



Becket Keys Church of England School

3rd December 2021

IN THIS ISSUE

Mr Scott-Evans writes...

Donate a Book for Christmas

Once again, this year, I would like to appeal to staff, parents, students, and friends of the school to donate good quality books to our library. Books can be brand new or second hand but must be in excellent condition. Stocking a library costs thousands of pounds, but if everyone donates just one book it becomes a much more manageable task.

This year, we would really like to focus on very current best-selling young fiction and hardback non-fiction books. Finding out what your own sons and daughters have enjoyed recently would be a good way to start! Perhaps they have recently finished a book and been eager to go on to the next one in the series? You could even donate the copy that they have just finished if you do not think that they will read it again.

If students or staff are bringing in books, we would like them to be placed under the Christmas tree in Main Reception. Wrap them up if you feel so inclined as a gift to the school; my team of librarians will eagerly unwrap them and put them onto the shelves.

In addition to restocking our library, class teachers usually have a small selection of books in their classroom. Often these relate to their subject but will also include some fiction and poetry. If you would like to donate a book to a particular teacher, please make that clear and we will pass it on.

Thank for supporting this annual appeal. We will be pleased to receive any donations to Main Reception.

Enjoy the weekend.

Mr Scott-Evans
Head Teacher



BECKET KEYS
Church of England School

Christmas Carol Concert

Ticket information for the Christmas Carol Concert.

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This year's Christmas Carol 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.

We have limited seats to three per family. All performers will be onstage throughout, so you do not need a ticket for your son/daughter if they are performing.

Tickets are available via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/christmas-carol-concert-tickets-216873984927>

The Christmas Carol 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.

TUESDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2021
BECKET KEYS CofE SCHOOL – MAIN HALL
7.00pm – 8.00pm



WEDNESDAY 8TH DECEMBER

NON-UNIFORM DAY

The non-uniform day is a fundraising event for the school charities.

Remember:

- Smart casual clothes, Christmas jumpers if you feel like it
- No ripped jeans or crop tops, low necklines or exposed shoulders, shoestring straps
- Suitable shoes, no high heels
- School make up and hair rules still apply (tinsel as a hairband is fine!)

If you wish to wear your own clothes on Wednesday then please bring a donation of £1 with you.

Music Department

Becket Keys musicians hit the high notes!

On Saturday, 28th November, our senior and junior choirs were invited to participate in the Brentwood Cathedral Choirs Festival, led by Mr Wangcharoensab. Other choirs included Brentwood Choral Society, Ingatestone Choral Society, Brentwood Cathedral Music Group and Brentwood Cathedral Choristers. We were joined by musicians from Becket Keys and the Cathedral, who accompanied the choirs with expertise and musicality. The evening featured pieces from each choir and a performance by the combined choirs for Will Todd's Jazz Missa Brevis. Composed in 2015, this Latin Mass embraces various jazz styles, from the swinging jazz waltz Kyrie to the up-beat Latin groove Gloria.

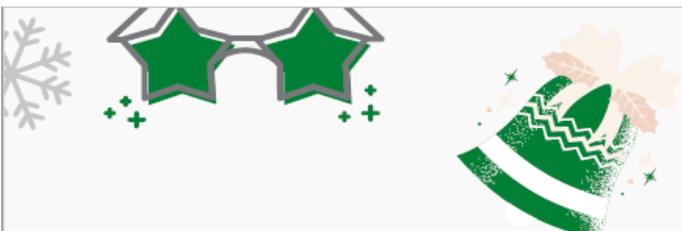
Thank you to Brentwood Cathedral Music Department for inviting us to be a part of this wonderful experience.

