



Becket Keys Church of England School

7th January 2022

IN THIS ISSUE

Mr Scott-Evans writes...

Happy New Year!

OPPORTUNITY IS NOWHERE

What do you see above? Do you read: opportunity is now here? Or do you read: opportunity is nowhere?

Psychologists say that the way you read it gives you an insight into how optimistic or pessimistic you are feeling. Are you optimistic for the new year? Or pessimistic?

People have been asking me what I think will happen this year. Am I my usual optimistic self? Will the school stay open? How are we coping with teacher absence? Will the exams go ahead this summer? Will students keep having to wear masks in classrooms? Will lessons continue to be offered via MS Teams to

students who are self-isolating? Will parents' evenings be on-line? Will school trips go ahead? Will students in Year 11 and Year 13 be given any consideration for the disruption they have experienced in their learning? Below, I shall try to answer some of your questions:



Will the school stay fully open?

Hopefully, if we all keep acting sensibly and taking precautions,

.....contd. on page 2



BECKET KEYS
Church of England School

Nearly New Uniform Sale

Information about the next uniform sale this weekend.

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Check out the latest Fantasy Literature recommendations for this Year 7 Challenge.

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We are excited to offer this opportunity to our students this year.

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Many companies are offering student virtual work experience. Two opportunities here.

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we will stay fully open. We have good attendance of both staff and students. We have plans in place to be able to partially close the school and work flexibly with some students on-line at home if staff absence becomes more of an issue. We hope that we will not need these plans.

How are we coping with teacher absence?

We have two full time cover teachers, Mrs Simmons and Mr Rossi. We also have a high number of teachers who have additional 'free' periods on their timetables that can be used to cover lessons, when required. This system means that most cover lessons are taught by teachers who know our school and our way of doing things. Where we need them, we call upon agencies for additional staff. Our school is a very popular destination for supply teachers as they know students conduct themselves well here and it is a pleasure for them to come.

Where we have long term absence, we cover this with subject specialist cover teachers from one or two trusted agencies who can offer us high quality colleagues. We can also call upon people like Mr Tunstall and Mr Jacob who are recently retired and often willing to come back to help us out. I am sure that you will join with me in praying for staff who are off at the moment.



Will the exams go ahead this summer?

All the indications are that they will. The Department for Education keep reasserting that they will. My professional association (ASCL) believes that they will. The Russell Education Trust believe that they will. I believe that they will.

There are going to be some minor adaptations. These will be announced by exam boards by 7th February (latest). I am not expecting much to change; I think we will be looking at a fairly typical full set of exams for students in Year 11 and Year 13.

Stay safe



Will students keep having to wear masks in classrooms?

All we know is that they will be recommended for all of January. The decision will then be reviewed. The Government have said that they appreciate that they are not ideal for learning. They know that it is not pleasant for students or staff to work in this way. However, the priority is

reducing the transmission of Covid, and masks have been shown to do this. Please keep supporting us in this by sending your son/daughter with two masks per day and/or letting us know if there is an exemption.

Will lessons continue to be offered on MS Teams?

As much as possible, teachers have MS Teams open in the background when teaching. Their focus is on the students in the classroom, but the virtual link to those at home should be open. The technology is there and paid for and we are trying to use it as much as possible. We have upgraded our internet connection this week and we are hoping that this will improve things further for those at home. We know that sometimes the sound and image can be distorted or delayed.



As I have communicated before, it is not always possible to have the lessons transmitted live to students at home. In this situation, students should look at Show My Homework to see if there is any work set there for them to do. If not, they could use [Oak Academy](#) or other websites like [Dr Frost Maths](#) for relevant learning materials. Please also remember that these live lessons are only for those with Covid. We are not providing remote learning

for students who have a headache or a cold!

Will parents' evenings be on-line?

The majority of our parents' evenings will continue to be on-line. The software is working well and for many reasons it seems like a positive step. That said, we appreciate that some parents have rarely (ever!) come onto the school site, and we want to find ways to welcome them into school as and when it seems helpful to do so.



Will school trips go ahead?

At present, all our school trips are UK based and can go ahead. In fact, the Year 11 GCSE Geography field trip is taking place this week. It has gone very smoothly thanks to the students and the staff carefully following the advice given to them.



Will students in Year 11 and Year 13 be given any consideration for the

disruption they have experienced in their learning?

