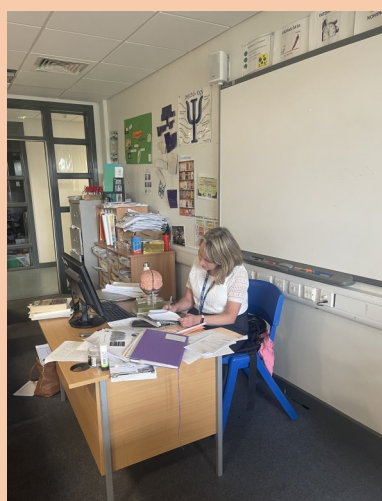


Goodbyes

Mrs Byrne

After being at the school for 18 years, Mrs Byrne has unfortunately decided it is her time to leave the Becket. She originally joined by chance when she sent her CV into the Becket, who were looking to set up a psychology department, so it was the perfect opportunity. Before working here, she completed her A levels at night school and worked in a music shop in Liverpool, before going to work as a customs officer while her friends attended university. She decided to join them, and then once she had got her degree in psychology and teacher training, she set off to teach in Malawi in East Africa and Brunei. During her time here, she has seen a lot change, like the new school building, the incredible development in technology and lots of new people at the Becket, from staff to students. Yet the students' attitudes haven't changed, and are still motivated and funny, and she'll miss the students everyday making her laugh. Her plans for the future are to remotely teach Afghan Refugees. We thank her for all of the things she has done at the Becket, and wish her all the best with her future endeavours! *Written by Abigail Tsoi*



Mrs Murray

Mrs Murray, after 6 years of teaching here at the Becket, is unfortunately leaving. When asked, she noted one of the changes she's seen was during COVID, when they had to use the plaza for practical lessons! Her favourite thing about Becket is the real sense of community, which she has thoroughly enjoyed being part of, and some of her favourite memories are seeing many of her students achieve some great results with their practical work. We wish her the best of luck, and thank her for everything she has done whilst at Becket! *Written by Abigail Tsoi*

Mrs Webster

After 17 years, our beloved Mrs Webster is leaving The Becket. Our journalism team interviewed her as a group, and we wish her all the happiness for her plans after she leaves!

Mrs Webster first came to the Becket because she had heard it was a good school, and she wanted to go back to teaching in schools after working in university. In these first years, her goal was to keep the library open after school. It took two years to achieve but with such a supportive school system she was able to do it to further support us students. She also introduced Accelerated Reader, in a successful effort to make students more engaged with their reading. She added that when you're in a community, you get sucked into doing things you'd never expect to do, but often en-

joy.

As a librarian, she said her favourite part of reading is escapism. She is a true advocate of reading because she believes that to grasp the skills of literacy for life is so critical, and even listening to an audiobook can help to exercise your brain. After all these years, she said that her all time favourite part of her job is spending time with the students, and it is what she will miss the most. Covid was difficult for the library too as students weren't allowed to come in, and Mrs Webster said it was awful because our library is made up of the people that use it. One of her proudest moments was when she was recruited to be a librarian in the Middle East from 1995-2003. She said she was extremely lucky to have been offered the job as it opened up

more possibilities for her career and also her family. When she was young, she had no idea what she wanted to be until she turned 17, and her dad influenced her to train as a librarian. She said that one of her goals she would love to achieve is to set up her own library, to continue her legacy of helping students and children with their reading skills. Mrs Webster, we thank you for your time, and we will miss you with all our hearts! *Written by Evelyn Green*



And Farewells

Mrs Batley

Mrs Batley will be unfortunately leaving the Becket to a promoted post at Wilsthorpe school. After being a part of the Becket community for 12 years Mrs Batley has been a central part of the PE department. Mrs Batley's favourite memories are a collection of Walesby stories, sports days and when the current year 10 girls have retained the title of county cup winners for the past two years. One of the biggest changes Mrs Batley has seen at the Becket is the changes as a result of Covid. Navigating home schooling her own children while delivering online lessons and not being able to participate in sports. Mrs Batley's funniest memory was at Walesby when a hornet flew into Mrs Batley and Ruth's room and they were essentially trapped in their room by it because they were so terrified. Mrs Batley has said she will miss the staff at the Becket. We wish Mrs Batley the best of luck with her new role and new school and would like to thank her for everything that she has done whilst being at the Becket!

