



THE ABI UPDATE

ISSUE 12 FRIDAY 19TH APRIL 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER - MR CLINTON

Dear Pupils, Parents and Friends of Archbishop Ilsley

Spring has finally arrived at Archbishop Ilsley. After all the rain and cold weather recently, it is lovely to see the pupils relaxing in the sun at break and lunch. We are blessed to have such great outdoor facilities at Archbishop Ilsley: as well as three separate playgrounds, we have a MUGA and an Astroturf. Whereas we don't have the greatest amount of grass, we make up for that with space!

I hope you have had the opportunity to take a look at our brand new website! www.ilsley.bham.sch.uk gives a much truer reflection of what the school is like today. As well as displaying pictures of current pupils and students, it is also much easier to navigate, particularly if you are viewing it on a phone or tablet. We will continue to update and polish it ready for the new school year. If you have any feedback or think we should add any extra pages, please let us know by emailing us at enquiry@ilsley.bham.sch.uk. This website will also reflect the unity of the St Teresa of Calcutta Multi Academy Company that we are so proud to be part of. All six schools will have the similar interface which will bring synergy and a modern look.

Year 11 and 13 are busy preparing for their exams. They have three weeks left of lessons so should make every lesson count. In terms of revision, here are the 5 tips I would give parents and carers to support their child:

- Design a revision timetable together – make sure they have at least two days off (especially a Friday night!)
- Try and give your child a quiet place to study (perhaps clear the kitchen or dining room table?)
- Encourage your child to leave their mobile phone with you (research says that listening to music whilst studying also hampers revision).
- Revision should be undertaken in 30 minute shifts, so perhaps prepare a reward for them in their 5-minute break.
- Exam timetables were given out recently – is there a prominent place this could be displayed at home?

We wish all our pupils and students the very best of luck. They should speak to their form teacher for any further tips and ask them to speak on their behalf if they need any extra tuition from their teachers.

KEY DATES

- Saturday 27th April - Year 9 DofE Bronze Campcraft training day at Blackwell Adventure
- 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
- Tuesday 7th May - External examinations begin
- Wednesday 22nd May- Friday 24th May - Silver DofE practice expedition (Peak District) Year 10
- Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May - Half Term - School is closed to pupils, students and staff

CATHOLIC LIFE THE GOSPEL - LUKE 24: 25-48

The disciples told their story of what had happened on the road and how they had recognised Jesus at the breaking of bread. They were still talking about all this when Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you!' In a state of alarm and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. But he said, 'Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts? Look at my hands and feet; yes, it is I indeed. Touch me and see for yourselves; a ghost has no flesh and bones as you can see I have.' And as he said this he showed them his hands and feet. Their joy was so great that they still could not believe it, and they stood there dumbfounded; so he said to them, 'Have you anything here to eat?' And they offered him a piece of grilled fish, which he took and ate before their eyes.

Then he told them, 'This is what I meant when I said, while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets and in the Psalms has to be fulfilled.' He then opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, 'So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this.'

What does this mean for us?

The disciples were prone to doubt - even though they had already seen Jesus was risen from the dead.

Jesus reassures them again by sharing a meal with them. Sometimes we can doubt ourselves - this is very common; lots of successful people have said they suffer from 'imposter syndrome' which is where when we doubt our own ability, skills and worry we will be found out to be lacking.

We can help each other and show solidarity by the words we choose and how we respond to others. We can celebrate the good things other people do and encourage others to do good.

CATHOLIC LIFE - CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

This half term we are focusing on the Catholic Social Teaching of solidarity. Assemblies and tutor time sessions have focused on what this word means and what the opposite of solidarity looks like. Please click on the image to see the video shown to our pupils and students.

To live this out, we are focusing on showing solidarity behind the behaviours we all want to see - being kind, being punctual, putting in effort and keeping our environment tidy. Uniform is another way to show solidarity and signify that we are united behind our values. Character cards have been relaunched and focus purely on positives. When pupils have their card completed they should hand it in and they will be put into a weekly prize draw.



St George's Day is Tuesday 23rd April. Staff and pupils are invited to wear a splash of red with their uniform. This can be a red item worn over normal school uniform. We will also allow pupils students to wear an England top if they own one with their uniform.

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

YEAR 7 - MS DOHERTY



It is two weeks since the Easter holidays and already they feel like a distant memory. The last two weeks have followed in the style of the rest of the year and have raced by. I cannot believe Year 7 have started their final term of this year. Year 7 have been working really hard in lessons and it is joy to visit lessons and see them so enthusiastic. This half term we are focusing on the catholic social teaching of solidarity. The pupils can demonstrate this by working together and supporting each other. We have recently had an assembly on the misuse of social media and vandalism in school. Can you please support school and your child's wellbeing by regularly checking their phones.

Last week, we celebrated those who had excelled last half term. Please see pupils below. 7LS took the trophy for best form back from 7DL for best form last half term. The competition starts again for this half term!