Mr Romhany
Director of Music



BECKET KEYS
Church of England School





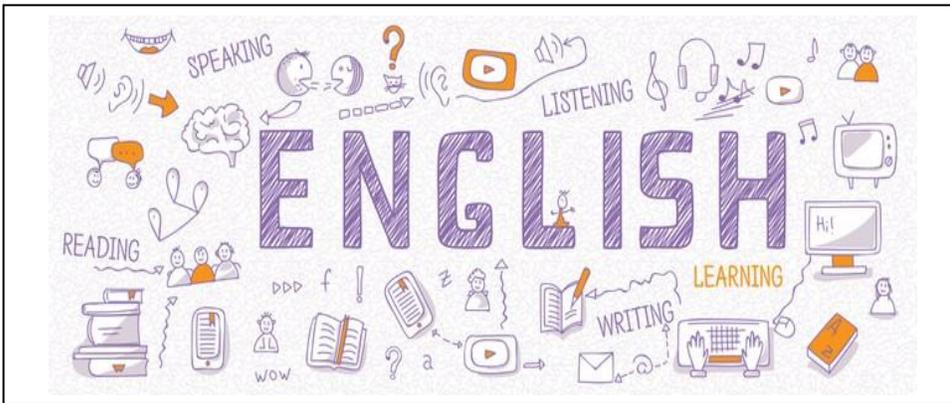
ST THOMAS' CHURCH, BRENTWOOD

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

SATURDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2021
Doors open 6.30pm
Concert starts 7.00pm

Featuring performances from:
Becket Keys music department
Coalescence
Essex Dance Theatre
St Thomas' Junior School choir
St Thomas' Kids

*Free entry,
donations gratefully received*



 **Word of the Week**

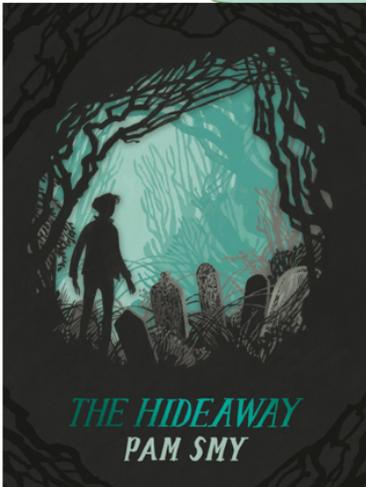
credence

- In sentences:**
1. *The bruises on his body added credence to his claims of being attacked.*
 2. *I'm not prepared to give credence to anonymous complaints.*
 3. *The low numbers of vaccinated people in hospital gives credence to its effectiveness.*

Meaning: the belief in or acceptance of something as true

Etymology: from the Latin *credentia*, meaning 'believing' or 'proving'

 **Book of the Month - December**



The Hideaway tells the story of a boy, Billy McKenna, who runs away from a difficult situation at home and takes refuge in an overgrown graveyard. While hiding there he meets an elderly man who is tending the graves in preparation for a day in November when something magical is set to happen.

The book is written in two alternating narratives, both different aspects of the same story. One thread tells of Billy's experience of hiding away in the graveyard, his mixed-up feelings and emotions, and the events he eventually witnesses. The other tells of his mother's situation at home and the police search for Billy.

The Hideaway is a compelling, exciting and emotional story that will stay with you long after you finish the last page.

'The Hideaway by Pam Smy is a work of art. Smy is a genius writer and illustrator who takes children's books to another level. Highly recommend.'

– David Walliams



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.

Food Department

Back in September I signed up to a programme called "Fish in Schools Hero". 'Fish in School Hero' aims to ensure that every child gets a chance to prepare, cook and eat fish before they leave school. The Fishmongers' Company's, Fisheries Charitable Trust supports this; the Food Teachers' Centre and their volunteer team throughout the UK manage Fish in School Hero. Launched in 2020, the programme will be extending throughout the UK, reaching over 60,000 pupils in 3 years.

Our food department was very lucky, to have been selected to receive 4 kg of mussels, to be able to deliver a mussel lesson to our Year 9 and Year 10 students. It was great to be able to have this opportunity and students loved it. Below are a few responses from my Year 10 Food Preparation and Nutrition students about their experience. Please also see the recipe we used and some lovely photos of our lesson.

