

Becket Keys Church of England School

21st April 2023

IN THIS ISSUE

Mr Scott-Evans writes:

Exam season is approaching.

It is that time of year when all students are starting to focus on their forthcoming end of year exams.

Becket Keys' motto is 'Faith in Learning'. We believe in learning, and we have faith that through it our students will 'bear fruit – fruit that will last.' (John 15v16-17).

We bring our Christian faith into learning, but that does not mean that we think that because we have God on our side that everything will be easy, fun and straightforward. We teach the students that God often develops our character most through the difficult challenges we face.

Exams are one of many such challenges that are part of

growing up. They are not to be avoided or dreaded. They should be seen for what they are: a chance to put ourselves to the test, to examine what we know and do not know. They are an opportunity to be grasped and made the most of.

Some students find it hard to prioritise revision in the midst of too many other temptations. They are not disciplined enough. Other students give plenty of time to revision, but they do not revise in the right ways. They do not test themselves properly, they just read and make notes and hope it will work. They will learn from these things.

Some students stay up too late revising on the night of test when they should be resting. They are then not in good condition for the

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BECKET KEYS
Church of England School

Music Department

Excellent piano recital at Brentwood Cathedral by some of our Sixth Form students.

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Two of our Year 8 students took part in a recent competition.

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Art & Textiles

Inspiring work from our talented students in the Art department.

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exam the next day and fail to perform to the best of their ability. They will learn from these mistakes.

Some do not read the questions carefully enough. Others do not plan before writing longer answers. Some rush. Some are too slow. All will learn a lesson.

The key is to learn from the exams. Learning from the challenge means that we can be sure we are becoming more fruitful and developing a stronger character.

Year 10s will start their exams next week. They are racing towards being halfway through their GCSE courses; this is a key moment to take stock and see how they are getting on. We will be able to mark them fairly quickly and then use the rest of Year 10 to revisit some areas where they have not been successful.

Year 8 will take their exams in the week beginning 8th May with some into the following week. Now over halfway through Key Stage 3, this is a lovely time to start to see where Year 8 students' strengths lie and in which areas they need to work harder. It is also a chance to see whether they are really learning the skills of examinations in a safe, low-stakes environment.

Year 7 will take their first end of year exams at Becket Keys in the weeks commencing 5th and 12th June. Year 12 will take their UCAS

exams around the same time. Both are at the beginning of a crucial journey, and we wish them well with these important tests.

Year 9 take their exams in the week commencing 26th June. These exams will help determine which option they take at GCSE and will be a key milestone in the setting of targets for GCSE outcomes.

Of course, Year 11 and Year 13 have the daunting tasks of GCSE and A level exams. We are all praying for them during these last few weeks of revision and run up. We trust God for fruitful outcomes and further character development.

If you want to see what students have been learning this year to help with revision, the curriculum maps are [here](#). Here you can see what is taught in every subject, in every term, in every single year.

If you have any general questions about exams the best person to contact is your son/daughter's form tutor. If you are concerned about a particular subject, contact their class teacher. You can escalate to the Head of Year or Head of Department if necessary. You can do all of this via the school [website](#).

Bring on the exam season!

Mr Scott-Evans
Headteacher



BECKET KEYS
Church of England School

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.

We have a number of the following items:

- Keys
- Jewellery
- Glasses
- Trainers
- PE Kit
- Water bottles

Please make sure that all items are named, this will ensure that lost property can be returned easily.

LOST PROPERTY

Music Department

On Wednesday 19 April, three of our Sixth Form students were invited to play at Brentwood Cathedral; Isabella, Elliot and Diana.

The students had previously visited the Cathedral last month and had a piano masterclass with Danilo Mascetti.

The students were so impressive that they were invited to return and give a Lunchtime Piano Recital.

The audience were treated to a wonderfully varied and enjoyable programme of music, executed to an excellent standard by the three visiting performers.

The Cathedral were very grateful both to the students and to Mr Peter Romhany, Director of Music at Becket Keys, for taking time out of their busy school schedule to give such a splendid lunchtime performers.



