

Sixth Form Virtual Open Evening

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

APPLYING:

Q: What's the date that the Sixth Form application has to be in please?

A: The closing date for applications is Friday, 12th February 2021 and applications can be made by going to the appropriate tab on our website. <https://www.becketkeys6th.org/>.

Q: Does Becket Keys look to prioritise its own students ahead of outside applications?

A: As per the admissions policy, Becket Keys students do take priority yet they still must make the same entry requirements as all students.

Q: Is there a limit to the number of external students you accept?

A: We take a maximum of 150 students; this number includes both internal and external students.

Q: How long have you had a Sixth Form?

A: This cohort will be our 5th.

Q: Are you saying that you do not need a reference from a church to say that you are a regular attendee to come to Becket Keys? My daughter is at a boarding school, goes to chapel three times a week and therefore does not regularly go to a church in Brentwood on Sundays although her father does.

A: <https://www.becketkeys.org/SIF%20Admission%202020-21%20BK%20Variation%20Update.pdf>
Please see the above link regarding our admission policy. It is possible to complete the Supplementary Information Form and students with this form will be prioritised over students that do not.

Q: Will students be interviewed prior to a place being offered?

A: All students will be interviewed prior to places being offered although unfortunately due to the current government guidelines this maybe something that will happen virtually rather than in person. Please be assured this interview is primarily concerned with ensuring students are on the right courses for their future pathways and providing them with good careers advice and guidance.

Q: Do Becket Keys students need to apply before we get our GCSE results. If so, would we need to enter predicted grades instead?

A: Yes all applications need to be made by the closing date of 12th February. Current report grades can be used.

Q: Would you advise to apply to other Sixth Forms even though Becket Keys is your first choice?

A: Obviously we would like all our pupils to attend our Sixth Form however a second choice is always a good idea if you feel you are at risk of not meeting the entry requirements.

Q: When would be a good time to apply for Sixth Form and how would I do it?

A: Applications can be made any time up to 12th February 2021. Please go to the Becket Keys Sixth Form Website and click the Apply Tab. We suggest that you register your interest today. This does not take long and means you will be on our mailing list and notified of all upcoming events.

Q: Would the mock grades count if GCSEs do not happen this year?

A: At present, we are working on the assumption that GCSE exams will be sat this year. If there are any changes to this we assume that grades will be awarded as Centre Assessed Grades in a similar way to this year. However, more details will be needed from Central Government.

SUPPORT:

Q: Do you give support with UCAS applications and interview preparation?

A: All students are offered full support with their UCAS applications including help with their personal statement.

Q: As UCAS looks for work experience, what should be done in the current situation?

A: At Becket Keys, we support any students looking to complete relevant work experience for future plans. In the current circumstances, a number of virtual opportunities are available and we will help you to find those, if required for the courses you wish to attend.

Q: What specific actions do you take to help new pupils integrate into the school?

A: We are very lucky at Becket Keys that we have students who are more than happy to help with all our new students and we find very soon they feel completely at home at Becket Keys. All students are placed into new forms at the start of the Sixth Form and are encouraged to interact with new people and widen friendship groups. We will also hope to run a Sixth Former For A Day event and our Bridging Event which both help our students settle in advance of starting with us in September.

Q: What on line / remote learning do you give to your students should this be necessary again? Which platforms do you use?

A: We use SatchelOne for all homework based queries, all Sixth Form students have their own email address with which to contact teachers and we have recently set up our new Microsoft Teams system ensuring any students that cannot be in school, due to the current pandemic, can still access their lessons virtually from home.

Q: What careers advice do you get in Sixth Form?

A: Our Head of PSCE offers careers advice during form time and students also have access to the Unifrog platform which offers plenty of advice on careers, apprenticeships and universities.

Q: What are your typical class sizes?

A: Class sizes vary in the Sixth Form due to subject demand. Class sizes next year will range anywhere from 3 to 23. The average class size is 11 students.

Q: What is your school's approach to EPQs?

A: For certain students looking to broaden their learning EPQ is an option. We would only recommend this for the most able students as it does increase workload.

Q: How do you identify a more able student for the EPQ?

A: This would be done on GCSE results and ongoing reports from Sixth Form teachers.