Enjoy 😊

Mrs English
Head of Food

I had never tried mussels before, and to be honest I did not think they were going to be very nice. I was not wrong, but they were not as bad as I was thought they would be! I cannot quite place the texture but if I had to, I would say they are a bit like soft mushrooms and they taste slightly salty with a



sweet brininess. Now, even though the texture was a bit unsettling the taste was not that bad. I do not usually like seafood but these tasted all right compared to fish, which I am not too keen on. Even though tasting them was, quite fun the exciting bit was actually cooking them, which was a very new experience to me because I have never attempted to cook a mollusc before. I was also quite surprised by how quick and easy it was to make the Thai sauce that went with it.

Max Barton

I really enjoyed cooking the mussels as I had only ever eaten them in restaurants before and it was interesting to find out the process of choosing ones that were safe to eat and then cooking them. They cooked more quickly than I thought they would, and I was surprised at the size of some of them. The sauce we made was different to anything I have had

with mussels as I usually have them with a white wine sauce instead of a Thai inspired sauce. I would like to try cooking these outside of school for my family at some point.

Beatrice Connor



I enjoyed cooking the mussels because it was something different from what I have cooked before. I do have to say there was a little uncertainty when I was cooking them as to whether they were ready or not; however, once I tried

them, they were very tasty, you just had to get over the texture of them. I enjoyed them alongside the Thai-style sauce we made with them as it added to the flavour.

Adam Mahoney



On Friday, I cooked mussels for the first time; it was a great new experience! They were simple and easy to make and do not take long to cook. Mussels are sustainable, which means harvesting them will not have a negative effect on the environment, they are also a great source of protein!

Zara Shepherd

I really enjoyed this food experience because I learnt about how to cook mussels and learnt how sustainable they are and how little food miles they have. I also really enjoyed trying them because I had not tried them before. I am excited to cook more fish and eat more fish as it is important to get omega three and eat less meat.

Jemima Smithers

During our lesson on Friday, we were working with mussels – I enjoyed this lesson because it was nice to learn how to create a completely different dish to anything we have done in class before. Mussels are a type of mollusc; they are sustainable and

easy to farm. The specific ones we were working with were found relaxing in a UV seawater Jacuzzi bath. They are then taken to Plymouth where they are handed to M&J Seafood. A driver will take the mussels to Bicester, then to Smethwick, Farnham and Wigan. Whilst the mussels were travelling, they were kept chilled in temperature-controlled vans. They were then taken to their last destination: schools across the nation. The type of dish that we cooked with our mussels was Thai style mussels. We served them with a coconut and a Thai green curry paste sauce and vegetables. When we cooked the mussels, we had to make sure that they had no cracks, or if they did not open when cooked, otherwise this would have been unsafe, so we had to throw those ones away. In general, I thought this lesson was fun and I think it would be interesting to do something similar in the future.

Emily Worrell

Thai Style Mussels



Ingredients

- 500g mussels, cleaned
- 200ml coconut milk
- ½ small onion

- 1/3 thumb ginger
- 1 clove garlic
- ¼ fresh red chilli
- 2 tsp Thai Green curry paste
- 1 small handful of fresh coriander
- 1 lime cut into ¼ wedges
- 1 tbsp Olive oil

Method

Finely dice the onion, garlic and ginger. Sauté in wok in olive oil for 1 minute without colouring.

Add the curry paste and cook for 1 minute. Pour in the coconut milk.

Turn up the heat to a simmer, add the mussels, then cover and cook for 4 mins .

Check the mussel shells have all opened, squeeze in lime juice from one lime wedge.

Divide the mussels and broth between two serving bowls.

Chop the coriander leaves and chilli and use with remaining lime to garnish the mussels.

Serve with slices of crusty bread or flat breads.

Computer Science Department



At the beginning of November, all students in Years 7-9 took part in a national computational thinking competition, the Bebras Challenge, as part of their Computer Science classes. In the competition, students had 40 minutes to complete as many of the 18 problem solving questions as they could.

