



# Becket Keys Church of England School

28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

## IN THIS ISSUE

### Becket Keys Church of England School Newsletter - Special Holy Week Edition

*Dear Parents and Carers,*

As we reflect on this sacred time of Holy Week, I am filled with gratitude for the privilege of witnessing the spiritual growth and engagement of our students here at Becket Keys Church of England School. This week has been particularly special as we've immersed ourselves in meaningful rituals and reflections, guided by our faith and the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Throughout the week, our school community has come together to participate in various acts of worship and contemplation. We've been blessed to have Father Mark from and Father Paul join us for Eucharists, both within the sacred walls of the St Thomas

of Canterbury Church and in our Main Hall. Their presence has enriched our collective experience and deepened our connection to our Christian faith.

The Christian Union played a vital role in leading tutorial worship, fostering a sense of unity and shared devotion among our students. Additionally, we were very pleased to welcome Mr. Witchalls as a special visitor, enriching our collective worship with his insights and inspiration.

Yesterday, I had the privilege of leading Year 7 Collective Worship, where we embarked on a journey of prayer and reflection. Using poignant videos narrated by children, we delved into the profound story of Jesus' journey to the cross. I encourage parents to consider revisiting these videos

*.....contd. on page 2*



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Church of England School

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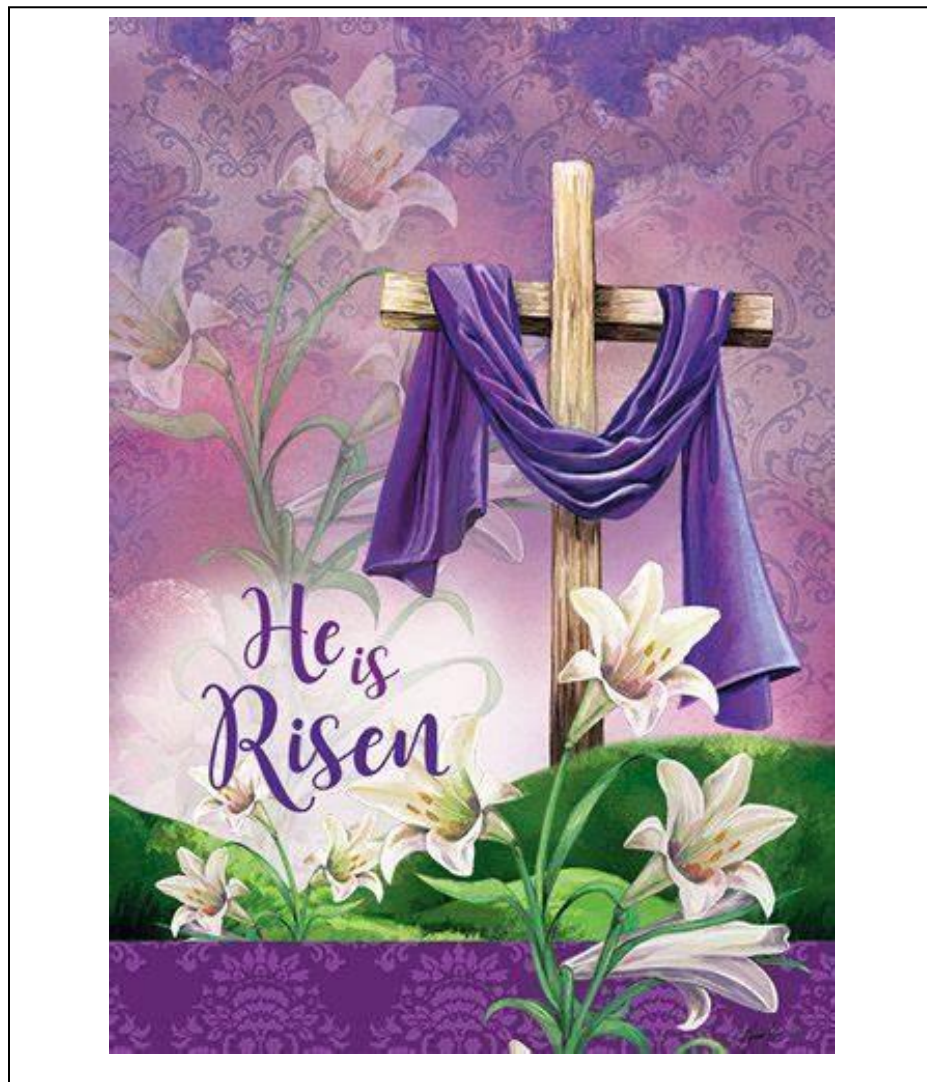
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with their children over the Easter break, allowing for deeper contemplation and discussion.