Yes! Although it is impossible to predict the difference this will make for any individual student, the Government has promised that the results this year will be better than they were in 2019 (pre-pandemic). This reassurance means that the most important thing is for students to perform as well as they possibly can to ensure that they are in the pole position to be awarded the higher grades. We cannot predict what any individual would need to score to get a certain grade. All we can say is that the higher the score the higher the chance! Clearly, this benefit will tend to help those who already are doing well enough to sit exams and get scores. It will do little for those most affected by what has happened. Therefore, we must all pull together to ensure that our students are not left behind. Everyone needs to feel fit, ready, and strong enough to perform. Staying in school, responding to teacher advice, and working sensibly every week will make the difference.

I think that is enough crystal ball gazing for now. Have a lovely weekend and...

Happy New Year!

Mr Scott-Evans
Head Teacher



BECKET KEYS
Church of England School

Nearly New Uniform Sale

Saturday
8th January 2021

11.00am – 1.00pm

School playground

We are urgently in need of donations especially shorts, skorts and tops, and jumpers. Blazers and kilts and Sixth Form uniform would also be gratefully received.

We would appreciate it if all the donated uniform is in good, clean condition.

Any donations can be sent into school with your son/daughter and dropped at reception. Please address any enquiries to uniform.becketkeys@gmail.com

Once again, thank you all for your support. Selling the pre-loved uniform assists families within the school community and all the money raised is donated back to the school and invested in equipment for the students to benefit from.

Road Safety



Did you know?

Teenagers are more at risk on the roads than they think. Most teenagers do not realise that they are more likely to be killed or injured in a road collision than any other age group. Find out how to help your teenager stay safe.

Help protect your child

Please talk to your son or daughter and reinforce road safety messages to help keep them safe:

- stress the need to concentrate and be careful at all times;
- warn of the dangers of distractions – listening to music, texting, phoning or even chatting to friends while walking are big distractions;
- keep talking about the dangers of traffic;

- point out people who are endangering themselves;
- encourage your teenager to practise judging the speed and distance of approaching vehicles on busy roads and identify safe gaps in the traffic;
- stress that you should never lose concentration and follow others blindly into dangerous situations.

Cycling

It is a good idea to:

- buy and encourage your son or daughter to wear a cycle helmet, and something fluorescent and reflective to improve visibility;
- encourage your son or daughter never to take lifts on the back of a friend's bike;
- remind your son or daughter not to listen to music while they are cycling;
- make sure your child is aware that cyclists must obey all traffic signs and traffic light signals.

Becket Keys has always had an outstanding reputation for the way our students behave when they are going home. We have teachers who walk with the students towards the High Street, however, please remind your son/daughter to be considerate of other people and families using Sawyers Hall Lane, whether in cars or pedestrians and to acknowledge their thanks if they are given the right of way. We understand that the pavements may be congested so students must be patient and considerate.

We would also remind parents to take care and be mindful of pedestrians and other drivers when travelling. We do not want any student to be injured so please avoid driving down Sawyers Hall Lane if you can and meet your son/daughter at another location. The Brentwood Centre is ideal and only a short walk away.

More information on road safety: <http://think.direct.gov.uk/education/secondary/>





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.

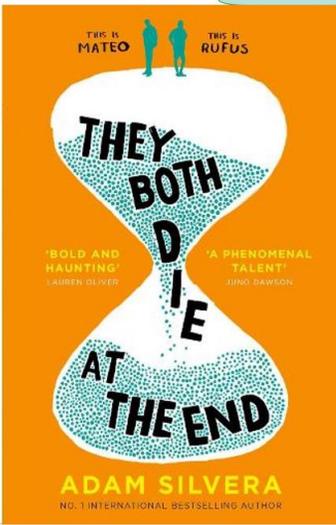
Bags should also be plain black.



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



Book of the Month - January



Discovering they have less than 24 hours to live, two young strangers embark on an adventure of a life-time – within the confines of one day – in this moving and unforgettable bestseller from Adam Silvera.

A love story with a difference - an unforgettable tale of life, loss and making each day count.

On September 5th, a little after midnight, Death-Cast calls Mateo Torrez and Rufus Emeterio to give them some bad news: they're going to die today. Mateo and Rufus are total strangers, but, for different reasons, they're both looking to make a new friend on their End Day. The good news: there's an app for that. It's called the Last Friend, and through it, Rufus and Mateo are about to meet up for one last great adventure - to live a lifetime in a single day.

Although it may seem depressing, this is a beautiful, heart-breaking and life-affirming book.



