





# BECKET'S BOOK BONANZA

Becket Book Week was back in 2021 after not being able to celebrate the joy of reading properly in 2020. Our school was delighted to welcome Tom Palmer, an award winning author, to talk to the younger students about his work surrounding his stories about sports (especially football) as well as themes of family and teenage worries. Year 7 and 8 students got a chance to get their book signed as well, thank you Tom!

The scholastic book fair came to life again in the LRC – running from Tuesday 30th November to Tuesday 7th December. With so many options, it was impossible to choose which ones you wanted to read - if they could fit in your bag of course! Everyone had a chance to browse through the wide selection of books and take a few home.

To finish book week with a bang, our school dressed up as our all time favourite book characters. From Harry Potter to the Mr Men characters, everyone really pulled it out of the bag. We each made a £1 contribution and all the money we raised went towards the Building Hope in Bunkpurugu project. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this amazing cause!

The librarians were thrilled to have Book Week back this year, with everyone coming together to dress up and having the opportunity to meet authors. I definitely can't wait for Book Week 2022!

*Written by Jess Kershaw*

## LION KING IN LONDON



The Drama students had a roar on their adventure to London where they cast their eyes on the theatrical rendition of...The Lion King!

The day was eventful, spent exploring the streets of London and wandering in and out of almost every store along the boulevard. The students were served an extra treat with a dance workshop, where even a cast member of the musical made a special appearance. There, they were taught each and every meticulous movement used to perfectly imitate the many fight scenes on stage.

Mr Borrill joined in with the workshop too and was very enthusiastic about showing off his own killer dance moves. Though it wasn't easy, it was definitely fun and rewarding.

Many of the students found the actors who played the animals did a Grrreat job, thrilling the audience members as they strutted down the aisle.

*Written by June Akiatan and Isabella Bowry*

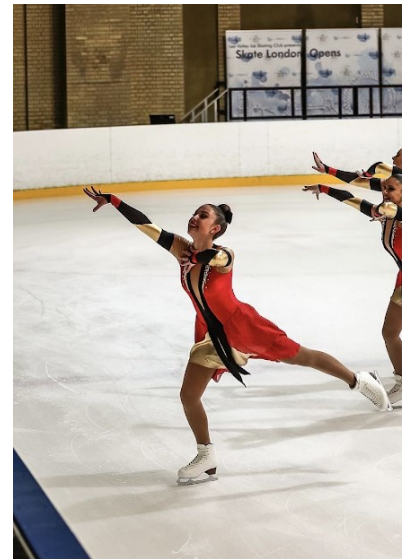
# BRILLIANT BECKETEERS

A talent definitely worth mentioning is Niamh Whiteley in Year 12, and her synchronised ice skating skills that she has been perfecting for the last 8 years. We spoke to her about recent competitions, her favourite pre-training snack and life in general as a British champion.

She enjoys spending time with the team and performing to crowds of people although it's not always as picture-perfect as it seems. She recalls her most embarrassing moments: one where she cut her finger and bled all over the ice, and another where she tripped a teammate up. Regardless, the 8 years have paid off as she's enjoyed multiple competitions, the one standing out to her being when she beat a Scottish team by a literal fraction (0.37 points). Her biggest competition so far was the French cup which she had to compete in to qualify for Worlds (and hopes to attend this season).

She trains for anything between 1-7 hours a week with her team, as well as extra training on top to properly perfect her technique. Cereal bars are her favourite pre-training snack.

*Written by Aoife Hampson*



## ICE COLD TALENT

The ice skating talent stretches further than just Niamh, with Year 9's Saoirse O'Sullivan also knowing a thing or two about figure skating. She's been training for around 5 years and loves the feeling of competing - even though she managed to fall over at her last competition and reinjured herself.



Her biggest competition so far was her first international one, where she went to Dundee, placing 5th - decidedly impressive seeing as it was her furthest competition from home. Her most memorable moment was when she managed to pass a level in ice skating that she'd just started, despite thinking she was going to come last. After a hard training week, she takes a well deserved rest and enjoys McDonalds with her coach and team.

*Written by Aoife Hampson*



## LET'S TAKE A DIVE

Who swims? Well, we know THE nationals champion, British finalist and Olympic trial qualifier Jess Li does! Let's take a deep dive into how she feels about her love for swimming.

Jess has been swimming since she was 8 years old! What was I doing at 8 years old? Throughout her swimming life, her most memorable moment was during nationals when she won! It must have been one of the highlights of her life. But obviously with the good parts of swimming, there are embarrassing parts too.

