDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2021

7.00PM

*

STUDENT HALF DAY

THURSDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2021

*

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

FRIDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2021 –

MONDAY 3RD JANUARY 2022

*

INSET DAY

TUESDAY 4TH JANUARY 2022

(NO STUDENTS IN SCHOOL)

Becket Keys

Church of England School

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