Word of the Week



debacle

In sentences:

- The collapse of the company was described as the biggest financial debacle in recent history.
- When the movie was released, it was called a debacle by the critics.
- His first mock performance was a debacle: he needed to prepare much better in future.

Meaning: a complete failure, especially because of bad planning and organisation

Etymology: 19th Century French, literally meaning the breaking up of ice in a river

BRENTWOOD FOODBANK**HELPING LOCAL
PEOPLE IN CRISIS****BRENTWOOD FOODBANK
REQUIREMENTS****JANUARY****Tinned Goods:****Meat Pies****Salmon****All Day Breakfast****Ham****Chicken Stew/ Beef Stew****Meatballs****Spaghetti****Custard/Rice Pudding****Potatoes****Washing Up Liquid****Washing Powder/Gel****Toilet Roll****Razors****Nappies Size 5 & 6****Any cleaning items**<https://brentwood.foodbank.org.uk/>**Lunchtime Eucharist**

Lunchtime Eucharists are resuming next week. There will not be a Eucharist this Friday.

Due to Year 12 exams, the John Wraw Chapel cannot be used until Friday 21st January.

Locations for Eucharists are therefore shown below:

Year 8, 9 and 12

12.10pm on Tuesdays with Father Hamilton in **J11**

Year 7, 10, 11 and 13

1.00pm on Fridays with Father North in **J16**

Students are able to get a lunchtime pass from their Tutor so they can access the Bistro or Deli for their lunch prior to the service.



Please make sure that you top-up your son or daughter's account each week so that they are able to access all the delicious meals in the school restaurants.

There is a small overdraft facility on their ParentPay account of £2 for emergency situations which covers the cost of a sandwich.

Due to the cashless system in place there is no other back up.

We do not want any student to miss lunch or the great choice of food available every day in our restaurants. The chefs work hard each day to provide a variety of delicious meals for the school.

If you have any queries, please contact the school – office@becketkeys.org



Student Absence

Please remember that you **must** contact the school if your son/daughter is not going to attend school due to illness. The easiest way to do this is via the Studybugs app. Details are below.

Please get the **free Studybugs app** for reporting your child's absence due to illness.

<https://studybugs.com>

Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play | Get it from Microsoft

Report sickness, receive guidance, help improve children's health
See what illnesses are going around
Secure system, all communications encrypted

Working in partnership with: NHS | Brighton and Sussex Medical School | Ministry of Education | Epi

Studybugs

THE SCHOOL NURSE IS AVAILABLE – JUST NOT ON SITE!

RELATIONSHIPS
MENTAL HEALTH ALCOHOL HARM
BULLYING SELF 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.

Year 7 Reading Project

Fantasy Literature

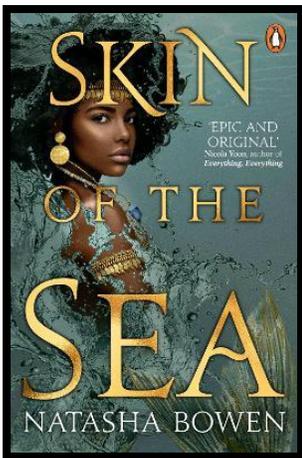
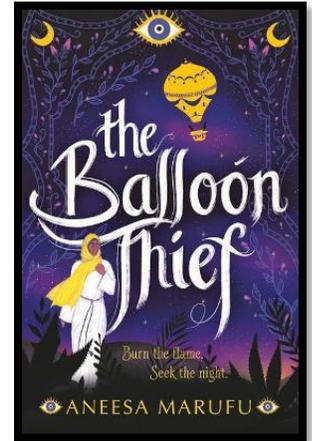
This month, the Year 7s are reading fantasy literature in form time. As per last year, they should expect to receive a creative writing homework task from their English teacher next week based on the reading. I have included here some recommendations for any students who really enjoyed the genre. If you would like some more, feel free to find me in C25.

Miss Romano

'The Balloon Thief' by Aneesa Marufa

The year's must-read young adult fantasy - ancient djinn, an epic adventure, and one girl's courage to seek her own destiny...

Burn the flame. Seek the night. For Khadija, the only escape from her father's arranged betrothal is the sky. When she spots a rogue hot air balloon fighting against its ropes, she leaps at the chance for adventure.



