





# JUST A LIDL TRIP

A hundred years from now, our grandchildren will be opening up the Pandora's box we have buried. Under layers of soil, remnants of our school's history will be unlocked. Talented students from The Becket School got the chance to place their creative artwork into the capsule, as a prize for entering a competition to create beautiful and interesting objects to be saved for the future.

The Journalism team set off on a tour around the highly anticipated retail park, just a 'Lidl' ways walk from The Becket School, and took a sneak peek. We scoured through the whole retail park, exploring empty drive-thrus and deserted shops-to-be.

The Journalism's Lidl Favourites!!

Aliyah: Toffee Yum Yums

Jess K: Pretzels

Izi: The Whole Bakery

Izzy: Triple Chocolate Cookie (RIP)

June: White Chocolate Cookie

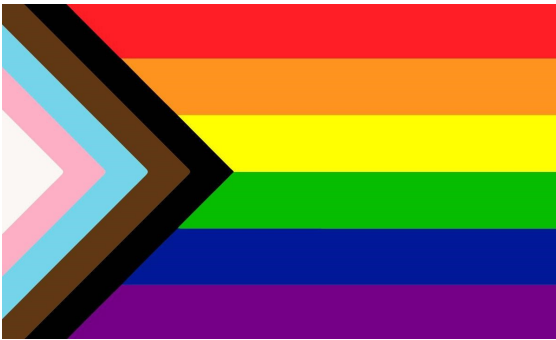
Aoife: Pain Au Chocolat

Ms Cheffings: Middle Aisle Madness

*Written by June Akiatan*



# HAPPY PRIDE



Happy Pride from the Becket Despatch! Last month we took the time to celebrate and learn about LGBTQ+ history. It's important that we all learn about different communities and accept each other no matter what. We wanted to celebrate all of the amazing progress that the gay community has achieved, so have decided to share with you ten key facts about LGBTQ+ history.

- 1) Pride month originally started to commemorate the Stonewall riots in 1969.
- 2) Gay History Month was created by a high school teacher, Rodney Wilson.
- 3) The first same sex marriage in the United Kingdom took place on the 29th of March 2014.
- 4) The first movie to include a same sex kiss was *Manslaughter* (1922)
- 5) The first gay Pride was in Chicago in 1970.
- 6) Gilbert Baker crafted the classic rainbow flag in 1978, dying the fabrics himself.
- 7) Bill Clinton was the first US President to officially celebrate Pride Month.
- 8) The word "drag" is an acronym coined from Shakespeare, meaning dressed resembling a girl.
- 9) Jimi Hendrix pretend to be gay to get out of the army in 1969.
- 10) Dracula was based on a lesbian novel written 25 years before, called *Carmilla*.

*Written by Isabelle Atkinson*

# WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

## BECKET FOOTBALL

Winner takes all!

The year 11 boys' football team made us proud yet again by achieving their semi-final win against their local rivals. As The Becket and West Bridgford boys waited for the scream of the whistle, tensions rose and off they went. As the match went on, adrenaline pumping, an extraordinary goal by Nestora C was scored after a great shot by Tony. Another remarkable 35 yard volley goal by Tyler Robinson was scored. With both teams on the same score and the refusal of relinquishing, Jack Tran sealed the deal with the goal that won The Becket the victory!

"Great spirit, lively team unity," praised Mr Marlow.

Later in the month we caught up with Tony Gbopo after the final in which the Becket boys won! Tony the captain scored the winning goal and the only goal against West Bridgford. The whole team had the support of the Becket school behind them with Miss James, Mr Bradley and support from their fellow year 11's. Well done year 11 boys on their win in the South Notts cup !

Truly a congratulations to the year 11 boys Becket football team.

*Written by Aliyah Guevara*



## YEAR 9 HOCKEY SUCCESS

Our young, high-achieving year 9 athletes pushed their way into the hockey quarterfinals securing their triumph. Mr Pell told us all about it.

With the help of our familiar pitch, Dean took us to the lead with 2 field goals. Tallon exceeded that with another goal. However, the opposing team (National Church of England Academy) bounced back taking them into extra time. With the motivation and resilience, Miguel scored the winning goal with a total score of 4-3.

"I am extremely happy for them, they did really well". Complimented Mr Pell.

