

PARENT NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE TO PARENTS

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STARS OF THE WEEK

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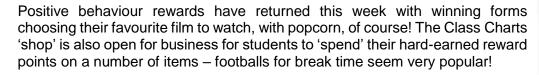




to Parents & Carers

We have reached the end of another busy yet fantastic week! The glorious sunshine really seems to have given us all a lift! Students have been working as hard as ever and staff are further developing their questioning in lessons to ensure all students are accountable for their learning and feel supported if they make mistakes. We are really trying to promote the mantra, "It's ok not to know, but it's not ok not to try."

Mrs Gough was excited to take delivery this week of four new novels that will go into our DEAR Time programme. We are very excited for the students to get their opportunity to read these texts over the coming weeks. Please do speak to your child about the book they are reading in DEAR Time and encourage them to develop their opinions on it. Even the books we don't like as much allow us a chance to voice our reasons and form arguments — all essential skills moving forward.



Last week our year 9 students were introduced to their options process via a short Loom presentation, and this week, parents of year 9 students were invited to an online meeting. All year 9 students are now busy selecting their GCSE options and staff are on hand to support them where needed. If you are a parents of a year 9 child and you have any question on this process, please contact Mrs Kielty at the school who will be happy to assist.

The TAGs process (Teacher Assessed Grades) for year 11 students is well underway. This week, staff have undertaken training on objectivity and subconscious bias and how to mitigate these when awarding grades to





students. We are very proud of our year 11s and the way they are conducting themselves through what is a very rigorous programme of assessments.

New testing kits have been delivered to students to ensure twice-weekly testing at home can continue. A reminder that students should test on a **Sunday evening/Monday morning** and **Wednesday evening/Thursday** morning and that results should be reported both to the NHS and to the school via the online form, a link to which was provided before Easter and is available on the school website. We thank you for your continued support with this process.

A reminder that breakfast club for any students in receipt of Pupil Premium funding started again last week – every Thursday at 8:30am a hot, cooked breakfast is available to these students. If you think your child is entitled to this funding, or if you have any queries surrounding this, please do contact us.

Thank you to anyone who has donated to the food bank over the last week – these are so very much appreciated by our community. Any contributions are greatly received – this week, we are particularly in need of toiletries. Please drop off your donations to reception who will ensure packages are ready for delivery.

Thank you to you all for your continued support this week. Have a wonderful and restful weekend – the weather looks like it will be lovely so be sure to get out and enjoy it!

From your Becket family

#wearebecket







Year 7 Stars of the Week!



Every week the Year 7 Form Tutors will pick two students in their form group as their "Stars of the Week"

Well done to all of you for all of your hard work! Keep it up!

Mr Jones

7 Catherine of Siena

Lucas-Gabriel Cioaca - for his excellent manners at all times!

Alfie Pettit - for his confident reading this week!

7 Mother Teresa

Alexia Sibbald - Excellent reading during DEAR time and improved use of projection when reading.

Nicholas Wodzynski - Making lots of positive contributions during form sessions.

7John Henry

Summer Harris - for always be so polite and giving things all her effort.

Chloe Lambert - for her focus and contribution within lessons and form time.

7 Oscar Romero

Amiya Wilson - For being fantastic in lessons and showing an improvement in history this week.

Jazmin Ryan - For being optimistic and overcoming challenges this week.

7Francis of Assisi

7 Don Bosco

Tatenda Gweredza – for receiving the most positive points this week alongside no negatives

Kieron Lawson – for his in depth analysis and conversation with me regarding the new European Super League. He's glad it got scrapped!



Year 8 Stars of the Week!



Every week the Year 8 Form Tutors will pick two students in their form group as their "Stars of the Week"

Well done to all of you for all of your hard work! Keep it up!

Mr Asare

8 Catherine of Siena

Alan Kowalski and **Taye Dhlakama** - Both for excellent reading in DEAR time

8John Henry

Augustine Biju - numeracy and literacy

Rusanda Margineanu - supportive. numeracy and literacy

8 Francis of Assisi

Jacob O'Neil – Great reading in DEAR time this week. Fluent reading and expression added to the reading. Well done Jacob.

Macie Real – Great reading in DEAR time this week. Fluent reading and expression added to the reading. Well done Macie.

8Mother Teresa

Daniel Boby and **Ashton Albert** - for showing kindness and upholding core values this week!

80scar Romero

Favour Kennedy-Agada - for settling extremely well and making a positive start at Thomas Becket.

