

# THE ABI UPDATE

ISSUE 1 FRIDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2023

## ARCHBISHOP ILSLEY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

### OPEN EVENING 2023



28TH SEPTEMBER 2023  
5:30PM - 7:30PM  
HEADTEACHER'S ADDRESS  
5:30PM AND 6:30PM



### OPEN MORNINGS 2023



3RD OCTOBER: 9:15AM-10:00AM  
4TH OCTOBER: 9:15AM-10:00AM

Contact the school on 0121 706 4200 or  
enquiry@ilsley.bham.sch.uk by  
29th September 2023

Only those who have made an appointment will be  
able to attend

Victoria Road, Acocks Green, B27 7XY

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER MR CLINTON

Dear Parents, Carers, Pupils and friends of Archbishop Ilsley

I am delighted to have this opportunity to write you and thank you after a great week and a half back at school. Pupils look very smart, have behaved exceptionally well and have enjoyed a really productive seven/eight days back at Ilsley. May I give a special welcome to all new Year 7 parents if you are reading the 'ABI update' for the first time. Year 7 have been a superb addition to our school community. Many staff have commented how polite they are and how well they have settled in. All parents, carers, and grandparents are welcome to join us for the 'Year 7 and 12 Welcome Mass' which will take place at 2:15 in Holy Souls Church on Friday 29th September. If you would like to look around the school again, our Open Evening will take place the day before on the 28th from 5:30; please let any prospective Year 6 parents know. Welcome also to our new Year 12, who are enjoying a newly refurbished common room and study centre. It is going to be a really exciting year for everyone.

Talking of new additions, we have had some excellent new staff join us: welcome to Ms Birdi (Business), Ms Chauhan (MFL), Mrs Hawkins (Art), Ms Latham (English), Ms Mackuin (Art), Ms McGurran (Maths), Ms McMahan (PE), Ms Nushaba (Science) Ms Thornton (Music and Drama) and also to Mr Kennedy (English) Mr Marshall (Maths) and Mr O'Brien (RS). I am especially pleased to announce that Mr Foley will be our new Deputy Head Teacher. You can read his introduction later in this issue. A final welcome to Ms De Barros, Ms Kilroy, Ms Norris and Mr Stephenson who will bolster our support staff.

Finally, we enjoy excellent links with our parish. Your children will be regular visitors to Holy Souls Church over the coming academic year as they learn to follow the example that Jesus Christ gave us. We are very excited to work with Father Marco this year and we thank Canon Jonathan for all the support he already offers our school, pupils and staff. Father Alex, a much loved friend of Archbishop Ilsley, has moved to a parish in Wolverhampton. If you are free this evening, why not pop along to Holy Souls Church tonight at 7pm to say your farewell to him and to gather together with the Catholic community in prayer.

Enjoy your weekend.  
Mr Clinton

## GOSPEL READING MATTHEW 18:15-20

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.'

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven. 'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR US?

This passage gives advice on resolving conflict and disagreement. Jesus says that resolving a conflict sometimes needs a community effort; the passage encourages us to reflect on how we can resolve conflicts and disagreements. Disagreements will happen. We don't have to agree on everything but equally we do not have to be rude to people we disagree with. We have a duty to respect the dignity of everyone. How can we help keep a peaceful environment today?

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY HEADTEACHER - MR FOLEY



I have been so impressed with how our pupils have started term and it has been lovely to speak with some of you as parents on the school gates. I return after 21 years since I left as a student in 2002. I bring with me my experiences across four different settings as a teacher of History, Politics, Sociology and Religious Studies. As a senior leader, I have experience in pastoral care, safeguarding, post 16 and quality of education.

My focus this year is working with Mr Clinton and the SLT team to ensure the standards your child experiences are of the highest quality possible. At the centre of your child's journey, should be the faith and values that underpin all we do. Your child is a unique, precious child of God with a mission. Our job is to work together to ensure each young person is able to achieve the grades and experiences they need to go out and make the world around them a more loving, peaceful and joyful place.

We have a newly formed team of Catholic Life reps across Years 7-13 with 84 volunteers so far; phenomenal! Our first focus will be to fundraise for MacMillan Cancer support this half term before turning our attention to Cafod's work to support our brothers and sisters in the most disadvantaged parts of the world. Each half term, we will be focusing on a Catholic Social Teaching, our first CST is 'each person is precious, with innate dignity, and it a part of our family.'

On 29th September we have our Year 7 and 12 Welcome Mass in Holy Souls at 2.15pm; parents are most welcome. There will coffee and cake afterwards in the Church foyer with donations being collected for MacMillan Cancer Support. This will be a great opportunity to meet with some staff as well as meeting Fr Marco our new priest chaplain.

## RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION LESSONS (RSE)

RSE is now required to be taught as a distinct lesson which will be taught via drop down lessons roughly every 2-3 weeks. As a school, we will be following the TenTen programme, 'Life to the full', which marries DoFE and Diocesan requirements. Sessions are delivered by tutors as the primary pastoral caregiver for pupils and students. RSE was a leading issue raised in 'The Big Ask' survey of half a million young people. To support you as parents, there is also a Parent Portal to view the programme we are delivering and to view some of the resources. You can access this using the following link: <https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal/life-to-the-full-secondary/>

At the heart of these sessions, is teaching our young people about human dignity, their rights but also their responsibility to remember that their own life and the lives of those around them, are precious. If you have any questions about the TenTen programme then please do not hesitate to contact me.

# HEAD OF YEAR UPDATE

## YEAR 7 - MS. DOHERTY

Year 7 have made a fantastic start to secondary school. Staff are so impressed with the manners and work ethic pupils are demonstrating. A massive well done to all the pupils who worked so hard to learn their spellings this week; we are asking them to revise their 3 times tables for a test in form next week.

Pupils will be set homework in all their subjects, on Google Classroom, on Monday. I will send an overview out to parents via ClassCharts. The classroom teacher, will make it clear when this is due to be handed in during lessons. Thank you for supporting and encouraging your pupils over what I am sure has been an anxious and exciting first two weeks at secondary school. Well done Year 7!



### Year 7 Stars of the Week

Form Group		
LS	Rosie-Ann S	David B
JK	Kyra A	Jack C
SM	Olimpia O	Harry T
NZ	George S	Arissa D
DL	Charles S	Gracie A
BSH	Ethan O	Elina M
MR	Cameron S	Daimon W
GJ	Antonio (AJ) R	Bianca M

## YEAR 8 - MR BRUTON

Well done to the majority of Year 8 who have come back ready to work and are trying their absolute best in lessons. They have had an assembly this week on how a positive mindset can ensure they achieve their potential. We talked about how language is important. An example of negative language is, "I've never done it before." A more positive mindset is, "it is an opportunity to learn something new." I talked about the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and getting enough sleep and exercise. Also, I explained the benefits of making good friendship choices and surrounding ourselves with positive role models.

The Year 8 team have also launched a residential retreat to Alton Castle. It will involve times of prayer, meditation and reflection, with outdoor adventurous activities. Young people visit Alton Castle to spend two nights in their breath-taking 19th century castle. The trip will depart on Monday 6th November from Archbishop Ilsley Catholic school at 2.00 pm. Pupils will travel by coach and arrive at Alton Castle before 4.00pm. Pupils will eat their lunch in school before departing. Pupils will return by coach on Wednesday 1.00pm and arrive back at school at approximately 3.00pm, where they will be dismissed home. The provisional cost of the trip will be £132. This covers the following: coach travel to and from Alton Castle, all the activities and food. The trip will be paid for via ParentMail. Parents also need to complete the medical form and reply slip that pupils have been given in registration. Pupils are also reminded that they are representing Archbishop Ilsley Catholic School and as such, are expected to display excellent behaviour and attitude. Any pupils whose behaviour is a cause for concern before the trip will have their places reviewed.

## KEY DATES

- Tuesday 19th Sept - Employability Masterclass - Yr 12, Yr 13 P2 -3
- Wednesday 20th - Friday 22nd Sept - Silver DofE Qualifying - Yr 10
- Thursday 28th Sept - Open Evening
- Friday 29th Sept - Yr 7/12 Welcome Mass and MacMillan Coffee morning

**Year 10: By now, parents/carers should have received an email about the GCSE Information Evening which takes place on Thursday 12th October. If you have not, please notify the school so that we can update our records.**

**Year 11: You should have received information from us regarding period 6, NEA deadlines and the GCSE Information Evening which takes place on Thursday 12th October. This has been sent by email. If you have not received this, please notify the school so that we can update your email address.**

## HEAD OF YEAR UPDATE

### YEAR 9 - MR NEWMAN

It has been great to welcome Year 9 back this term. They have made a really positive start to the year. In assemblies we have been emphasising the power of positive thinking and the use of positive language in all that we do. We have also set out our priorities this year and Year 9 have made a fantastic start with this. Below is a reminder:

- **Homework:** In Year 9, homework will be a real focus. We expect all pupils in Year 9 to complete homework. This will be set weekly and communicated via ClassCharts. It is essential that our pupils are GCSE ready, that they are able to manage deadlines and build on their classroom knowledge at home.
- **Punctuality and attendance:** With our new school day there, is clarity about timings of lessons with movement times included. Lessons start and end on the bell. Academic research tells us that those with high attendance and punctuality, achieve higher grades and make more progress. We are ambitious for all our pupils and will always challenge attendance and punctuality.
- **Option choices:** In Year 9 your son/daughter will make their option choices. These are important decisions about the subjects and courses they will be completing at GCSE level. It is important that they and you, are well informed and we will provide opportunities for advice and guidance with this throughout the year. They might also want to consider their post 16 choices. It may seem a long way off but the choice of A Levels they may be considering at our sixth form will depend on GCSE options chosen.
- **Standards:** Getting the simple things right, allows for our school to run effectively. Uniform and equipment are essential for our Year 9 students to succeed

Year 9 have had a superb start and are getting these key priorities right with support from home and their outstanding tutor team. This will set them up for a really successful year.

