

THE ABI UPDATE

ISSUE 11 FRIDAY 22ND MARCH 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER - MR CLINTON

Happy Easter to all our pupils, parents, staff, governors and friends of ABI!!

In terms of the liturgical calendar, Easter is the most important time for Catholics. It is the foundation of our faith. As I was saying to my Year 11s this morning, the events that took place at the Last Supper are re-enacted in every single mass across the globe every day. On what we now called Maundy Thursday, Jesus broke the bread and said the sacred words, "Take this, all of you, and eat it, for this is my body, which will be given up for you." On Good Friday, Jesus was put to death and on the third day, Sunday, he rose from the dead and absolved our sins and Christianity was born. These days are called 'The Passion of Christ' and an incredible production of this took place at St Thomas Aquinas Catholic School last night. For the first time, pupils from five Catholic secondary schools joined together and through a combination of music, dance, drama and scripture wowed its audience which contained proud family members, Bishop David, representatives from the Diocese and staff from all five schools. Thank you Ms Jones and well done pupils! This is not the last time the five schools will work together. As well as traveling to Lourdes in France over Easter together, Sixth Formers from the five schools will travel to Cambodia and Nepal in June and July, as part of the Turing Programme.

Archbishop Ilsey has been in the news! Did you see us on Central News last Friday or Midlands Today on Sunday? This was to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the St Patrick's Day Parade that takes place in Digbeth. Archbishop Ilsey has an enviable tradition of being a very active member of the parade. Thanks to the tireless work of the indefatigable Ms Corke and Ms Brady and their army of support from our loyal staff body, our float (the only school to have one) was decked out in green, white and gold and emblazoned with the school name and badge. Thank you to all parents, pupils and students who supported us or came to cheer us on last Sunday.

Finally, we are very proud to be members of the St Teresa of Calcutta Multi Academy Company. I would like to thank the support that CEO Professor Paul Ryan, his Central Team and the all Directors have given our school. You can read our first MAC newsletter called 'Faith in Action' which you should have received with this newsletter or click <https://saintteresaofcalcutta.org.uk/faith-in-action-mac-newsletter-spring-2024/> Happy Easter everyone.

KEY DATES

- Monday 25th March - Friday 5th April - Easter Holiday. School is closed to pupils, students and staff
- Thursday 11th April - Year 12 and 13 Parent Consultation Evening
- Thursday 18th April - Year 8 Parent Consultation Evening
- Friday 26th April - Year 9 DofE Bronze Campcraft training day at Blackwell Adventure until Saturday 27th April
- Wednesday 1st May - Year 8 Aimhigher trip
- Thursday 2nd May - Year 10 Oxford University trip
- Monday 6th May - Bank Holiday - School is closed to pupils, students and staff

CATHOLIC LIFE THE GOSPEL - JOHN 12:20-23

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them: 'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!'

A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours. 'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.' By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

What does this mean for us?

This is a challenging passage. Jesus is telling his followers that he is going to die for them. Understanding why Jesus' death was necessary takes time for Christians. This week is a good time to reflect on this and the need to make sacrifices, the need to atone for what we do wrong and the need to be hopeful that evil can be overcome by good.

This Lent we have focused on supporting two key charities: The Columban Missions and St Chad's Sanctuary. Our Catholic Life reps took part in a workshop and online zoom to Fr Kurt in Myanmar to learn about the education centre he has set up for disadvantaged young people who cannot access education due to poverty. As a result the pupils chose to fundraise with a 'wear your trainers to school day' with pupils bringing in a donation for the education centre.

Our Minnie Vinnie group also took part in the 'Lift the Ban' campaign led by the Columban Missions. They listened to the experiences shared by some Asylum Seekers and then went into Acocks Green to collect signatures which will be presented to our local MP to lift the ban on paid work for Asylum Seekers.