Furthermore, I recommended the book and film 'The Case for Christ' to our school community. This compelling narrative offers profound insights into the foundations of our faith and provides an opportunity for personal reflection and exploration. I urge parents to consider engaging with this material alongside their children, fostering meaningful conversations and deepening their understanding of Christian beliefs.

For those interested, the videos we used during Collective Worship can be found at the following links: [The Last Supper](#), [The Crucifixion](#), and [The Resurrection](#).

As we observed Maundy Thursday yesterday, a day of quiet in school! We used the beginning of our INSET day for reflection and prayer. Without the students to worry about our staff gathered in solemn contemplation, beginning our day by listening to Miserere Mei Deus. This sacred music serves as a poignant reminder of the solemnity and significance of this holy time. Again, I recommend you listen to this piece of music this weekend and learn more about its 400 year old story.



In closing, I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to our entire school community for embracing the spirit of Holy Week with reverence and enthusiasm. May this time of reflection and renewal deepen our connection to our faith and strengthen our bonds as a school family.

Wishing you all a blessed and joyous Easter,

**Andy Scott-Evans**  
**Head Teacher**  
**Becket Keys**  
**Church of England School**

## A Message from Mr Shields

*As my time at Becket Keys draws to an end, I just wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone who donated to my leaving gift. I was not expecting anything.*

*I have been blown away by the generosity of all the families who could donate.*

*I will always have fond memories of Becket Keys and I will forever be grateful for my time here. I wish you all the best for the future.*



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**SEND Coffee, Cake and Chat  
Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

Parents are warmly invited to Becket Keys to meet Mr Moyet (Assistant Headteacher and SENDCo) and to say goodbye to Mrs Dowsett before she begins her maternity leave.

There will be opportunities to share feedback and to meet like-minded parents.

Please confirm your attendance for either 2pm-3pm or 5.30pm-6.30pm on this link: <https://forms.office.com/e/8eTRYxVk1h>

Many thanks to all of those who supported the Easter Egg fundraising raffle to raise funds for the **British Heart Foundation**. It was incredibly well supported and helped to raise over £200! It was also **heartwarming** that people had been caring enough to buy tickets for their friends.

If you would still like to contribute to the cause please use this QR code, or [link](#).



All the very best for the **Easter Holiday**, have a restful & relaxing break, God bless.

Mr Taylor-Smith

The winners independently drawn by Mr Shield's as one of his last official acts were:

- Anthony G Year 11
- Ronnie E Year 11
- Joshua C Year 11
- Sophie G Year 8
- Amelia L Year 7
- Amelia G Year 7



## Student Achievement



Layla MacDonald (Year 11) and Josh Webb (Year 12) are both members of a local Karate Club Kazen Kai [www.kazenkai.com](http://www.kazenkai.com) and were both selected to compete in the England (EUKA) Karate team in the WKF Karate World Championships which was held in Malta from the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of March.

The event was very well supported with competitors from as far afield as Brazil and the USA and large teams from Malta, Italy, Azerbaijan and Poland. The competition was fiercely contested especially in their individual 16-17 year old Sanborn fighting categories, where they both secured Bronze medals.

Our England EUKA team secured third place overall in the championship which was a fantastic result in the face of strong competition.



Ben Shelton in Year 12 took part in his first half marathon in Brentwood last week. Excellent result! Well done Ben.