'The Skin of the Sea' by Natasha Bowen

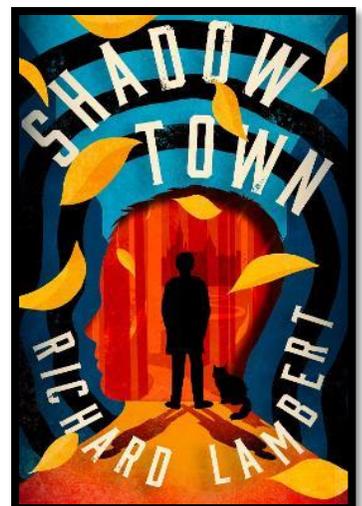
This thrilling debut is infused with the history, language and mythology of West Africa. Set in the mid 1400s when the Portuguese first began abducting and then buying West Africans, it pursues an interesting perspective on the terrible human cost of the Slave Trade.

Yemoja has created many Mami Wata, mermaids tasked with escorting the souls of enslaved people thrown into the sea. Simindele, a teenage girl, is one of them, but when she instead saves the life of a boy, she unwittingly puts all the Mami Wata in peril and must seek the forgiveness of the supreme deity.

'Shadow Town' by Richard Lambert

Toby, a lonely, unhappy boy from suburban London who finds himself pulled into an alternate world during the upheaval of his parent's impending divorce.

Toby's dad is an unkind grump, embittered by his lot in the world, and consumed by the fantasy novel he's been writing since before Toby was born. Toby's mum is a climate activist. Neither parent really pays him any attention, and his sole friends are their lodger and her cat, Alfred. Toby's miserable lot is shaken up when a shadow appears in his garden and his dreams, and he finds himself transported to a strange land, where elemental forces (blazing fires, floods and earthquakes) are at play in a kingdom ruled by a tyrant.





Walk-in COVID-19 & Flu Vaccinations

Help keep your friends and family safe.
Come and see us now and **#GrabTheJob**

TIMBERLOG LANE YOUTH CENTRE
Saturday 15th January 2022 • 10.30am–3pm
Timberlog Ln, Basildon SS14 1UX

- 12–17 year olds 1st and 2nd dose (12 weeks after 1st dose)
- Seasonal Flu Vaccination for Children Reception – Year 11

Walk in...no appointment necessary

Parking: No parking on site. Nearest parking is Stacey Corner Shops

NHS

www.essexcovidvaccine.nhs.uk



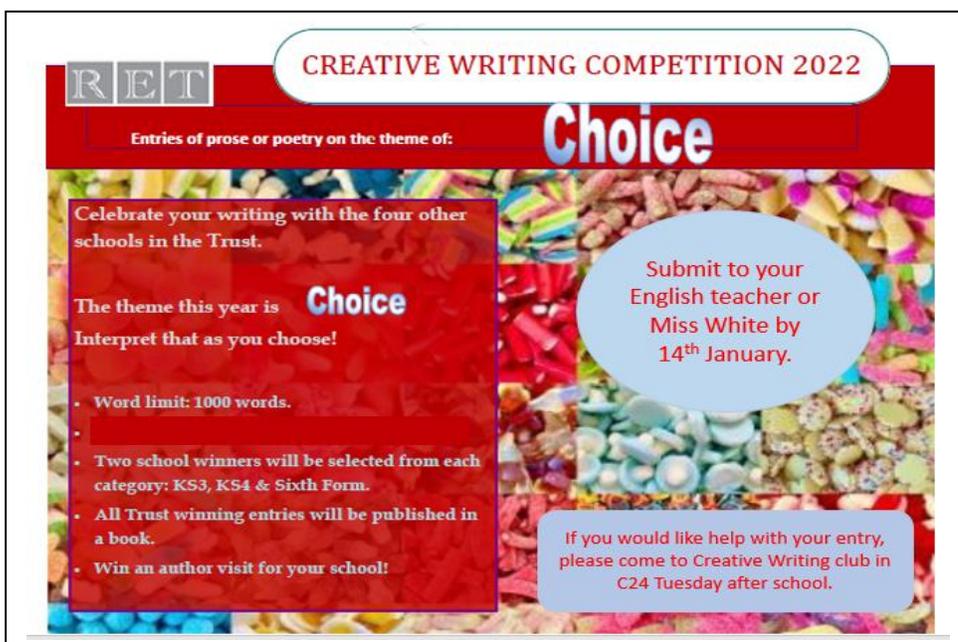
Remember that Homework Club is up and running! Every afternoon after school students can stay until 4.30pm and complete their homework in C11.