Written by Annie Flynn



Mrs Baker

In her 10 years of teaching at the Becket School, she said that her funniest memory was doing Zumba moves down the science corridor in her earlier years, and her best memory was when her sixth form tutor group a few years ago did a mock trial of Johnny Depp v Amber Heard.

When asked about what she had seen change, she said there's been many different heads of the science department, and when asked about what she will miss the most she said all of the staff that she has made friends with. She said her favourite experiment as a science teacher is the quadrats practical, and now we wish her the best of luck in her new position at Southwolds!

Written by Evelyn Green

Mr Gould

As one of the very appreciated members of the R.E. department we are sad to announce Mr Gould has left and moved to Ratcliffe College who we think will enjoy having him teaching there as much as we have at The Becket. Speaking to Mr Gould we would like to share his favourite memories at The Becket such as being with the R.E. department and lots of fun lessons with his favourite year 11 class (they know who they are). His last words to The Becket are "Thank you," and he'll miss everyone in the school and The Becket will definitely miss him.

Written by Angélique Warhurst



Mrs Adams

Unfortunately Mrs Adams will no longer be with us after this year after having been a part of the Becket community since 2018 as a fabulous French teacher. She will be leaving us to relocate closer to family down south in Suffolk with the incredible perk of being by the sea. She will be continuing her wonderful French teaching at a new



school in Suffolk. Some of her favourite memories since being at the Becket include running in the teachers' relay on sports day as a team member for Bernadette house! Another fond memory of hers is her first Year 8 France trip in 2019 with the current year 13! She has thoroughly enjoyed her time here working at the Becket and we wish her all the best with her new adventure! *Written by Annie*



On Wednesday 13th March 2024, the Young Enterprise Team finalised their place in the competition. Attending a meeting at NTU, they had to present to a panel of judges what their entire business concept was, and what they've learnt overall from being a part of the Young Enterprise journey. They had to submit a comprehensive company report and an in depth PowerPoint of their progress, and as a reward for their achievements, which came to a grand total of £346 revenue (£206 profit) and 60% ROI, they won the Sales and Marketing Award. This is an amazing outcome for the Young Enterprise Team. Very well done!!

Written by Evelyn Green



Arts Showcase, which demonstrated the wide array of talent that our students have in the creative arts. The evening included an art gallery of pieces created across the school, and performances from both the music and drama departments. It was a wonderful celebration and amazing opportunity to demonstrate the talents that we have in our school.

Interview with Toni:

1. What are you performing in the Showcase?

A monologue from Philomele, from the play Love of the Nightingale, and also in the choir.

2. Why did you choose to participate in the Showcase, and what do you like about it?

I love drama and I think it's important to be able to express yourself through creative arts. It's also good to show that side of the school, and highlight talents that students have in these areas.

3. Why do you like the arts at Becket?

The teachers are very enthusiastic about the arts and encourage students to take part in events like these. It is also nice to see a mix of year groups working together.

4. Is there anything you did to prepare for the Showcase?

Learning my lines, asking for advice from other students involved in the creative arts, and just practising.

Written by Evelyn Green



At long last, the water fountain has arrived! After a lot of hard work from the school council to fundraise and the participation from the students to donate, we finally have the water fountain! Located in the atrium, it was definitely a worthwhile investment as everyone in main school and even sixth form have already made great use of the fountain.

Well done to the council for all their hard work!!

Alongside this new investment, Mrs Ralfe, the councils supervisor, has also been in contact with the Aspens team to try and further this sustainable change in the school to reinvent the school meal deals. This is to remove the single use water bottle and instead offer an alternative, so the school can really benefit from the sustainable change the council is trying to achieve.

Written by Evelyn Green

Nights at the museum

On Wednesday 20th March, Becket held their Creative Arts Showcase, which demonstrated the wide array of talent that our students have in the creative arts. The evening included an art gallery of pieces created across the school, and performances from both the music and drama departments. It was a wonderful celebration and amazing opportunity to demonstrate the talents that we have in our school.





Easter Parade

Before parting ways for the Easter break, the Y9s performed a poignant, well-performed play to the school depicting the last supper. We interviewed two of the stars.

What did you enjoy about the process?

Lenny: It was a longer process but I really enjoyed the creative freedom we were given. I really appreciate the fact that Mr Lund guided us on what to do. My peers were amazing and acted extremely well. Overall, I thought it worked really well as it was part of a liturgy.

Seb: I really enjoyed rehearsal. I would say my favourite part was the first and also last scene. In general, I thought we did quite well considering the time we had.