## Year 10 Trip - Ypres, Belgium

It was an early start for 44 Year 10s and 4 members of staff on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

With alarms set for 3am, the coach departed Becket Keys promptly with sleepy but excited Year 10 history students. Our first stop was to pick up our tour guide for the trip, Mr Moray Treadwell who we soon learned (in addition to being a knowledgeable historian) was an actor in *Pirates of the Caribbean* – this was of great intrigue to the students... and we knew that his theatrical delivery would engage the students during the interesting day which laid ahead.



The traffic was extremely kind to us at that time in the morning and we managed to make an earlier ferry – saying Goodbye to the White Cliffs of Dover and Hello to France by breakfast time. We drove along the coast through Dunkirk and into Belgium, our first stop of the day was the LiJessebthoek CWGC Cemetery in Poperinge.



Moray explained to the students that during the war this had been the site of a casualty clearing station. He recalled the causes of the Great War, the role woman played during WW1 and then guided the students through the ethos of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, telling stories of individual soldiers and how their head stone showed all the information they could gather about their lives.



Our next stop was the Bayernwald trench system. We had a traditional French baguette lunch before the students got to walk through the labyrinth of trenches. They discovered about trench construction, trench warfare, daily routines and were able to bring to life how difficult conditions in the trenches would have been.





equipment and weaponry and one student even got to dress up in a Great War Uniform.



Back on the coach and onto the German War Cemetery of Langemark where 44,000 soldiers were buried. Here Moray reflected on the causes of WW2 with the students, discussing chemical warfare which had been used in this area and showed photos of Hilter in 1940 standing in the exact spot where we were standing.



Finally, a visit to Belgium would not be complete without chocolate shopping, so the last stop of the day was to the beautiful historical town of Ypres where purchases from the Peter De Groote chocolaterie was a special treat enjoyed by students and staff!



It was cold and raining by late afternoon, but we wanted to lay a wreath on behalf of Becket Keys at the memorial in the Cemetery. It was fitting to have a moment of reflection after all we had seen and learnt during the day.



A smooth ferry crossing back and a clear run on the motorway had us back at Becket Keys by midnight. A jam packed 20 hour day, the students were tired but still in good spirits; they were a pleasure to take and a credit to Becket Keys.



Well done to the History department and especially Miss Risdon for organising a great trip!

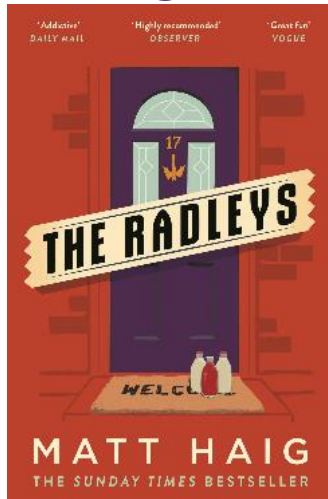
The final educational stop of the afternoon was at the Hoge Crater Museum and Cemetery. The students were able to handle

**Mrs Natasha Fetherston**  
Learning Support Technician

## English Department

This month the Year 7s have been reading a short excerpt from 'What not to do when you turn Invisible' by Ross Welford. This is a comedic novel that tells the story of a child who turns invisible and gets up to mischief with their new skill! If you enjoy this genre, here are some of my recommended reads!

### The Radleys Matt Haig



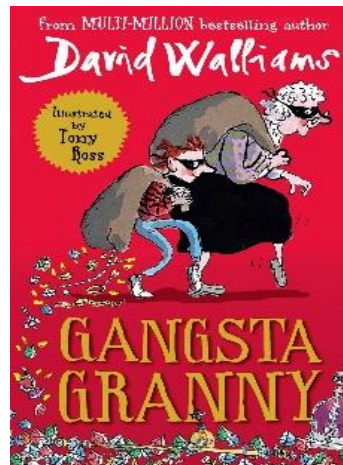
The Radleys are an everyday family who juggle dysfunctional lives. Except, as Peter and Helen Radley know but their children have yet to find out, the Radleys happen to be a family of abstaining vampires. When one night Clara finds herself driven to commit a bloodthirsty act, her parents decide to explain a few things.