Kailum D'Arcy - for having an extremely positive week and making excellent choices!

8Don Bosco

Liam Boreham - for doing a really great job helping a fellow form member out while injured with compassion and kindness.

Alicia Varghese - for helping yet another new student settle into the school with kindness and compassion.



Year 9 Stars of the Week!



Every week the Year 9 Form Tutors will pick two students in their form group as their "Stars of the Week"

Well done to all of you for all of your hard work! Keep it up!

Mr Binczyk

9 Catherine of S	Siena
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9Francis of Assisi

9John Henry

Esther Offiah - We appreciated the change in your attitude and behaviour towards having a more positive view of the school activities. You are doing amazing in DEAR time making proof of a high level of literacy and helping with the words that come difficult to other students.

90scar Romeo

Alexandra Toda - Helpful and lovely attitude every day!

9Mother Teresa

Julia Olszewska - Please for continuing to put in lots of effort into her lesson and producing high quality work

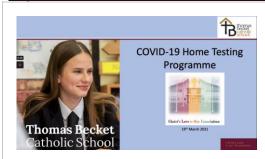
9Don Bosco

HOME TESTING FOR STUDENTS

Please see the below link to the Loom video which was shown in the form time today, Friday 19th March.

It explains how students will administer their tests at home, how they will read their results and how they will report them.

https://www.loom.com/share/043b391994ee4ade877876526d259793



COVID-19 Home testing for students

Check out a video I made via Loom

www.loom.com

What happens if my child is self-isolating at home?

If your child is self-isolating due to COVID symptoms, please inform the school as you would do for any absence. This allows their teachers to see that they will be working from home. The expectation is that if students are selfisolating but otherwise well. thev will complete their lessons remotely home. Your child's lessons for each day they are working remotely will be uploaded to Show My Homework and clearly labelled for their attention. These lessons will mirror what is being delivered to students in school so that your child will not be disadvantaged. Your child will be set clear instructions and deadlines for when work is to be completed. Their activity on Show My Homework will be tracked to ensure they are accessing the lessons as expected.

Your child can expect to have 5 lessons uploaded per day, as per their daily timetable but the timings of this will be subject to change. Your child's class teacher will still be teaching a full-time timetable within school and may not get to upload the work immediately. We kindly ask for your patience and understanding with this in what are difficult circumstances. Deadlines for the completion of work will reflect this - your child will not be expected to submit work in less than a 48-hour turn-around.

What do I do next?

- Speak with your child and ensure they have the necessary logins required for them to access and complete their work
- Download the Show My Homework app so that you can track the work that is set and prompt your child to complete it on time
- 'Check-in' with your child each day to ensure all work set has been completed
- Notify the school of any issues regarding technology that might mean accessing class work is difficult

I'm waiting for work to be uploaded - what can my child do in the meantime?

- Read a book
- Practice their retrieval of knowledge by reviewing learning in their exercise books and creating flashcards/mind-maps/graphic organisers/quizzes
- Complete their homework

Gospel ~ John 10:11-18

Jesus said: 'I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep. 'I am the good shepherd; I know my own

just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep.

And there are other sheep I have

And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well.

and these mave to lead as w They too will listen to my

They too will listen to my voice,

and my own know me,

and there will be only one flock,

and one shepherd. 'The Father loves me,

because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.

No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free

will,

and as it is in my power to lay it down, so, it is in my power to take it up again; and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'

Post-it Challenge:

God is our shepherd. He knows everything about us and will always be there to help us through our tangled lives, help us find the truth and pick us up when times get tough.



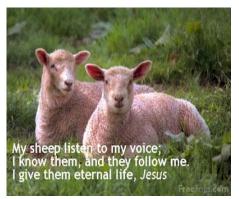
The Lord is my shepherd
I shall not want.

When does my life sometimes become a tangled mess?

Are there times when I feel lost?

If God is my Shepherd what would I like to ask of Him so that I can follow his call and become the person that He has created me to be?

Reflection:



In the Gospel this week, Jesus talks about sheep! We are His sheep. Jesus is a shepherd of people. He shows us the way to live our lives. He looks after us and cares for us, just as a shepherd looks after his

sheep. Jesus cares for each and every one of us, no matter who we are or from where we come. A good shepherd will never leave his sheep alone. God will never leave us alone because he is our Good Shepherd.

Sheep are often seen as silly creatures who become tangled up in the brambles and need to be cut free, fall over or lose their way but their shepherd is always there to untangle them, pick them up and help them to find their way again. God is our shepherd. He knows everything about us and will always be there to help us through our tangled lives, help us find the truth and pick us up when times get tough.

