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THE ABI UPDATE

ISSUE 2 FRIDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER MR CLINTON

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

Last night was our annual Open Evening and it was a great success. Thank you to all our pupil helpers who stayed late to support us – and to you, parents and carers, for supporting them! Whether they guided our visitors, helped out in a department or were one of our wonderful speakers, pupils were a credit to their families and fantastic ambassadors for Archbishop Ilsley. If you are reading this and you were a visitor to Ilsley for the first time, I hope you enjoyed your visit and had the opportunity to speak to our staff and see all the wonderful facilities we have to offer here.

I have just had the pleasure of attending the Year 7 and Year 12 Welcome Mass. Pupils, many of whom had not attended a mass before, were respectful and reverent throughout. Thank you Father Marco for talking us through the mass and explaining the significance of all the different components that make up the mass. I learnt many new things myself – and I have been going for 44 years!!

Reminder: as I said in my letter to you today, school is closed to all pupils and students this Monday, 2nd October. This is to facilitate staff training. Term dates can be found on the school website under 'parent hub'. The next INSET day, after Monday, is Friday 1st December.

Enjoy your three day weekend and as Marco said, on the Feast of the Archangels, your guardian angel will be watching over you.

KEY DATES

- Monday 2nd October - INSET Day. School is closed to pupils and students
- Friday 6th October - Yr 7 Black Country Museum trip (7GJ/JK/NZ/BSH)
- Week beginning Monday 9th October - Yr 11 Geography fieldwork trip
- Monday 9th October - Yr 7 Black Country Museum (7MR/DL/LSR/SM)
- Thursday 12th October - Yr 10, Yr 11 GCSE Information Evening 5pm
- 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

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



GOSPEL READING MATTHEW 20:1-16

Jesus said to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage."

So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered.

He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each.

They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

What does this mean for us?

We are all members of the most advanced species in the known universe...for billions of light years there is nothing as advanced as us! Catholics believe that we are made in God's image which means that we are sacred; we are capable of love; we can tell right from wrong; we have free will!

Respecting Dignity means remembering those two things in our words and actions to all other human beings. This is our reason for holding doors open, using manners, tidying up after each other, participating in charity work etc. What have we done this week to help or support others?

YEAR 7 AND YEAR 12 WELCOME MASS

Thank you to all staff, pupils, students and parents and carers for being a part of our Year 7 and 12 Welcome Mass this afternoon. It was a wonderful mass and a lovely end to a busy week at school. Father Marco welcomed all of our new pupils and families to the Archbishop Ilsley family. Many thanks also to all those who bought cakes or donated money to our Macmillan Cake sale after mass. Our Year 13 Senior Student Leaders were overwhelmed by peoples' generosity.



CURRICULUM UPDATE



ENGLISH

Year 7 have begun their English journey by studying the importance of rhetoric and narrative writing. They have read *The Werewolf* and examined how writers use setting and character to establish specific atmospheres. Homeworks are focusing on how stories use structure to interest and engage readers. Pupils have been introduced to several types of narrative structures and the methods writers use to persuade. Year 7 will begin to read *A Sound of Thunder* by Ray Bradbury and analyse the writer's use of literary devices.

- Key vocabulary: protagonist, structure, symbolism, juxtaposition, imagery

Year 8 students are consolidating their knowledge from year 7 by studying the gothic novel *The Woman in Black* by Susan Hill. They are exploring the conventions of a gothic novel and evaluating how these conventions apply to *The Woman in Black*. Students will be understanding how literary devices are effective and learning how to apply these devices to their own creative writing. In addition, they will be analysing how Hill presents characters and setting in order to establish tone and atmosphere.

- Assessment will focus on students' abilities to evaluate statements and express opinions using textual evidence.
- Key vocabulary: gothic, macabre, tone, foreboding, ominous, supernatural

Year 9 have started to read and study George Orwell's story *Animal Farm* based on the historical events of the Russian Revolution. They have already begun to make links between the characters and figures from the revolution whilst they have been reading in class. As well as considering context and characters they have also been analysing Orwell's choice of language and persuasive speeches.

They will be completing their first focus task in class in the next few weeks where they will be writing an persuasive election speech in role as one of the pigs.

- Homework will be set every week one and collected in on week two. Each pupil will have a booklet with different activities to complete which are based on the book.
- Key vocabulary- communism, capitalism, hierarchy, revolution, tyrant, corruption

Year 10 have begun to read their first Literature examination text, *An Inspector Calls*. They have discussed the importance of the play's exposition as the key characters and the writer, J B Priestley's messages are introduced. They have begun to fill in quote books recording key quotes which they will have to learn for their GCSE examinations. As well as reading and annotating the play, they have been building their stamina for writing and completing short analytical paragraphs on characters and themes in their books.