### Gangsta Granny David Walliams

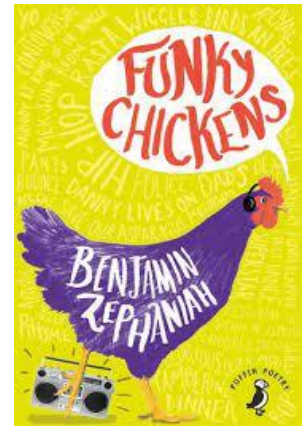
Our hero Ben is bored beyond belief after he is made to stay at his grandma's house. She's the

boringest grandma ever: all she wants to do is to play Scrabble, and eat cabbage soup. But there are two things Ben doesn't know about his grandma.

- 1) She was once an international jewel thief.
- 2) All her life, she has been plotting to steal the Crown Jewels, and now she needs Ben's help...



### Funky Chickens Benjamin Zephaniah

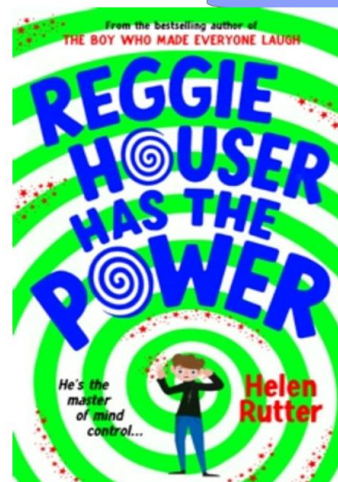


Enter the crazy world of rap poet Benjamin Zephaniah!

A reissue of the wonderfully irreverent collection of poetry for young people, touching on anything from vegetables to the Queen and from sewage to the sun. There's plenty of humour as well as poems on racism, pollution and the murder of a cat.



### Book of the Month - March



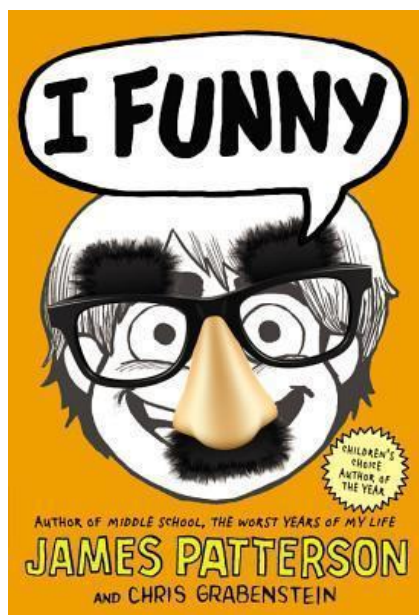
Reggie's busy brain makes it hard for him to follow rules and make friends, plus his mum and teachers seem constantly weary about his erratic, high-energy ways. But when he sees a hypnotist perform on stage at the holiday park he visits, Reggie becomes *obsessed* with learning the skills of mind control - and he discovers he has an incredible talent for it! He's sure this will be his passport to popularity.

First of all he hypnotises the dog to think he's a frog, then makes his headmaster cluck like a chicken in assembly in front of the whole school - but then a group of mean kids supposedly take him under their wing and make him use his hypnosis talents for bad: stealing a chocolate bar from a shop and escalating to a bigger theft. Reggie must decide to use his skills for good only and come to trust his own brain to make decisions.

A funny, sensitive story, featuring a hilariously likable protagonist and a sympathetic, well-informed portrayal of ADHD, packed with brilliant jokes and one-liners.

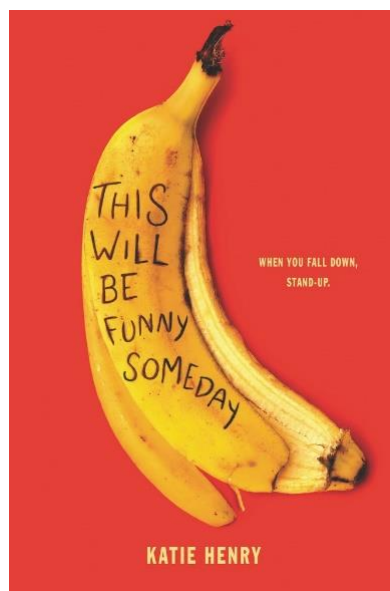
This month the Year 8s have been reading an excerpt from 'Millions' in form time. This is a comedic novel that tells the story of what happens when two children find millions of pounds! If you enjoy this genre, here are some of my recommended reads!