This year over 300,000 students took part across the UK. The results were published this week. Becket Keys had 22 students that gained a Gold Award in the competition, meaning that they scored in the top 10% of all students across the country.



The competition is divided by age into different categories. Amongst the Becket Keys

winner, Jacob McEwen (Y7) and Nicholas Petrelli (Y9) took Best in School in their respective age categories.

All students who received the Gold Award have been invited to take part in the Oxford University Computing Challenge. The Oxford University Computing Challenge is an invitation only event which aims to encourage students who have achieved a top 10% score in the UK Bebras Challenge to develop their skills further and produce programmed solutions to computational thinking problems. The first round of the competition will be held in school the week beginning the 7th February 2022.



Bebras Challenge Gold Award Winners



Juniors Category Year 7

Samuel Nelson
Jacob McEwen
Ethan Hale
Emily Lorenc
Fraser McLauchlan

Intermediates Category Year 8 & Year 9

Fraser McLauchlan (Y8)
Jude Lines (Y8)
Ewan Rist (Y8)
Kian Muwenda Simbwa (Y9)
Olivia Banfield (Y9)
Faye Davis (Y9)
Minela Kupryte (Y9)
Dylan Waller (Y9)
Bella Allan (Y9)
Fionn Gazzard (Y9)
Frederick Muncaster (Y9)
Madeleine Earle (Y9)
Archie Pring (Y9)
Elizabeth Thompson (Y9)
Alex Chapman (Y9)
Nicholas Petrelli (Y9)
Holly Shelton (Y9)
George Ashton (Y9)

Mrs Pagoda
Head of Computer Science



Thank you for your support

Your support has made a real difference to those in the Armed Forces community.

To find out more about how your donation helps, please visit rbl.org.uk/poppyappeal

To **Becket Keys school collected £204.63**

Thank you for supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Together we raised **£64,100**




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 have now been offered home test kits. If your child has not received a kit and wants to test, please ask them to collect from reception. More tests are available if they are required and we would encourage all students to keep testing regularly during the All Saints’ break.

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

School Photos Are Still Available

If you have not viewed your son/daughter’s school photo from this year yet, simply click on the link below to have the photo link sent to you directly <https://www.carmeljane.co.uk/pre-registration-support/>

Or you can contact Carmel Jane Photography on 01277 822 674

Free postage still applies, and you have up until the 14th of December for Christmas delivery



Mandarin Department



The Mandarin department is busy organising the next Mandarin Day for Year 7 students. The students will be able to taste Chinese food, try their hand at calligraphy, and enjoy the art, culture and science of China.

The school has invited some external Chinese experts to offer various workshops for our Year 7 on **Wednesday 1st February 2022**, when we will welcome the Year of the Tiger.

So that we can give the students an experience to remember, we require a voluntary contribution of £11.65 from each Year 7 student in order to fund the day. If you wish your child to be able to experience this fantastic day and to enhance their learning, please make your donation via ParentPay by 10th January as soon as possible, so that we know the day can go ahead.

