

THE ABI UPDATE

ISSUE 10 FRIDAY 1ST MARCH 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER - MR CLINTON

Dear pupils, parents and friends of Archbishop IlIsley

Happy St David's Day to you all, especially those of you are Welsh or have Welsh family. The staffroom was awash with yellow today and pupils paid £1 for the opportunity to wear trainers. As a school and as part of our promotion of British values, we will celebrate all the patron saints including St George and (very soon) St Patrick. The school calendar is actually based around days such as this.

St David, born around 520 and canonised in 1123, has links across Britain, including Cornwall although of course his relics are preserved at the cathedral named after him in Wales. All money raised will go to supporting refugees at St Chad's Sanctuary in Birmingham city centre, close to Snow Hill train station and the A38. Mr Foley, in conjunction with James from the Columban's, has organised an event on Tuesday to shed light on the plight of refugees so look out for news of that.

This morning, I had the pleasure of witnessing a profound and reflective assembly to Year 11. In it, as well as explaining the importance of Lent, Mrs Grant asked pupils to consider who God was calling them to be and the nature of their vocation. Starting next week, Mrs Grant and other Sixth Form leaders will be interviewing every single Year 11 pupil to find out their plans for next year. We hope that many of them will consider continuing their studies at our recently rebranded Sixth Form, where we ask students to 'embrace their future'.

Enjoy your weekend and these first days of March and the warmer weather.

Mr Clinton

KEY DATES

- Monday 4th March - Year 11 Photographs
- Tuesday 5th March and Wednesday 6th March - English Romeo & Juliet Workshops (in school)
- Thursday 7th March - World Book Day - Year 7 can dress at their favourite book character! Year 7 Parents' Evening
- Friday 8th March - Year 10 RAF Cosford trip; KS3 Chess Competition
- Tuesday 12th March - Year 12 DT trip to Morgan Motors
- Wednesday 13th March - English Theatre Trip to London - Romeo & Juliet; KS5 Debate at Newman University
- Friday 15th March - Year 10 Food Technology trip to BCU
- Wednesday 20th March - Year 7X trip to Woodlands
- Thursday 21st March Year 11 Parents' Evening; 'Born for This' Production at St Thomas Aquinas School - school choir
- Friday 22nd March - Year 7Y trip to Woodlands; last day of term
- Monday 25th March - Friday 5th April - Easter Holiday. School is closed to pupils, students and staff

IN THE NEWS.... MOBILE PHONES IN SCHOOLS



You may have seen in the media that the government have issued guidance recently about mobile phones in schools. If you type 'dfe mobile phone policy' into google, it will probably be the first items that appears (dfe stands for department for education).

The government have suggested that schools have four options:

a) No mobile phones on the school premises – A school may decide that no mobile phones should be brought to school by its pupils, and they must be left at home or with parents. This policy provides a very simple boundary which is straightforward to enforce as any mobile phone found at school would be in breach of the policy.

b) Mobile phone handed in on arrival – A school may decide that its pupils may require access to their mobile phones before and after school, but they do not want pupils to have access to their mobile phones throughout the school day. On entry to the school each pupil hands in their device to school staff and these are then collected at the end of the school day. Schools should be mindful that even if a pupil has handed in one mobile phone, they may have another mobile phone in their possession.

c) Mobile phones kept in secure location, which the pupil does not access throughout the school day – Some schools may have established bag-free days where personal possessions are kept in lockers, or similar secure storage. If mobile phones are brought to the school, at the start of the school day they should be put straight into lockers or similar secure storage and not be accessed by the pupil until the end of the day.

d) Never used, seen or heard – Some schools may choose to adopt a policy where pupils keep possession of their mobile phones only on the strict condition that they are never used, seen or heard – with consequences for breaching this that are sufficient to act as an effective deterrent.

It is important that schools enforce this policy vigorously, consistently and visibly, to the effect that mobile phone use is prohibited throughout the school day.

