



The Sixth Form



Becket Keys
CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

FAITH IN LEARNING



By the time you read this, most of you will have been in full time education since you were four or five years old. Back then, someone else made the decision about your choice of school and you just had to concentrate on settling in and doing your best.

When you transferred to secondary school, you were probably consulted rather more and taken round a few different schools, so you could make an informed choice.

You are now on the cusp of becoming an independent adult and it's your opinion that matters. Most of you will celebrate your 18th birthday before you leave the Sixth Form - and after that, many of you will choose to leave Brentwood, to attend courses at universities miles away.



At Becket Keys, we understand how daunting the future might seem and how important it is to ensure that you are equipped with the confidence and qualifications to make the most of your opportunities. The Sixth Form at Becket Keys aims to provide you with the support you need to succeed, the expert tuition for you to flourish in your courses and opportunities to make the most of your unique, God-given talents.

We want you to feel that the Becket Keys Sixth Form is the best place for you to become the adult you want to be. As you will know, Becket Keys is a new school and you will be the second cohort of our students to enter the Sixth Form. You therefore have the chance to continue to shape traditions for future generations of students to enjoy. You will be our leaders, the role models for younger students, the lead singers, expert athletes, the star debaters. But you will also need to work hard, both in and, most importantly, outside lessons.

For this reason, we want you to select your courses wisely. Don't just pick the subjects your friends are opting for; think about the courses or careers you want to pursue next. Would these subjects be suitable? Do you enjoy them? Are you likely to succeed in them? We are here to help you make the right choices and then to support you through Year 12 and Year 13.

We have high expectations of all students entering the Sixth Form. We expect you to use your study lessons profitably, to meet deadlines and to contribute to your learning by challenging ideas, being respectful of the views of others, reading relevant material to inform your opinions and persevering when the work is difficult.

We also hope that you will join in school life enthusiastically, making the most of the extra-curricular activities and the exciting trips on offer.

I look forward to welcoming you into the Sixth Form in September and wish you every success in your GCSE exams in June.

Andy Scott-Evans
Headteacher

“What I really like about Becket Keys is how every student is treated as an individual who matters rather than just another set of grades.”

Founding Student

Welcome

Becket Keys opened in 2012 as a result of a local campaign led by Andy Scott-Evans and his colleague Iain Gunn. At the time, both were headteachers of Outstanding local Church of England primary schools and aware that there was no Outstanding Church of England secondary school for families in Brentwood.

They approached Russell Education Trust (RET), a charitable education trust, to open Becket Keys. RET was built on the expertise of the school improvement specialists, Education London. Being part of the RET helped Becket Keys to be judged Outstanding by OfSTED in 2014. Two years later the school was also judged Outstanding by SIAMS - the Church of England's inspection service. Its first cohort of students sat their GCSE exams in 2017 achieving some of the best results in Essex. To continue this success, RET has worked closely with Becket Keys' staff to design the Sixth Form curriculum and the first year group of A Level and BTEC students will sit their exams in 2019.

Our Ethos

The motto of Becket Keys, "Faith in Learning", is rooted in its Church of England background and is a firmly held view. In the broadest sense, we have faith in learning: it opens doors, changes lives and is the most wonderful thing we can do. Albert Einstein said: "I have no special talent, I am only passionately curious". We want to share our own passion about learning with you and trust that, in turn, you will share your passion with others. Most importantly, Becket Keys is a friendly, welcoming, Church school in which achievement in all its guises is recognised and respected.

“ I was worried I would not make friends. I should not have been: the students at Becket Keys have been really welcoming.”
New Joiner



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“What makes our school special is the positive outlook of every student and teacher.”

Founding Student

Choosing the right courses is clearly crucial to success in the Sixth Form. For some of you, this will be easy, as your talents lie in a particular area of the curriculum. But for others there could be a range of subjects, all of which appeal to you.

When you choose Becket Keys Sixth Form, or at least consider it, a member of staff (or one of the RET Sixth Form team) will talk with you about your higher education and/or employment aspirations, then advise you about suitable courses in the Sixth Form. Nevertheless, this task is a shared one: if you have a particular university course in mind, then look at the entry requirements for a number of universities. Anyone wanting to study medicine, for example, will need A Level chemistry. If the course is less prescriptive - law, for example - then consider the sort of subjects in which you can demonstrate logical thinking, good communication skills or the ability to evaluate evidence.

Remember too that some courses are so over-subscribed that even having three A grades might not be enough to secure a place - so choosing a subject which you like, but don't usually score very highly in, could damage your chances of getting in. These are exactly the kind of issues and options we will discuss with you before you make your final choice.