*Written by Aliyah Guevara*

# WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

Another year, another Harvey Hadden athletics tournament! It's Becket's first athletics tournament since Covid, and our student competitors made us proud. Students from a range of year groups competed against athletes from a plethora of other Nottingham schools, in events such as long jump, javelin, sprinting and shotput.

James Webster ran the 1500m, placing first in a group of approximately 16 runners! He was nervous to begin with but prepared by listening to music, and not talking to anyone just before his race. Got to get in the zone! He has experience in running long distance, after competing in the cross country county and national championships, (although he doesn't reminisce on nationals in a positive way, remembering how he pulled his hamstring and got spiked by another runner's shoes). The most surprising part of all this is that despite his clear talent, he actually hates running, and much prefers mountain biking and skateboarding! Shame that wasn't an event at the tournament this time!

Some of our athletes also went on to compete in a follow up tournament on the 11th June. We spoke to Nikolas Franchelli, who is 3rd in the county for discus, about how his Saturday went. "At the beginning we just have to do a warm-up of running a few laps of the track, and then 30 minutes before our event we're allowed to do some practising. During the event, everyone is allowed 3 throws and if you place in the top 8 you get an extra throw." Even though his 2nd throw was disqualified due to him slipping and stepping out of the circle, Nikolas managed to reach his personal best of 22.37m (a distance he never thought he'd achieve). He prepared by talking to his mum to release any nerves, and ensured his success that day by focusing and concentrating all his energy into his performance.



*By Aoife Hampson*

## HOCKEY SUCCESS STREAK CONTINUES

Our sixth form hockey team, captained by Josh Darby, won against West Bridgford school a few weeks ago. Their proudest moment was seeing Cam Keogh make some sensational saves on his debut opener as goalie! Their favourite goal was when Alex glided a ball over the top of the Bridgford defence to Jack Bugden, slotting it into the back post and Josh eventually sliding in to score!



Overall, it was a 6-2 win with the goals coming from Sam Geoghegan, Josh Darby, Finn Higgins and Alex Edwards.

Well done!

*Written by Isabella Bowry and Jess Kershaw*



# SHORT STORY COMPETITION

## 1st PLACE

What would you think if I told you Nottingham was burning down? We posed the question to our Year 8 writers who were asked to construct a short story finishing with the line “There I stood over my burning city”. The competition was tough, but we really enjoyed reading all of the entries.

In the end, it was Ava Cottingham’s short story, “Don’t blow out the flame” which snatched up first place. Read and enjoy!

*There I stood over my evil city. Everything it holds enrages me. The people. The government. The laws.*

*My plan has been brewing for a while. A plan so evil but so pleasurable. Satisfied, I gathered everything to execute my psycho doing. Without hesitation, I scattered gasoline over the innocent floor. As I put pressure onto the lighter, excitement shivered up my spine. I did it. Just don’t blow out the flame.*

*Exiting swiftly, I vigorously entered my van, heading towards the mountains. Faint screams echoed through the air. Golden flames grew larger and larger, faster and faster. Zero guilt.*

*Sparks and ash fell like rain and the flames moved like waves. Everything it held that once enraged me, gone. The people. The government. The laws. There I stood over my burning city.*

## 2nd PLACE

Our second place prize went to Sophie Collins, who wrote the short story titled “What if Guy Fawkes never got caught?”. See below:

*It was 11pm. The night was cold, and a torrent of frosty darkness snaked through the streets. I could hear my pocket watch ticking as I waited for the criminal mastermind, Guy Fawkes, to appear. This despicable man must be caught before midnight. The fate of the city depended on it. Suddenly I heard heavy footsteps that shook the ground beneath my feet. My heart was thumping faster than ever, and so loudly that I was worried he’d hear it. Then I saw his face, covered in soot. His evil smile could’ve frozen the city itself. Before I could fully acknowledge that he was in front of me, he had turned and was bolting away from me. I sprinted after him. Boom. The sound ricocheted through the city and the smell of gunpowder hit my nostrils. I chased him up the hill and managed to grab part of his cloak. I pulled him back, grabbed hold of his shoulders and turned him around. That’s when it hit me. I had chased down the wrong guy. I ran up the hill and guilt flooded my brain. There I stood over my burning city.*

# SHORT STORY COMPETITION

## 3rd PLACE

And last but not least, third place was awarded to Alicja Feliks who wrote the story titled "Set Fire". Read below:

*Beads of sweat rolled down my temple, I had exactly 5 minutes to get out; when I set this fuse, it starts. The small light danced in the dark, I'm dead if I screw this up. Taking one last glance at the flame, then the gunpowder, I dropped the match.*