To support this, it may be appropriate for a school to ensure that parents and pupils clearly understand the sanctions that may be applied, to establish a strong no-phone culture. Schools will often stipulate that the mobile phone is switched off at the bottom of the school bag; confiscation may be an immediate consequence otherwise. As this policy becomes established through consistent application, the culture of the school will change, with pupils less likely to attempt to use their phones.

There are two arguments: one is that mobiles phones are part of life and pupils should be taught how to use them responsibly. In addition, parents and carers will want pupils to carry them for safety and many will use them to purchase items or get transport home.

The other argument is that a large number of pupils are addicted to their mobile phones, that they distract them and their learning and they cause huge friendship issues, especially with the growth of social media in recent years.

Archbishop Ilsley are very interested in finding out the view of all stakeholders (pupils, parents, staff, governors) about the role and place of mobile phones in schools, if there is one.

Surveys will be issued in the coming weeks to garner views.

If you have strong views on the subject in advance of the survey being published, please email enquiry@ilsley.bham.sch.uk with 'mobile phones' in the subject field.

IN THE NEWS.... PROPOSED LIBRARY CLOSURE

It saddens us as a school community to hear of the closure of the Acocks Green Library due to the budget cuts being made by Birmingham City Council. Over the years, libraries have played such an important part in our lives and Acocks Green Library is no exception.

The library holds a vast selection of books for both children and adults. The children's section has a homework area along with information books and the staff are always happy to help. With lots of picture books to teen novels there is something for every child. Adults can also enjoy reading from the large collection of fiction, graphic novels, books in large print, books in many languages, books on audio and non-fiction.

There is access to the internet for both adults and children, newspapers are provided daily to read. There is always something going on in the form of clubs and events during weekends and school holidays. It is a safe space for all to enjoy.

Anybody can join their local library for free and enjoy the pleasures of reading. Please do not let this vital service and community hub be taken away from our area. We need it now more than ever. We need to all come together and defend our library.

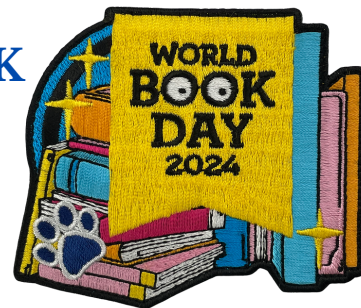
Please sign the petition

<https://www.change.org/p/save-acocks-green-library>

Use your local library. Show you care.



WORLD BOOK DAY 2024



World Book Day takes place on Thursday 7th March 2024.

This annual celebration of authors, illustrators, books and the joy of reading is one of the highlights of our year in school!

This year, World Book Day will celebrate the fact that children are more likely to enjoy reading when their choices are championed and we make reading fun. Reading for pleasure improves children's life chances across a range of social, educational and well-being measures.

Here are just 5 reasons why we love reading at Archbishop Ilsley:

1. Reading reduces stress levels and helps us to relax. Do you read before you go to sleep at night?
2. Reading improves our concentration and memory
3. Reading is great for helping us to expand our vocabulary and strengthen our writing abilities
4. Reading enhances our knowledge of people, places, events and customs that we may never have encountered before!
5. Reading increases our imagination and creativity; reading really can take us to magical and far off places!

As a central part of their homework we encourage all of our pupils to read for at least 20 minutes each evening in order to reap the benefits as mentioned above. Please support your child by asking them about what they are reading.

On World Book Day in school, there will be a variety of activities for pupils and students to get involved in, including our Year 7 pupils dressing up as their favourite book characters! There might be a few others that join in too! Look out for the pictures on our Twitter page.

CATHOLIC LIFE THE GOSPEL - MARK 9:2-10

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them.

Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus: 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.'

He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

What does this mean for us?

- This passage is about seeing Jesus for who He is. Do you see the people around you for who they really are? Unique human beings with innate dignity?
- During Lent it is good to examine our consciences. This helps us know the areas of our life where we could be better.

