

*Hope Peace Joy Love*



# Becket Keys Church of England School

8<sup>th</sup> December 2023

WEEK TWO OF ADVENT - PEACE

IN THIS ISSUE



**Becket Keys  
MUSIC**

## *Psallam spiritu et mente*

Mrs Sharp writes . . .

It was wonderful to welcome so many guests to our Christmas Carol Concert this thursday evening. This was an occasion not to be missed! I would like to thank Mr Romhany and Mr Menexes. They are a great source of inspiration for students at Becket Keys.

Worship is at the heart of the Becket Keys community. This opportunity to celebrate the gift of music, and retell the Christmas story through Bible readings, is one of my favourite Advent traditions. My own faith is grounded in Church music and

the role of music in liturgy has always been important to me. Indeed, on occasions, I have found it easier to express faith through music than words. Music can raise the soul, move the heart, and direct us towards God. The words from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians comes to mind:

### *Psallam spiritu et mente*

I will sing with the spirit and with the understanding also  
(1 Corinthians 14:15)



.....contd. on page 2



**BECKET KEYS**  
Church of England School

**Computer Science Department**  
Excellent results for the students who took part in the Bebras Challenge.  
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**Student Achievement**  
Amazing sporting results for Becket Keys students who are competing at a national and international level.  
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This is aptly the motto of the Royal Society of Church Music. Music is more than just the notes! It is a means to an end. It is a servant of the liturgy; a word that means 'the work of the people'. Music helps us worship better, through holiness, truth, beauty, love and surrender, adoration and praise. The rich variety of talents, enthusiasm and the dedication of all the students who took part in or supported the Christmas Carol Concert was truly moving.

As we wait and prepare for the Nativity of Jesus, I would like to leave you with a prayer, inspired by liturgy, music, and the strength of community:

*In this Advent of expectation  
draw us together in unity,  
that our praise and worship  
might echo in these walls  
and also through our lives.*

*In this Advent of expectation  
draw us together in mission,  
that the hope within  
might be the song we sing,  
and the melody of our lives.*

*In this Advent of expectation  
draw us together in service,  
that the path we follow  
might lead us from a stable  
to a glimpse of eternity.*

*Amen.*

**Mrs Sharp  
Deputy Headteacher**



## Give the Gift of Reading

Do you have some books for young people that you are looking to clear out? Perhaps you are making space for Father Christmas to bring a few new ones again this year. If you have some books that your sons/daughters have grown out of and are not going to read again, we would love to receive them. If your son/daughter read them from the age of 10 upwards, they will be suitable for us.

Many thanks to those who have already contributed.



## 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 21 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 winners, Sam Walton (Juniors), Nathan Giles (Inters), Nicholas Petrelli (Seniors) and Anya Till (Elite) 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 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024.



### Juniors Category (Y7)

Adam Huntingford  
George Lawrence  
Rithika Rony  
Lucas Tjonis  
Ava Shorter  
Farley Haslam  
Samuel Walton  
Imogen Course  
Amelia Laing

### Intermediates Category (Y8 & Y9)

Ethan Hale  
Donnie Yeaman  
Jake Adams  
Ethan Hale  
Harry Watson  
Ruby O'Flaherty

Moyin Olukoya  
Leah Knight  
Nathan Giles  
Marci Randle  
Nathan Tilden

### Seniors (Y10-11)

Nicholas Petrelli

### Elite (Y12-13)

Anya Till

Congratulations to all our Bebras Gold Award winners!

**Mrs Pagoda**  
Head of Computer Science

## Student Achievement Becket Keys Ski Team

**Let it snow! Let it snow!  
Let it snow!**

Becket Keys Ski Team own the podium!

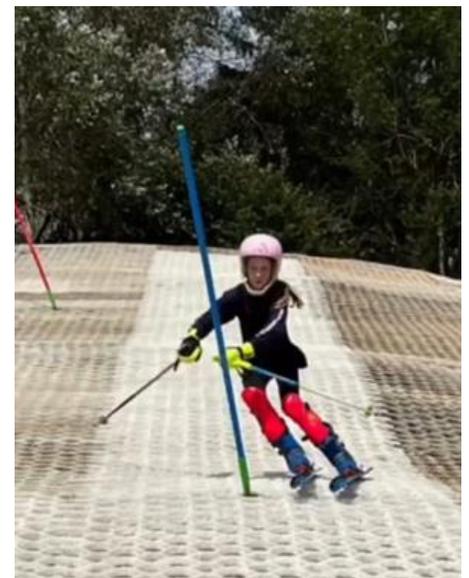
While most people are only just starting to plan their ski trips, Becket Keys Ski Team (Eira-Mia Higgs, Rudy Collier-Brown and Sasha Higgs) have completed a fantastic spring and summer season. They have collected numerous podium places and wins representing Essex around the country. The Becket Keys team became mixed team champions at the National Schools South Championships in Brentwood. Prior to this achievement in September, all members of the ski team qualified for the National Schools League finals. This year saw Eira-Mia become Essex U18 and overall women's Champion, Sasha U14 Champion and Rudy U16 Champion, as well as winning the Skiers Skier Award presented by Sergio Cis who is a 4x Olympian. (This was based on votes by Essex squad members.)