*Struggling to get out this damn tunnel, my heartbeat raced. Was this really a good idea? Thin air strangled my lungs, tree branches slapped me back into reality, as I desperately ran up the hill. Traces of gunpowder were left on my cheek, the smell of ash and smoke choked me. There's not much time left.*

*Multiple roars of explosions invaded my ears.*

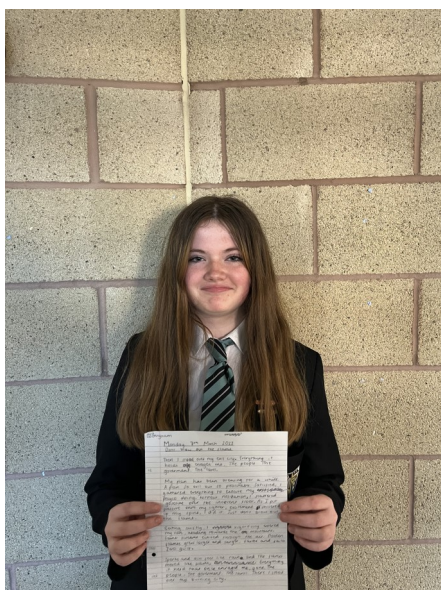
*Moving a branch out of my way, my eyes watched as the night sky was now engulfed with clouds of smoke. Beautiful shades of orange played among the stars. Scarlet illuminated the moon.*

*It was a bittersweet sensation as I glared down at screams and raging fire. This was the start of new beginnings.*

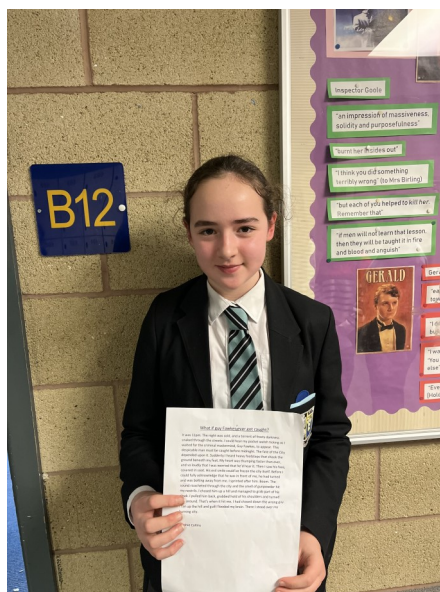
*There I stood over my burning city.*

Well done to everyone who submitted a story, it was so much fun reading through all of them. Congratulations again to our 3 winners!

*Written by Aoife Hampson*



**1st PLACE**



**2nd PLACE**



**3rd PLACE**

# CREATIVE ARTS

The Becket School drama company, Shadow Syndicate, recently decided to show their creative talent in a unique rendition of the classic Easter story.

'Fallen' tells the tale of Jesus' work and ministry through the lens of a wide variety of characters. We spoke to Year 7 Martin who had the privilege of playing the iconic role of Jesus, about the rehearsal process that brought together this beautiful production. Martin was originally very nervous about having to take on so many lines and scenes like the garden of Gethsemane, where he had to be by himself on stage. The rest of the cast however were very professional and supportive, all forming an excellent bond through their shared experience. They even had their own dance, which they performed to the audience on the last night. With fantastic reviews from all who saw it, the drama department really put on an excellent show, pulling together faith, drama and fun all into one performance. Well done 'Fallen' cast!



Taking centre stage: The Creative Arts Showcase.

The Becket School's creative sector recently joined forces to create a night of amazement and wonder, with drama, music and art coming together to put on a spectacular show of all things artistic. Students from years 7 to 13 were given a chance to show off their creative skills for the first time after the ban on live performances during the lockdown. These talented teens couldn't wait to show off their skills and although many of them were incredibly nervous to be performing for the first time since we came back, they all smashed it out of the park and really made The Becket School proud of our young creatives.

We spoke to some of the incredible ingénues who took centre stage in our drama: Lottie, Kievan, Eleanor and Mia were all very proud of their performances which included scenes from hard-hitting and exciting new plays like 'We Lost Elijah', 'Tomorrow We Will Be Happy' and 'Blank', which the drama department will also be taking to the prestigious Buxton Fringe Festival later this year. They said they especially enjoyed watching the older student's extracts and taking inspiration from other performers.