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

YEAR 7 - MS DOHERTY

Year 7 have had some very exciting news this half term, with some of our year group having their English work published. I am immensely proud of all of them and I know they have all embraced learning about 'A Christmas Carol' in their English lessons. We have World Book Day to look forward to next week (7th March) and I can't wait to see the pupils' costumes. On the evening of the same day we have our first Year 7 Parents' Evening. I look forward to welcoming all our parents and carers in for the evening where you should have the chance to speak to all of your child's teachers; appointments will go live for booking, on Friday 1st March. Can I take this opportunity to remind all parents and carers of our uniform policy that can be found on our website and in the children's planners. We will lend our pupils uniform if they need it. Thanks for all your support with this, the vast majority of our pupils are looking very smart. Keep up the good work year 7!

YEAR 8 - MR BRUTON

Well done to all Year 8 pupils who continue to make the right choices. It is really pleasing to see so many of you amassing positive ClassCharts points and working hard in lessons. During visits to lessons, the vast majority of pupils are working well and endeavouring to let their light shine. Please congratulate your son/daughter when they achieve positive house points and also question them if they get negatives. Overall, Year 8 should be congratulated on achieving the second highest house point score for a year group.

As we begin a new half term, it is important to remember our school rules to Be Ready, Be Safe and to Be Respectful and Kind. Please make every effort to be in school every day, to be punctual and to be in correct school uniform with the required equipment. These are the foundations for success!

YEAR 9 - MR FRANCIOSO

This week marks another important step towards one of our goals as a school. Choosing our options and deciding what subjects to take in Year 10 seems like a big step. Take this weekend to discuss your options with the people close to you. Use the resources available to you to make informed choices to provide you with the best possible path forward. There are so many of you that work so hard to achieve the best you can. By putting in the effort now you will be rewarded for your endeavours.

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

YEAR 10 - MISS BRADY

Even though this is a short half term Year 10 are extremely busy at the moment. We started the term with a planned trip to Challenge Academy but ended up taking a trip to the outskirts of the city centre as they unfortunately had to close due to the horrendous downpour we had that day. I am in talks with the centre and will notify you of the rearranged date as soon as I have one. The good news is any pupils who forgot to sign up and want to go can now be added as I will re-open parent mail. We have had even more pupils sign up for DofE which is wonderful; I know that the experience will be such a memorable and joyful one for the pupils - well done for challenging yourselves!

Lots of Year 10 pupils are attending the RAF trip with Mr Ellis next week, we hope you have a great time. We are a school that believe these experiences will enrich our pupils and provide them with invaluable skills they will utilise for the rest of their lives.

During Mass this Lent, you will notice that the theme of charity is a frequently mentioned in the Gospels. During Lent we are asked to focus more intently on 'almsgiving', donating money or goods to the poor. At Archbishop Ilsley our chosen charity is 'St. Chad's Sanctuary'. As staff, we will also be donating but we ask our pupils if you can to donate any of the following items: Any kind of toiletries, boys/girls clothing, pasta/tinned food, rucksacks/bags, anything is hugely appreciated.

We have three weeks before we break-up for Easter and well deserved break. Pupils in Year 10 have been working exceptionally hard. I have mentioned to pupils that after Easter, GCSE examinations will start to take place and we will start to look at them as our Year 11 cohort. This pleased and terrified some! Over the coming months, please reiterate to your child that they must revisit topics they have studied so far this year and keep revising them.

This week Year 10 assisted Mr Loney with the running of a Primary School physical education competition. Mr Loney said pupils showed great responsibility and work ethic well done to;

Arman K; Reo H; Danny K; Izzie C; Lili G; Ruby C; Malachi R; Mustafa M; Bobby M; Billy Mc-H; Alfie A; Kian F; Isabella B; Gracie C; Camille C; Junior K

Thank you for your continued support

YEAR 11 - MRS BURNHAM

I am immensely proud of my Year 11 pupils; they once again have shown resilience and a fantastic attitude in their approach to the mock exams. All of the invigilators have mentioned that they have been very impressed with the conduct of our pupils during this mock exam period. Results will be shared with pupils next week, please remember that this is an indication of their progress and by no means their final grade. Improvements can be made and all pupils' should be keeping up with their study practice.