The hard work does not stop here and their training continues in this country, as well as in the mountains of Norway, Austria, Italy and Switzerland!

There are many types of ski racing. Slalom involves skiing through a course of poles and trying to set the quickest time and can take place everywhere, even when there is no snow!

In England, there are slopes made out of plastic which are meant to represent snow as closely as possible. They are, however, a lot harder to ski on than snow. So, this adds an extra challenge!



Next year, the team is going to keep competing all around the country to make sure they retain their title! This will involve a lot of training on and off skis to keep in top shape to compete.

If you would like to know more about ski racing or would even like to join the team, further information is provided here:

**Instagram**

**Essex Ski Racing Club**

<https://instagram.com/essexskiracingclub?igshid=NzZIODBkYWE4Ng==>

**Brentwood Ski Slope**

<https://instagram.com/brentwoodskiandsnowboardcentre>



The ski team were happy to show their trophy to Mr Scott-Evans earlier this week.

Congratulations Eira-Mia, Rudy and Sasha!



**November Festive Food Items**

- Christmas Cake
- Christmas Pudding
- Savoury Biscuits
- Sweet Biscuits
- Tinned Salmon
- Tinned Ham
- Tinned Custard
- Selection Boxes
- Savoury Snacks:- crisps, nuts etc

**Items will be given to clients in December to help them celebrate Christmas**

Brentwood Foodbank / Doddinghurst Road Community Church  
Registered Charity Number 1171227

## Student Achievement Emilia Danilova Year 7



Recently, Emilia Danilova in Year 7 travelled to Luxembourg to participate in an international Rhythmic Gymnastics competition, representing both the United Kingdom and a local club.

We are delighted to announce that Emilia won GOLD in her category performing with clubs.

Emilia is dedicated to her sport and works very hard, training for 12-15 hours each week. She has been doing this for the last 6 years.

Emilia is now preparing for her next international competition, The London Cup, which is taking place next weekend in London.

We wish her every success!





The SEND Roadshows are in person events for parents and carers of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

You do not need any diagnosis to come and get help at a roadshow. You may:

- be new to SEND and unsure what help is available
- feel your child needs help or have questions about the support they already receive
- want to find out what support there is for you as a parent or carer
- not be sure what support you might need

### What you can get out of a roadshow

There are many different professionals who can help you under one roof. This includes local support groups, education professionals, health teams and social care teams.

You can:

- access support and information



Essex County Council  
Special Educational Needs  
and Disabilities (SEND)



## SEND Local Offer ROADSHOW

- understand the different services available
- find out about support available in schools
- find out about local support, such as parent groups
- meet other carers and parents
- Thursday 7 March – Mid Essex – The Hamptons – Chelmsford
- Wednesday 13 March – NE Essex – Colchester Football Stadium
- Tuesday 19 March – West Essex – The Harlow Hotel

The dates and locations of the Essex Local Offer Roadshows for the Spring term are:

- Monday 4 March – South Essex - The Holiday Inn - Basildon

Follow this link to discover more details about the roadshows as they become available, including which services will be attending <https://send.essex.gov.uk/i-think-my-child-needs-help/essex-local-offer-roadshows>



ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY  
CHURCH

## *Carols And Chilli Around The Christmas Tree*

FRIDAY 15TH DECEMBER 5PM-8PM  
Community Carol Singing at 5.30, 6.30, 7.30  
With Special Guest Performances  
Children's Craft Area  
Nachos with Chilli Con Carne  
Hotdogs  
Licenced Bar  
Mince Pies

**Tickets - available after 10.00am Mass on Sundays  
or Church Office on Thursday mornings or on the St  
Thomas Church website**

**£2.50 per ticket or £10 for 5 tickets**

Raffle to be drawn on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023 after 10.00am Mass




## 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](https://easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/becketkeyschoolbrentwood)

If you are doing Christmas shopping online, why not see if you can help raise some funds for FoBK through your purchases. It takes a few easy steps.

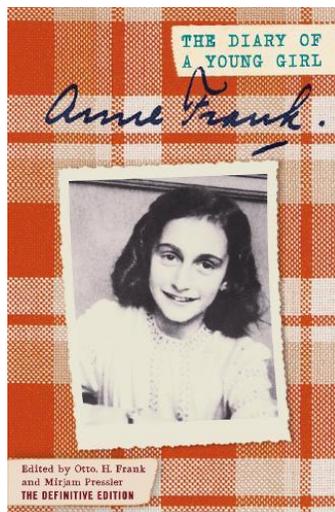
Click [here](#), then:

- 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.

## English Department Recommendations – Year 7

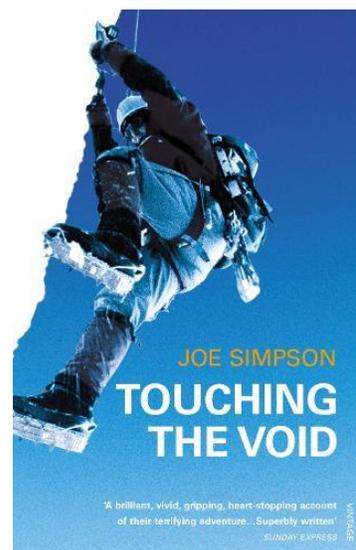
This month the Year 7s have been reading 'Boy' in form time. This is an autobiography of Roald Dahl. If you enjoy this genre, here are some of my recommended reads!