What can we expect from the drama department in the near future?

Lenny: The drama department is working on a Shakespearean production comprising 3 separate plays Romeo and Juliet, Othello and Measure for Measure.

What did you do in order to prepare for the role?

Seb: I learnt my lines and also practised the delivery of them.

Written by Kaitlin Shaju



Horrible histories

The Year 12 history students went on a trip to London for a couple of days in the midst of March, travelling from Nottingham to St Pancras via train. They had a great time exploring London and getting to visit different landmarks, such as Westminster Abbey, where they had a guided tour, and Hampton Court. They also took part in a Tudor workshop at the Tower of London, and enjoyed dinner at Covent Garden – though they often had to speed walk to make it to the Tube in time! Overall, the trip was great and much enjoyed by the history students. *Written by Abigail Tsoi*



Race across the world



The Model UN is an extracurricular club for sixth formers that runs on a Tuesday lunchtime. Members in the club take the role of a country leader from a list of countries and come together to discuss different issues each week. These may vary from Law one week to medicine another week. This is a good opportunity for the members to dive deeper into issues that may correlate to their chosen degree for university, and it looks good on their personal statement. *Written by Dylan Jordan*



The history boy

When we interviewed him, Mr Golligher said that he wanted to run a new club as he enjoys watching historical movies and thinks that it is helpful for the students to feel a sense of what other time periods were like in film. The club is accessible to all years, and offers history knowledge over a wide range of events and eras. The History Club is open on Friday lunchtimes each week. And a fun fact about Mr Golligher...he likes to wear odd socks. *Written by Andrew Leu*



The great debaters

An exciting, friendly competition was held within the debate team! Mr Gould set the year 12 students a range of questions to choose from, mostly focusing on different theologies. The task was to create their own speeches arguing their opinion based on whichever statement they chose, and the entire class participated. The winner of the friendly competition, Leni D'Souza, chose the statement "Does violent media contribute to juvenile crime". They said that this statement was, in their opinion, the most specific question and so it was easier for them to answer with their own views.

Mr Gould later told us that he chose the winner based on whose was the most engaging, and he created this low stakes competition as a way to boost their own skills and confidence in arguing their opinions. Well done Leni! *Written by Evelyn Green*



Elemental

Year 9 students had an informative day at Warwick University, where there were 5 science talks- physics, chemistry, evolutionary biology and more. Mrs Thorpe found the talks extremely valuable as they were talking about the sun and how it made noise, which is something she had never thought about even being possible. It has made her consider things she would have never thought about despite having years of experience in chemistry! Another student said it was rather inspiring to see such dedication from the Uni in sustaining the enjoyment of their students. They also mentioned how their favourite talk was on a species of rhino that unfortunately, are on the brink of extinction. They thought the evolutionary biology talk raised questions that are up to date on world relevance. Meanwhile Martin Noudeviwa liked the interactivity of the talks, especially when they were allowed to volunteer up on stage and Joseph Shenton said that the campus was enjoyable and was a pleasure to take in; it was a whole new experience for him. *Written by Andrew Leu.*

Bend it like Beckham

Our year 10 girls' football team have retained the title of county champions! They beat Hall Park girls team in the final an incredible 16-0. Well done to our year 10 girls football team what an amazing achievement. Hopefully next year they'll do it again! *Written by Annie Flynn*



The Incredibles

On May 1st, the Brilliant Club members went on an inspiring trip to Sheffield University. They visited Firth Court, which houses the department of biology, where they attended a seminar, followed by a tour of Sheffield University's campus. They then received their grade for a 2000 word essay on microaggressions that they had been planning and writing as part of Brilliant Club. Abigail Newman (Year 9) achieved a 2:1 (and she was only 2 marks away from a first)! To conclude, a celebratory graduation ceremony was held, before they headed back. But what is Brilliant Club? It was a group of 8 academically gifted students who spent 10 weeks being taught a PhD tutor, specialising in philosophy. He guided them throughout the process of planning and writing their essays. The group itself was organised by Mrs Salisbury. *Written by Abigail Tsoi and Kaitlin Shaju*



Can you guess which teachers these facts are about?