The course offer The A Level courses we are offering next year are:

- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Economics
- English Literature
- Fine Art
- Geography
- History
- Mandarin
- Mathematics
- Further Mathematics
- Media
- Music
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Politics
- Psychology
- Religion & Philosophy
- Spanish
- Textiles
- Theatre Studies

BTEC (level 3) courses*

- Food Science & Nutrition (WJEC)
- Health & Social Care

Additional Courses

- Extended project qualification (EPQ)

Entry Requirements**

The standard minimum entry requirements for A Level study at Becket Keys are 8 A*/9 - C/5 at GCSE including grade 5 or above in English and mathematics. There are also subject specific requirements. For Level 3 courses, the requirement is at least 5 A*/9 - C/5 including English and mathematics. But for 2018/19, we may allow a grade 4 in English and mathematics as a result of changes to national standards in these subjects.*

* There were national changes to GCSE English and mathematics last year and what is considered a pass is still under review for this year. Becket Keys, like all schools, will be adjusting entry requirements in the light of national average outcomes i.e. requirements may be lower.

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Courses

AT THE 6TH FORM



“The thing I am looking forward to about the 6th Form here is the ability to specialise in my best subjects.”

Founding Student



Daily Life in the Sixth Form

Facilities

The new Sixth Form facilities will provide you with a comfortable working environment. You will have a silent study room, with study booths, and an area for focused collaborative learning; both will give access to superfast Wi-Fi and mobile device charging for your continuous use. You will have your own food bar and kitchen facilities, and a garden and decking area for relaxing in during your free time.

Responsibilities

Sixth formers are the student leaders within our school. As such, we expect you not only to take responsibility for your own learning and development, but also to share with staff some of the responsibility for our thriving Christian community. We will expect you to choose a responsible role or post that serves the school as a whole and undertake training for that role during our Sixth Form induction. For example: playing a regular role in running assemblies and collective worship for the junior years; acting as a reading partner or mentor for a younger student; sharing with the staff the leadership of a club or society or school event. A good number of you will be appointed prefects. You will have the opportunity to take responsibility for shaping the Becket Keys' Sixth Form through participation in social and charitable activities and, if selected, as a representative on the Sixth Form Social Committee, Charity Committee or Academic Board.

Support and Guidance

There will be a team of people available to support you through your two years of study in the Sixth Form. Your Academic Tutor, Head of Sixth Form and Deputy Head of Sixth Form will all be there to help you deal with both the routine daily activities and any unexpected challenges that occur. They will work as a team to ensure you receive the best possible guidance and support, including how to organise your time to meet a range of academic deadlines and how to understand the best university courses and employment options for the future.

You will have access to counsellors, chaplains and clergy, should you wish to consult them. There is also a quiet chapel and prayer spaces, for all faiths.

Academic mentoring

Your subject teachers take the main responsibility, with you, for subject learning. But each student will also be part of an Academic Tutor group. Academic Tutors will have an overview of your progress in all subjects and support you with any issues that arise. Academic Tutors are an integral part of Becket Keys' support and guidance - and your progress to university, training or employment.

You should combine your studies with a range of extra-curricular activities. Some of which include:

- Volunteering in Schools Award
- Mentoring younger students
- Serving as a prefect
- New York trip
- Taizé trip
- Sports clubs
- Student-led societies - you are welcome to suggest new ones if you have a particular passion

We are also running:

- A programme for our very brightest learners and within that an Oxbridge group
- Themed days on topics such as 'The World of Work', 'Financial Planning' and 'Personal Health'
- Trips to university open days and employer and business apprenticeship events

Dress code

You will be allocated a lanyard and will wear our smart and business-like grey Sixth Form suit, with a white shirt or lilac blouse, black shoes and, for the boys, a purple tie. There is a PE kit for you to wear during the core PE lessons you will attend; this will also be worn on other occasions during the year.



Costa Rica Expedition 2017

“I would recommend Becket Keys because there is a friendly atmosphere with caring and supportive teachers who help make my learning more enjoyable.”

Founding Student

Extra Curricular Opportunities

The Sixth Form

Contact Information & How to Apply

For more information about Becket Keys Sixth Form, please contact our Admissions team:
01277 286600

A number of Sixth Form open events will be held.

Please look at our website for more details:

www.becketkeys6th.org



Becket Keys

CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

RET

RUSSELL EDUCATION TRUST

The Russell Education Trust (RET) is made up of five high-performing 11-18 secondary schools in the south of England. Member schools work together and with RET expert advisers to deliver the very highest standards of teaching and learning; and to support the achievement and happiness of every student across the Trust. The success of the Trust's schools has been recognised by Ofsted, the Department for Education, and by the communities they serve.