In July 1942, thirteen-year-old Anne Frank and her family, fleeing the occupation, went into hiding in an Amsterdam warehouse. Over the next two years Anne vividly describes in her diary the frustrations of living in such close quarters, and her thoughts, feelings and longings as she grows up. Her diary ends abruptly when, in August 1944, they were all betrayed.

Touching the Void is the heart-stopping account of Joe Simpson's terrifying adventure in the Peruvian Andes. He and his climbing partner, Simon, reached the summit of the remote Siula Grande in June 1995. A few days later, Simon staggered into Base Camp, exhausted and frost-bitten, with news that that Joe was dead.

What happened to Joe, and how the pair dealt with the psychological traumas that resulted when Simon was forced into the appalling decision to cut the rope, makes not only an epic of survival but a compelling testament of friendship.



Arguably the book which reinvigorated the football writing genre, Nick Hornby's *Fever Pitch* is the wonderful story of a child's love affair with the game and, in Hornby's particular case, the sole object of his affection, Arsenal Football Club.

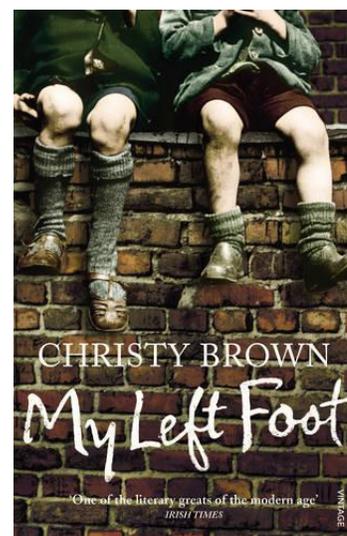
Hornby's love affair began the first time his father took him to Highbury to watch the 'Gunners' and took him through all the emotions associated with football fandom. Pain, hope, adoration, blind loyalty and of course deep, deep disappointment are here, but scattered amongst these are a few moments of sheer pleasure, which any football fan will tell you makes it all worthwhile.

Hornby's relationship with Arsenal and football is a defining one throughout his life and colours all his other relationships.

This month the Year 8s have been reading 'The Reasons I Jump' in form time. This is an autobiography that explores what life with autism is like! If you enjoy this genre, here are some of my recommended reads!

Christy Brown was born a victim of cerebral palsy. But the hapless, lolling baby concealed the brilliantly imaginative and sensitive mind of a writer who would take his place among the giants of Irish literature.

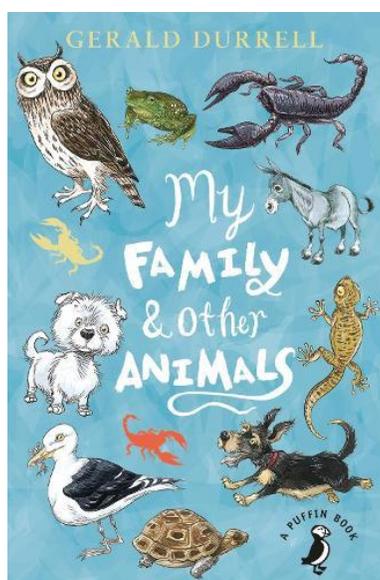
This is Christy Brown's own story. He recounts his childhood struggle to learn to read, write, paint and finally type, with the toe of his left foot. In this manner, he wrote his bestseller *Down all the Days*.



Ten-year-old Gerald does not know why his older brothers and sisters complain so much.

With snakes in the bath and scorpions on the lunch table, the family home on the Greek island of Corfu is a bit like a zoo so they should feel right at home...

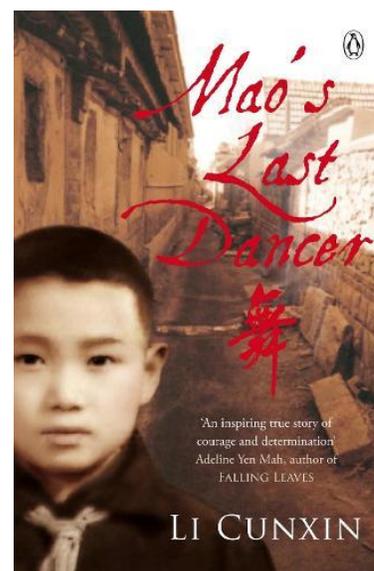
Gerald joyfully pursues his interest in natural history in the midst of an unconventional and chaotic family life - all brilliantly retold in this very funny book.



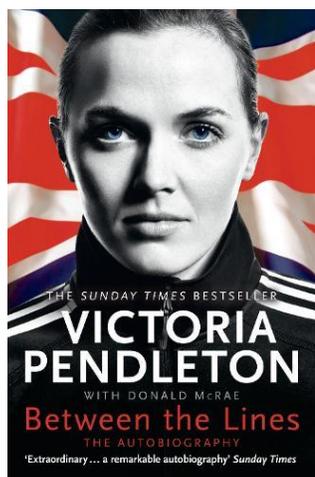
Raised in a desperately poor village during the height of China's Cultural Revolution, Li Cunxin's childhood revolved around the commune, his family and Chairman Mao's Little Red Book.