## I Funny James Patterson



Jamie Grimm is a middle schooler on a mission: he wants to become the world's greatest standup comedian—even if he doesn't have a lot to laugh about these days. He's new in town and stuck living with his aunt, uncle, and their evil son Stevie, a bully who doesn't let Jamie's wheelchair stop him from messing with Jamie as much as possible. But Jamie doesn't let his situation get him down. When his Uncle Frankie mentions a contest called The Planet's Funniest Kid Comic, Jamie knows he has to enter. But are the judges only rewarding him out of pity because of his wheelchair, like

Stevie suggests? Will Jamie ever share the secret of his troubled past instead of hiding behind his comedy act?



## This will be Funny Someday Katie Henry

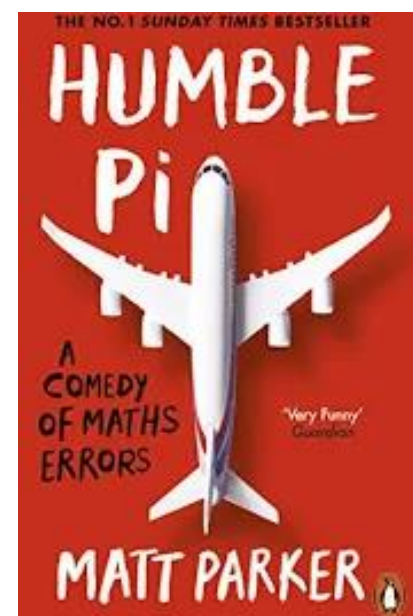
Sixteen-year-old Izzy is used to keeping her thoughts to herself—in school, where her boyfriend does the talking for her, and at home, where it's impossible to compete with her older siblings and high-powered parents—but when she accidentally walks into a stand-up comedy club and performs, the experience is surprisingly cathartic. After the show, she meets Mo, an aspiring comic who's everything Izzy's not: bold, confident, comfortable in her skin. Mo invites Izzy to join her group of friends and introduces her to the Chicago open mic scene.

The only problem? Her new friends are college students—and Izzy tells them she's one, too.

Now Izzy, the dutiful daughter and model student, is sneaking out to perform stand-up with her comedy friends, and she can hardly remember all the lies she's telling to keep her two lives separate.

## Humble Pi Matt Parker

A collection of mathematical mistakes that result in disastrous or funny outcomes.



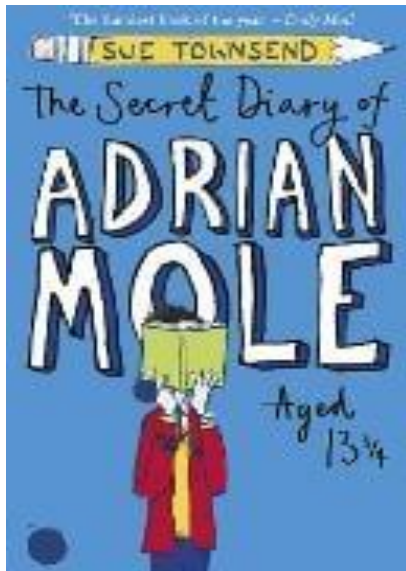
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This month the Year 9s have been reading an excerpt from 'An Abundance of Katherines' in form time.

This is a comedic novel that tells the story of a boy who constantly falls in love with girls named Katherine! If you enjoy this genre, here are some of my recommended reads!