In this Gospel, Jesus identifies so closely with the Father that he tells us that they are one—not just close, but actually one. To know Jesus is to know the Father. Jesus doesn't just bring us closer to the Father, He puts us directly into contact with God the Father, removing all distance between us. Our relationship with Jesus is an invitation to share in the life of God.

Let us pray:

Lord, let me know clearly the work which you are calling me to do in my life. Grant me every grace I need to answer your call with courage, love and lasting commitment to do your will. Amen.



St Thomas, pray for us.

'Let us always meet each other with a smile, for a smile is the beginning of love.'

St Teresa of Calcutta

TOMORROW'S ENGINEERS ROBOTICS CHALLENGE

Schools across the country are invited to take their students on a journey of exploration.



Link: https://youtu.be/NPuEFFr6DO4

The Robotics Challenge is about inspiring students and developing new skills that will allow them to understand engineering in the real world. We want to remove misconceptions about becoming an engineer, and show that it's a career that many people can aspire to - regardless of background.



Thomas Becket Catholic School has teamed up with Learn by Design company (https://www.learnbydesign.co.uk/eep-robotics-challenge), who generously founded our participation in EEP Robotics Challenge Competition in 2020/21. We are going to use Lego EV3 robots to introduce our pupils to robotics, coding and engineering. I am very hopeful to see many of our KS3 pupils joining, particularly after our successful participation in the prestigious First Lego League (FLL) last year!

IMPORTANT!: Anyone who is interested, please contact Mr Kecskemeti (<u>kecskemetib@thomasbecket.org.uk</u>) and join our Robotics Club on Monday and Tuesday afternoon between 15.30 and 16.30.



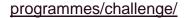


FIRST LEGO LEAGUE COMPETITION 2020/21

Great news! Thomas Becket Catholic School has joined the prestigious FLL Challenge this year again!!! Last year we had two teams participating and did exceptionally well against other schools from Northamptonshire. For this year, we can have three teams representing our school and hopefully qualifying to the National Final.

I am looking for pupils from KS3 who would like to participate in this FLL Challenge. Please contact me (Mr Kecskemeti) on kecskemetib@thomasbecket.org.uk and join our Robotics Club on Monday, Tuesday afternoons (between 15.30 and 16.30).

For more information, please visit: https://education.theiet.org/first-lego-league-









Join Our Online Chess Club!

Following the success of our Chess Club at Thomas Becket last year, we have decided to run it again.

Studies have shown that an hour of dedicated chess time can boost reading levels significantly. Even when compared to students that did not play chess and instead read a book during that time, the chess students consistently came on top of reading tests! The benefits of chess don't stop there. One of the biggest benefits is the increased problem-solving skills that will benefit our students for years to come.

Joining our chess club can set you up for some great achievements. We have teamed up with the English Chess Federation (http://www.englishchess.org.uk/ as well as with Chess in Schools Communities (https://www.chessinschools.co.uk/) so that you get plenty opportunities to compete locally, nationally and international.

Mr Kecskemeti holds the FIDE Instructor title as well as being a FIDE Arbiter. He has attended several National, Continental and World Junior Chess Championships with the Irish National Team as Head of Delegation.

If you are interested in joining our Chess club, please contact Mr Kecskemeti on kecskemetib@thomasbecket.org.uk.







CROCHET

Miss Wilkinson has been impressing us with her wonderful crocheted creations...







Students are leaning to crochet in our crochet elective on Wednesdays. We are looking forward to seeing all of the lovely things they have made!

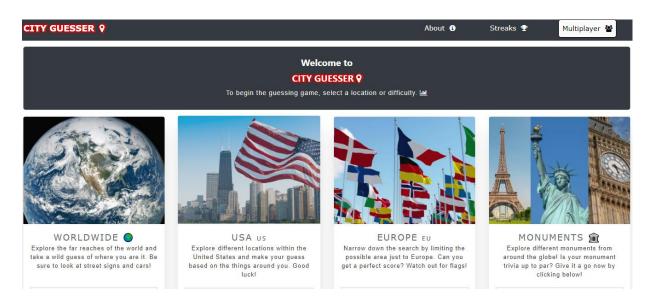
GEOGRAPHY CORNER



Search 'City guesser'.

Hot on the heals of 'drive and listen' here's another geographical website. You may have heard of 'geoguesser' from google already. This is perhaps something similar.