Isabella is in Year 12 and is studying Music, Media Studies and English Literature. Isabella is hoping to study Film at university,



with an eye on becoming a film director. She began playing the piano at the age of 7 and gained a distinction at Grade 7 last year and will be doing Grade 8 this summer.

Elliot is in his final year at Becket Keys and has been playing the piano since a young age. He is studying Biology, Chemistry and Maths, and is planning to study Biomedical Science at university. As well as playing the piano, he is teaching himself to play the guitar.

Diana has been playing the piano since the age of 7, and recently passed her Grade 8 Piano. She is now working towards her Diploma, and is studying A level History, Politics and Music.



BECKET KEYS
Church of England School



Mandarin Department

University of Warwick

'Tell us a Story Project' competition.

University students at the School of Modern Languages and Cultures at University of Warwick have the opportunity to study overseas to enhance their language and cultural learning experience. Last year, these students wrote about their stories studying abroad. They organised an activity in which secondary language students in the UK are invited to respond to their stories in various tasks.

Our Year 8 students – Kitty Anderson and Leoni Witchalls – participated in their "Picture Perfect" task. Their drawing has been picked as the winning piece, published on their [website](#). They also both received an Amazon voucher as the reward. Congratulations!

Miss Lin
Head of Mandarin



We decided to do this picture because we found the part in Thais Fondeville's story when she and her friends thought that the man who was driving them to their destination was kidnapping them! We imagined this man to be all in black, very mysterious, whilst Thais and her friends were looking very lost and wanting to find someone to take them to somewhere warm where they wouldn't be stared at. Maybe being kidnapped seemed likely to happen to them because they were clearly foreigners who didn't know where anything was! We hope you like our drawing and paragraph.

Kitty Anderson & Leoni Witchalls
Year 8



Essex Libraries

Volunteering Opportunity

As you may know, every year the Essex Library Service works with The Reading Agency to run the Summer Reading Challenge in our libraries, with the help of some amazing volunteers.

There is a fantastic opportunity for students to come and volunteer with us over the summer and to help run the scheme again this year!

Throughout the Summer Holidays, volunteers will come to a library of their choice and speak to children participating in the challenge about the books they read, giving out rewards as they go along.

This is a fantastic opportunity for all students aged 14+ to boost their CV, enhance their social skills, or complete the volunteering section of their Duke of Edinburgh Award, all whilst having fun and helping out the local community! There will be ongoing support provided to the volunteers throughout the summer to make sure that the experience is enjoyable and worthwhile.

The library service would love it if there were some Becket Keys students who could volunteer with them this summer!

You can find more information about volunteering with the

Essex County Council
Libraries

VOLUNTEER

with us!

Come and help children take part in the
Summer Reading Challenge 2023
in libraries during the summer holidays!

talk about books

have fun chats with children

help your local community

boost your CV

Apply online at libraries.essex.gov.uk

Closing date: 30 June 2023

Apply early to secure your first choice of library.

Open to ages 14 and over

library service, and details of how to apply, on the website here: <https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/new/s/volunteer-to-help-with-the-summer-reading-challenge>

You can learn more about this year's Summer Reading Challenge here: <https://libraries.essex.gov.uk/new/s/summer-reading-challenge-2023>





Lucy Cavendish College
University of Cambridge

Summer Preparation Programme 2023

The Lucy Cavendish College Summer Preparation Programme 2023 is designed to bridge the gap between GCSE study to A-Levels by providing Year 11 students with a month-long online programme of academic enrichment tailored to their stage of the curriculum. The programme will consist of study skills workshops on a range of important themes such as time management and essay writing, university readiness sessions to support students as they plan their next steps to top Universities like Cambridge, and substantive knowledge sessions, designed to supplement students' foundational academic knowledge so that they can hit the ground running when they start their A-Levels.