(Answers on the back!)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Who opened for Sweeney Todd? | 7. Who helped deliver their first child? |
| 2. Who officially opened Toys R Us? | 8. Who used to foster cats? |
| 3. Who was in the Lorraine Kelly show? | 9. Who spent their honeymoon in the Arctic? |
| 4. Who has got a cat with three legs? | 10. Who was in a rowing team? |
| 5. Who restored a painting in a German palace? | 11. Who was a ballet dancer until they were 18? |

Megamind

Every year a huge number of students across the UK enter the Chemistry Olympiad Competition. This year despite how hard the competition is, as it is filled with content they do not know, our Year 12's brought home several certificates. For the first time in Becket history, Hailey Mak, 12N, won the Gold award with only 8.3% of participants doing so. Ryan Au, 12T, won the silver award (only 2 Becket students have won this in the last 10 years) and Dylan Jordan, Heather Mak and Daniel Oyaide-Nicholls all won bronze awards. Hailey was overjoyed and Ryan said he found it challenging, as the format of the Olympiad is quite different from usual school tests.

Written by Dylan Jordan



Goodbye from us!

The journalism team says goodbye after a year of writing!

Abigail Tsoi, Andrew Leu, Angelique Warhurst, Annie Flynn, Dylan Jordan, Eleanor Sumner, Evelyn Green and Kaitlin Shaju, along with Ms Cheffings, finish our last Despatch with a lot of fun as Eleanor, our final editor, took over from Dylan who did the previous terms. I can confidently say that we have had a lot of fun, running around school to find stories, students and teachers, for photos and interviews alike. From writing about our amazing sportspeople to competitions to teachers leaving, our weekly lessons were never boring and we would like to thank Ms Cheffings for her help in creating our Despatches. Thank you!

We also wonder how many of you noticed that our article titles were film titles too....

But for now, so long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, goodbye! *Written by Evelyn Green*

Sports page



Bring it on

Anya Mcleod in Year 12 competed at the Cheerleading World championships at ESPN worldwide of sports in Orlando Florida on the 27th and 28th April with her team EMCA fame (Level 6 Co-ed) Placing 5th in the world an amazing result. Anya said she loved the way that this competition was a lovely gathering of people sharing their love for cheerleading together. The team camaraderie was unforgettable and all other teams were so supportive making it such a wonderful experience. Her favourite memory was after day 1 when her team hit zero the most surreal experience. During this time in Florida Anya competed in some of America's top cheerleading gyms such as Top gun Double down and Brandon Allstars. The sense of belonging and team work within cheerleading made the experience so exciting and rewarding and the adrenaline rush after competing was unforgettable. Anya is a side base and a tumbler within her team. This experience made the whole team bond and become closer due to this shared experience of competing together at Worlds. On the Friday of their trip Anya's team went to 'Show Offs' where all UK teams performed their routine before the competition at the football fields at Disney. All other teams were so supportive and this was such an amazing opportunity to show and practise before the competition. The cheerleading community from all around the world was brought together by this world championships. Anya thoroughly enjoyed her competition and says it was such a once in the life time opportunity that she is so grateful to have been able to go. Given the chance to go again in future years she would definitely go! We are so proud of you Anya, a wonderful representation of our school! *Written by Annie Flynn*

Freaky Friday

The Friday Football society is a chance for all Becket students to play some Amateur football for two to three hours a week. The founder and manager Leander D'souza told us that the club captures the rawness of amateur football and there is no pressure to perform well. It's a fun and relaxed time to socialise with friends. The members of the club hope that someday Friday Football will be brought onto school grounds so that they have supervision and a pitch to play on. *Written by Andrew Leu*



The Terminators

A selection of our Year 12 boys participated and WON the NLD rugby cup final playing for the Nottingham Moderns Rugby team as colts. The NLD Nottinghamshire Lincolnshire and Derbyshire cup is very highly regarded within rugby and there was an amazing atmosphere on the day. The match was against Derby and was played in Chesterfield. A well played team effort with one of our Becket own scoring as Prop (Kyran Lockhart). Other students Kyran Wiggan and Seb Draper both played as Centres. With Sean Carroll as Fly half and Marcel Balambilayi playing in second row. Sean himself says he enjoys playing with his rugby team as it is really fun playing alongside his friends. He enjoys the social aspect as well as the positive benefits as a result of exercise. Congratulations to all who played! *Written by Annie Flynn*

10. Mr Tipping 11. Miss Birley

Answers: 1. Miss Priest 2. Mr Gaunt 3. Mr Carberry 4. Mrs Bateman 5. Mr Myers 6. Miss Cordes 7. Mrs Ralfe 8. Mr Felstead 9. Mr Watson