How well do you know the UK cities? How close can you guess to where the images are?



POP UP Geography - Headlands

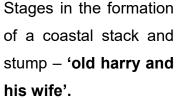
Hot on the heels of last terms pop up meanders has been coastal pop up headlands. Here are some fabulous examples from year 7.

We have been looking at 'Old harry' and his 'wife' on the Dorset coast!

















Exciting News to Look Out For...



Sacha Dench (aka 'The Human Swan') will be attempting something that has never been done before - a 3000+ mile circumnavigation of Britain in a specially adapted, green electricity powered paramotor. Because she can take off and land almost anywhere, she and the team will be landing to recharge and rest intersting and inspirational with people around the country, the ones who can show us exactly how climate change is changing our country and what we can do about it.

NON-NEGOTIABLES

- Arrive on time
- 2. Wear full uniform with pride, ready to learn and fully equipped
- 3. Listen to one another. Never talk over a member of staff or your peers; if you wish to contribute to a lesson, raise your hand and wait to be selected by a member of staff, never shout out.
- **4.** Respect the learning community by doing as you are asked by members of staff immediately; you will never be asked to do something unreasonable. No such thing as saying 'No' to a teacher
- 5. Walk around school safely and calmly

PARENTPAY

Please note: We run a CASHLESS school and no longer accept any cash payments.

We are asking parents/carers to set up their ParentPay as we are now a CASHLESS site. You are able to pay and give consent for all future trips, Canteen and lots of other items such as revision books, ties, badges, replacement journals using the ParentPay system. If you have not yet already activated your account please email crawfords@thomasbecket.org.uk marksl@thomasbecket.co.uk or telephone 01604 493211 to request a copy of your activation letter giving you a secure login and password.

Using this system will reduce the canteen queueing time for students, and make all transactions secure when paying for upcoming trips etc. Thank you for your support.

SAFEGUARDING/FAMILY SUPPORT

Mrs Tracey Palmer is one of our safeguarding officers and also Student & Family Welfare. She is always available to contact via email palmert@thomasbecket.org.uk or telephone 01604 493211 ext. 371 for any worries or concerns you may have about your child's welfare or you are more than welcome to make an appointment for a face to face discussion with her.

Don't forget to follow us on twitter @beckets and like and follow our Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/ThomasBecketCatholicSchool





ATTENDANCE EXPECTATIONS

Outstanding attendance at TBCS gives your child the very best chance of success.

We place a high value on attending school regularly at TBCS due to the impact that absence has on learning. Research shows how much education can be lost by having just a handful of days absent each year.

We track all students' attendance and intervention is given when a student drops below 95%, our school target. Some students last year dropped below our minimum expectation of 90% and are being tracked more closely with intervention being put in place.

We do understand that all students get ill from time to time, but as that you think very carefully before allowing your child to stay at home in the event of illness. In the case of sickness, please note that we do not follow the 48 hour policy.

If you have any queries regarding attendance please contact out Attendance Officer, Mrs McMahon on 01604 493211 ext 337 or email attendance@thomasbecket.org.uk

	Your attendance is above 98%
Excellent	(Absences fewer than 5 days in the year)
LXCGIIGHT	
	You have the best chance of success in your learning at school
	Your attendance is between 96% and 98%
	(absences fewer than 8 days in the year)
Good	
	Your attendance is good and you must continue to attend school every day to ensure
	you achieve your best
	Your attendance is 95%
	(absence fewer than 10 days in the year)
Outleforto	
Satisfactory	Your attendance is starting to cause concern. You must work hard to improve it by
	not missing anymore days this year. You will have support from your class teacher to
	ensure you don't fall behind.
	Your attendance is between 90 and 95%
Unsatisfactory	(you have missed 18 school days in the year)
Below the national	
government threshold	You have missed a lot of school. It might be difficult for you to achieve your best. You
	must work hard to come to school every day for the rest of the school year.
	Your attendance is between 85 and 90%
Concern	(missing over 19 school days per year)
Persistent Absentee	
reisistent Absentee	You are missing so much school that it will be difficult for you to keep up with your
	lessons and work. Your teacher will give you extra support to help you catch up.
	Your attendance is below 85%
Serious Concern	
Persistent Absentee	Your absence is stopping you from achieving your best in school. There will be a lot
r ersistent Ausentee	of catching up to ensure you can achieve your best. If you have more days off this
	year, your learning will be affected.