As a whole school, we have collected toiletries, clothes and food for St Chad's Sanctuary. A team of our Catholic Life reps attended a tour of St Chad's Sanctuary and then launched the campaign. The response has been humbling; we have filled two minibuses with donations from pupils and staff. St Chad's Sanctuary led a live assembly with all pupils and students on March 8th and talked about where the first minibus load of donations would be going. Thankyou so much to all the families who have been so generous in your donations. This is Catholic Social Teaching in action!

Deacon Tim, Fr Marco and a host of visiting priests led services of reconciliation with each year group followed by the opportunity to receive the sacrament of confession. 145 pupils and students chose to receive this sacrament! It is so important for us to stop and reflect, so we can grow as human beings. We have also introduced an end of the day prayer during Lent so the pupils end the day by thanking God for their day, their friends and their family.

Finally, on Thursday 21st March, 10 pupils took part in the 'Born For This' production at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School. We joined with pupils and teachers from Bishop Challoner, John Henry Newman, St Peter's and St Thomas Aquinas on this joint performing arts production. Born for This is a moving and powerful depiction of the Stations of the Cross in words, music and drama and therefore provided a variety of opportunities for our pupils with different talents and abilities. Pupils and staff spent the day rehearsing and then performed the show in the evening to a packed audience. It was a very powerful and moving production with so much talent on show. Our pupils were fantastic!

We congratulate the following on their performances: Morgan D, Jayden J, Keon C, Phoebe M, Sam O, Saoirse B, Miwelle A, Lena W, Hermela E and Zakariya H. Well done all; we are incredibly proud of you all! Thank you to Ms Jones for preparing you so well!

WORLD BOOK DAY 2024



This year was another wonderful celebration of reading! Throughout the day all pupils enjoyed the story 'The Veldt' by Ray Bradbury. Parents, pupils have a copy for you to read too!

Best Dressed Y7: Angelo K (7BSH), Fatima K (7BSH) and Naomi M (7LS)

Best Dressed Staff: Miss Brady as Mrs Johnstone, 'Blood Brothers' by Willy Russell

Quiz winners: 11VW

Activity booklet winner: Nathan M (7BS)

A reminder to use your Book Token and tweet #ilsleyreads to be entered into a prize draw!



ST PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

Celebrations began in school on Friday 15th March with staff, pupils and students wearing a splash of green with their uniform. We also had a visit from ITV Central News and featured on the 6pm news that night in a feature about the St Patrick's Day Parade.

The parade itself on Sunday 17th March was a wonderful occasion and we certainly wowed the parade with our fantastic float!

Thank you to all of our staff, students and pupils who came along to celebrate and ride on the float. Particular thanks to Miss Brady and Mrs Corke for their organisation and decoration of the float.



HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

YEAR 7 - MS DOHERTY

What a fast and fun filled half term! Pupil Parliament planned a "marathon" with pupils running 26 laps of the Astro and raising money for charity. The total is yet to be counted, so keep that sponsorship money coming in please Year 7!

We then enjoyed a day out at Woodlands Adventure. Pupils showed their Ilsley SPIRIT values with resilience being at the core of the whole adventure. Just look at our pictures, to see how much fun we had! It was lovely to get to spend time with pupils outside of the school environment. A massive thank you to all the staff who supported this adventure.

Unfortunately due to our outings coinciding with the end of term, our celebration assembly is postponed until the first week back but I look forward to sharing with you the pupils who received awards for this half term.

It was lovely to see so many of you at Parents' Evening; thank you for giving up your time to meet with your child's teachers.

I wish you all a Holy and blessed Easter and look forward to all the summer term brings our ever blossoming Year 7.



HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

YEAR 8 - MR BRUTON

As we journey towards the end of another vibrant term here at school, I am filled with immense gratitude for the collective spirit and achievements of our Year 8 pupils. It is my pleasure, as the Head of Year, to share with you the remarkable progress and acts of kindness that have defined this period.