- Year 10 will complete an examination style question on the character of Gerald before October half term.
- Key vocabulary- Capitalism, socialism, mouthpiece, omniscient, microcosm,

Year 11 have begun to study Shakespeare's play, *Macbeth*. They will be exploring the characterisation of *Macbeth* and *Lady Macbeth*, as well as key themes such as ambition, masculinity, supernatural and guilt. As well as reading and annotating the play, they will be completing analytical paragraphs to help them practise their exam technique.

- Year 11 will complete an extract based question on a key theme within the classroom and their mock exams will focus on a literature 'An Inspector Calls' question and a full Language Paper 1 exam.
- Key vocabulary- tragic hero, hamartia, soliloquy, paradox, motif

Watch this space- The English Department are currently organising a trip to the Globe theatre in February to watch a production of 'Romeo and Juliet' and a trip in February for Y8 to see 'The Woman in Black' at the Alexander Theatre, Birmingham.



MATHS

All pupils have now received their login details for MathsWatch, MyMaths, Kerboodle and Times Tables Rock Stars (for KS3). These websites can be used at home for revision and homework. Numeracy and times tables are a particular focus for all year groups at the moment. All pupils will sit a numeracy test at some point next week.

- Pupils in Year 7 are working on numeracy at the moment to prepare them for later topics. We are particularly focusing on times tables and pupils now have their Times Tables Rock Stars logins to use at home.
- Year 8 pupils will just be coming to the end of their first topic and some classes will be moving on to a geometry topic - measures, perimeter and area. They will be learning about metric and imperial measures.
- Year 9 will soon be starting their next topic which will be factors and multiples.
- Year 10 pupils will soon be starting work on solving equations, depending on where their class got to last year.
- Year 11 completed their first Period 6 maths paper on Monday, their teachers marked this for the next lesson and will have gone through it with students. Their next paper will be Monday 7th October.

SCIENCE



Many thanks to our pupils, students and staff for a great start to the new term. A warm Ilsley science welcome to the new Year 7 and 12 students and colleagues, Mrs Nushaba and Mr Rohman. Year 7 are beginning their scientific journey with the “How do we get our drinking water” where they will learn some foundational concepts such as states of matter. The topic will encourage pupils to think about how we can ensure equitable access to clean safe water supplies. Homework tasks will be based on committing these important facts and ideas to memory.

Year 8: During their current topic “How do we use chemical reactions” the Year 8 scientists at ABI will explore a range of chemical reactions, both those that we find useful and those that cause problems. From the combustion of fuels to the extraction of useful metals from their ores, pupils will discover how chemistry impacts their world. Homework tasks will be based on committing these important facts and ideas to memory.

Year 9: Of all the challenges facing the inhabitants of the world in the twenty first century, the global biodiversity crisis is perhaps the most grave, threatening to collapse the ecological systems upon which life depends. Through the “Why is biodiversity important” topic Year 9 will be equipped with the tools to understand ecosystems and evaluate the risks they face. Homework tasks will be a blend of online learning and written tasks.

Year 10 continue their key stage 4 learning from the foundations laid in Year 9 with the “Cell Biology”, “Atomic Structure and Periodic Table” and “Energy” topics in biology, chemistry and physics lessons respectively. Pupils should regularly review and consolidate their learning using the GCP revision guides and workbooks (available through ParentMail) alongside homework tasks set by their teachers.

Year 11 begin the approach to their GCSEs with the “Homeostasis and Response”, “The Rate and Extent of Chemical Change” and “Atomic Structure” topics in biology, chemistry and physics lessons respectively. Pupils should regularly review and consolidate their learning using the GCP revision guides and workbooks (available through ParentMail) alongside homework tasks set by their teachers.

Year 12: It has been wonderful to welcome many of last year’s Year 11s back to ABI to continue their scientific study. An enthusiastic start has been made in lessons with students eager to develop their understanding of the world through diving deeper into science.

Year 13: Our senior scientists are already starting to prepare for A-levels success through rigorous practice and the development of concepts and skills will require to ensure they attain the best possible results. Alongside the focus on exam outcomes students are encouraged to grow in their personal scientific interests and pursue aspects of the subject that particularly excite them.