All year groups are welcome to attend, these sessions are supervised by members of staff so if students have any queries there are staff available.

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 here for a while!



RET CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION 2022

Entries of prose or poetry on the theme of: **Choice**

Celebrate your writing with the four other schools in the Trust.

The theme this year is **Choice**
Interpret that as you choose!

- Word limit: 1000 words.
- Two school winners will be selected from each category: KS3, KS4 & Sixth Form.
- All Trust winning entries will be published in a book.
- Win an author visit for your school!

Submit to your English teacher or Miss White by 14th January.

If you would like help with your entry, please come to Creative Writing club in C24 Tuesday after school.

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 as soon as possible, so that we know the day can go ahead.



Focus on Careers

Live online sessions every Monday at 7.30pm GMT.

Medical work experience, application help & certificates to help you on your way to medical school.

Every Monday evening at 7.30pm there are work experience sessions running online for students aged 14 - 18 who might be considering careers in healthcare. The sessions have proved to be very popular with over 300 students from across the UK joining in each week.

A different medical case is presented each week and our doctors, with the help of the students attending, diagnose and treat the patient in the interactive 2 hour sessions.

Students are able to obtain a certificate every month for their participation in the sessions.

If there are any students interested in becoming doctors (or any other career in healthcare), this company are offering them a 1 month free subscription - all they need to do is visit www.theweeklysurgery.com and use our school code: WEEKLY90 for their 1 month free for which they will also obtain their certificates to use in their university applications.

The code will be valid until the 20th January 2022.

It's usually £39 per month and they are free to cancel before their renewal and just take part in the free month should they wish.

The **PremedProjects** Team



HSBC are reaching out to you to make you aware of their Work Experience placements for 2022 at HSBC. These opportunities are still live and students can apply via the company Work Experience page, get your 2022 off to fantastic start with your application for Work Experience.

The Work Experience programme at HSBC UK offers a five-day shadowing experience to students in the later years of full-time secondary education. The programme has been set up with the idea to help young people from different social-economic backgrounds to gain an insight into a professional environment, as well as the banking industry.

There are over 200 Work Experience opportunities nationwide, all of which will be available for one week with a mix of hybrid working (1 day in the office and four days virtually).

Week commencing 20th June 2022

Week commencing 4th July 2022

Week commencing 1st August 2022

The application process will entail some online questions and, if successful, a telephone interview. To help prepare for this, HSBC recommend checking out the Application Hints and Tips. A telephone interview will be arranged with the student during office hours (Monday to Friday).

The placements will be spread out across the UK and students can list their location preferences when applying, but please note that the company cannot make any guarantees on placing a student in their preferred location as this is subject to availability.

The closing date for applications is 16th of February 2022, however these are offered on a rolling basis and HSBC do reserve the right to close some adverts early if all the spaces are filled. Places are limited so we recommend students apply as early as possible to avoid disappointment.

Look here for more information:

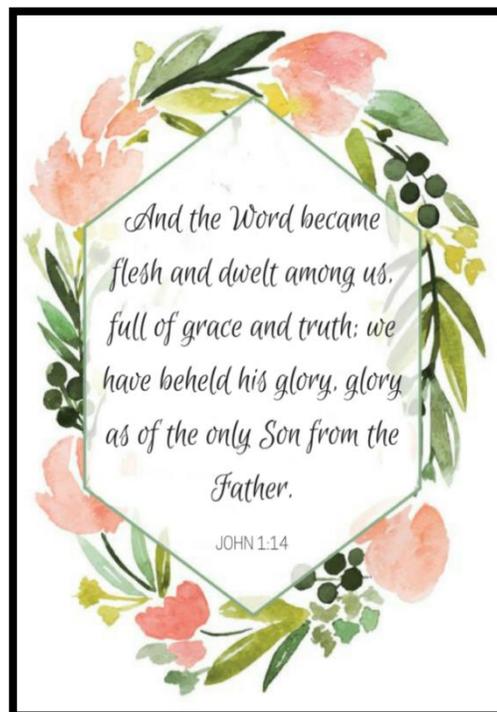
<https://www.hsbc.com/careers/students-and-graduates/student-opportunities/uk-work-experience-programme>



Christmas and New Year gifts

At Becket Keys we are constantly trying to encourage our students to make their thinking 'visible' both in our subjects and through our character education approach. A typical question is, 'What made you say that?' In a grand and wonderful way, God made His thinking visible in Jesus Christ. The mind of God became visible in Jesus; the Word of God became flesh and blood.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).