Reflecting upon our pupils' journey, I am reminded of a piece of scripture that beautifully mirrors the generosity they have shown. Proverbs 11:25 tells us, "A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed." This verse truly encapsulates the spirit with which our pupils have approached their support of St Chad's Sanctuary. Their willingness to give, to share and to support those in need is a testament to their understanding of our faith's call to service and generosity.

Lent, a season of reflection and preparation, has also seen our pupils embrace its significance with sincerity and devotion. It has been heartening to witness them observe this important time in our liturgical calendar, bringing the essence of Lenten sacrifice and mindfulness into the daily life of our school community.

Academically and in extracurricular activities, our pupils have continued to excel and grow. In Food Technology, the creation of stir-fry dishes has not only taught them valuable cooking skills but also the importance of nutrition and cultural appreciation. Meanwhile, in English, their study of "Blood Brothers" has offered deep insights into themes of class, family and fate, enriching their literary understanding and critical thinking abilities.

While we celebrate these achievements and the fantastic overall behaviour of our pupils, it remains important to remind them of the significance of maintaining respectful and kind conduct in public spaces. We encourage you, as parents and carers, to continue engaging in conversations with your children about the impact of their actions on others and the community at large.

It is through these discussions that we reinforce the values we hold dear and prepare our young learners for the world beyond our school gates.

In closing, I extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you for your ongoing support and partnership. Together, we are nurturing a community of learners who are not only academically accomplished but also compassionate and generous in spirit. Let us continue to guide them with love, faith and wisdom.

I would also like to celebrate our award winners for this half term.

Very well done to the following pupils:

Resilience	8AP	Darcey T
Resilience	8AP	Duggie R
Tutee of the Term	8AP	Cairon-James K
Outstanding Contribution to School Life	8AP	Maddie S
Resilience	8CE	Litia S
Resilience	8CE	Jacob W
Tutee of the Term	8CE	Riley D
Outstanding Contribution to School Life	8CE	Paula A
Resilience	8EM	Eleanor C
Resilience	8EM	Michael K
Tutee of the Term	8EM	Mahek S
Outstanding Contribution to School Life	8EM	Morgan D
Resilience	8JR	Emilia M
Resilience	8JR	Abdullah R
Tutee of the Term	8JR	Evie D
Outstanding Contribution to School Life	8JR	Elizabeth O
Resilience	8LB	Frankie-Mai A
Resilience	8LB	Muhammad (Siraj) M
Tutee of the Term	8LB	Sean C
Outstanding Contribution to School Life	8LB	Kacey N
Resilience	8MJ	Zala S
Resilience	8MJ	Emilia Z
Tutee of the Term	8MJ	Evie O'G
Outstanding Contribution to School Life	8MJ	Sarah B
Resilience	8MM	Riley F
Resilience	8MM	Damla K
Tutee of the Term	8MM	Amelia F
Outstanding Contribution to School Life	8MM	Lorelai C
Resilience	8SS	Maksym H
Resilience	8SS	Olivia M
Tutee of the Term	8SS	Tommy K
Outstanding Contribution to School Life	8SS	Oliver E

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

YEAR 9 - MR FRANCIOSO

This term has been short but sweet with so many important things going on.

The English department took some lucky Year 9s to the Globe Theatre in London where they watched a production of Romeo and Juliet. I was told the weather held out and that it was a wonderful performance.

The PE department took some of our budding rugby stars to Touch to Twickenham, a tournament created to get more young people interested in the sport. A huge success.

Year 9 is when Archbishop Ilsley launch the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award led by Dr Regan and his hugely enthusiastic team. With so many pupils taking the opportunity to push and test themselves, it cannot be anything but rewarding.

It was my first celebration assembly and it was such an honour to reward so many pupils that are working so hard to achieve the best they can. Well done Year 9! Have a happy Easter break and we'll go again next term.

