



Becket's Got Talent

In November, we welcomed the return of house competitions...

In honour of the word of the week 'Kingdom', Chaplains Ruth Cotter and Mrs. Conlon organised five spectacular events celebrating The Becket's 'mini-kingdom's'. These events were led by new heads of house, year twelve house captains, and even some main school representatives. It was brilliant to see everyone getting involved. Ruth commented that the reawakening of House competitions was inspired by the six house patrons. The atmosphere in the hall was astounding, and it was brightly decorated with house colours and bunting made in forms from the previous week. Let's take a look at some of the events...

Monday: The Becket Olympics

The race to see who could fold a paper airplane the fastest and throw it the farthest, plus the egg and spoon race were student favourites. Winner of such, Mr. Pell of Bernadette house, said, "it was a tight affair. I was thinking about so many things tactically because I was next to Mr. Belshaw, who threatened to push my egg off." He added that it was a "hare and tortoise scenario."

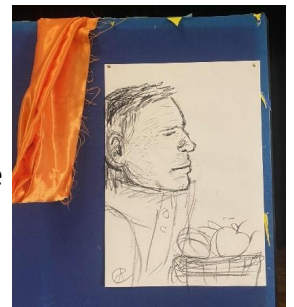


Tuesday: Pictionary

"Absolute joy" said Mrs. Conlon. "I feared for my life when the students and staff alike were charging for the microphone." Some drawings included the Our Lady of Lourdes symbol and the plaza. While the winners of this competition are still unconfirmed, we suspect an Edmund house sweep.

Wednesday: A Portrait of Mr. Greig

This required competitors to draw our headmaster in a small amount of time: the winner's drawing was taken by Mr. Greig himself and framed in his office. This piece was drawn by no other than Annabel Wheeler in 12N, who used her art GCSE skills to capture him perfectly. She said, "it was very stressful considering we only had five minutes to do it in, but it felt amazing to draw again like I had once done."



Thursday: A Quiz

By far the most enthralling event of the week, the quiz consisted of a mix of karaoke, general knowledge, and a race to the microphone. It is unclear who the winning house of this event was, however those who took part said that it was the most fun to compete in. Mrs. Hollins of Nicholas house noted that it was "nice to see all pupils coming together to cheer on their captains." She also said that one of the funniest moments was when, "Mr. Belshaw and George Silcock were in a battle of height for the microphone to answer."



Friday: The Talent Show

The big finale. Highlighted acts include: Mr. Udoh of Robert house's Coldplay piano piece, a Theresa double act by Mr. Felstead and Mr. Carberry who sang 'Sweet Caroline', and another duet by Lexine Glover and Miss. Cordes in Patrick. We questioned the winner of this event, Mr Mach, and here's what he had to say... "it was the most nervous I have ever been." He added that it was one of the "greatest achievements of my life, alongside my children."



Additionally, in form time, houses celebrated the New Liturgical Year by making and wearing crowns of their respective houses, and some even played board games!

A massive thank you to those who took part, and Ruth and Mrs. Conlon for organising, we cannot wait to see the house leader board!

Written by: Lily Cheung

Journalistic Journeys

On Wednesday 20th November 2024, Ms Cheffings and sixteen students travelled to Leicester to experience a BBC young reporters day at De Montfort University.

The day consisted of two workshops, including a Real News workshop, that allowed students to gain an insight into some real life stories and what it takes to be a journalist for BBC verify. BBC Verify comprises about sixty journalists, who will form a highly specialised operation with a range of forensic investigative skills, and open source intelligence capabilities.

During the reporting disasters workshop they looked at AI photographs, and how to identify fake news through their new technology. They were tasked with making a TikTok video, reporting on a real life disaster that happened in a children's playground. It was really captivating and they learnt lots of new things that they never thought even existed.

Following this, they took part in a local news workshop. Throughout this session, the group were given a series of scenarios, at which they had to decide what should make the front cover, and which scenarios should be scrapped completely. They had first hand lecturer Lee Marlow discuss the concept of news and life in the news studio. Students then got to go into the news studio and see how news and weather were reported.