Until, that is, Madame Mao's cultural delegates came in search of young peasants to study ballet at the academy in Beijing and he was thrust into a completely unfamiliar world.

When a trip to Texas as part of a rare cultural exchange opened his eyes to life and love beyond China's borders, he defected to the United States in an extraordinary and dramatic tale of Cold War intrigue.



This month the Year 9s have been reading 'Into the Wild' in form time. This is a biography exploring the man who abandoned all of his possessions to hitchhike America! If you enjoy this genre, here are some of my recommended reads!



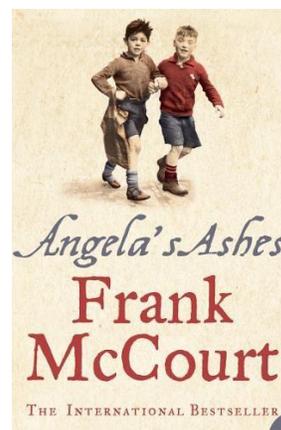
Victoria Pendleton MBE is not your typical female athlete. Admired as much by the weekly glossies as she is the newspaper back pages, she transcends her sport.

In 2005 she became first British female to win Gold at the cycling World Championships in 40 years. She followed it up with gold medals at the Commonwealth Games in 2006 and another World Championship in 2007.

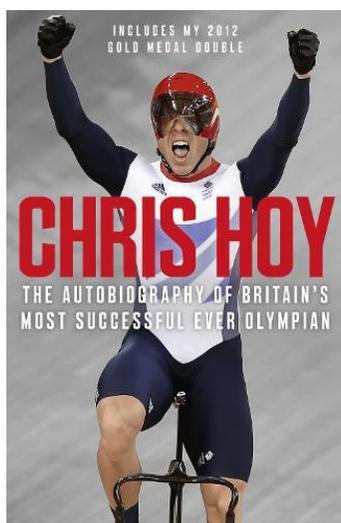
Arriving in Beijing for the 2008 Olympic Games, Pendleton was on top of the world, taking Gold and joining the ranks of British Olympic heroes.

And then it started to go wrong. Feted by the press and the public alike, behind the scenes the cracks and strains started to show. Despite retaining her World Champion status in 2009, it was a close run thing and her shield of invincibility started to drop. Victoria was falling out of love with her sport. The sport that had made her was starting to tear her apart.

It is a story of extreme hardship and suffering, in Brooklyn tenements and Limerick slums - too many children, too little money, his mother Angela barely coping as his father Malachy's drinking bouts constantly brings the family to the brink of disaster. It is a story of courage and survival against apparently overwhelming odds.



This 33-year-old cycling fanatic from Murrayfield in the suburbs of Edinburgh defied the doubters who thought he would struggle when his specialist discipline, the 1km time trial, was dropped from the Olympics, and went on to reinvent himself as a track cycling sprinter and triple Olympic gold medallist in Beijing. His return to these shores sparked unprecedented celebrations and real admiration that here was a role model who was the epitome of all things that are good in sport.



What makes a champion in sport? In his autobiography, Hoy returns to his roots as a child fully engaged with the BMX craze of the Eighties; when, even as a seven-year-old his will to succeed allied to an unyielding mental strength set him apart from other youngsters of his age. A promising rower and rugby player in school, it was when he joined his first local cycling club and spent most weekends of the year competing in national events from Blackpool to Bristol that the seeds of his future career were sown.



Essex Partnership University  
NHS Foundation Trust

# FLU VACCINE CATCH-UP CLINICS

**Time is running out to vaccinate your child with this season's flu nasal spray\*.**

**The flu vaccine reduces the risk of serious illness and will top up their protection even if they've been vaccinated before.**

**Drop into one of our Essex catch-up clinics for primary and secondary aged children:**

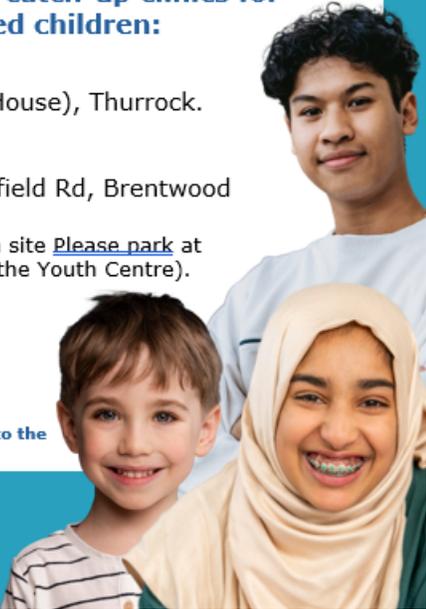
**16 December, 10am – 2pm**  
Thurrock Hospital (Thameside House), Thurrock.

**21 December, 10am – 2pm**  
The Hermit Youth Centre, Shenfield Rd, Brentwood CM15 8AG.  
(Please note no parking available on site [Please park](#) at Brentwood Sainsbury's and walk to the Youth Centre).