The Summer Preparation Programme 2023 follows on from the success of last year's programme, following which 97% of students felt more confident about starting their A-Levels. Students can find out more and apply by 16th June [here](#).



What does the programme involve?

The programme will take place entirely online and will run over the summer holidays for four weeks, from 24th July to 18th August 2023.

Students participate in weekly Substantive Knowledge Sessions relevant to their A-Level subject choices, aimed to develop key subject-specific skills in their chosen field. These sessions are being designed in consultation with education specialists and aim to supplement students'

GCSE knowledge with the foundational academic knowledge necessary to make a strong start to their post-16 studies.

Alongside these weekly stream-specific sessions, students will also benefit from weekly Study Skills Workshops, which aim to improve students' general study skills in preparation for starting post-16 study, and University Readiness Sessions, which will strengthen students' understanding of how to make a competitive application Cambridge and other top universities.



Education on Demand

GCSEPod has lots of resources and tips to help students with motivation, how to learn, news and free resources. Designed to engage learners, improve confidence, and accelerate progress. Statistics show that students who use GCSEPod regularly can easily achieve at least 1 additional grade higher in each subject!

[GCSE Learning and Revision | GCSEPod](#)



Year 10

Get yourselves signed up on GCSE Pod.

It is an excellent resource 3-5 minutes videos that are linked to all your subjects.

You have a message on SMHW with instructions.

Come and see me in J12 if you need any help.

Mrs Knowles

1. Go to GCSEPod.com and click **Login**



2. Click the sign in with **Office 365** button



3. Pick an account

Enter your school username followed by **@becketkeys.org**

4. Enter the password that you use for your school log on.

Then you should be in and get a welcome page!



Year 11

GCSE Pod reminder:

You can now use your 365 log in to access GCSE pod!

Come and see me in J12 if you need any help.

Mrs Knowles

1. Go to GCSEPod.com and click **Login**



2. Click the sign in with **Office 365** button



3. Pick an account

Enter your school username followed by **@becketkeys.org**

4. Enter the password that you use for your school log on.

Then you should be in and get a welcome page!




Help out when you check out

Collect FREE donations for **FRIENDS OF BECKET KEYS** every time you shop online.



Join, shop and raise here:
easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/becketkeyschoolbrentwood

If you are doing shopping online. Why not see if you can help raise some funds for FoBK through your online purchases in a few easy steps:

Click [here](#) then

- Click 'Sign up and support this cause'.
- If new to Easyfundraising then set up an account.
- Browse the hundreds of online shops who participate in the scheme and go shopping! As long as you go into the online sites through the Easyfundraising site, you will register a donation to FoBK. You can even get an App for your phone! It will not cost you a penny!

If already a member, then why not refer a friend? FoBK will get a bonus when each person you refer makes a purchase.

YEAR 11 SCIENCE TURN UP AND REVISE

Time - 8am

Where

Tues - W13 - Biology
Wed - W21 - Chemistry
Fri - W24 - Physics



Teachers will be available to support

Bring your revision/homework with you

Focused and quiet environment to study



Becket Keys Careers Department

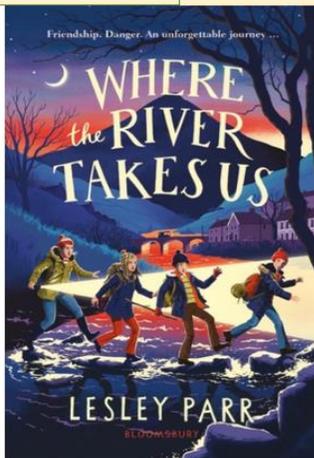
Each year, for one of our enrichment days, we run a careers networking event for our students. The focus is on inspiring future choices and decisions. We will be hosting this again on July 13th and we are in need of volunteers from a range of careers. We would like professionals to talk to our students about their career; the pathway into the job, the opportunities, skills and experiences that are involved.

If you are able to support us in any way, please do get in touch via careers@becketkeys.org. I will be able to give you some more information including the timings for the day.