When you want to know what God is thinking, all you must do is look at the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. If you want to know God's plans and purpose, look at the

compassion and determination of Jesus. Jesus is the grace of God in flesh. Jesus is the truth of God in human skin. You may wonder at the ways of God and ask, "Where did that come from?" The answer is in Jesus Christ. You may question God, "What made you do that?" Look to Jesus. Jesus is the thinking, the heartbeat, and the essence of God. He came that we might personally know Him. The gifts of Jesus are love, peace, hope and joy.

The **Feast of Epiphany** was celebrated this Thursday (6th January). The gifts of the Magi were quite strange for giving to a baby, but they were the gifts which foretold the significance of this child. **Gold for a King, Frankincense for worship and Myrrh to show that Jesus would suffer and die for us. This is the greatest gift of all.** Just as the

Magi brought gifts for the baby Jesus, we too are called to give Jesus gifts. Pause and think. What can we give back?

This is not about material gifts and possessions. Our gift to God is to live by Christian values and be God's kingdom on earth. We can offer kindness, service,



forgiveness, music to entertain others and much more!

I wonder how many people have decided to eat more healthily as a **New Year's resolution!** But, what about our spirituality? That never needs a diet! Can we dedicate time to read His Word, to meditate and to pray? This could be as simple as downloading an App with a daily verse, reflection and prayer, or subscribing to a daily email. A message of hope and comfort at this challenging time. Or, what about giving extra time to sowing the seeds of faith? Pledge to know him more clearly, love him more dearly and follow him more nearly, day by day. Create a life that feels good on the inside, not just one that looks good on the outside.

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus,

We ask that you remind us why you came and how we can prepare for you to come still more to transform our hearts, our lives and our world. We thank you for the many gifts in our lives and pray that we may use them to

serve you. As we begin this new year and term, may we hear and see you more clearly as Christ our King – the true gift of this time.

Amen.

**Mrs Sharp
Deputy Headteacher**



Covid-19 Home Test Kits

All students have been offered additional home test kits. If your son/daughter 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.

As a reminder, if your son or daughter is taking part in the Covid-19 home testing, please remember to conduct the 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

Sports News

Extracurricular 2021/2022



Day	Before School	2 nd Lunch	After-School
Monday	Year 7&9 Open Gym Squad Gymnastics	Year 10 Mixed Basketball	Year 7&8 Netball Year 7&8 Football
Tuesday	Year 8 Open Gym	Year 11 Mixed Basketball	All Years Girls Football Year 9 Mixed Basketball
Wednesday	Year 10 & 6 th Form Open Gym Squad Gymnastics	Year 7 Mixed Basketball	Year 9&10, 11 & 6 th Netball Year 9, 10, 11 & 6 th Form Football
Thursday	U15 Girls' Cricket	Girls Basketball (Yr10&11)	Year 8 Mixed Basketball
Friday	Year 11 Open Gym	TUP Basketball	

- Keys:
- Astro
 - Sports hall
 - Field
 - Main Hall
 - Netball Courts

Monday 10th January

Year 7 Boys' Basketball v Anglo European (H)

Tuesday 11th January

Essex Cup

Year 11 Boys' Basketball v Woodlands (H)

Wednesday 12th January

Year 7 & 8 Girls' Netball v Ormiston (TBC)

Thursday 14th January

Year 8 Boys' Basketball v Boswells (TBC)
Year 9 Boys' Basketball v Beaulieu Park (A)
Year 10 Girls' Netball v Chelmer Valley High School (H)

Monday 17th January

Year 7 & 8 Girls' Netball v GBHS (A)

Year 7 Girls' Futsal @ Anglo European

Tuesday 18th January

Essex Cup

Year 11 Boys' Basketball v Woodlands (H)

Wednesday 19th January

Year 7 Girls' Basketball v St Martin's (A)
Under 16 Girls' Basketball v St Martin's (A)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

YEAR 12 EXAMS

TUESDAY 12TH JANUARY –

TUESDAY 18TH JANUARY 2022

*

YEAR 11 CONSULTATION EVENING

THURSDAY 13TH JANUARY 2022

*

YEAR 9 CONSULTATION EVENING

THURSDAY 3RD FEBRUARY 2022

*

LENT HOLIDAY

MONDAY 14TH FEBRUARY –

FRIDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2022

Becket Keys

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