CURRICULUM UPDATE



GEOGRAPHY

- Year 8 are continuing their work on the human geography of the UK - focussing on population and development issues.
- Year 9 are continuing their work on the physical geography of Russia - focussing on the River Volga and the weather, climate and biomes of Russia.
- Year 10 are completing their work on Tectonic hazards and will be moving on to tropical storms as a climatic hazard.
- Year 11 are working through the UK physical landscapes unit focusing on coasts and rivers. Their upcoming mock exams will be based on:
 - Paper 1: Hazards, Living World, Coasts and Rivers.
 - Paper 2: Urban Issues.
- Year 12 are working through the Contemporary Urban Issues and Coastal landscapes units.
- Year 13 are working through the Hazards and Changing Places units. Residential fieldwork is planned for November 8th - 10th in South Wales

HISTORY



Ilsley Historians have made a brilliant start back to school!

- Year 7 have completed work on key Historical skills and words, and are about to start their enquiry unit of work on our magnificent city, Birmingham.
- Year 8 are fully engaged in the events of 1066 and investigating how William of Normandy became King of England.
- Year 9 are engrossed in the causes of WWI and how the assassination of Franz Ferdinand led to a world war in 1914.
- Year 10 have made a fabulous start to their History GCSE and are currently evaluating some of the changes in crimes, punishments and law enforcement in the Middle Ages.
- Year 11 are working incredibly hard to complete their study of the Cold War and are displaying an excellent attitude towards their learning.
- Year 12 are making an excellent transition from GCSEs to the start of their A level course, and have been studying Reconstruction in America after the Civil War and are examining Harold Macmillan's Government in their British Unit.
- Year 13 have returned full of positivity for a successful year, and have just started to investigate America in the 1920's, and in their British unit they are studying Margaret Thatcher and Northern Ireland.

Homework

- Year 7, 8 and 9 have all been given homework booklets and homework is being assigned by their class teacher.
- Year 10 have completed revision homeworks in preparation for facts tests they will be completing over the next 2 weeks.
- Year 11 have completed exam practice questions in preparation for an in class exam that they will be sitting week beginning Monday October 2nd.
- Year 12 are completing an essay on the American Civil War in their American unit of work, and in their British unit they are completing Cornell revision notes.
- Year 13 have completed an essay on American Foreign policy 1890-1920, and are currently completing a source based question in their British unit.

Keep up the excellent work ethic and positive attitudes to your learning Ilsley Historians!

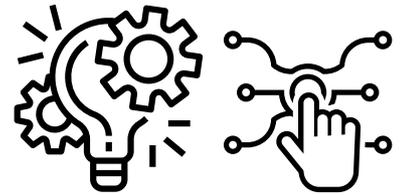
CURRICULUM UPDATE

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES



In French or Spanish pupils are studying the following:

- Year 7: introducing themselves and family. We will assess students in all 4 skills listening, reading, writing and speaking and so we are building confidence across these 4 skills.
- Year 8: have the topic of healthy living which includes saying where they have pain and food and drink choices. Look out for a restaurant experience for both French and Spanish students before half term.
- Year 9: revisiting family vocabulary from Year 7 and extending the information to include more details. Using present tense and past tense verbs
- Year 10: have had a great start to their GCSE course with revision of the present tense grammar rules. We are looking at the topic of holidays.
- Year 11: we are studying the topics of technology and marriage / partnerships. Students should be revisiting their Year 10 speaking answers regularly and adding 2 more topics before their next mock speaking in November.
- Year 13: have started their political topics which the students are finding more engaging and weighty than those they studied in Year 12. Good luck Year 13 for your upcoming PPEs. You will have an essay on your book and a reading, listening and translation paper. See your teacher for more details.



DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

In Design and Technology, Year 7 have just started their 9 week project creating a pop up book or they are in Food Technology doing the Brilliant Birmingham project and making a range of dishes. Some Year 7 who have Mr Francioso, will be going to the MAD Museum in Stratford Upon Avon on 17th October where they will see a range of mechanisms in action.

Year 8 have started the electronic night light, maze and puzzle project, CAD/CAM furniture or Food Commodities. Some Students who are doing Food Technology will be going to Cadbury World on the 18th October to discover how Chocolate is made in industry.

All Year 9 did a careers lesson to find out about apprenticeships and degrees in architecture, engineering and designing and many more careers. They are now all rotating every 4 lessons doing CAD/CAM 3D Rhinoceros with Mrs Zannar, Technical drawing with Mr Lakin, Iterative design with Mr Francioso, materials phone stand with Mr Meredith, food protein with Miss Sewell or sustainability with Miss Jaka.

Year 10 have also started their new making projects throughout the year, these are paper animals, thermometer design, mechanical teaching aid and sustainable furniture. They will learn a range of skills such as CAD and CAM skills and card modelling and also work through the exam theory work. Hospitality and Catering cooking a range of dishes as well as working on their theory for their exam in Year 11.