Miss S Ellis
Joint Acting Head of PSHE



Book of the Month - April



This is a thrilling historical adventure set against a backdrop of the 1970s miners' strikes.

It's February 1974 and working class families have been hit hard by the three-day week. The reduced power usage means less hours for people to work, and less money to get by on. Thirteen-year-old Jason feels the struggle keenly.

Ever since his parents died, it's just been him and his older brother Richie. They've got supportive neighbours and some great friends, but there's always the threat that someone will think they can't manage on their own. Richie is doing his best, but since he can't make ends meet, he's been doing favours for the wrong people. Every day they fear they won't have enough and will have to be separated.

One thing that helps distract Jason is the urban legend about a beast in the valleys that catches his eye in the local paper. A wild cat that roams the forest, far up the river from their bridge. When Jason's friends learn of a reward for proof of The Beast's existence, they convince Jason this is the answer to his and Richie's money problems. Find the cat, take a photo of it, claim the reward. His friends even agree they'll give all the money to Jason and Richie.

Richie can get himself out of trouble before it's too late and the brothers can stay together. And so, a quest begins... Starting at the bridge of their village and following the river north, Jason, Jinx, Tam and Catrin – sandwiches, sleeping bags and fizzy pop at the ready – soon find themselves on a journey that will change each of them forever.

