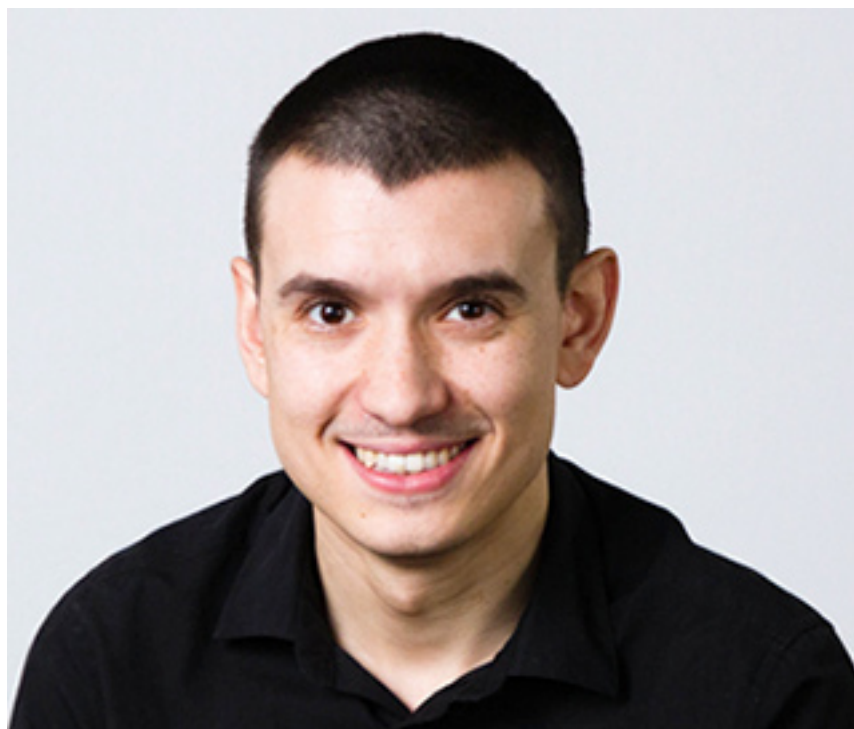
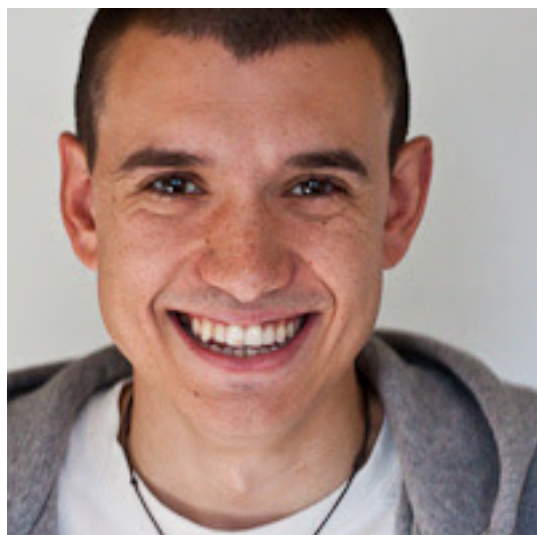




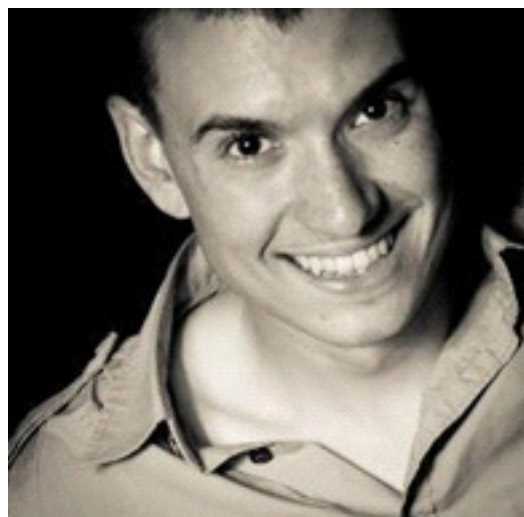
FAREWELL TOM!



‘THE SCHOOL HAS REALLY EMBRACED ITS SPIRITUALITY’



‘MY GREATEST INSPIRATION IS LITERALLY EVERY SINGLE YOUNG PERSON I’VE EVER MET HERE AT THE BECKET’



IN HIS OWN WORDS...

The thing that I have enjoyed the most about being the Chaplain at the Becket School is simply working with the incredible young people who are here. It's such a privilege to see people grow up and to work with people in primary schools and then in the secondary school and just to get to know the incredible variety and diversity of the young people in our Communities. It's been brilliant to learn more about who I am and what's important to me and about my faith from the incredible example of all the people in the school. The most enjoyable thing is simply walking in the door in the morning and seeing people who you know and care about everyday.

I think the things that I'm most proud of aren't actually changes that I've made but changes that the whole school community has made together. The school has really embraced its spirituality; the way in which we pray and worship, the risks we take when we come to create liturgies and experiences - that's not me - that's been down to the staff who have been so open and accepting and excited about the different ways we can make our school the best Catholic school that it can be. I'm also really proud of every single young person who is brave enough to step up and show their faith or to lead others in prayer and worship. When you see students in the chaplaincy teams leading their peers or even leading year groups who are older than them in prayer it's so inspiring and again that's not a change that I've made that's a change that people have made themselves. They've changed to be braver, to be more proud, to be more open, and to be more exciting in spirituality.

I think the funniest memories have to come from the 24-hour Lourdes fundraisers; there's nothing like being up at 3 in the morning in the middle of the Atrium doing some ridiculous challenge to create some really memorable and laughable moments.

I'd like to think we've not had many disasters at Becket, but there are a couple of things that spring to mind. The first is, every time we've tried to have an outdoor whole school mass, it has rained! There was another time where we adventurously thought about giving every brand new Year 7 a candle and then putting all those candles together in one tray, which subsequently melted all over the staff and the chapel floor! That was probably the worst disaster we had mid-liturgy and it was certainly very memorable and very messy!

My vision for the future in my next job is actually doing a lot of the stuff we do really well at The Becket but for every school in our entire diocese. The new job is not just looking after The Briars, it's trying to look at what we as a church do for young people and I think a lot of our outreach needs to happen online. I'm really excited to start some new YouTube channels to put some resources online and to start sharing some of the things we do everyday with everyone all across all 83 schools that I'll be looking after.

I know it sounds like a bit of a cop-out but my greatest inspiration is literally every single young person I've ever met here at The Becket. Seeing how brave, talented, skillful and intelligent these people are, inspires me to be a better person. Again it might sound like an obvious answer but I'm also inspired by Jesus. The way he worked with people was by being nice to everyone, being positive and being interesting and dynamic. He wasn't afraid to make changes or to be adventurous or to do different things. I always find great inspiration in him and in what he taught us to be like. If I've been able to be anything like that in my time here then I'd be really proud of that.