One of Jess' embarrassing moments is that whilst she was swimming, her tieback came undone; she had to quickly do it back up again to maintain her modesty. Before her training, Jess keeps a routine of going last to practise, after all her teammates, before doing backstrokes. You always want to root for the underdog of course! For pre-training, Jess eats udon noodles and rice -the perfect boost of energy.

Thank you Jess for sharing us your experience, maybe now more people will be interested in taking a swim.

*Written by Aliyah Guevara*



## READY, SET, SKATE



Willem Murray is a speed skating sensation!

He came third in the British Championships and competed in international waters; pretty impressive right! He's competed in places such as Amsterdam and Germany but his favourite was in the snowy northern Italian mountains.

Willem has been skating since he was 5 after hearing an advertisement for speed skating on the radio. He normally trains around three times a week, mastering his craft and trying to improve his speed. He's part of the Nottingham Ice Racing Club, and loves the support and friendship being on a team gives him. Willem's goal is to be a part of the Olympic squad and represent his country.

I think we can all say we're totally inspired and can't wait to see what you do next Willem!

*Written by Isabelle Atkinson*

# HE SHOOTS, HE SCORES

Year 11 has two budding footballing stars in its midst.

Tom Gbopo is a scholarship standard footballing star; he plays in the centre back position and one day hopes to become a professional player for Manchester United. Do we have a mini Marcus Rashford on our hands? Tony has been refining his football talents since the age of 5 and with the support of his family, he has managed to secure a footballing scholarship with Nottingham Forest, and hopes to make his dream a reality.



Another Becket School football sensation is Jack Tran. Although his favourite part of the game is winning, Jack also finds comfort on the pitch and uses it as an escape from reality. He started football at the age of 7, his main inspiration being Wayne Rooney - a former English footballer. Like Tony, Jack also dreams of making it big and one day playing for Manchester City. His whole family is supportive of his dreams as he is descended from a line of many football fanatics and hopes to be their prodigy. His funniest, most embarrassing moment was when there was a corner kick and he accidentally headed the ball into his own goal!



*Written by Isabella Bowry*



## DEBATE COMPETITION

Debate is back, as our team moves onto the second round of the ESU's MACE competition. This time, they were faced with the motion: "This house believes gambling should be banned", and were up against St Mary's. We spoke to Mr Gould, who helped the team prepare, to see what he thought about the whole event.

"I think the team performed incredibly well, individually and collectively. They were supporting each other the whole way through, and weren't afraid to speak up even when on camera. When one team member stumbled with a point of information, the others encouraged them to move on, and that gave them the confidence to just drop it - a very important team decision." We also spoke to a member of the team, Jess Wells, to figure out what it was like to be a part of the winning team. "The scariest bit is when they call<sup>5</sup> your debate for the first time. Once you're in it, it's not so scary but when they announce you're going next, the adrenaline hits."

*Written by the Despatch Team*



# YOUNG ENTERPRISE

Business is booming as students from the Becket take on another year of Young Enterprise!

We spoke to Managing Director Josh Darby back in November, when their business was just taking off, to find out everything we needed to know about their product and what makes it stand out. He told us: "Our business idea is to up-cycle coffee sacks into a range of sustainable products." He continued: "We are progressing very rapidly through our business. So far we have developed our first product idea (a tote bag) and we already have been able to develop multiple prototypes. Following extensive market research, we have been able to make our product the perfect length and shape for what we think everyone loves."

The group started out with a stock of 30 tote bags and successfully had their first release date on December 1st (which went considerably well, as stock rapidly sold out). Customers were allowed to preorder the bags off the Young Enterprise Trading Station, which they promoted through their rapidly growing social media account ([@sacked\\_stores on Instagram](#)). Josh added: "I would definitely recommend Young Enterprise to others as it is a great opportunity to learn about being apart of a business and how it works."



Recently, we checked in on the group again, this time speaking to secretary Aidan Shaw, who filled us in on how the group's appearance at Sneinton Market went.

"We were competing against other schools (High School, Rushcliffe, East Leake, Toot hill), each selling our own unique products. We all set up little stalls to represent our brand and sell our product. There was very little turnout for the first hour or so but around lunch people started coming down. Parents also came down later on, to add to the footfall at the market.



There was a good atmosphere amongst the teams as everyone was eager to sell their products that they had worked hard to make. The weather also helped the mood around the market, as it was held outdoors. There were a few interesting products from other groups, but also a few we didn't like as much. Without being biased our product was the best!"

Though the group are yet to reveal their next plans, keep an eye on their Instagram for more news.

*Written by Aoife Hampson*