

THE ABI UPDATE

ISSUE 3 FRIDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER MR CLINTON

Dear parents, carers, pupils and friends of Archbishop Ilsley,

Today is the feast of St Edward, commonly known as the Edward the Confessor, King of England between 1042 and 1066. 1066 is probably the date we can all recall from our history lessons at school.



The reason that the Battle of Hastings happened then, is that Edward had died and there was a scramble for the throne. The French King, William the Conqueror, famously defeated the English King Harold. It's funny to think that a king could also be a saint, but it teaches us that power doesn't just come from birth or privilege, but how we treat others and how we make people feel. Archbishop Ilsley has a special link with St Edward, as half of the Ilsley badge is that of King Edward's coat of arms. The reason? Because Edward Ilsley wanted a link to his namesake and to a time of religious tolerance.

You may have heard we had some visitors last week! OFSTED came last week and we are pleased with their findings. I told the lead inspector that Ilsley pupils and students are some of the friendliest around and he agreed. Mr Wakefield and his two colleagues really enjoyed their visit and enjoyed meeting so many of our pupils and seeing a huge variety of lessons. The report will be issued nearer half term. A key focus for us will be pupils being punctual to school and lessons and pupils reading. If you are wondering how to spend your weekend, why not take a trip to your local library with your child? Or, simply read a story or an article from the BBC website together. Enjoy your weekend – let's hope the rain stops soon!

Mr Clinton

KEY DATES

- Tuesday 17th October - Yr 7 MAD Museum trip
- Wednesday 18th October - Yr 8 Cadbury World trip
- Friday 20th October - Yr 8 Blackwell Team Bonding Day
- Monday 23rd - Wednesday 25th - Walsingham Senior Student Leader Training and Retreat - Yr 13
- Thursday 26th October - Halloween Movie Night - Yr 12 and 13
- Monday 30th October - Friday 3rd November - HALF TERM School closed for pupils and students

OPEN MORNINGS 2023



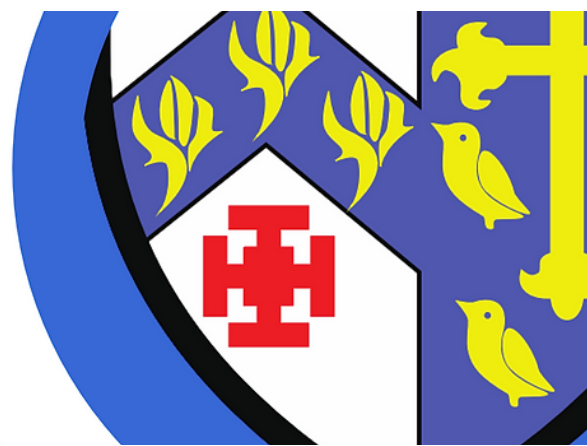
24TH OCTOBER: 9:00AM-10:00AM

25TH OCTOBER: 9:00AM-10:00AM

Contact the school on 0121 706 4200 or enquiry@ilsley.bham.sch.uk by 20th October 2023

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

Victoria Road, Acocks Green, B27 7XY



CATHOLIC LIFE: GOSPEL READING MATTHEW 21:33-34

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third.

Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son," he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?'

They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures:

It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone.

'I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

This passage is about hearing something true, right, good and just and then rejecting it, refusing to believe it, ignoring it, even attacking it. Do people do this? Case in point - vaping, no-one says its a good thing, it's unregulated, no-one knows the long term consequences but studies suggest it's worrying... yet some still choose to vape!

What does this mean for us?

- Sometimes people will ignore or tolerate something that is clearly not good.
- Vaping is an example, it cannot happen in our school. It is an anti social thing to do in a shared space.
- Remember the origins of the vaping industry is with the tobacco industry. The tobacco industry became wealthy on the back of the slave labour of Africans they had paid to be kidnapped and shipped to America.
- That same industry now targets children to normalise vaping in the hope of snaring a life-long customer.
- Have you or any of your friends been duped (fooled) into thinking vaping is a good idea?

PRAYER SPACE COMPETITION

This half term we held our first prayer space competition. Pupils have been busy writing their prayers, decorating their spaces to reflect our Catholic Social Teaching focus. Heads of Year selected the finalists and Fr Marco chose a winner and runner up.

10SW won the top prize and are having a pizza party with some cake

7DL were a close second and won a box of sweets.

We will have another competition next half term with the focus on our next Catholic Social Teaching - 'we all have rights and responsibilities.'

