

**Mrs Quirk** has been a valuable and Influential part of our school community for almost 20 years. We were all shocked to hear that she is leaving at the end of this academic year to pursue new and exciting challenges in a new job. Mrs Quirk has been at The Becket since September 2005 and joined as a newly qualified teacher of English. Since then she has taken on a plethora of important roles within our school community including Literacy Coordinator, Head of English, Head of Robert House and Assistant Head Teacher.



Mrs Quirk's post-Becket plans are to work for a school trust in Leicester as an Associate Director of Curriculum which will involve looking after English over nine Secondary Schools. Her wise words of advice are to work hard and to always try your best, as well as remembering that you can always get through things even if it seems as though you can't. Her favourite thing to teach was definitely 'Captain Correlli's Mandolin' by Louis de Bernieres and she also finds Mediaeval Literature fascinating.

**Written by Ella Coppinger**

**Mr Pickup** started his journey at the Becket School in September 2017, along with our current year 12s. His first day was very memorable as it allowed him to meet his good friend Mr Belshaw. He told us that he loves the staff community here as they are so hardworking and dedicated to making sure that all students do the very best they can. He said even if you feel as though he's nagging, he assures us that it's because he cares! One of Mr Pickup's fondest memories from his time at The Becket is of the 2019 year 8 France Trip, the last one before Covid.



Following on from his time at the Becket, he is moving on to become the Assistant Headteacher at Trinity in September. He is especially looking forward to working with Mr Griffin again! His advice for all students is to never compare yourself to others and to try new experiences and take risks while you're still in school, so you'll have fond memories to look back on in the future. We wish him all the best and appreciate the years of dedication that he has given to students. **Written by Marty Williams and Caitlin Collins**

We're sure that you all know and love maths teacher **Mrs Amies**, but after 8 years with us she is moving on to work at the Nottingham Girls Academy. We wish her well, and before she leaves, we interviewed her about her time with us.

Her fondest memories of The Becket include sports days, trips, and organising gifts for colleagues leaving or going on leave. And who could forget the chaos which is the staff Christmas panto and music videos! She has had the honor of seeing her



Theresa form succeed at the 5K run over the years, as well as being part of the Nottingham half and mini marathons raising money for Bunkpurugu. She is really going to miss the classes she has had this year and wants to thank all of her students and colleagues who have supported her and shown kindness to her over her career at our school. Her advice? Make the most of every opportunity and never be afraid to take a risk, because the 5 (or 7!) years that you spend here will fly by. **Written by Marty Williams and Caitlin Collins**

# Brilliant Books

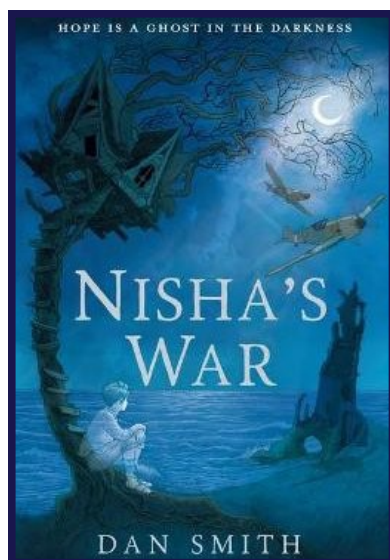


The Brilliant Book Award is an award managed by the Nottinghamshire Education Library Service in order to promote reading to KS3 pupils, raise awareness of children's literature, give voice to pupils who read for pleasure and recognise excellence as well as popularity. We spoke to this year's Brilliant Book Award students to get their opinions on this year's books. They were tasked to read six books, and even got to go on a trip to meet two of the authors! On Tuesday 21st of March, the

students voted for their favourite books. We spoke to year 7's restless readers Gabriel, Zasha, Marie, Akeena, Abigail, Olivia, Macy and Florrie. Some feedback we got regarding the books was: "there was a great variety of books", the students enjoyed "getting to read all the genres of books", and they really enjoyed "getting to meet some of the authors and ask them questions".