Overall, the night was an incredible array of enticing art, breath-taking songs and powerful performances.

*Written by Isabelle Atkinson*



## VOTE ABI FOR PRIME MINISTER 2022

The sky's the limit for Abigail Newman, who has recently been elected as a member of the Broxtowe Youth Parliament. Abigail put herself forward for the position after she read about joining a youth forum in the Week Junior (an award winning current affairs magazine aimed at children between 8-14 years of age). She gained votes from family, friends and others who believed in her and her campaign, successfully outperforming competitors to earn her spot.

She's excited to begin campaigning for her topics of choice, which are climate change and young people's mental health. She believes the topics are very linked, as she learnt that a lot of people struggle with their mental health due to anxiety/worry caused by climate change. She's excited to learn how to debate and make a point

and will be heading to the House of Commons in November, to test her skills and debate against others her age. She hopes to learn more social skills, and improve her writing skills, and hopes this will be helpful in her pursuit of a political career. That's a long way down the line, so for now, well done Abi!

*Written by Aoife Hampson*



## CHEERLEADERS TAKE ON THE WORLD



Here at The Becket School, we have some superstar cheerleaders, who recently competed at the world championships in Orlando, Florida. Four students represented the East Midlands Cheerleading Academy on their two worlds teams. Chelsea Wright and Solomon James competed on C-Lebrities, a small but strong level 5 team. They put out an absolutely smashing routine and took home silver at their first ever World Championship.

Hope Newton and Summer Newton are part of Killer Queens, an all-girl level 6 team. They gave a phenomenal routine and secured 7th place in their division.

We spoke to Summer once she had arrived back from Florida. She told us how they had a very boring flight, but the many free seats made up for it as they could sleep. We asked what her favourite part of her routine was, but she simply could not choose because she loves every aspect of the routine and competing,

A round of applause for these athletes for doing EMCA and making us all very proud!

*Written by Charlotte Smith, Isabella Bowry*



# TEACHERS' LEAVERS

We are sad to be saying goodbye to an integral part of our community, who has been with us at The Becket School for 8 years. We talked to Miss Daniels about her time at the school and some of her favourite memories. She expressed how much she loved going on the France Trip, explaining how lucky she was to go on so many. "The opportunity to see students enjoy themselves and have fun always made the trips enjoyable," she says, "and I am able to give praise for things that are not to do with school work, like simple acts of kindness."



When asked what she will miss most about the school, she said how amazing the people are. She recalls when she first started teaching here - saying that when students thanked her for the lesson, she thought they were joking. She now realises that they were being truly kind because everyone here is so polite and helpful.

"I have learned so much from being here and I just love teaching English. I have been able to develop my skills and try new things," she says, "but I am also really looking forward to my new job and taking on a new challenge of being the head of a department."

She wants to leave us all with a beautiful Maya Angelou quote - "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

Thank you Miss Daniels, you will be missed!

*Written by Jess Kershaw, Isabella Bowry*



The next teacher we'll be sad to see go is Miss James, who has taught here since September 2020. Although her 2 years with us have been hectic due to COVID, she's really enjoyed the sense of community at Becket and how everyone is united with the same principles. She also mentioned how, although it sounds a bit cheesy, she's loved how nice everyone has been, and how there's a wide range of staff and students who are all interesting in their own way.

One of her fondest memories was going to Briars with Y10, where she let slip her fear of reptiles to a student who now threatens to bring a gecko in to her class.

We wish Miss James good luck in the future, both in her new job and avoiding lizards.

*Written by Aoife Hampson*

It's time to say goodbye.

Sadly, after 7 years, Mr Griffin has decided to take on a new challenge with the role of Deputy Headteacher at The Trinity Catholic School. His care for students and passion for providing what's best for them has led to this hard decision, even after many conflicting thoughts.

"I'll miss it loads, it was a tough decision and I only had 30 seconds left to spare to decide whether to take the job or not," Mr Griffin informed us.



To lighten up the mood, Mr Griffin decided to humour us with one of his funniest and most memorable experiences at The Becket School. One day, Mr Griffin decided to cook some bacon in his office. Although it may have seemed a good idea, to his horror it set off the wailing noise of the fire alarm causing everyone in the building to evacuate! Now, it would be unfair for Mr Griffin to just leave without telling us any of his best experiences as well, so we asked him for his thoughts.