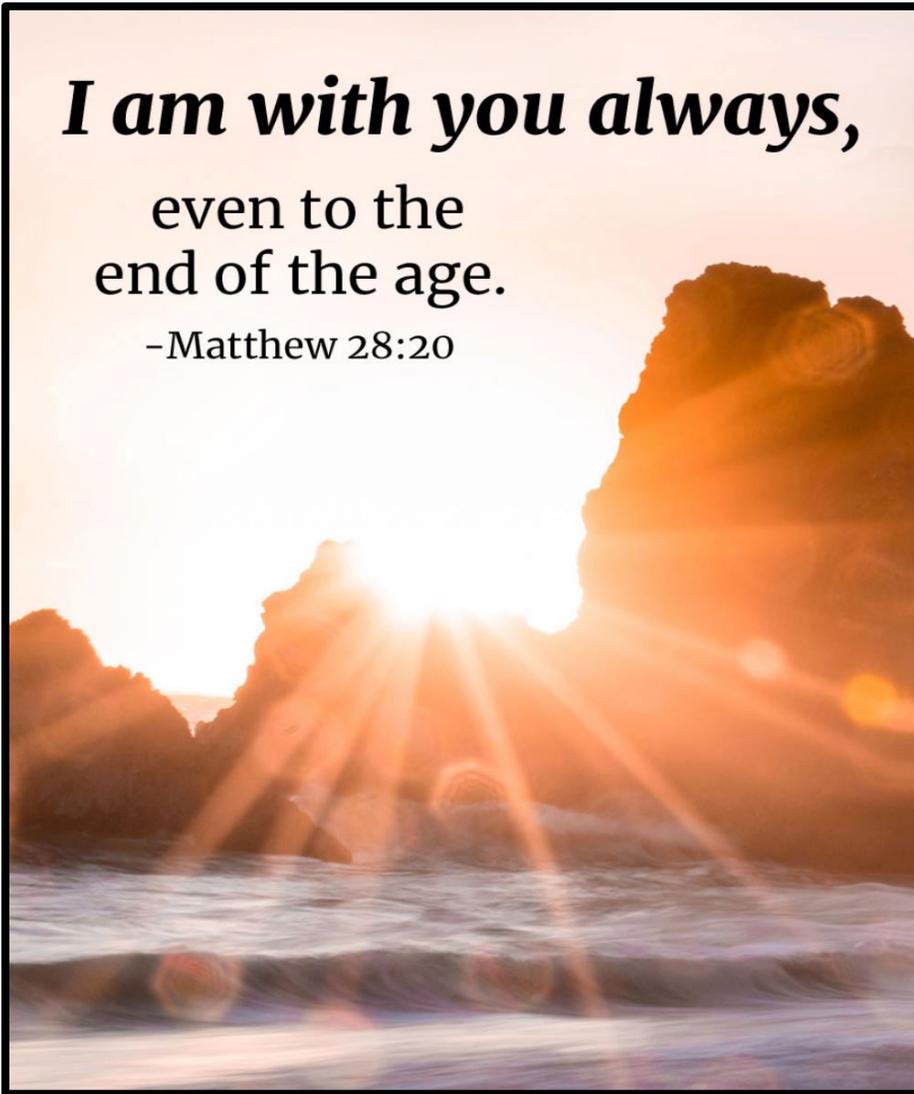
Reminder

All feminine hygiene products are free to students in school.

Please collect from Medical or Reception.

[Nationally Televised Advert](#)





I am with you always,

**even to the
end of the age.**

–Matthew 28:20

PAUSE

Making Easter Last!

The story of Easter does not end with an empty tomb! In this Biblical Pause, I would like to encourage you to think about what Jesus did for us after the resurrection and the significance this has for our lives.

After the resurrection, we read about how Jesus spent 40 days appearing to His disciples and instructing them before he ascended into heaven. Below are four key things that Jesus did for them (and us) after the resurrection:

1. He encourages us

After the panic and grief of losing Jesus to such a horrible and public death, the disciples go into hiding. They are overcome with sorrow and confusion, fearing for their lives. When Jesus appears to them, he comforts them, gives them courage with His words. He shows them He is in fact alive. He replaces their doubts with faith, their sorrow with joy, and their fear with courage.

2. He reminds us who he is

Lest they (and we) forget who Jesus is, He reminds his disciples by leading them, speaking of the Kingdom of God once again with authority, and explaining how Moses and the prophets were pointing to Him. He is the awaited Messiah and He has all authority on heaven and earth.

3. He commands us

Jesus gives charge to His disciples (and to us) to go into the world, spreading the Good News about Christ to all the nations! That may look different for each person and situation as we follow God's calling on our lives, but we should make no mistake that this applies to us.

4. He goes with us

Before ascending, Jesus said He would send a helper (the Holy Spirit) to transform our hearts, encourage and exhort us, remind us of God's truth, and bear fruit in our lives. Then Jesus gives us the comfort of knowing that He will not really be leaving. He is with us now and always. We are not alone! The disciples

needed these things after the resurrection. We also need these things. We need courage and faith to face the trials of life, whether big or small. We need the reminder that Jesus is alive, He is working, and He is in control. We need to look up from our daily lives and see God's goodness, glory, and grace, giving us the strength to keep following Him.

What Jesus said and did after the resurrection changed a band of fearful and sorrowful people into men and women willing to die so that others would know the Good News.

Reflect upon how Christ's encouragement, authority, commandments, and faithful presence changes or has the potential to change you. The Good News is that, while we were yet sinners, Jesus came to earth, lived a perfect life of faith, and died on the cross in our place. He took the punishment for our sins because He loves us and wants to be close to us.

I hope that you have been blessed during your Easter celebrations. May you continue to reflect upon the significance of the resurrection of our Lord. The whole of our existence, past, present, and future, depends upon the good and perfect will of God. Jesus' victory over sin and death is a reality all the time. **The truth is, every day is Resurrection Sunday!** So, our pointing to Jesus and declaring

the Good News is not a one-day kind of thing. It is an everyday kind of thing.

Let us pray:

Dear God,

We pray that the resurrection of our Saviour will be a constant reminder to us of His love and promise of eternal life. May the blessings of the Lord guide us, protect us and surround us every day of our life.

Amen.

Mrs Sharp
Deputy Headteacher



The local Food Bank is now feeding over 100 people every day.