Luckily for the majority of voters from the students we interviewed, the overall winning book for the Becket School was.. Nisha's War by Dan Smith, with the close runner up being Furthermore by Tahereh Mafi. Congratulations to the authors of all of these Brilliant Books!



***Written by Marty Williams  
and Caitlin Collins***



# Becket Regional Champions: ESU 2023 Finals



On the 27th of March, the English Speaking Union Schools' Mace Grand Final took place at the historic Dartmouth House located in London. The Schools' Mace, founded in 1957, is the oldest and largest debating competition for schools in England. It involves around 300 schools each year, including the most prestigious institutions across the country. After months of preparation, hard work and dedication, The Becket School debate team was named regional champions of the East Midlands, which permitted their entrance into the final stages of the competition. This final team was made up of Aoife Reynolds, Caitlin Collins and Rosie Bell; Mr Gould and Mr Pell accompanying them. During the months leading up to this event, the team competed with other schools in the area, hosting and attending

rounds which they dominated each time. Caitlin comments that though it was her and Aoife's first time debating, Rosie having previous experience in this very competition before, she quickly became more comfortable in her arguing skills due to the support she was offered by Mr Gould and her teammates.

The day of the final began bright and early, with a train leaving for London at 5:30am, allowing the team to arrive at Dartmouth House on time where other finalists began to gather. James Foody, who accompanied the team, said the tickets to the venue were difficult to handle and organise as



there were so many required for their journey - he dedicated his time to dividing and distributing the correct tickets for everyone on the trip! As the only state school in the competition, the team say they are very proud to have come as far as they did, still receiving the title of Regional Champions, even though they didn't go on to win the overall competition. Congratulations on an amazing achievement!

*Written by Chloe Chapman-Deas*



# Welcome To The Showcase!



There was great excitement in the Creative Arts department earlier this year, as over 100 talented young people prepared for the annual Showcase. The aim of the Showcase was to allow parents and friends to have a look at what the pupils were up to in the music, drama, and art departments. All the events took place simultaneously, so the people present could walk around to see the art exhibition, concert band, the drama performances and other events. The preparation started some time after The Christmas Show, but the concert band took the longest time since there are nearly 70 people involved and they have many pieces to rehearse.

Cathryn Horsley and Chloe Chapman-Deas from Year 12, and Emilia Columbo from Year 11, were able to talk to us about their performances last night which were amazing! Cathryn performed her first ever solo song - titled 'RESTART' - that she had written and produced herself. She also performed a monologue from 'The Love of the Nightingale'. As a musically inclined person, it's no surprise that Cathryn considers song writing as a potential career path.



Cathryn, Chloe, and Emilia also got together to perform the song Ceilings. All three of them fully enjoyed their performance, and loved working together, especially Emilia as it's her last year in main school, and she commented on how their performance bridged the gap between sixth formers and secondary school pupils. Emilia wants to continue to do something related to music when she's older, and will definitely be part of another school play in sixth form.



The showcase received a lot of praise from all the teachers present on the night! Miss Jackson said there was a lot of positive feedback on social media and from parents who emailed in. Look forward to the West End showcase in June and the Creative Arts Showcase next March!

***Written By Mithraa***



# Caps Off Notts!

Young Enterprise is a national organisation and charitable group in the UK and across the European Union, overseeing a selection of individual companies on various educational levels. They work directly with young people, teachers and volunteers to equip them with transferable skills to aid them in their future careers and business endeavours.

The Becket has operated alongside Young Enterprise for the last five years and at the start of each academic year, Mr Bestwick gives an overview of the Young Enterprise scheme, encouraging people to participate. This introduction leads to an initial meeting for any Year 12s hoping to get involved, where they gain an understanding of what goes into running their own company.