YEAR 10 - MISS BRADY

Easter has come around so quickly and Year 10 have had a busy term! Pupils have been on trips to RAF, BCU, sports activities and more. I was delighted to give out some prizes and certificates in our rewards assembly on Thursday to so many pupils who have shown real determination and resilience over this term. Well done to the following who received tutee of the term:

Simran K; Kyrel C; Tomaz N; Julia K; Alfie A; Luca P; Shafi A; Teah W; Logan McG and Toby A

I am delighted to tell you that your child also attended an information assembly regarding the launch of work experience this year. We have been unable to conduct work experience for many years at Archbishop Ilsley, so I am overjoyed that Year 10 will have the opportunity to experience the real working world. I urge pupils to approach companies, have conversations with family, friends and neighbours over the Easter break in order to secure a placement. More news to follow after Easter. Thank you for your ongoing support with pupils. I hope you all have a safe and restful Easter.

YEAR 11 - MRS BURNHAM

Another half term is over in a blink of an eye. We are one step closer to the final exams and preparation is ongoing in coursework and in terms of plans for revision. Session 6 is still available and should be accessed by all pupils to consolidate their knowledge from lessons. We have our final Elevate session booked for 10th April maximising our pupils' opportunities to access vital exam preparation techniques.

As always, we encourage our pupils to have some downtime in between study sessions, I would ask that you reinforce making good choices and stay safe during the holiday.

It has been Rewards Week this week and I have the pleasure in sharing with you some of our outstanding pupils. Well done Drew P, Isabel D, Giovanni E, Degan B, Humayun K, Hamza R, Abiaz K, Abhijeet S, Shauna C and Catalina M.



ST BRENDANS GAA



BIRMINGHAM Est.1958

Free Gaelic Football Taster Session

Saturday 23rd March 1.30-2.30pm
Queensbridge, B13 8NB, Access off Moor Green Lane

Come and Join us for a fun-filled Gaelic football session for boys and girls aged 5-17!!

Please email attendance; stbrendansbirmingham@gmail.com

Brendans GAA Birmingham

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@BrendansGAA



ILSLEY IN PICTURES AT BORN FOR THIS, THE GLOBE THEATRE, RAF COSFORD, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE BIRMINGHAM AND IN PRAYER



Students have accomplished so much this half term both in terms of their academic studies, enrichment and their contributions to the Catholic life of the school. Today, we had the pleasure of rewarding our students for all of these efforts during their rewards assemblies. Please see below for a flavour of this half term in Sixth Form!



Looking forward to next term..

Year 13 begin the countdown to their external examinations. It is imperative that after they take some time out following their effort this half term, that they begin revising in earnest for those all important final examinations. Students received their external examination timetables today.

Year 12 have lots to look forward to when they return after Easter. There will be much more information given regarding their post 18 steps, as we gear up to attending the UCAS Conference in June and beginning university and apprenticeship applications. They also have their Work Experience Week in early July. We encourage all students to actively seek a Work Experience placement which will not only provide a valuable insight into the world of work but will also be a very useful addition to university and job applications.

Finally, on Thursday 11th April we have Year 12 and 13 Parents' Consultation Evening from 4pm-7pm. Subject teachers are very much looking forward to seeing students, parents and carers to discuss your child's progress. Please put the date in your diary. You should have already received your booking link.

The Sixth Form Calendar - Key Dates

- Thursday 11th April 2024 – Sixth form Parents' Evening
- Fri 14th June - Fri 28th June - Year 12 Cambodia
- Monday 1st July - Friday 5th July- Year 12 Work Experience Week
- Monday 24th June - UCAS Preparation Day Year 12
- Tuesday 25th June - UCAS Conference Year 12
- Mon 8th July- Thurs 11th July - Gold DofE Practice
- Thursday 18th July - Monday 22nd July - Gold DofE Qualifying
- Sutton Trust Summer Schools
- Saturday 13th April - parkrun at Oaklands Recreation Ground. All are welcome to come along and support / join in - raising money for students to go to Cambodia and to support the charity itself Future Sense Foundation. Link to our GoFundMe page here : <https://gofund.me/e5cdb7c4>