Year 11, 12 and 13 are working hard continuing with their coursework. The Sixth Form are also looking forward to their trips this year to Silverstone Museum and Mogan Cars later in the year.

CURRICULUM UPDATE

KS5 CRIMINOLOGY

Year 12 Criminology Unit 2 is a study of Sociological theories about criminality.

- Our first two homeworks have involved a consideration of stereotyping certain groups or individuals and different types of sentencing available to the courts.
- Our first assessment criteria involved a comparison of criminal behaviour and deviance
- The group began by considering what is meant by 'norms and values' as well as 'moral codes' and identifying how these change from culture to culture.
- Case studies illustrating how an action considered legal in one country but not in another referred to.
- The group have worked together to create lists of actions which can be considered criminal, deviant or both.
- The group considered a range of activities and identified them as either criminal, deviant or both and also a range of formal and informal sanctions.
- The group also looked at how to tackle one of the short answer questions for this Unit and constructed a model answer using a scaffold, which they then peer assessed using marking criteria.
- The group are now considering what is meant by 'the social construction of criminality'.

KS5 SOCIOLOGY

Year 12 Sociology began with an introduction to the subject

- The group began by considering what causes us to behave the way we do in society
- This was followed by a consideration of values, norms, culture and the process of socialisation
- The class were asked to identify things they had learnt as the result of primary (family) and secondary (school) socialisation
- A study of the two major approaches to sociology - structural and social action - was undertaken with reference to key figures. (At one point Mr Mulcrow had to sing part of a hymn to illustrate one of these approaches)
- Finally, the group undertook a thorough examination of the 'sociologist's toolkit' - a series of different research methods which enables sociologists to gather data and analyse it.
- Throughout this introduction to the subject there was ample opportunity for discussion and debate.
- A baseline assessment was administered and a further major assessment of this introductory material will take place via a series of detailed Google Quizzes (revision for which has formed the basis of homework over the last week).

Year 13 Unit 3: Crime and deviance with Theory and Methods

- The group are continuing to explore different sociological perspectives on crime and deviance
 - As part of their investigation into labelling theory they engaged with a case study about the 'Mods and Rockers' disturbances of the mid- 1960s and how they led to a 'moral panic' and 'deviancy amplification spiral'.
 - Video material showed interviews with people who had been involved and the role of the press in making the situation worse was considered. This case study was then compared to later studies such as the 'Hippies of Notting Hill' in the early 1970s and the riots of 1981 and 85.
 - A major assessment in the form of two examination questions has been undertaken.
-

It has been a very busy two weeks with Year 12 students settling into new subjects and new routines. Enrichment has also begun with all KS5 students experiencing an Employability Masterclass on Tuesday 19th September. Students were encouraged to think about their skills and interests and what they could do now to improve their CV. They were encouraged to consider the key skills of communication, organisation, confidence, problem solving, initiative, resilience, teamwork and financial capability, as these are the key 8 employability skills that employers want. Students then acted out a 'job interview' situation and introduced themselves, made eye contact and used a firm handshake!

On Monday 25th September, all Year 12 and 13 students had an assembly delivered by representatives from the Kenelm Youth Trust who talked about the benefits of joining them on retreat at Soli House. The Year 12 and 13 Soli House retreat takes place on Wednesday 13th-Friday 15th December at a cost of £135 which includes the cost of the trip, including travel.

Deacon Tim also introduced another enrichment opportunity for Year 12 and 13 students; the HCPT pilgrimage to Lourdes at Easter 2024. HCPT is a Catholic charity which exists to take disabled and disadvantaged children and adults on holiday pilgrimages to Lourdes in Southwest France. Sixth Form students can take part in this experience as helpers supporting children's groups from the Midlands by marshalling processions, providing music and games for the children and assisting experienced group helpers in caring for and entertaining the children who are a focus of the pilgrimage. The cost of the Lourdes Pilgrimage is £645 covering all travel from Birmingham, food, accommodation and insurance.



Today was the Sixth Form's first charitable event. Year 13 Senior Student Leaders planned a Macmillan Coffee Morning in support of Macmillan Cancer Support and all students got involved to support. Many wore an item of green and donated £1 to the charity. Students served staff teas, coffee and cake at breaktime and pupils at lunchtime. Students also sold green ribbons to be worn today - thanks to Larissa for this lovely idea! Students also served refreshments after the Year 7 and Year 12 Welcome Mass.

The Sixth Form Calendar - Key Dates

- 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 23rd - Wednesday 25th Oct - Yr 13 Walsingham Senior Student Leader training and retreat (Please note that this is a change of date)**
- Monday 18th December 2023 - Awards/Celebration Evening