By June, this year's team had won the second round of competition at the East Midlands Level, beating a variety of local schools including Nottingham High School. The Becket team's product stood out notably from other competitors, as a result of its unique nature. The handmade coasters, manufactured from recycled bottle caps, can be seen online already, but they have never been brought into the Young Enterprise domain before.

Another reason for the success of the company is their ability in presenting and communicating their plans. Aoife Rendu and Molly Walker went across some 20 bars and restaurants in Nottingham to discuss acquiring bottle tops that would otherwise be disposed of. At the same time, they were able to educate these companies on the correct ways of disposing of bottle caps to ensure they are recycled correctly. The team had a strong internal drive and they were able to sell themselves incredibly well in the presentation stage of the competition. Their market stall was also particularly successful, and this combination of skill and effort is what guaranteed this first win.

In June, the company took part in the National Final, where they were one of the 8 runners-up, out of over 6000 teams who originally participated in the competition. They also won the Delta Pursuit of Opportunity Award, which was for demonstrating great resilience in seeking out opportunities for their business. They forged creative and strategic partnerships to drive their business forward.

If you wish to purchase one of Caps Off's winning coasters, speak to members of the team: Aoife Rendu, Molly Walker, Matthew Jones, James Rawlingson, Daniel Garnham, Joseph Waters, Luke Eadsforth and Orla Coulam.

*Written by Lidia Langfield*



# Becket's Master Chefs!

Before the half term, our food tech department held a cooking competition for The Becket's talented year 9 chefs. Each contestant had 2 hours to plan, prepare and present a dish which was then judged by the food tech teachers. The students were judged on their choice of dish, skill, planning, presentation, taste and texture. After careful deliberation the winner was decided... Aine O'Callaghan of 9R with her dish of white fish en paupiette served with wild rice and a creamy shallot sauce. Congratulations are also in order for the 2nd and 3rd place winners: Leona Siby in 9P, who prepared chicken biryani served with raita, and Rosa Fisher in 9E who made roast beef with hasselback potatoes, roast sweet potatoes, cauliflower, carrots and broccoli. The Becket should be incredibly proud of these impressive wins!

*Written by Caitlin Collins and Marty Williams*



# Do You Know The Music Man?

You may have seen the Becket sixth form's rising talent, Rory White, in anything from our school plays to musical performances. Rory is in yr13 and preparing to go to university, and his talent has not gone unnoticed! At his interview for a musical composition course at Trinity Laban, Rory was offered a place (of only 13 spaces) actually during the interview! Trinity Laban is one of the world's top Conservatoires so this is certainly a huge achievement for both Rory and our school. Rory is inspired by a litany of musical talent in his family, and he is influenced by music within the jazz and heavy metal genres; he enjoys the freedom and improvisation that they allow him. Rory has talents in not only singing and acting, but also plays the drums, guitar and the flute! We are proud to have such a talented student in our midst, and we wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

*Written by Caitlin Collins*

# Who run the world? Girls!



In the words of Beyoncé, "We have to step up as women and take the lead.", and that's what these incredible athletes have done.

The first all girls year ten rugby team made their opening debut in two tricky matches and came out on top in their return to school after the Easter break. We had the privilege of speaking to the sports star Charlotte Smith, who's a member of the team - she comments that it's a very positive experience to see new girls getting involved. Their numbers increased from only two year nines to about 21 new girls, of a variety of ages. However, new additions are always welcomed and encouraged since the team has found a brand new sponsor.

The girls' cricket team also climbed their way up to the top, after batting bravely against many other tricky schools. They successfully made it through to the regional finals which recently took place. After speaking to the talented Ellen Weaver, we learnt that the girls had never actually played as a team before so lots of cricket training and hard work had taken place prior to the competitions.