COVID NEWS

Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline weekend opening hours

The Department for Education coronavirus (COVID-19) helpline remains available to answer questions about coronavirus (COVID-19) relating to education and children's social care. Please listen carefully to the available options and select the most appropriate to your nursery, school, or college's current situation.

To support the transition back to education, we have extended our opening hours and are now available 10am to 4pm on Saturday and Sunday.

Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline by calling:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Opening hours: Monday to Friday from 8.00am to 6.00pm

Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 4.00pm

Translation of guidance for parents and carers on early years providers, schools and colleges in the autumn term

We have translated our <u>guidance for parents and carers with children in nursery</u>, school, or college in the autumn term.

If your child has:
a runny nose, is sneezing or
feeling unwell
But they don't have:
a high temperature
a new, continuous cough, or
a loss of, or change in,
sense of smell or taste

These are not normally symptoms of coronavirus

Seek advice from a pharmacy, dial 111 or see your GP



If your child has:
a high temperature
a new, continuous cough, or
a loss of, or change in, sense of
smell or taste

This could be a sign of coronavirus

Book a test







St. Gregory's



St. Mary's



The Good Shepherd

Academic calendar 2020/21

	September 2020											
Wk	Мо	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su					
36		1	2	3	4	5	6					
37	7	8	9	10	11	12	13					
38	14	15	16	17	18	19	20					
39	21	22	23	24	25	26	27					
40	28	29	30									

Wk	Мо	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su					
40				1	2	3	4					
41	5	6	7	8	9	10	11					
42	12	13	14	15	16	17	18					
43	19	20	21	22	23	24	25					
44	26	27	28	29	30	31						

February 2021

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5 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

October 2020

	November 2020											
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49	30											

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53	28	29	30	31			

	January 2021										
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	June 2021										
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March 2021											
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13	29	30	31								

	April 2021											
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21	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		26	28	
22	31										
		Sc	hool	Holid	day			Ban	k Ho	liday	/

	June 2021											
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k Holiday Inset Day												

July 2021								
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August 2021								
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33	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
34	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
35	30	31						

Revision Guide Prices

GCSE Revision Guides

At Thomas Becket we have a range of GCSE revision guides and workbooks to support students with extra revision at home. Please see below the prices for these. If you would like to purchase them please come to reception.

Maths					
REVISE EDEXCEL GCSE (9 – 1) flash cards Foundation/Higher - Pearson					
REVISE EDEXCEL GCSE (9 – 1) Revision workbooks Higher - Pearson					
REVISE EDEXCEL GCSE (9 – 1) Revision work books Foundation - Pearson					
REVISE EDEXCEL GCSE (9 – 1) Revision guide higher - Pearson					
REVISE EDEXCEL GCSE (9 – 1) Revision Guide Foundation - Pearson					
REVISE EDEXCEL GCSE (9 - 1) Practice Papers (foundation/higher) Pearson	£3.00				
REVISE EDEXCEL GCSE (9 – 1) Number and Algebra – Pearson	£3.00				
REVISE EDEXCEL GCSE (9 – 1) Shapes and Statistics – Pearson	£3.00				
Calculator	£7.50				
English					
REVISE WJEC EDUQAS GCSE 9 -1 Workbook Pearson	£3.00				
REVISE WJEC EDUQAS GCSE 9 -1 Revision Guide Pearson					
REVISE WJEC EDUQAS CPG "The Workbook" Pearson	£3.00				
REVISE WJEC EDUQAS CPG Revision Guide Pearson	£3.00				
REVISE WJEC EDUQAS English literature revision guides (Macbeth, Dr Jeckyll and Mr Hyde, An inspector calls and poetry anthology)	£3.00 Each				
Humanities					
History Revision Books	£3.50				
RS – AQA GCSE CATHOLIC CHRISTIANITY BOOK					
Geography Book					
Science					
Singe Science Revision Cards (Chemistry, Physics and Biology)	£4.00 Each				
Combined Science Revision cards (Chemistry, Physics and Biology)	£3.00 Each				
Combined Trilogy Revision Guide or Workbook (Pearson)	£4.20 Each				
Single Science Revision Guide or Workbook (Pearson)	£2.50 Each				
Other subjects					
OCR Computer Science Revision Workbook	£5.00				
OCR GCSE Computer Science Revision Notes	£8.00				
Spanish GCSE and French KS3 (Each)	£4.00				
Business Revision Guide	£2.95				
Business Revision Cards	£4.50				



GCSE Single Science revision cards (CPG)

Use these to test your knowledge!

£4.00 each



Great for quick revision sessions
£3.00 each