**No booking required.  
Just walk in.**

\*flu injection is offered as an alternative to the nasal spray

**#DOYOURBITESSEX**



## REMEMBER

### A Message from the Admin Team

Remember that all correspondence to the school must come through the school office email: [office@becketkeys.org](mailto:office@becketkeys.org) or send a message via the contact page on the [website](#).

You can also now reply directly to any message you receive from the school via Bromcom, just hit the reply button and it will go to the Office.

Students can contact their teachers via Satchel One if they have any queries regarding their lessons.

Please do not email staff directly, as any message received in this way will not receive a response.

Thank you for your understanding.

### Post 16 Education Trip - Can you help?

We are looking for parent/community volunteers to attend the post-16 education trip on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024. This trip involves 30 Year 11 students exploring post-16 education at a local colleges (to be confirmed)

If you are willing to volunteer, please email:

[office@becketkeys.org](mailto:office@becketkeys.org)

Many thanks!



## LOST PROPERTY

If your son/daughter has misplaced anything at school, then kindly inform him/her 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.

## Late Gate

*Early is on time  
On time is late  
And late is unacceptable!*

At Becket Keys, we look to ensure that we are preparing students for life beyond school; this includes encouraging students to attend school regularly, and of course, on time.

Remember that the school gate closes at **8.25am**. This allows students enough time to get to their first lesson on time. Period 1 begins at 8.30am.

Brentwood can be tough to manoeuvre during rush hour, so we encourage students and parents to contact the school in the case of **genuine** lateness, such as delayed public transport.

Parents can call the main school line 01277 286600 or use the "Studybugs" app.

We thank you for your support.



**BECKET KEYS**  
Church of England School



## Book of the Month - December



Twelve-year-old Flora Winter and her mother are off to the small seaside town of Helmersbruk for Christmas. When they arrive, Flora soon discovers an abandoned mansion straight out of a fairytale. But it is not just the manor that is mysterious - porcelain figures are appearing out of nowhere, a strange boy in a green cap seeks her friendship, and she hears eerie whispers in the night.

Flora is determined to unravel the secrets of Helmersbruk Manor - but as the clock ticks down to Christmas, Flora must solve the mystery before time runs out.

An enchanting Christmas mystery, with an illustrated chapter for each day of Advent.

## Parent/Teacher Subject Consultation Evenings

These online events are a chance for parents to speak with individual teachers about the progress their son/daughter is making in each subject. Students are strongly encouraged to attend with their parents. However, if you ever have any concerns please contact the school via [office@becketkeys.org](mailto:office@becketkeys.org) or via the [contact page](#) on the school website.

Year 11

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Year 9

Thursday

1<sup>st</sup> February 2024

Followed by a Year 9 – Options Evening

Thursday

15<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Year 7

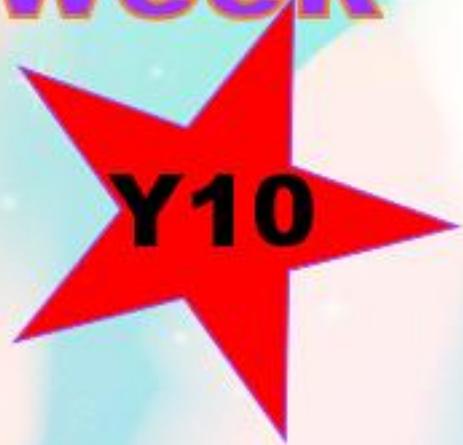
Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Year 10