Ellen Weaver also commented that the experience was thoroughly enjoyable and encouraged people of all abilities to come and have a go! In addition to all this success, year ten footballers, including the skillful Rosa Fisher, won the cup final in recent weeks after diligently playing against other schools in the region. Rosa explained that the loss against their current opponents the previous year made her even more excited to enter the semi-finals and have another chance to prove the team's capability. She also commented on the amazing collaborative unity between the girls in the line up and welcomed any new comers as the team is going up to eleven aside next season.





Year seven super football stars also had a fantastic season, starting off the year strong in a group of tournaments ranging from 7 to 9 aside, Darcie Muldoon confirms. And again, there is a strong sense of camaraderie amongst the team; close bonds between the girls help them win matches and stay dedicated to training every Monday. Darcie and the girls welcome anyone interested in taking part as any and all skill sets are accommodated and it's a positive fun way to keep active.

*By Chloe Chapman-Deas and Kaya Sangare*



## The Becket Student Council!

SSC is a national charity set up and run by teachers who wanted to create a dynamic, exciting template that could be used by schools all over the country and across all age groups. Here at The Becket School, Mrs Ralfe is the School Council Staff Lead and in September she set up a Communication Team, who are central to the council and how it is run. The Communication Team includes representatives from across all year groups who applied to take part. They are responsible for sharing information with the rest of the school on new initiatives, student voice findings and the progress of existing school improvement projects. So far, our Communication Team have set up a range of whole school votes and have been proactive in getting Action Teams up and running. Every month, the Communication Team meets and sets up a vote on the SSC website. We send this vote out via link to all form groups. This vote gives all students an opportunity to share their opinion in a small group before casting their vote as a group of 3 or 4 in their form. All of the results are collated for the Communication Team, who analyse the findings at their next meeting and set up an Action Team if it makes sense to do so.

We currently have a Green Action Team and a Study Action Team. The Green Action Team have met with Aspens to feedback student opinions and queries on canteen food and have future meetings planned on this. They have also delivered a proposal to school and trust leaders, pitching for new water machines around school. The Study Action Team are newly formed and will be looking at ways to deliver study skills and share expertise across year groups. The first stage of involvement is voting with your form group when the monthly class vote arrives. Please speak to Mrs Ralfe so she can log your interest and consider you when future action teams are formed and when there are changes to the Communication Team, or email [c.ralfe@becketonline.co.uk](mailto:c.ralfe@becketonline.co.uk).

*Written by Rhianna Matthews and Katie Comer*



# All Rise for 'Risen': The Final Instalment

Risen, taking place in the second week back after half term, illustrates the traditional story of Jesus' Ascension - full to the brim with talented young actors and those interested in the arts.

Beginning again with workshops in the place of auditions in order to foster a comfortable environment, the actors firstly began by establishing key moments they wanted to include in the piece. This in particular being when Jesus was discovered to have risen and when Jesus left the Earth, The Ascension. Writing the script for the play, Rory Squire states, was not a linear process, as the team of pupils were constantly making amendments that added to the overall impact of the play. As he explored the role of Bartholemow, one of Jesus' disciples, he commented that this way of writing did in fact help his progression of the story gave him character. Charlotte Chapman-Priest, agreed - stating that the more efficiently evolve as the



acting because the gradual a chance to really search the Deas, playing Caiaphas, the High complexity of her character could story emerged.

Opening with an eerie radio Toni Brocklehurst, playing Mary, emotionally impactful monologue

broadcast on the death of Jesus, gave an outstanding and that was enhanced by stylistic

choices of movement, a red light flooding the stage. The round shape of the stage, with audience members circling the events of the play, created an incredibly immersive atmosphere and contributed to the professionalism of the production. Additionally, the use of colour and lighting throughout was notably moving - matching and establishing the tone of whichever scene was taking place. Another vivid moment was during Lenny Brady's portrayal of Pilate's regret, creating a captivating and memorable image of despair. Along with this, Keivan Bourke-Bosworth was absolutely poignant in his depiction of Jesus, maintaining character and pure emotiveness for every moment he was on stage.