APRIL ITEMS REQUIRED

**Beef/Chicken Casserole, Minced Beef & Onion
Chilli Con Carne/Curries
Hot Dogs/Meatballs, Spaghetti
Instant Mash/Tinned Potatoes
Tinned Fish
Rice Pudding/Custard/Tinned Fruit
Rice/Noodles
Pasta Sauce
Washing Powder or Gel
Shampoo/Toothpaste/Shaving Gel
Nappies Size 3,4 & 6/Baby Wipes/ Toilet Roll**

Art & Textiles

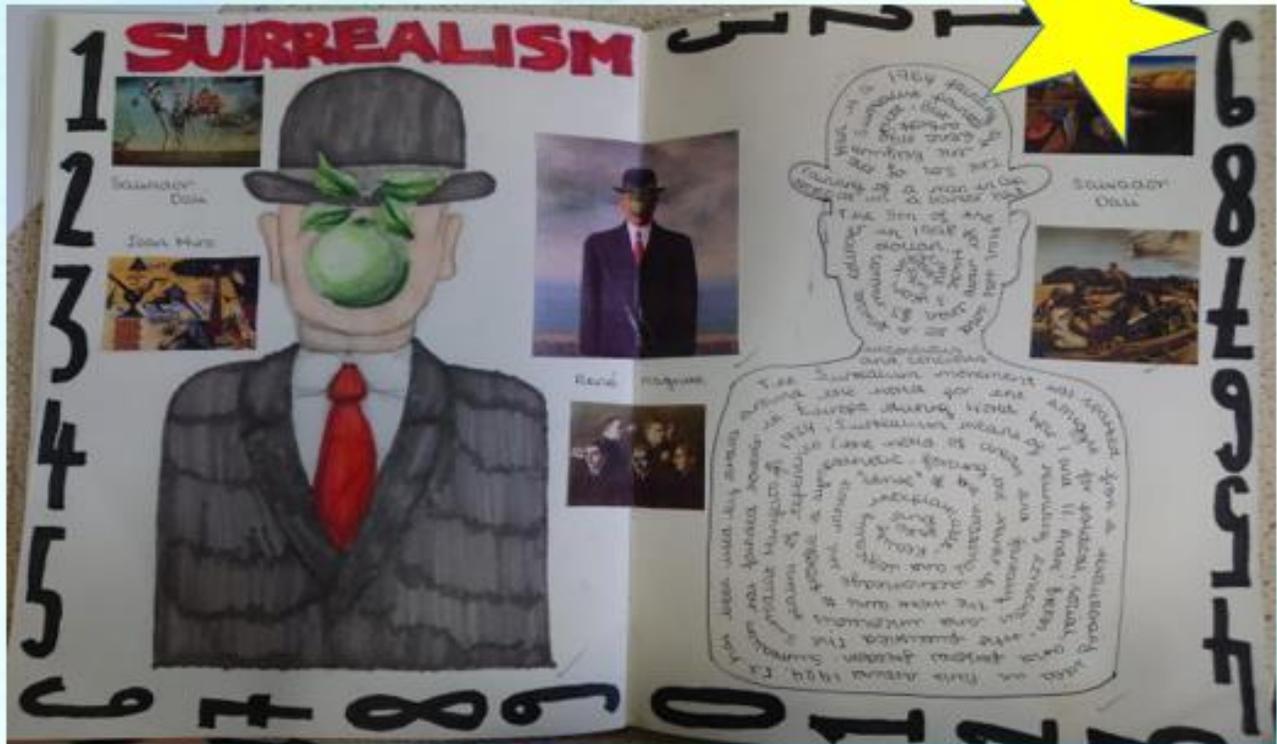
Star Artist Year 10

Beau Ayres



[@becketkeysarttextiles](https://www.instagram.com/becketkeysarttextiles)