## The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole aged 13 ¾ Sue Townsend

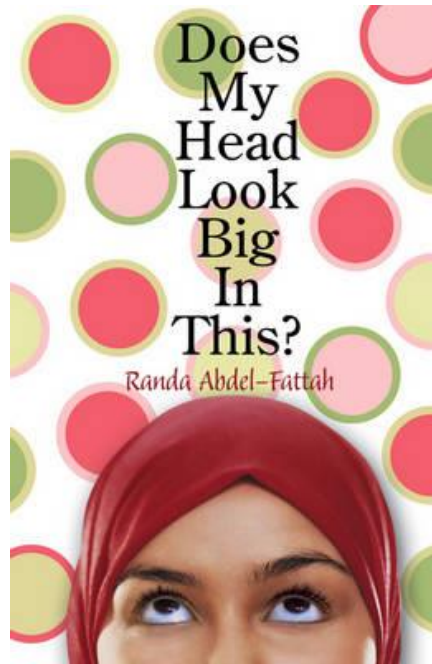


Meet Adrian Mole, a hapless teenager providing an unabashed, pimples-and-all glimpse into adolescent life.

Writing candidly about his parents' marital troubles, the dog, his life as a tortured poet and 'misunderstood intellectual', Adrian's painfully honest diary is hilarious.

This is the first book in a series that follows Adrian Mole through various ages and stages in his life.

## Does My Head Look Big in This? Randa Abdel-Fattah



Don't panic - I'm Islamic!

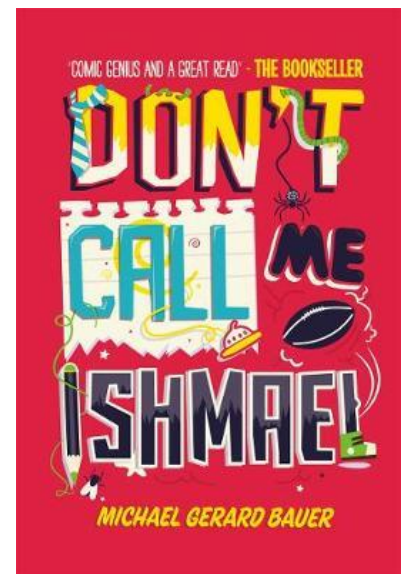
Amal is a 16-year-old Melbourne teen with all the usual obsessions about boys, chocolate and Cosmo magazine. She's also a Muslim, struggling to honour the Islamic faith in a society that doesn't understand it. The story of her decision to "shawl up" and its attendant anxieties (like how much eyeliner to wear) is funny, surprising and touching by turns.



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## Don't Call Me Ishmael Michael Gerard Bauer

By the time ninth grade begins, Ishmael Leseur knows it won't be long before Barry Bagsley, the class bully, says, "Ishmael? What kind of wussy name is that?" Ishmael's perfected the art of making himself virtually invisible. But all that changes when James Scobie joins the class. Unlike Ishmael, James has no sense of fear - he claims it was removed during an operation. Now nothing will stop James and Ishmael from taking on bullies, bugs and Moby Dick, in the toughest, weirdest, most embarrassingly awful - and the best - year of their lives.



Happy Reading!

**Miss White**  
English Teacher

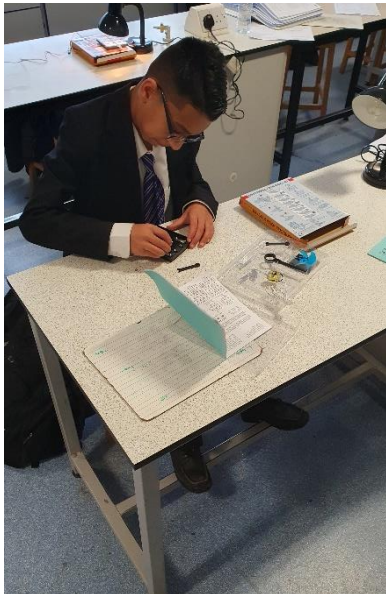
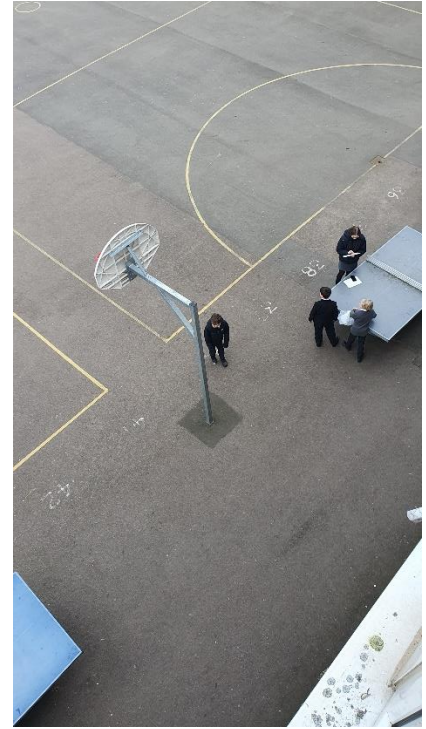
## Science Club