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024

# In Art & Textiles this week with Mrs Cherry

## Star of the week



Romilie Deal



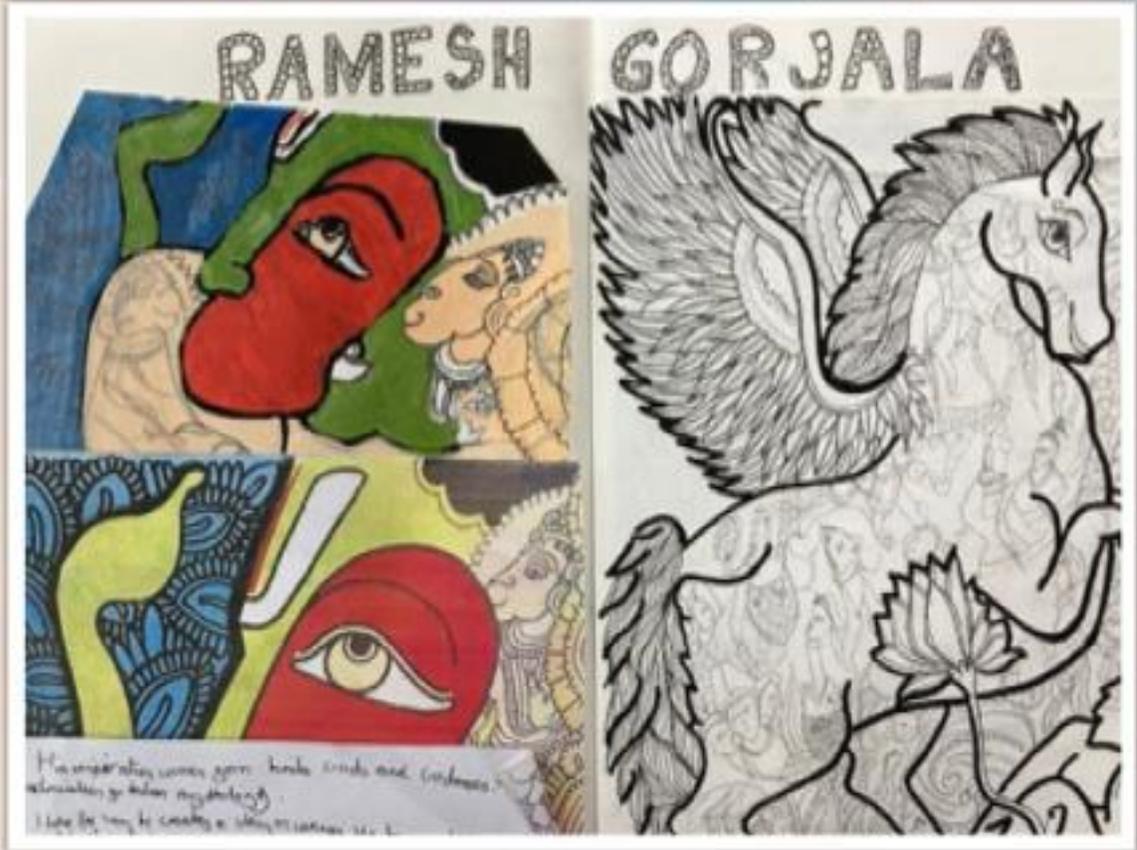
@becketkeysart

# Key stage 3



Ben Torrington Y8

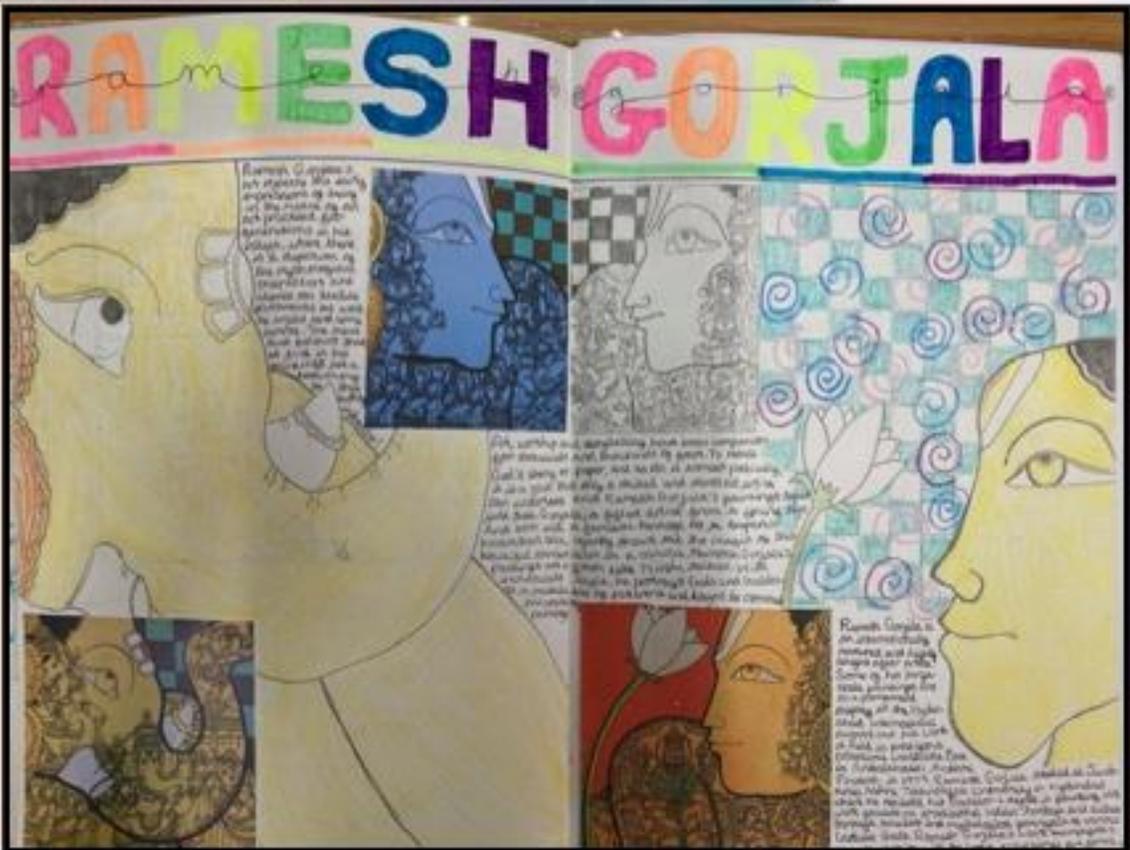
Felix Rogers Y7



# Key stage 3

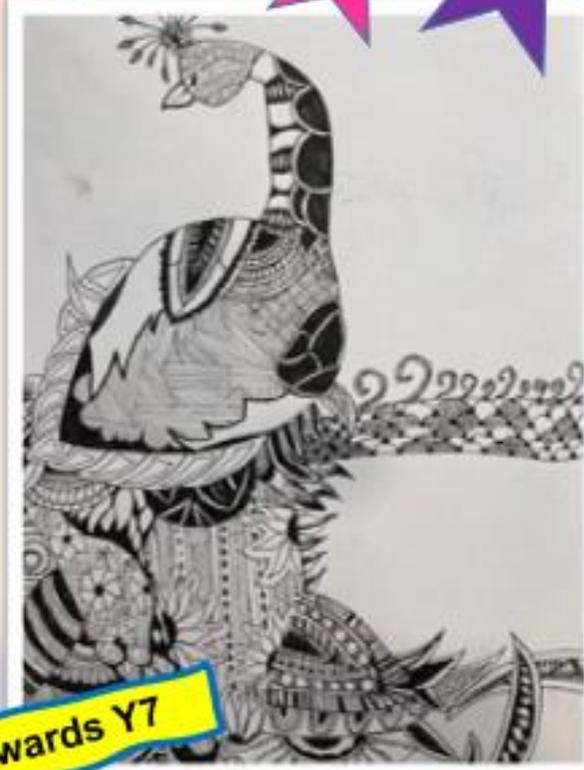


Vinnie Turner Y7

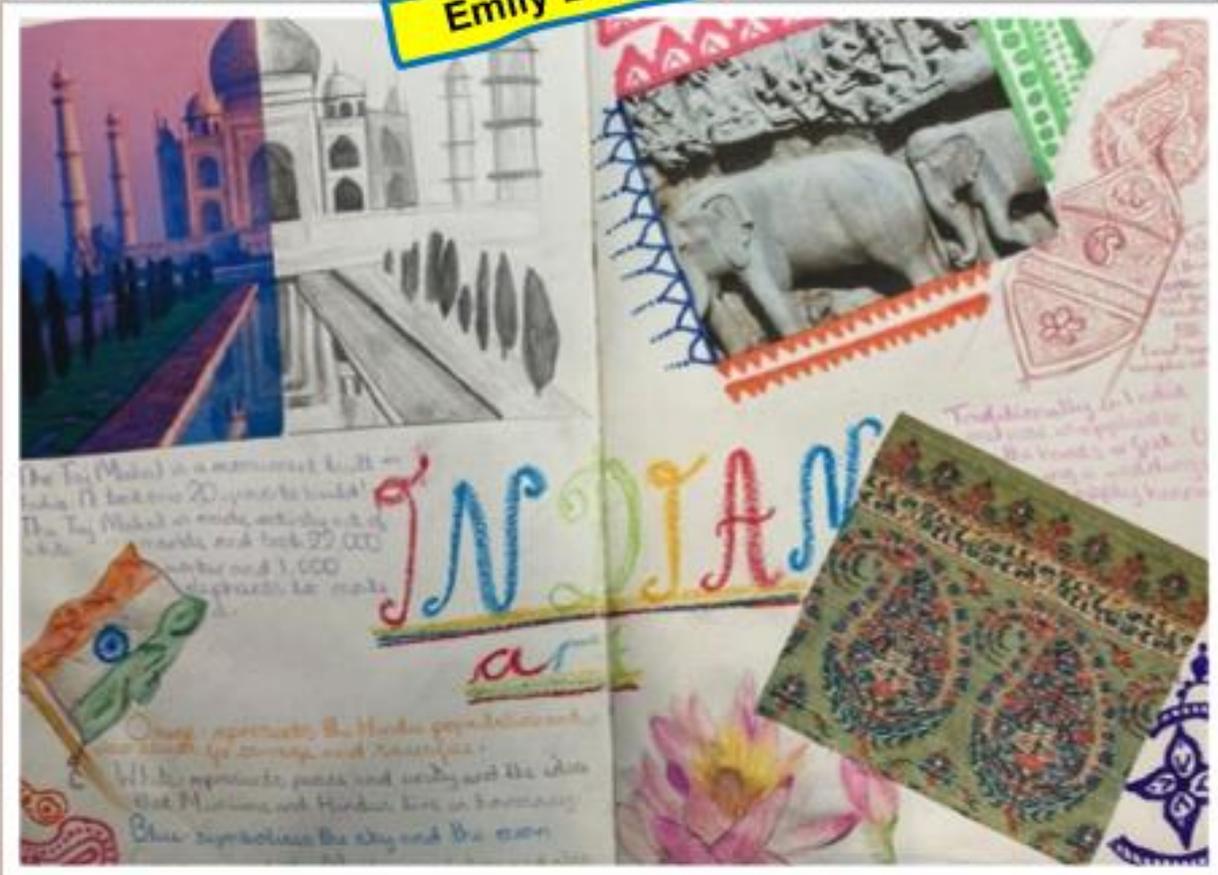


Olivia Seager Y7

# Key stage 3



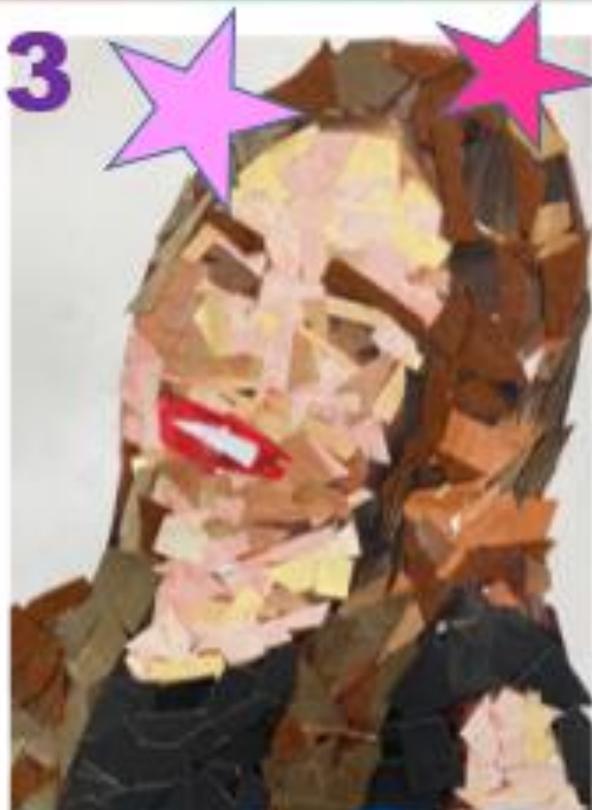
Emily Edwards Y7



# Key stage 3



Rose Whitaker Y7



Abbey Snow Y8



Christian Ludwig Y8



# Key stage 4 & 5



Poppy Haywood-Biles Y12



## Sports News



### Year 7 Boys' Football

With a bounce back needed from the Year 7 boys we entered this home fixture vs Ormiston River looking to dust down and go back to playing the football we know we are capable of. Ethan and Oscar welcomed Adam to the back 3. Kelvin, Luke, Sonny and Mason held down midfield whilst James was the focal point up front. The bench of Seb, Ronnie, Teddy and Adam looked sharp and ready to make an impact when required.

In typical fashion, the game began with flurry after flurry of Becket Keys attack before a long clearance caught the team off guard and a slightly out of position Jenson was lobbed from the Ormiston striker. Normal service resumed as Mason and Sonny controlled the game and a composed Ethan overlapping

Kelvin, saw the Ormiston keeper forced to make some amazing saves! Finally, on the stroke of half time, James struck hard from close distance into the top corner... **SAVED AGAIN!!** But like all good strikers, he followed in and smashed the ball home. Half time 1-1.