After lunch, everyone gathered in the lecturer hall for the careers panel; this was made up by many BBC experts. They were questioned by multiple students about their area of expertise, and how they got into the jobs they are currently in. It was very insightful for those who are looking to enter the journalism industry.

To finish the day, they welcomed the famous Steel from Gladiators, who gave the group inside information on

his life and his career. He spoke about the importance of motivation in his life and how he's had to undergo many challenges to get to his current position. Students had lots of questions to ask him, including asking him to show them a handstand walk and his biceps!

After the day concluded, lots of the students walked into the centre of the city, and explored the Christmas markets, some even had Yorkshire pudding wraps!

The day was a brilliant experience for those who wish to continue with their education in journalism at university, as well as an all round great experience to learn something new and understand what goes on behind the scenes.

Written by: Tilly Coppinger, Ava Smith



Beyond the Lab

Have you ever dreamed of an expedition to fuel your chemistry knowledge? This term, the Year thirteens went on a chemistry trip to the University of Nottingham to learn about spectroscopy (measuring chemicals). This gave the students a true feeling of what a university environment is like by getting to experience lectures, which was a very different feeling to their previous education. As well as meeting lecturers, they met with two ex-Becket students that now work at the university in the chemistry department. The students got to see high level equipment such as an infrared machine, worth thousands of pounds, but the main event of the trip was the NMR machine, which analyses chemicals. This machine in itself was fascinating to just be around due its hefty 1 million pound price tag. Furthermore, it can only be used by those with a PhD and years of experience. Nottingham University had state of the art labs which the students were mesmerised by, as they were nothing like what they had been in before. They did wish that they could have done more practicals, but overall they would like to do this trip again, and recommend it to anyone who gets the chance to go in the future.

Written by: Seb Tonks



Baby It's Cold Outside...

... So come inside for our Christmas concert! On Monday 16th December, the Becket Music department held a magical music showcase, displaying their various talents. The night started off with a BANG, with the concert band performing 'Christmas Swings' and some absolute classics, which got us into the Christmas spirit. There were plenty of impressive solo and band performances from all years, consisting of both current and ex-Becket students. The songs performed ranged from Christmas songs to Bach's prelude in G by Year thirteen's Emily Turner, who recently gained her music diploma.

Most of the performances were introduced by Ollie Coleman who took pride in entertaining the crowd as well as playing his famous bagpipes (reportedly wearing Mr Greig's kilt!). The music stars took a break during the interval which heightened spirits even further due to the lovely mince pies, cookies and hot drinks sold. Special mention to the Lourdes fundraisers and Young Enterprise group for selling the refreshments, hopefully both of which will be successful. Sadly, the night came to an end but we didn't leave without the beautiful sounds of Frozen blessing our ears! Massive thanks to the whole music department, current and past students, teachers and the wonderful site team who made the whole night come alive.

Written by: Tilly Coppinger,
Ava Smith



Inside The Commons...

Our famous Rushcliffe borough MP - James Naish, came to answer some of The Becket's pressing questions. Firstly, he spoke to the Year twelve Debate, Politics, and Sociology classes about his experience of becoming an MP after the summer election. We also quizzed him on recent matters such as the floods that have been happening in our areas, the Terminally Ill Adults End of Life Bill that he voted against, and why he thinks that Donald Trump is not a threat even though Elon Musk is! We found his visit very insightful and educational as many of us have not met an MP personally, and it inspired many of us, especially those who are particularly interested in politics.

He then proceeded to talk to the Year tens about the urgent, increasing problem of homelessness. Mr. Naish explained his future plans for the Rushcliffe borough, and spoke to the year group about his career as a Councillor previously and his job change into an MP.

We spoke to Mrs. Harrison-Scott about how she was able to organise the surreal experience for our school. She said that she originally got in touch with him during Parliament Week as there was an advert for an MP to come into local schools. Unfortunately, our school was not chosen however, Mr. Naish's personal assistant said that he was available to visit us. Mrs. Harrison-Scott said that her favourite part of the experience was when Mr. Naish spoke about his childhood and early career. She expressed that if he were to visit again she would like for him to speak to a wider audience, and various year groups to discuss a range of local issues.