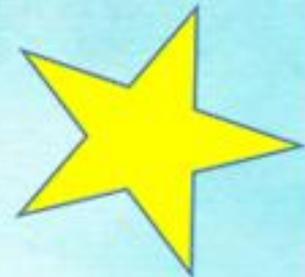




Star Artist



Lois Gilbey Yr 9



Luisa Allen Yr 9

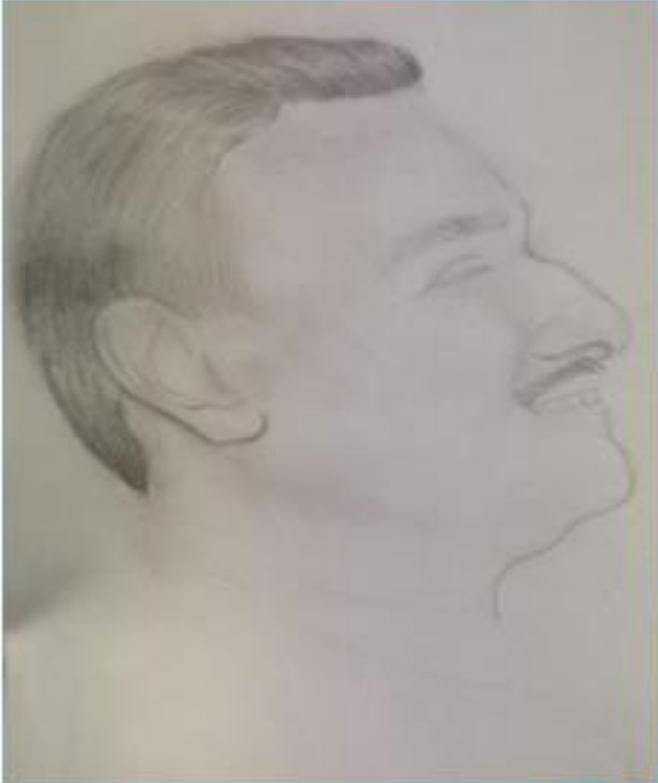


Kayla Hamber

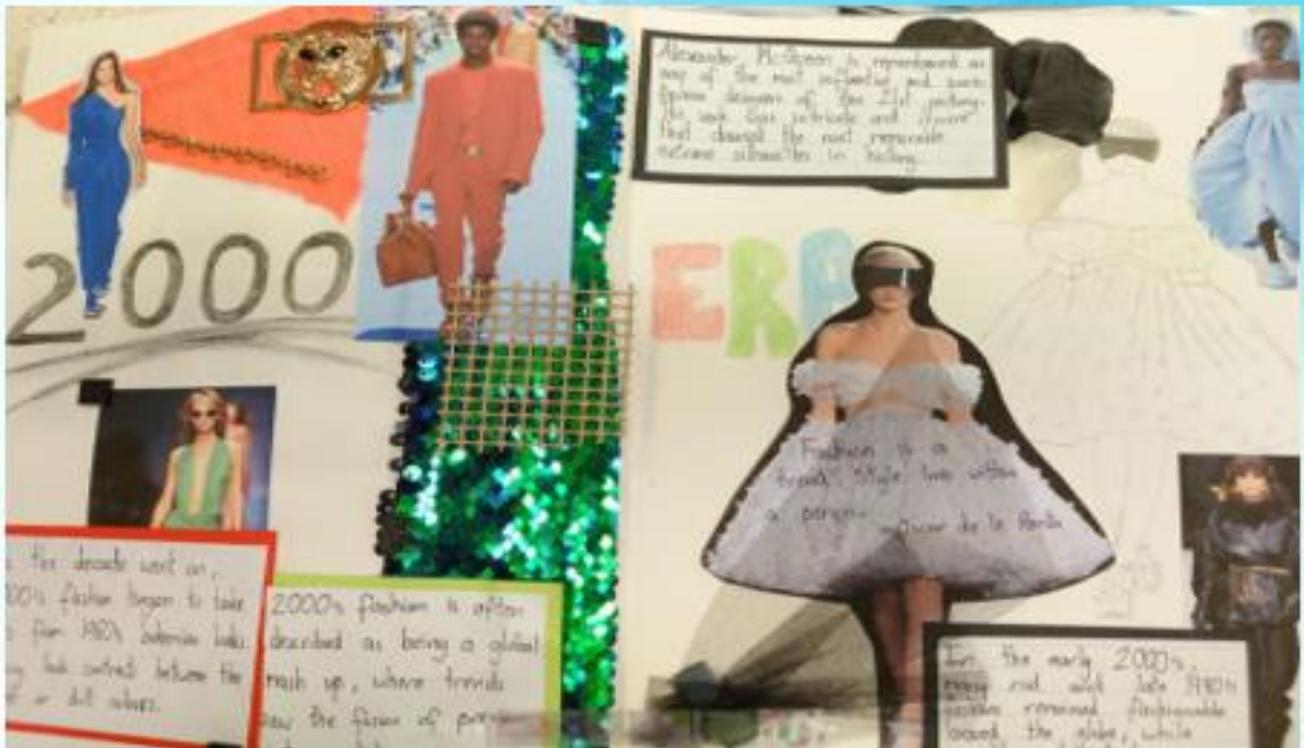
Yr 12

Morgan Meikle-Baars Yr 9

Sruthi Jayagopal Yr 8



Lewis Pryor Yr 8



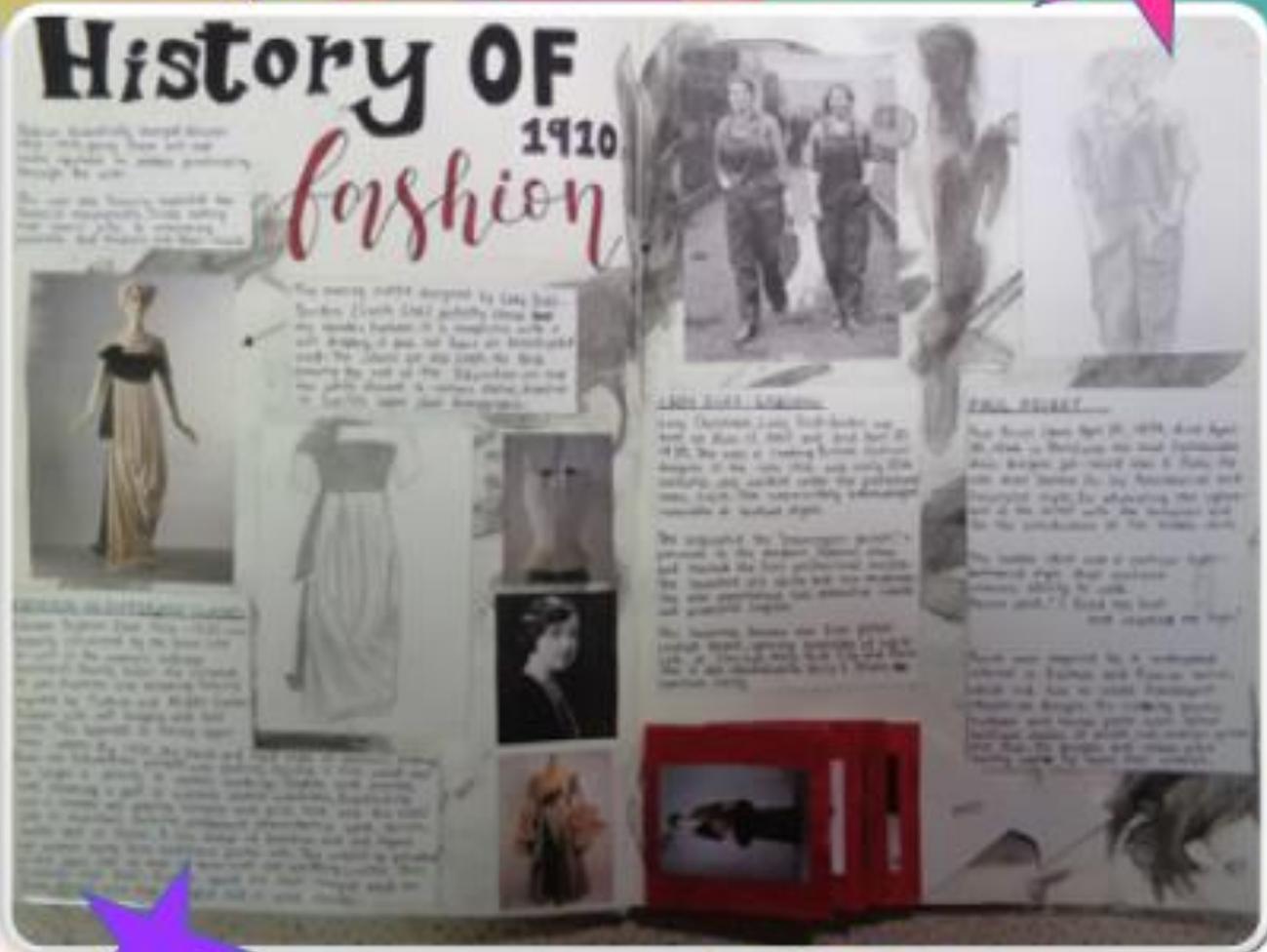
Minela Kupryte Yr 9

In Art & Textiles this week with Mrs Cherry

Star Designer for Textiles

@y9

Amelie Coleman

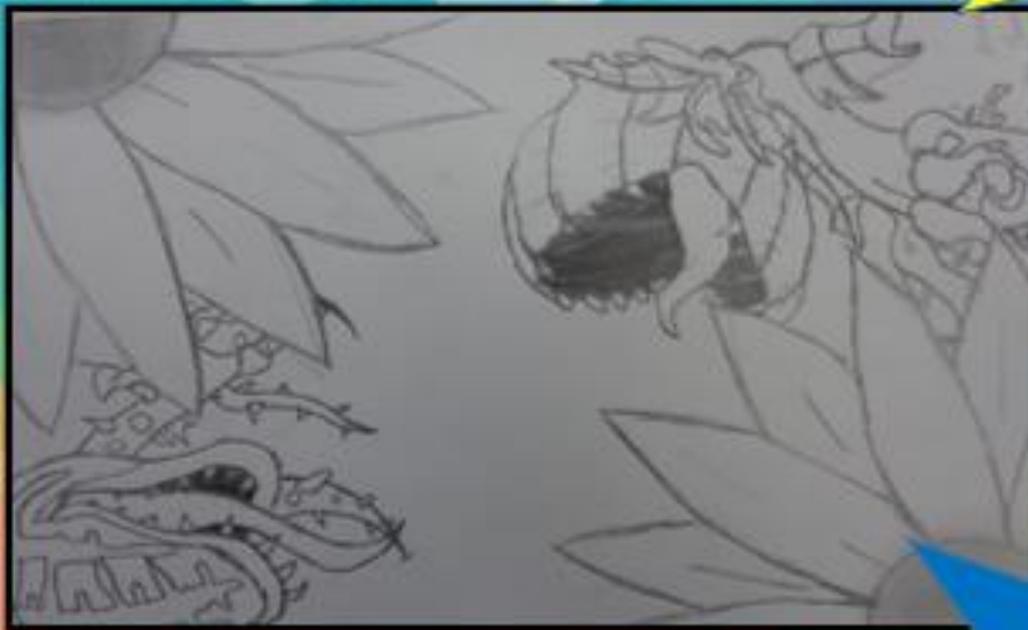


  @becketkeysart



Key stage 3

Archie Brown Y8



Chloe Dyer Y8

Key stage 4 & 5



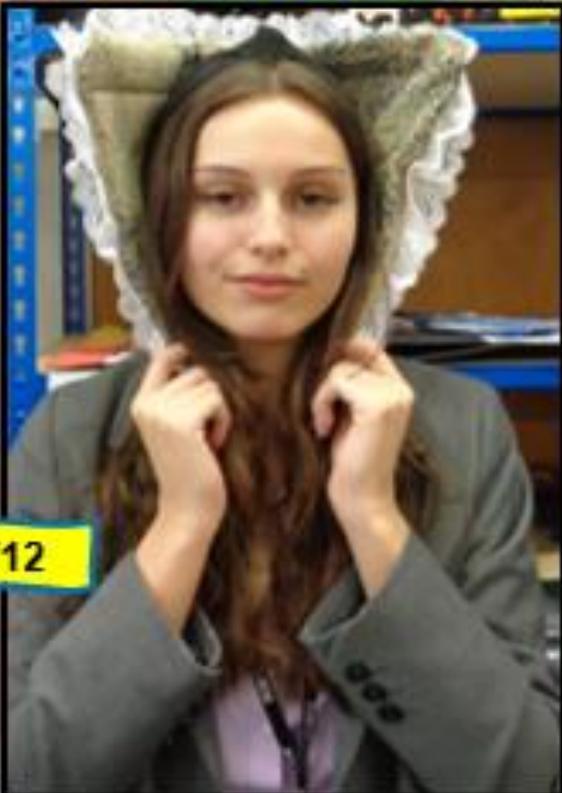
Tara Duffy Y13



Amelia Hussey Y12



Jess Prentice Y12



Upcoming Sports Fixtures December

Monday 6th December

Year 10 Boys' Basketball v KEGS (A)
Year 11 Basketball v Phillip Morant (H)



Tuesday 7th December

Year 7 & Year 8 Girls' Sports Hall Athletics

Wednesday 8th December

Year 7 Boys' Basketball v Boswells (H)
Year 7 & Year 8 Girls' Rugby Day @ OBRC

Thursday 9th December

Year 7 Boys' Football v Chelmer (H)
Under 16 Netball v Shenfield High School - Essex Cup(H)