We knew it was going to take a lot to beat this keeper and James was able to do just that. A Sonny corner was met with a well-timed run and James claimed his second at the near post. Ormiston swiftly replied and a well worked counter attack slipped past Jenson. James then latched onto another great pass and finished low to get his hatrick with 15 minutes left in the game. Like all good strikers he wanted more. Mason fed James the ball and he drove low and powerfully into the bottom corner and the two-goal cushion was restored. This was the perfect time to bring off Mr Lane's Player Of The Match. The team showed togetherness to

continue pushing for more, and some excellent footwork from Seb saw the referee point to the spot as he was dragged down. Mason stepped up and the keeper did exactly what he had been doing all game, made a fantastic save! Full time 4-2.

**Mr Lane**  
PE Teacher



### Year 7 Boys' Basketball

After a long wait and dedicated training the Year 7 boys had their first basketball fixture against Brentwood County High School. A slow start meant the boys took their time to settle into the game.

After winning the first quarter by a small margin, the boys went out fighting in the second quarter and scored 18 points! We had great defence, with fantastic drives into space when attacking.

After all round hard work from the boys, we successfully took a 27-17 win. Their practise and effort paid off! George Hirst was The Player Of The Match.

**Miss Plunkett**  
PE Teacher

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### WHOLE SCHOOL ADVENT EUCHARIST

TUESDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023

11.00AM

\*

### YEAR 7 THEATRE TRIP

PETER PAN

SOUTHEND CLIFFS PAVILLION

THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023

\*

### A-LEVEL PRESENTATION EVENING

TUESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023

\*

### LAST DAY OF TERM

STUDENT HALF DAY

WEDNESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023

\*

### CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

THURSDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2023 –

WEDNESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY 2024

\*

### INSET DAY

(NO STUDENTS IN SCHOOL)

THURSDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024

\*

### SIXTH FORMER FOR A DAY

TUESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024

\*

### CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

MONDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024

\*

### LENT HOLIDAY

MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY - FRIDAY 23<sup>RD</sup>

FEBRUARY 2024

## Becket Keys Church of England School

Sawyers Hall Lane

Brentwood, Essex

CM15 9DA

01277 286600

[www.becketkeys.org](http://www.becketkeys.org)

[office@becketkeys.org](mailto:office@becketkeys.org)

[finance@becketkeys.org](mailto:finance@becketkeys.org)

X:

@BecketKeys

@MrScottEvans

@BecketKeys6th

@BecketKeysMusic

@BecketKeysPE

@BecketKeysArt

@BecketKeysSci

@BecketKeysDT

@BecketKeysExams

[Facebook: Becket Keys Church School](#)