Written by: Tilly Coppinger, Ava Smith

Soaring into the Political Landscape

It was wonderful that Mr. Naish visited The Becket, especially since the school has only been offering Politics A-Level for the past three years. Mrs. Barlow and Mr. Gould originally set up the department, and it has always produced successful grades due to the interesting topics contained in the A Level curriculum.

We spoke to Emilia Williams in 12P, who is one of the students taking politics this year, about her experience in the lessons. She described them as having 'a lot of room for open discussion', and said everyone could voice their opinions on the topic openly. She says that it's a good topic for if you want to learn about society as a whole, along with specific people in politics. The

subject is highly recommended to people with an interest in History, English and even Psychology! They work together as a class, and it is very team orientated.

The subject has now been taken over by Mr. Corden-Mistery and Mr. Carberry, who both thoroughly enjoy teaching the subjects, and hope to follow in the footsteps of their predecessors.

Written by: Tilly Coppinger, Will Edwards, Ava Smith



Sporty Superstars

Gliding to glory in the pool

Thinking about taking up a new sport? Ever considered swimming? Sebastian Tonks in Year twelve qualified for next year's regionals in Derbyshire. After quitting multiple other hobbies such as tennis and football, Seb has decided to focus all his free time on swimming. It's been his only main passion since he was a child, and he now holds the club record for 200m breaststroke - an impressive two minutes and forty-one seconds. The thing he admires most about this sport is the competitive edge, especially with his eight upcoming races in the new year. Training a minimum of five hours a week, Seb has experienced a lot of different leisure centres, his favourite being Loughborough. He hopes to qualify for English nationals this year. We all wish him good luck!



One of Becket's very own, Isabella Havalja in Year ten, is one of the best swimmers in

Nottingham for her age, but did you know that Isabella is currently competing in County Championships where she made the finals for both of her first races of the competition finishing 5th in 100 metres butterfly and 6th in the 50 metre freestyle? However, it doesn't stop there, as she has four more races throughout the competition where she hopes to maintain her outstanding form, and

maybe even make a podium finish. Isabella's best strokes in her sport are butterfly and backstroke, but overall her favourite thing about swimming is the social aspects - spending time with her friends in between races - and loves the positive community within the swimming world. It doesn't stop there though, as Isabella has competed in Welsh nationals twice as well as East Midlands championships on a couple of occasions. I think it's fair to say that Isabella's hard work and dedication have paid off, and this is evident as she used to train for 21 hours a week while at Nova, swimming morning and night. She has now gone back to local club Carlton Forum and swims four times a week.

Written by: Seb Tonks, Vanessa Wisniewska

Cross-Country Success

The annual Rushcliffe partnership cross country took place in December, with many students across the school placing in the top ten. In Year seven, Sofia Bursztyn secured 1st place and Isabella Wiggan came close in 2nd place. In Years eight and nine, for the girls, Darcie Muldoon came in 9th and Florence Markwick placed 7th. For the boys, Oscar Turner placed in 7th, Nathan Bull Wood placed 6th and Luca Turner came in 1st place. Representing the Year tens, Maddie Linthwaite came in 3rd, Emma Ryan came in 4th and Charlie Bursztyn placed in 5th. Dylan Miller came 7th and Fraser McAllister came in 3rd. Fraser then went on to compete in the Rushcliffe county finals where he placed 5th. Considering he's only been running for one year, he's done exceedingly well in school cross country and was put forward for Notts schools cross country. He caught the attention of a representative from South Notts Athletics Academy, who advised him to sign up with an athletic club, so he joined Rushcliffe athletics club.

He's now ranked Number two in Nottingham, Number three in the Midlands for cross country and 50th in Britain for 5k, and will now be representing Nottinghamshire in the National finals which will take place in Sussex.

Written by: Emily Goddard, Rhiannah Janagap



Running into Rugby Rivalry

Marcel Balambilayi and Seb Draper play for Moderns RFC, and also represent the rugby side called NLD which stands for: Nottingham, Lincolnshire, and Derbyshire (County side) . They got called up in under 17s last year but also continued to play this current season at under 18s. Marcel has captained both sides during both seasons and the two of them are currently on track to represent the Midlands (regional rugby). They have one more match which will be reviewed after facing Staffordshire and Leicestershire, which will determine the result. If they end up successful, then they will play for the Midlands, and then be on the right path towards England rugby. Seb started playing rugby during the early stages of his life, whereas Marcel had started only two years ago during year eleven. They have both made significant progress, with Marcel now being selected for regionals, and are making their club and county proud. Together, they are aiming to attend the University of Exeter to continue their rugby career, and see what the future brings them.