Elle Holdcroft Yr 9



Kayla
Hamber
Yr 13



Gabriella
Hristozova
Yr 9



Yr 12
Sam Pain



Jenni Tingay Yr 11



In Art & Textiles this week with Mrs Cherry... Star of the week

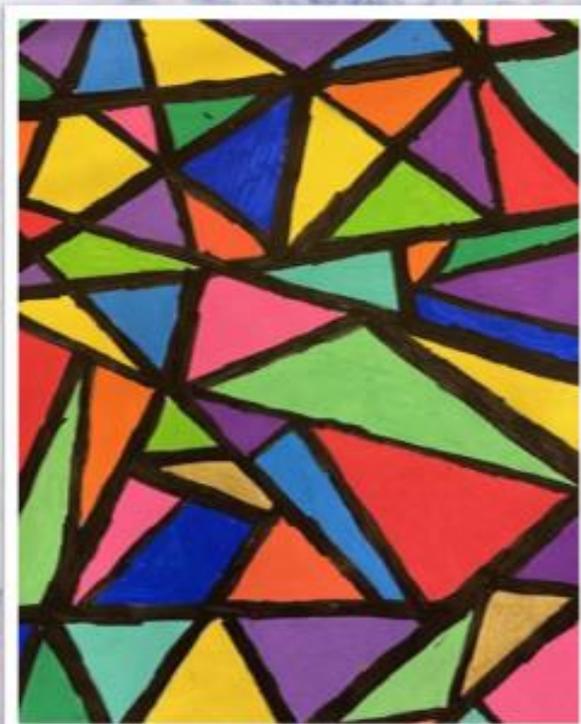
Y13



Charlotte Hope



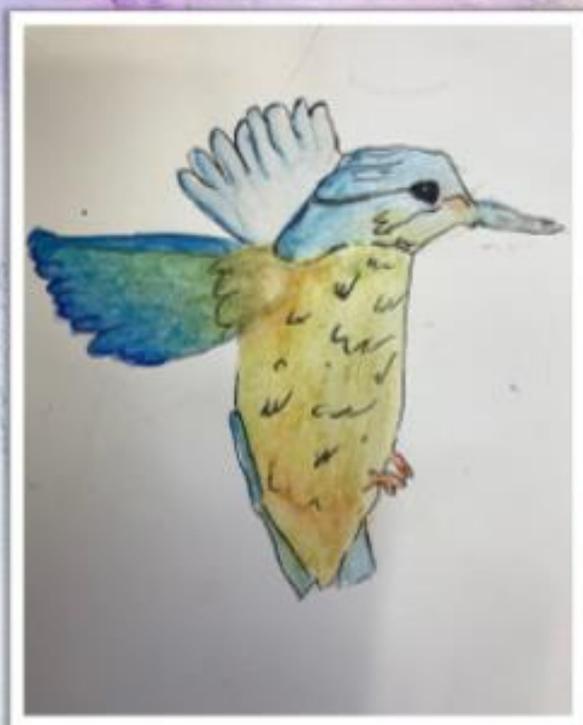
@becketkeysart



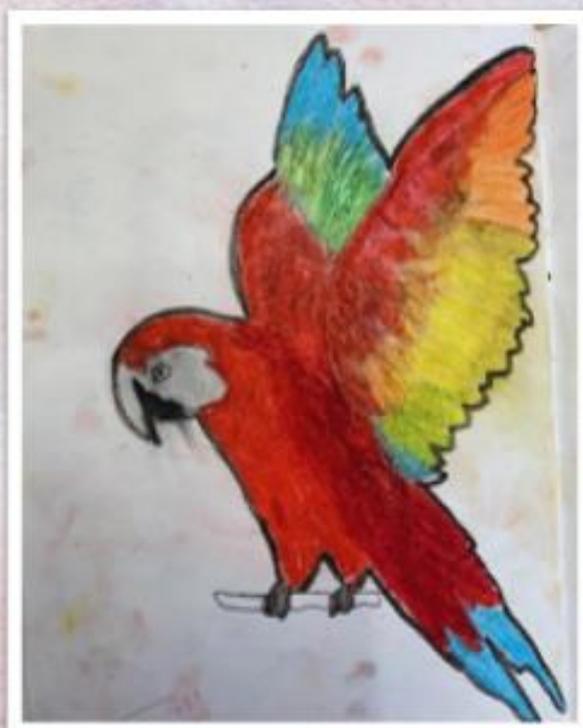
Cooper Waller Y7



Abigail Fisher Y7



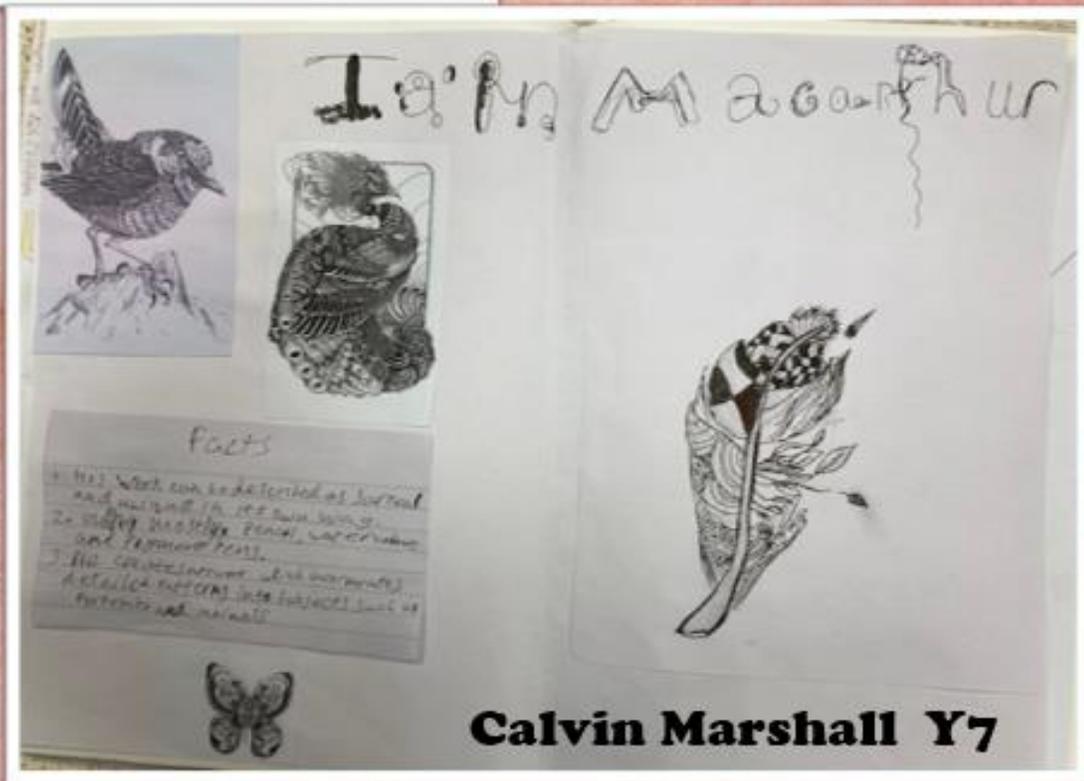
Ibrahim Rehman Y7



Eden Withers Y7



Alexandra Terrell Y9



Calvin Marshall Y7



Charlotte Hope Y13

Jess Prentice Y13



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

YEAR 8 BUDE TRIP
THURSDAY 27TH APRIL –
MONDAY 1ST MAY 2023

*

YEAR 10 EXAMS
MONDAY 24TH APRIL –
FRIDAY 28TH APRIL 2023

*

MAY BANK HOLIDAYS
MAYDAY
MONDAY 1ST MAY 2023

CORONATION BANK HOLIDAY
MONDAY 8TH MAY 2023

*

YEAR 13 CELEBRATION DAY
FRIDAY 12TH MAY 2023

*

YEAR 11 CELEBRATION DAY
FRIDAY 12TH MAY 2023

*

WHITSUN HOLIDAY
MONDAY 29TH MAY –
FRIDAY 2ND JUNE 2023

*

INSET DAYS
(NO STUDENTS IN SCHOOL)
FRIDAY 16TH JUNE 2023
MONDAY 19TH JUNE 2023

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