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### YEAR 10 - MISS BRADY

Year 10 have had a fantastic start to their GCSE courses. I was so happy to see so many eager and enthusiastic pupils returning to school. They have all returned looking extremely smart and ready for their new chapter. In assembly this week, we talked about resilience and perseverance. KS4 is a step up, they will need to be organised and homework will increase naturally. I have asked Year 10 to start thinking about their goals and the path they are on, so please do encourage conversations about their future at home. I have been approached by many teachers from various subjects this week who were so impressed with Year 10 and their start to the new school year; work ethic is increasing and they are taking accountability for their learning. You will have received a letter regarding a GCSE Information Evening which will take place on Thursday 12th October at 5pm. During the evening, you will be able to obtain advice on how you can support your child to achieve the best outcomes. We look forward to seeing you.

Lastly, I would like to thank your child and parents I have spoken with who have welcomed me to the new role of Head of Year 10. I am looking forward to working closely with you all and ensuring your child is happy at school and achieving their best. Have a lovely weekend, Miss Brady

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### YEAR 11 - MRS BURNHAM

As Head of Year 11, I have been immensely proud of how the Year 11s have started their final year. Uniform has been impeccable and their attitude to learning has been fantastic. Session 6 will be starting very soon; all pupils have been given a hard copy of their personal timetable and this has been sent out by email also. Please support your child to continue to perform revision at home. Attendance for Year 11 pupils has improved since Year 10, this is a positive step forward to maximising their learning whilst in school. A date for your diary is Thursday 12th October; there will be a Parents' Information Evening at school, more information will follow. This dedicated evening will concentrate on expectations, key dates and information on the upcoming exams.

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We have had a fantastic start to the new academic year in Sixth Form. We were delighted to welcome back 84 very smart looking students into our Year 12, many of whom were our Year 11 students, in addition to a number of external students who have all begun their new journey with us.

Students are settling in well and are benefitting from a new look Sixth Form environment. We are beginning our year focusing on Vision. Students are considering how they are going to be successful in their studies by setting realistic targets. They have also been introduced to the Cornell Notes study strategy to help them consolidate their notes and learn new, more challenging content, more effectively. The Study Room has been full of students eager to get into the right study habits from day 1. Students will be supported as they become more independent in their studies. Their studies will be divided into three main types:

**Consolidation** - in the Study Period and/or on the evening following each of their lessons, students should spend 12-15 minutes (24-30 minutes for a double) rereading their notes, writing the summary section at the bottom of their Cornell notes and making relevant flashcards e.g. for key vocabulary, definitions, concepts, events/plot, etc. Everything that they need to recall etc.

**Reactive** - this is students' 'homework'. Each of their teachers should give students at least 1 hour of homework each week. If they don't – students should ask! If they find this takes more than 1 hour, that's fine, they can take this from the proactive phase (not from the consolidation phase though). Equally, if students find that they are finishing their reactive work quickly, we advise that they spend more time on their proactive work.

**Proactive** - this is the section that will broaden and deepen our students' overall understanding of the subjects that they are studying; some of our students are studying completely new options such as Psychology, Sociology, Politics or Criminology. This work is about them doing the extra practice questions, wider reading etc. Subject teachers will give students a list of things that they could do in order to be proactive in their learning. Please support your child by asking them about their new subjects.

The key dates for Year 12 and 13 students are as follows:

- Tuesday 19th Sept - Yr 12/13 Employability Masterclass
- Thursday 28th September 2023 - Open Evening
- Friday 29th September 2023 - Yr 7/12 Welcome Mass and Macmillan Coffee Morning. All parents/carers are warmly invited
- Wednesday 4th - Friday 6th Oct - Yr 13 Walsingham Senior Student Leader training and retreat
- Week beginning 9th and 16th Oct - Yr 13 PPE Week
- Tuesday 17th October 2023 Yr 12 Settling in Data Entry reporting on effort, behaviour and homework
- Thursday 16th November 2023 - Sixth Form Open Evening & Careers Convention
- Monday 18th December 2023 - Awards/Celebration Evening