Monday 13th December

Year 7 & 8 Girls' Football v
William De Ferrers School (A)
Year 8 Boys' Basketball v Boswells

Tuesday 14th December

Year 7 & Year 8 Boys'
Sports Hall Activities



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

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. There are in particular a large number of trainers, water bottles and items of PE kit looking for their owner!

At the heart of Christmas



*At the heart of Christmas is
peace*



As for you, Bethlehem of Ephrathah, though you are the least significant clan of Judah, out of you come one who is to be the ruler in Israel on my behalf. His origin is from remote times, from ancient days. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. They will dwell secure, because he will surely become great throughout the earth. And He will be our peace.

(an adaptation of Micah, 4-5a, Scifres and Beu)

From lowly Bethlehem, comes one who is greatest – one who will rule and shepherd God's people

with righteousness and peace. Bethlehem literally means 'house of bread', which is fitting, since Christ is not just our Shepherd, Christ is the very bread of life. A living bread that came down from heaven, nurtures the spirit within us and brings peace.

God wants us to experience His peace. The peace that surpasses understanding. When He sent His son into the world, He sent to us The Prince of Peace... Jesus.

Listen to this poem, 'For Unto Us – Hope

<http://www.viewpure.com/y3KxUDKUEQU?start=o&end=o>

Let Peace find a home in you.

This poem reminds us that Jesus' tiny hands are destined to build 'the kingdom on earth as it is in heaven'. Where do you see this in the world today? How are your hands connected with Jesus' hands in creating God's Kingdom? How will you share God's peace with others this Advent?

Consider:

- Placing a votive candle on a neighbour's doorstep with the message:

'Wishing you the light of God's peace'.

- Sending an email or ring a friend or family member who is struggling to know God's peace.
- Donating to a charity, to help those without a home find shelter, food and safety.

Let us pray:

Dear Jesus, you entered our world at Christmas as the Prince of Peace. This Advent, fill us with a deep and abiding peace and help us share that peace with everyone we encounter, especially those who need it most. **Amen**

Remember to keep praying with us. Follow our Becket Keys Church of England School Advent Prayer calendar. Dim the lights, gaze upon the flickering flame of a candle and rest in His peace. Prepare room for Jesus. As we journey towards the manger, prepare your heart to welcome the child who waits for you and feel the peace that only God can give.

**Mrs Sharp
Deputy Headteacher**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

STUDENT CHRISTMAS LUNCH

NON-UNIFORM DAY

WEDNESDAY 8TH DECEMBER 2021

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STUDENT HALF DAY

THURSDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2021

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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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Facebook: [Becket Keys Church School](https://www.facebook.com/BecketKeysChurchSchool)