Q: My daughter (a student at Becket Keys) has an idea as to what career path she would like to follow. She would like to work towards being a forensic scientist/ criminal investigator. In which way could you assist her with her path?

- A:** All of our internal students will have the opportunity of a discussion with a member of the Senior Leadership Team to discuss subject choices with a view to future career and university choices.
- Q:** What is BK Pastoral care is like?
- A:** Becket Keys has an outstanding pastoral team with the wellbeing and happiness of our students at the core of everything we do. All students have the opportunity to speak to any member of staff regarding anything that is concerning them. We also employ a professional counsellor and benefit from a chaplaincy team with a dedicated member of clergy for each year group.
- Q:** How does Becket Keys address issues surrounding current affairs such as the Black Lives Matter movement, Black History Month, Climate Change etc? What is the Equality Policy at Becket Keys?
- A:** Please see the link below for our Equality Policy. We take the above issues very seriously and time is taken during form to address these various issues. With regard to current affairs, during form time students have the opportunity to engage in our weekly "Votes for Schools" activity and debate looking at topical issues, our weekly quiz and recently during form time we did a series of presentations to celebrate black history month.
https://www.becketkeys.org/documents/2016_04 Equalities Information and Objectives.pdf
You can also see out students talking about current affairs here:
<https://www.becketkeys6th.org/bk-talks.php>
- Q:** You mentioned apprenticeships earlier, could you say a bit more of the types of apprenticeships you have helped students secure and or any other more vocational routes instead of university students may go into?
- A:** We have had a number of students go on to apprenticeships either at degree level or level 3. One of our alumni, Simon has been accepted on a level 7 degree apprenticeship in Accounting and Finance with Mazars. To support students in preparing for apprenticeships we identify their areas of interest and use companies such as Unifrog, Amazing Apprenticeships and UCAS to find appropriate apprenticeships.
<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/>

SUBJECT SPECIFIC:

- Q:** Is English Literature and Language combined or are they individual subjects?
- A:** At Becket Keys we only offer English Literature as we feel this is a more beneficial course. Please do see the subject specific videos on our website.
- Q:** Could you tell me what subjects you offer in Sixth Form please?
- A:** Please use the following link to our Course Guide
https://www.becketkeys6th.org/BK_SixthForm202021CourseBooklet%20V2.pdf
- Q:** How do you know what subjects are the right options for you?
- A:** There will be many opportunities to discuss your choices with a member of the Senior Leadership Team and help and guidance will be offered.
- Q:** What are your entry requirements and how many subjects can you study?
- A:** All our entry requirements can be found in our Course Guide. As a rule, we recommend you study no more than 3 subjects at A Level unless you are studying Further Mathematics. Even then, three is best.

Q: What are the "new" subjects that can only be studied at Sixth Form?

A: At A Level we offer Psychology, Sociology, Business Studies, Economics, Media and Politics. Our full list of courses are set out in our Course Guide.

Q: I am wanting to take PE and I was wondering if you had a netball team/academy?

A: Our wonderful PE Department have a flourishing netball team. Please do see the subject specific videos on our website for more details. We warmly welcome all students with fantastic sporting aspirations and we will support you in this activity.

Q: Is there a minimum number of students needed to take a particular subject for you to run a certain subject course?

A: We will run all the subjects on offer in the Course Guide.

Q: Do you offer any BTEC courses?

A: We will not be running any BTEC courses next year.

Q: Are you still offering Food Science and Nutrition?

A: We are offering this subject at A Level.

Q: Will Law be offered at A level for this cohort

A: Unfortunately, Law will not be offered this year.

Q: How many subjects can you take?

A: We would recommend students take 3 subjects at A Level.

Q: Many Grammar schools offer four A-level courses. Would this be allowed in the school?

A: This is not something we advise other than in exceptional circumstances or where the fourth subject is Further Maths. Please watch our video explaining why we recommend 3 subjects and of course there is the option of the EPQ.

Q: Will you be running a Computer Science A-Level?

A: Please watch this space! We hope to.

Q: Does your Food Science A level have practical lessons?

A: Please see the subject specific videos on our website for more detailed information on all our subjects. However we can assure you there are plenty of practical lessons in Food – at least weekly.