Written by: Emily Goddard, Rhiannah Janagap

The Golocene Era

If you could go anywhere, where would you go? It was at February half term where we bid farewell to a valued teacher here at The Becket. Mr. Goligher had been at the school for four years, but decided it was time to leave the nest. When asked where he is most excited to travel to, he said "the imperial capital of Ravenna, Split in Croatia, and Berlin." He commented that he cannot wait to visit the last place with his fiancé, as he has been multiple times but she has never been.

When reminiscing about his time at The Becket, he said that his favourite topic to teach would have to be Russia or the Pacific War. He mentioned that his most memorable moments in teaching would have to be the many school trips he went on, his first being in 2023 to Berlin. During his time at University studying History and Classics, he always wanted to go into curation, however he was drawn to spreading knowledge to the future historians of the world.

Written by: Lily Cheung



London Uncovered



Year eight's trip to London was an unforgettable adventure filled with excitement and new experiences. The students kicked off their journey with a long coach ride to Pineapple Studios in Central London, where they were treated to a fun musical show that involved a new dance they learnt prior to the trip. Despite the very unfortunate rainy weather, spirits remained high as they explored the lively Covent Garden, indulging in some shopping in their favourite shops before eating some food. A few students said that their favourite part of the trip was the free time away from the teachers, and that they made lots of fun memories.

Written by: Vanessa Wisniewska

Falling for Food

Have you ever had a drive and aspiration to be a chef or even just a joy for cooking? Mrs Harding, the new head of food tech, will be able to fulfil these dreams due to her love for this school, and her love for cooking. The Becket School was the only school she would have left her former school Nottingham Girls Academy for. She has a wide range of skills and experience in other aspects of her education such as art and design, theatre design where she made amazing costumes for shows. For the last fifteen years, she has been teaching food tech, and has grown a great passion for it. Now, she is looking forward to making decisions on what the children will learn and make. She's hoping to transfer her love and passion to the students, and hopes many more students choose to take food tech for GCSE, and even at A level, where the curriculum is really intriguing, useful for future life as well as a great blast. Her favourite meal is reportedly a roast lamb dinner, with all of the accompaniments. All of her experience has made her an enthusiastic, helpful, and organised teacher that will elevate the food tech department, fulfilling the students' potential in this subject.

Written by: Seb Tonks, Vanessa Wisniewska



Worldly Adventures

Are you ever unsure about what great opportunities are there for you to take advantage of when at work experience? Nicholas Zacharowski in Year twelve, fully maximised an opportunity right at his fingertips. He spent his week at an airline in Germany called Condor as his dad is friends with the CEO. Nicholas has an ambition to work in an area of economics, and working in this department was very interesting. He managed to go into the training centre where staff and employees ranging from pilots to flight attendants are trained to do their job. Furthermore, he was able to use the flight simulator machines that cost millions of pounds, which was his most memorable experience. He could also see the backgrounds of an airline, and how much extra work is done behind the scenes such as their future plan to be eco-friendly, and even got to use a fire extinguisher, as all staff are required to be able to use one. Nicholas has a wide range of experiences and loved it all, however did feel his week could have been structured a lot better. Overall, his experience captures the vast amount of things you can do for work experience.



Peter Tildsley in Year twelve spent a week working in the vascular ward in QMC, hoping he would gain experiences that would benefit his future; here is what we found out: on his first day he started the placement by doing a ward round with the doctor he was shadowing for the week and met the patients he was going to be working with. Throughout the week, he was able to watch various surgeries including a below-the-knee amputation, and varicose veins removal surgery. Across the week he worked the long day of 8am to 5pm, jam-packed full of exciting opportunities! Even though he doesn't want to pursue this career, he would recommend the experience to all, regardless of your future aspirations.

Written by: Tilly Coppinger, Ava Smith, Seb Tonks, Vanessa Wisniewska