Year 11 photos will take place on Monday 4th March during periods 1-3. This will be your final opportunity to purchase photographs of your child at school.

Sixth Form interviews will begin on Tuesday 5th March and will take place over two weeks. A fantastic number of our Year 11 pupils have applied to our Sixth Form. Today they had an Assembly with Mrs Grant where she encouraged them to reflect on their journey so far. Pupils were asked 'Who is God calling you to be? What is your vocation? What is your relationship with God? All pupils were given an interview preparation sheet so that they could arrive at their interview ready to 'let their light shine'. Please help them to prepare by looking at this with them. Interview dates and times will be shared with pupils on Monday.

Finally, there will be a second parents evening on 21st March please look out for the link on email to book appointments with your child's teachers.

Students have come back with a bang after half term. Year 13 are now gearing up to the final push before their external exams begin and Year 12 are focusing on choices, pathways and thinking about their Work Experience. As a Sixth Form community, in this season of Lent, we are also working hard to support our whole school charity, St Chad's Sanctuary and we are also trying to raise funds for the Year 13 Prom. The Senior Student Leaders have organised a wealth of exciting events for this half term, so look out for plenty of pictures on our Twitter page!

In our Pastoral Programme, we are now looking at 'Practice'. This is a really important area to consider. Practice is distinct from effort, it represents what students do with the time they put into their studies. It is not the 'how much' of study but the 'how.' Practice doesn't make perfect but perfect practice makes perfect! Effort alone is not enough to guarantee success and academic progress is as much about how students work, as it is about how long students work for. There will be some of our students that are putting in large amounts of time and effort but not making the progress that they want or need; that is because they are working on the wrong things!

So what are the right things?

1. Content - students will need to master their content by reviewing and consolidating it, checking it and ensuring understanding
2. Skills - students have to put their knowledge into practice in high stakes context like PPEs. They can also do practise exam questions, timed essays, try tough questions and complete mock tests
3. Feedback - students should seek out expert feedback. Feedback that allows them to develop their performance e.g. closing the gap activities, redoing tests, rewriting paragraphs from model paragraphs

Success will come from them developing their skills and knowledge of content - it's not just the what, but the how too!

Attendance and punctuality is also a key indicator of academic success. In order to access their lessons, they must be in Sixth Form. This week we have been discussing the importance of attendance and punctuality - all parents and carers will have received a letter regarding their child's attendance record since September. Please support us by talking to your child about their attendance figure.

The Sixth Form Calendar - Key Dates



- Thursday 7th March - World Book Day
- Friday 8th March - Culture Day and Sixth Form Shared lunch in support of St. Chad's Sanctuary
- Tuesday 12 March - Year 12 DT trip
- Thursday 14th March - Sixth Form Basketball Match
- Friday 15th March - Sixth Form Bingo
- Thursday 11th April 2024 – Sixth Form Parents' Evening
- Friday 14th June - Friday 28th June - Year 12 Cambodia trip
- Monday 1st July - Friday 5th July - Year 12 Work Experience Week
- Monday 8th July - Thursday 11th July - Gold DoFE Practice
- Thursday 18 - Monday 22nd July - Gold DoFE Qualifying

Year 12 Enrichment

On Friday 23rd February, it was a pleasure to welcome Catherine from Warwick University.

Catherine spent an hour with Year 12 telling them all about university life. Students learned about the benefits of going to university, the types of courses on offer, what life is like on campus and in halls and the enrichment opportunities available to them. They also had the opportunity to ask questions and find out more about Warwick University in particular.

There will be much more information to follow regarding post 18 steps, as we gear up to attending the UCAS Conference in June and beginning university and apprenticeship applications.