Autumn Term 1.1

'Each person is precious with innate dignity and is part of our family'



Autumn Term 1.2

'We all have rights and responsibilities'



BLACK HISTORY MONTH 'SALUTING OUR SISTERS'



In assemblies this month we are celebrating Black History Month; a recognition and celebration of the heritage, culture, and invaluable achievements and contributions of black people to British society. This year's theme 'Saluting our Sisters,' highlights the crucial role that black women have played in shaping history, inspiring change and building communities.

This year's celebration, seeks to showcase pioneering black women who have made remarkable contributions to literature, music, fashion, sport, business, politics, academia, social and health care, and more. In our assembly last week we watched the trailer for the film *Hidden Figures* and considered the contribution that Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson made to science, technology, engineering and maths. Katherine Johnson's calculations for NASA were essential to the Space Shuttle program and for the mission to Mars; Mary Jackson was NASA's first black female engineer and Dorothy Johnson Vaughan was the first black supervisor at NASA and helped send the first satellites into space. The film brought their stories to an even larger audience. These women led extraordinary lives that were often overshadowed by the accomplishments of their white male colleagues.

Black History Month and Cultural Clothing

A reminder that each of the remaining Fridays during October pupils are invited to celebrate our diversity by wearing traditional cultural/religious attire. It has been wonderful to see quite a number of our pupils come to school so proudly in clothing that celebrates their culture and heritage, particularly during Black History Month.

Pupils have been leading assemblies and taking part in different activities focused on Black History Month. There has been a particular light shone on the many female role models of African/Caribbean heritage.

On the First Friday in October, we held our non uniform/Brighten Up day where everyone was invited to wear either bright colours or cultural clothing. The purpose of this day was to raise money for Cafod's Brighten Up campaign.

The purpose of the rest of the Fridays in October, is to celebrate our diversity and all pupils to celebrate and be proud of their nationality. If you would like your child to wear traditional cultural/religious clothes they are most welcome to.

However, the following items are not permitted: Jeans, trainers, tracksuits, leggings, cycling shorts crop tops.

Some parents have contacted us for some clarity on what constitutes traditional cultural clothing. The following website gives a good indication.

<https://www.roughguides.com/gallery/traditional-dress/>

Flags will also not be permitted.

There is no cost for students wearing traditional cultural clothing.

Anyone not in traditional cultural clothing should wear full uniform but can wear an accessory that reflects a colour linked to their culture e.g. green for Ireland, red for England, blue for Scotland, yellow for Wales.

These days have been shaped by our pupil voice and also parents who have reached out to share their views. It is always good to work together, Pope Francis summed up the power of celebrating diversity, "Whenever people listen to one another humbly and openly, their shared values and aspirations become all the more apparent. Diversity is no longer seen as a threat, but as a source of enrichment."

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATE

YEAR 7 - MS DOHERTY

We have had a fantastic fortnight with Year 7. I have observed so many of them making excellent choices in their lessons. The quality of writing I have seen in Humanities and English is of such a standard, I was extremely impressed. Please see below for our Stars of the Week!

7SM	Katy P	Elijah R
7JK	Syeda A S	Umar M
7BSH	Preston L	Maddie F
7GJ	Bianca M	Annavictory E
7LS	Joy A	Jayden J
7NZ	Nafisa E	Zachary W
7DL	Mahmoud	Ellysia
7MR	Reign B	Elah T

The trip to the Black Country Museum has to be a highlight in the last fortnight. The pupils were an absolute credit to their parents or guardians and it was wonderful to see them asking questions and engaging in learning outside the classroom, even if the trip down the mine was a bit too dark for my liking! I am already looking forward to our next outing to the theatre in November.

It is also wonderful to see the Year 7s engaging in so many extra curricular clubs and activities, if your child hasn't already, please encourage them to make the most of the whole school experience.

YEAR 8 - MR BRUTON

As we get nearer to the end of the half term, the vast majority have made a fantastic start. A special mention should be made to the following who have achieved the most house points

Kai R 8JR 283; Jacob M 8AP 276; Derrick D 8SS 270; Alby W 8JR 269; Alfie P 8LB 263; Sean C 8LB 255; Humza K 8AP 250; Shae O 8LB 243; Hephzi O 8AP 243; Saoirse B 8SS 239; Philippa W 8LB 239; Ethan H 8LB 238; Shamal A 8LB 237; Owen M 8AP 237; Riona C 8LB 235; Damla K 8MM 232

A number of Year 8, will be going to Alton Castle. Their residential retreat programme combines times of prayer, meditation and reflection, with outdoor adventurous activities. Young people visit Alton castle to spend two nights in our breath-taking 19th century castle, taking part in a range of challenging activities, and encountering Christ in many ways, particularly through the celebration of mass together in their beautiful church.

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. We return on Wednesday by approximately 3.00pm

Further notifications about this trip will be given to parents via ClassCharts.