"What made me love The Becket School was the people. The people I worked with, my colleagues are brilliant. I also loved the trips, the Walesby trip and the Briars trip."

Goodbye Mr Griffin, the next chapter of your life is waiting for you.

*Written by Aliyah Guevara*

## ***LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!***



We have some amazing talent at The Becket School. Someone well worth mentioning is Izi Atkinson in Year 12 who is a part of The National Youth Theatre - a leading drama organisation known for its famous alumni such as Catherine Tate, Matt Smith and Daniel Craig. "NYT is extremely difficult to get in to," she says. "I auditioned at 13 for the first time but I got in finally when I was 16."

She expressed how enjoyable the trip last summer was, saying that being able to act every day with people who all loved the same things, and being with people with similar interests made her feel welcomed. Izi also enjoyed the production at the end of the trip where they put on a big performance about a book being passed down through the decades.

Currently she is writing an original 20 minute play that will be judged by the leaders of the group, and the best one will be chosen. We can't wait to see what Izi does next!

*Written by Jess Kershaw*



# LIBRARY LEGENDS!

Carnegie, one of the UK's longest running and best-loved children's book awards, is back! Each year our students are given the opportunity to read 8 specially selected books, meet with other people taking part in the award to discuss the books, and then vote on their favourite book when they've finished all of them. This year the books were: 'Cane Warriors', 'The Crossing', 'Everyone dies famous in a small town', 'Guard your heart', 'October October', 'Punching the air', 'Tsunami girl' and 'When the sky falls'.

The students then met on the 16th June to join an online webinar to see which book won the national vote (vote by adults) and the student vote. For the first time in around 15 years, the winner of the two votes was the same book: "October, october" by Katya Balen. The students were able to watch the results together, and despite that book not being Becket's first choice, enjoyed their lunch time with juice and snacks provided by the librarians.



*By Aoife Hampson*



As well as our usual fond farewells to staff at the Becket, we are also seeing the departure of the rather large caterpillar that has been kindly looked after by Mrs Webster and Mrs McLaren in our LRC. Absalom was initially made with recycled items for an Alice in Wonderland themed party by Mrs Brown (DT & Art) but has been at the Becket School for the last 2 ½ years.

It's now time for him to move on, so he is now residing at the library in Christ The King Infant School in Leicester for their younger pupils to enjoy and sit on the toadstools and read with him. Head of CTK school Caroline Marshall and her staff were delighted to be able to rehome Absalom, and Mrs Brown is extremely happy that he is going on to hopefully be enjoyed by younger pupils.

*By Ms Brown*

# NATIONAL FINALISTS: SACKED STORES



It's been months since we last caught up with Sacked Stores, Becket's Young Enterprise group, and they've definitely been busy. Since Sneinton market, the group has gone on to proceed to the national level of the competition- going further than any other Becket Young Enterprise group has before. We brought back Josh Darby and Aidan Shaw to talk about the team's progress.

First they had to win the Nottingham final, where they not only bagged the Company of the Year award for the Nottingham region but also best trade stand and a financial management prize as well. Their first competition took place at the Nottingham Trent Dryden enterprise building, whilst the others took place online due to the scale of the competition increasing.

"For each round we had to submit an interview, a company report, and a presentation, with an additional 4 minute presentation being required for the last two rounds of the competition"

Aidan told us about the regional finals, "We went to the regional finals, where we won, beating the likes of Nottingham High School, Loughborough Grammar School and a few other private, grammar and state schools. We won the best promotional video award (their 30 second promotional video consisted of Will Parker's mum with her dog and a sacked store bag promoting the teams website) and then we also won Best Regional Company of the year."

Josh then told us about the national finals, where the team earned their place in the top 14 in the country. "To prepare for the national final we had a big interview (10 minutes) with around 20 questions asked. We submitted our video and our promotional video and made it to the finals." Although the team didn't progress any further in the competition, their journey was hugely impressive, as they reached the national level of a competition with around 665 other young enterprise groups.

The group is currently in discussion with each other about what to do with their brand (whether to extend their product range or fold). They recently had a meeting with the manager of the company Affari, Craig Brothers, who gave the group inspiration to continue and expand, but they remain undecided as to what the future holds for Sacked Stores.

However, they both reminisce positively on their experience, reflecting on the team leadership, communication and management skills they learnt and the confidence they gained.

Well done Sacked Stores!

*Written by Aoife Hampson*