This term in science club we have been having lots of fun taking part in different practical activities. Students have made solar powered fans, hovercrafts using CDs and most recently parachutes.

We finished the term with the Sixth Form helpers handing out scores for parachute performance and creativity in their designs.

Next term we are looking forward to starting a Bronze Crest award. This is a student-led project in the STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

**Miss Lee**  
**Science Teacher**





## Apprenticeship and traineeship vacancies

If you are interested in an apprenticeship then it would be a good idea to follow [Find an apprenticeship](#). You will then be alerted to each week's apprenticeship and traineeship vacancy reports for our area and get an alert if there is a new opportunity. If you use the filter tool, you can view only the vacancies that meet your requirements (such as vacancies within a set region, start date and wage etc).

If you would like any advice on further education pathways please speak to your tutor or Ms North and we can arrange a meeting with our Careers advisor, Mr Williams.

For more information on apprenticeships visit [apprenticeships.gov.uk](https://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk) or follow [@Apprenticeships](https://twitter.com/Apprenticeships) on Twitter.










## FREE EASTER HOLIDAY CLUBS WITH ESSEX ACTIVATE!

1st April - 12th April

Eligible school aged children and young people are invited to book onto FREE, fun-filled activity clubs who are run by a network of locally, trusted organisations and brought to you by Active Essex, Essex County Council and Thurrock Council, on behalf of the Department for Education!





### IS MY CHILD ELIGIBLE?

Clubs offer spaces to primary and secondary school aged children (4-16 years) who are eligible for benefit based free school meals. Limited spaces are available for young people who are also from 'low-income' working families, as well as children who may be vulnerable to inactivity or social isolation.

### WHERE WILL THE CLUBS BE RUN?

Clubs will be running across Essex in Braintree, Basildon, Brentwood, Castle Point, Chelmsford, Colchester, Epping, Harlow, Maldon, Rochford, Tendring, Thurrock and Uttlesford!

### WHAT DO THE CLUBS PROVIDE?

Clubs provide a range of different physical, enrichment and food activities to support children's physical and mental wellbeing, as well as a delicious, nutritious meal! We also offer specialist youth, SEND and mental wellbeing clubs.

### HOW DO I BOOK ONTO A CLUB?

If you have received a Holiday Activities voucher code, click the link on the voucher to book your child/ren onto a club. If you're still awaiting a voucher code, please contact your school. If you aren't eligible for a Holiday Activities voucher as your child/ren do not receive benefits based free school meals, please contact a local club directly to book on by heading to our website below.

[www.activeessex.org/children-young-people/essex-activate](https://www.activeessex.org/children-young-people/essex-activate)


We look forward to welcoming the students back to school on Monday 15th April 2024. Have a wonderful Easter break!

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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### EASTER HOLIDAY

FRIDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH – FRIDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL  
2024

\*

### BACK TO SCHOOL

MONDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024

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### SEND COFFEE, CAKE & CHAT

TUESDAY 16<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2024

Come and meet Mr Moyet our new SENDcO who will be covering for Mrs Dowsett whilst she is on maternity leave.



QR Code to donate to Mr Taylor-Smith's  
marathon run.

# 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  
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