YEAR 9 - MR NEWMAN

It has been a great few weeks for Year 9 and fantastic to see so many of them gaining huge numbers of house points in their lessons and really demonstrating the Ilsley spirit in all that they do. As we near the end of a busy half term we look forward to our celebration assembly to recognise all those that have achieved so much since September. There is still lots of time to pick up those spirit awards and house points!

The prayer space competition was taken on with real enthusiasm by all the Year 9 tutor team. A huge congratulations to 9MB/BM that went above and beyond creating a fabulous prayer space that is the envy of tutor groups across the school. Well done to them!

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATE

YEAR 10 - MISS BRADY

Year 10 have had a wonderful week and a great start to their GCSE courses. This week I have seen lots of achievements across all subjects but in particular within Science, English and Media as I've had conversations with enthusiastic teachers who are so proud of their classes.

It was fantastic to see so many Year 10 pupils and their families at the GCSE Information Evening last night; I hope you gained some insight into how you can help and support your child at home. It is really important that pupils start to get into the habit of working independently at home so that they achieve their full potential.

Well done to Tutor Group of the week 10SW we also hope you enjoyed your pizza party for having the best form prayer display in the whole school!!

Form Stars of the Week are: Chloe B, Teah W, Harriet E, Ruo C, Arman K, Lily H, Madison G, Noel OH, Jessica B, Julia K. Well done all and keep up the good work!

Year 10 photos will take place on Wednesday 15th November.

I hope you have a restful weekend

YEAR 11 - MRS BURNHAM

Year 11 are working hard making the most out of their time at school. Attendance to Period 6 is positive and their attitude to learning after a full day is fantastic. Year 11 had an assembly by NCS this week, they have showcased their FREE October half term programme. This opportunity is priceless; students are able to take part in adventurous activities, experience university for the day and finally learn independent life skills and first aid. I have included the QR code to register their interest.



This week our Geographers have been on their field trip working on their coursework, fingers crossed the weather will hold for our final group on Friday.

It was the Year 11 Information evening on Thursday where parents and pupils gained a valuable insight into key dates and information for core subjects and were encouraged to start thinking about their next steps and applications to our Sixth Form. Attendance to this evening was fantastic. Thank you so much for your support.



Last week Year 11 Student Leaders were introduced to their Year 7,8 and 9 tutor groups. They will be supporting tutor time activities, mentoring and encouraging pupils to get the most out of school life.

Year 13 students have been working exceptionally hard this week. It was their Pre Public Examination week 1, with students sitting two hour papers in all of their subjects. These are very important examinations as the grades will be used to help subject teachers formulate students' predicted grades for UCAS applications.

The examinations will have contained both Year 12 and Year 13 subject content and so are a good indication of students' strengths in terms of their knowledge and also their gaps. The examination feedback and closing the gap activities will be vital in helping students to create a revision timetable to enable them to close those gaps in their learning and revise any areas that are weaker. Please ask your child about their exams and question them about their revision.

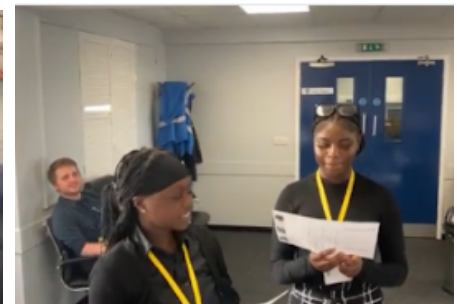


Today, Sixth Form students again chose to support a charity on their 'Dress Down Friday', by wearing pink and buying pink ribbons to support Breast Cancer Awareness month.

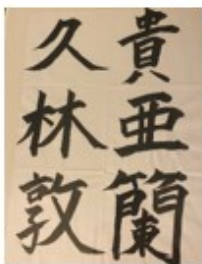
Well done all and thank you for your contributions. Over £100 was raised today!

GLOBAL LINKS - SESSION 1

This year's Global Links enrichment programme began on Monday 9th October with a session on Japan and Japanese culture led by Mr Clinton, who had spent two years working and living in Tokushima prefecture. A brilliant start to the programme with fantastic attendance and some very enthusiastic students!



Konnichwa !!
Global Links



Facts about Nippon

Which of these is the odd one out?

1. Tokyo
2. Osaka
3. Busan
4. Hiroshima
5. Kyoto

The Sixth Form Calendar - Key Dates

- Week beginning 16th Oct - Yr 13 PPE Week 2
- 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 23rd - Wednesday 25th Oct - Yr 13 Walsingham Senior Student Leader training and retreat (Please note that this is a change of date)**
- Thursday 26th October - Halloween Movie Night 5pm-7pm Year 12 and 13. Tickets £3
- Monday 18th December 2023 - Awards/Celebration Evening