

PG/SR

September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you have all managed to have a relaxing and enjoyable summer break. The school year has started really well. Our new Year 7's have settled in and are really taking to the Becket way and our Y12s have also been welcomed into The Becket Sixth and have completed their own induction programme, run by the Sixth Form team. They have also now begun their A Level studies and are settling into the slightly different routines of the Sixth Form.

I wanted to thank you for your patience whilst we are experiencing some challenges with our communications systems. Currently, our parent mail system is not functioning correctly, and we are not able to send out emails or text messages. We are very sorry for the inconvenience this is causing and for the disruption to our usual level of communication. This is, unfortunately, out of our control and we are hoping that the issue will be resolved very soon.

It's also a good opportunity to share with you our exam results and some of our exciting new developments this year.

Exam Results

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all our GCSE and A-level students on their achievements. They should be extremely proud of their hard work and focus. The results were also the culmination of hard work and dedication from our staff. In fact, many of our staff gave up their own time to run sessions and support students above and beyond their classroom teaching. I would also like to thank you for the support you have given your child at home.

At A Level and GCSE, our Year 11 and 13 students undertook exams in the hall. I am pleased to report that our results were excellent:

GCSE

• 5+ 9-5 grades	74.4%
• 5+ 9-4 grades	85.4%
• % 9-5 grades -English & Maths	73.2%
• % 9-4 grades - English & Maths	91.5%
• % 9-5 grades - (English Bacculaureate)	45.1%
• % 9-4 grades - (English Bacculaureate)	57.3%
• Average Point Score Per Student	54.63

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At A Level our pass rate especially at the top end was exceptional:

- A*grades 19%
- A* and A grades 40.5 %
- A*, A, and B grades 66.7%
- Pass Rate 100%

Becket Reads

The Becket Reads is a whole school reading programme involving focused reading for 20 minutes per day. At the end of each year, every student will have read six texts and would have been introduced to a larger and wider vocabulary. We also, want to develop a love of reading and use the texts to improve communication skills.

Key information/changes and dates

I would also like to take this opportunity to share some key updates/changes that apply to our Year 7 – Year 11.

High standards of behaviour and personal organisation are always expected here at The Becket School, and we have made a few changes to our homework system and our rules governing mobile phones.

Homework

We have moved to a digital homework system, which is on Go4Schools. The decision was made to move to this method of recording homework in order to support students with their organisation and to ensure parents/carers and students have the most up-to-date means of accessing their homework tasks. Teachers will now be setting homework tasks using Go4Schools, which then appears on each student's account, with the subject, title, task details, and submission date, along with a guide as to how long the task should take to complete.

Tutors have shared a powerpoint with students which shows them how to set up their Go4Schools account on their electronic devices, using their Becketconnect email accounts. You will find these instructions attached to this communication so you can support your child in setting up their account. You will also find a guide for parents/carers attached which explains how you can view your child's homework tasks.

Mobile Phones

Schools nationally have been experiencing an increase in ICT related incidents that result in conflict in school or that put young people at risk, particularly regarding mobile phones.

It is the school's policy that we are a mobile phone free site. However, we are aware that some students do have their mobile phones with them so they can contact parents/carers before and after school hours. As long as all mobile phones are switched off and placed in school bags out of the way, we are happy with this. The reason we ask for phones to be in bags is that if they are stored in pockets, they are often visible or fall out – it is much better for phones to be stored safely inside bags. They need to be switched off so that message alerts or alarms do not disturb lessons. These rules exist to protect learning in the classrooms and to safeguard our students within the school premises.

As well as recognising that some students will have a mobile phone for the purposes noted above, it is also important that we have a system in place to ensure this rule is followed. In the first instance, if a student's mobile phone is seen/heard/used during the school day, their phone will be

confiscated, and the student will complete one day in our Reflection Centre. They will be able to collect their phone from Student Services at the end of the school day.

Should a student's phone be confiscated on a second or subsequent occasion, the phone will be kept in the school office until the end of the following Monday, at which point the student will be able to collect their phone. Should this happen, the student will be offered the opportunity to borrow a 'brick'-type phone from school, which will have sufficient credit to enable students to make calls to you regarding travel, etc. Students will be shown how to use the phones and we will ensure that they have relevant numbers handy so they can make calls to you as needed. Should a student in this situation require funds to travel home on that day this will be provided. Bus or tram fares required for other days will not be provided by the school.

Please be aware, that in the event of a phone being confiscated, the school will not accept responsibility for any loss or damage to the phone. The school will also not accept responsibility for any theft of the mobile phone whilst in school. Students bring their mobile phones into school at their own risk. This also applies to any other electronic devices that are also not allowed to be used during school time.

This practice is a direct result of our increasing responsibility to maintain the safeguarding standards we apply when in loco parentis and we thank you in advance for your support in this matter.

Please be assured that this information has been shared with students and they are being reminded of the need for mobile phones to be off and in bags. This will continue for the foreseeable future to ensure that students have opportunities to make sure they are following the rules and making the right choices.

Please contact the school office if you have an urgent message that needs to be communicated to your child before they can switch their phone on when they have left the school premises. Likewise, if a situation arises in which your child needs to make contact with you during the school day (for example to ask permission to go somewhere after school or to let you know that a club has been cancelled), they can do this via Student Services.

Key dates for the diary

➤ **Open evenings – full details on our website**

- Wednesday 14th September – Year 6 Open Evening (**please note that the school will close at the earlier time of 2pm**)
- Wednesday 28th September – Post 16 Open Evening

➤ **Inset Days**

- Monday 14th November
- Friday 10th February
- Monday 24th July
- Tuesday 25th July

Uniform

All of our students are looking very smart, thank you for your support with this. I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you about the school's uniform expectations, especially as the weather is looking to get colder. Coats, scarves, hats, and gloves must be black. In addition to this, could I just highlight that socks must be black or grey and of ankle length. White socks including knee-high or trainer socks are not permitted. Facial piercings or any piercing in the ear, which is not the ear lobe are not allowed and students will be asked to remove them straight away. The only

piercing that is permitted is one stud (plain and spherical) in the ear lobe. Uniform information can be found on our website www.becketonline.co.uk

I know I will see many of you at the various school events this year and look forward to meeting you.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Paul Greig', written in a cursive style.

Paul Greig
Headteacher