The play ended with a piece of music which was sung subtly by the kneeling cast, while a cross covered in lights was raised in the air by Keivan as Jesus. It was a stunning end to a stunning performance. Being roughly an hour in length, the performance effortlessly retained the audience's attention for the entirety of the piece.

***Written by Chloe Chapman-Deas***

# Connecting At Briars!

**100 year 12s gathered cheerily in the drizzle to embark upon their first external retreat day in the Derbyshire countryside.**



On Monday 20th of March the year 12s headed off to their first external retreat day at the Briars in Crich. The Briars has been open for groups to visit since 1969. Since then, thousands of young people have visited and learned from those at The Briars. In 2019, The Briars celebrated the 50th anniversary of their mission; to help young people find community and to learn about themselves and God's word.

It was a day filled with many different activities, such as blindfolded hand and face painting in which Finan's award winning cat art definitely made up for him slipping over in the mud, wearing vision altering goggles and playing football, and a scenic yet very muddy and windy walk through the Derbyshire countryside. Retreat days are a fantastic opportunity to take a step back from the usual demands and stresses of the school day to relax, rewind and to spend time with friends. This was also the first time that year 12s have had the opportunity to participate in an external retreat day.

The Briars staff were all incredibly welcoming and friendly and the students were made aware of the brilliant opportunity of joining the Briars' team. It is an incredible chance to learn countless new life skills and meet lots of new people whilst living and working at the Briars. Perfect for anyone thinking of a gap year, or wishing to do some very worthwhile voluntary work.

***Written by Ella Coppinger***





# Cracking Codes



On Monday 20th March 140 year 8 students and 14 staff visited Bletchley Park - the home of the World War 2 Codebreakers.

Bletchley Park was set up to decode intercepted Nazi messages that had been encrypted using Enigma machines. The machine (of which a number of varying types were produced) resembled a typewriter. The Enigma machine was invented by a German engineer Arthur Scherbius

shortly after WW1. It had a lamp board above the keys with a lamp for each letter. The operator pressed the key for the plaintext letter of the message and the enciphered letter lit up on the lamp board. It was adopted by the German armed forces between 1926 and 1935.

This was a Maths, History and Computing trip and as part of the day they had a guided tour, learned about how Morse code was used to communicate in the lead up to D-Day, and the top secret work of the codebreakers, including Alan Turing, in breaking the German Enigma Code. The students also had some free time to explore the mansion and the codebreaking huts, as well as a visit to the gift shop! The students had previously had lessons in school on some of the background to the events of D-Day and the work of the codebreakers to prepare them for the visit.

***Written by Rhianna Matthews***



# Chemists Of The Future

During the week of 5th June, a group of 9 Year 12 Chemistry students participated in a nationwide schools' analyst competition in partnership with the Royal Society of Chemistry. The purpose of this competition was to showcase their practical skills in analytics, utilising both familiar and innovative techniques. The students engaged in various experiments such as titrations, chromatography, and other practical activities aimed at enhancing their existing knowledge in the field. The theme of this year's competition was “baking”, as the practicals revolved around familiar solids used in baking and the Year 12's had to use their applied abilities to make informed inferences based on what the Royal Society of Chemistry had sent us.



To ensure efficiency and encourage independent thinking, the students were divided into groups of three. Each group had the responsibility of successfully navigating through the assigned practical tasks, with the goal of completing their work and submitting their findings for evaluation. The submitted work will be assessed both within the school and the wider region, providing the students with an opportunity to win recognition based on their performance.

By participating in this competition, the Year 12 Chemistry students were able to demonstrate their proficiency in practical, analytical skills, explore new techniques, and expand upon their existing knowledge. Furthermore, the competition fostered the development of problem-solving and teamwork skills, as the students devoted considerable time to deliberating and collaborating with their teams.

***Written by Aoife Katon***