Form Group		
7JK	Alissa	Umar
7BSH	Ellie	Lilly
7GJ	Anna	Ghazi
7LS	David	Zachary W
7NZ	Savio	Lilka
7DL	Adam	Ethan R
7MR	Sabah	Meso
7SM	Jakub	Adelle

Tutor Group	Tutee of the term	Resilience	Resilience	Outstanding Achievement / contribution
7BS	Mohammed R	Ellie G	Preston L	Tialee L
7DL	Ali M	Adam Pa	Ellyssia C	Charles S
7GJ	Liam W	Chaysen Lea	Anna K	Sam O
7JK	Zakariya H	Kyra A	Aminata S	Nataniel M
7LS	Maddie L	Aleeza R	Samir M	Naomi M
7MR	Skye C	Daniel P	Mmesomachi O	Daimon W
7NZ	Jessie Xi Z	Tahezja B	Joshua J	Phoebe M
7SM	Elijah R	Alarna C	Archi M	Shristhi K

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

YEAR 8 - MR BRUTON



I am delighted to welcome you and your children back to what promises to be an exciting and rewarding summer term for Year 8 at Archbishop Ilsley Catholic School. Firstly, I want to express my gratitude to all who attended the Parents' Evening. It was encouraging to see such a lovely atmosphere and the fruitful discussions that occurred. Thank you for your engagement and commitment to your children's academic journeys.

As our Catholic Social Teaching this term is focusing on 'Solidarity', I am reminded of a poignant Bible verse, Galatians 6:2, which states, "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ." This message of solidarity is one we hope to embody within our students, emphasising support and kindness toward one another.

This term began with an important assembly led by Senior Leaders and West Midlands Police addressing the responsible use of social media and the consequences of anti-social behaviour. A crucial reminder for us all: if your child's phone is a contract phone registered in your name, you are legally responsible for its use. I urge you to check your child's social media activities and overall smartphone usage. Our collective effort in promoting kindness and responsible behaviour online and in person is vital.

Being 'Ready to Learn' is one of our three school rules. Please ensure your child is properly equipped for lessons with items like black ink pens and pencils. Due to their hard work during the academic year, supplies may need replenishing; a full equipment list is available in their diary. Additionally, punctuality is essential to our school values, respecting the learning environment and maximizing educational experiences by ensuring timely arrival at school and lessons. Please remind your child of the importance of being on time.

At home, I cannot stress enough the importance of reading. Encouraging your child to read for at least 20 minutes each night can significantly enhance their cognitive and emotional well-being. The benefits of reading extend beyond academic success, fostering imagination and empathy. They should have their Accelerated Reading book with them at all times.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the numerous trips and extracurricular activities planned for this term. Highlights include the much-anticipated rewards trip to Drayton Manor organised by Mr Jones. Students are aware of the house points required to qualify for this outing and we encourage you, as parents, to motivate your children to strive for their best in all endeavours as we near the end of the qualifying period.

Should you have any concerns or need further assistance, please remember that your child's tutor is your first point of contact. They are here to support and guide your child through their educational journey. Please remember that, like myself, tutors do have a full teaching timetable therefore we may not be able to get back to you on the same day.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support and cooperation. Together, we can make this term both productive and memorable for our students.

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

YEAR 9 - MR FRANCIOSO



Welcome back and I hope you have had a well deserved fun and restful Easter break. It really shows because what a great start to the summer term year 9 have had. We have received a record number of house points really showcasing all of the positive contributions year 9 make on a daily basis. I have previously mentioned the launch of the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award which is picking up a great head of steam. The pupils have received their fleeces, signed up for their skills and have their first trial expedition at the end of the month. Let's hope for good weather or at least some good waterproofs.

The theme for this term is Solidarity and it is great to see this message getting across to our pupils, working together in unity is something that will not only help within school but prepare them for life beyond Ilsley. To help with the theme of solidarity, you as parents and carers are key participants in your child's successes. Helping them to be prepared for the day with the correct uniform and equipment really sets them up for a successful day. We as teachers really appreciate your continued support and I thank you for this.

YEAR 10 - MISS BRADY



I hope you all had a lovely Easter break. We have been busy in school since we returned. DofE is well and truly underway. We have a large group of Year 10 pupils taking on the challenge of Silver award and we wish them the best of luck.

I have been delighted to hear so many pupils have already secured their work placement for work experience in July. Mr Meredith has sent parents/carers a link on ClassCharts full of useful information but just to recap:

- Work Experience Monday 1st-Friday 5th July
- Pupils should try to find a work placement that is within an area of interest to them.
- Your son/daughter has been provided with a work placement booklet. In this you will find the parental consent form. Please can this be signed and returned to school as soon as possible.
- The booklet also contains a daily diary where pupils reflect on their placement. An employer/pupil/parental review of the placement.
- Pupils can get a template letter from their form tutor which they can hand in to businesses. Alternatively they can visit in person, send an email or contact via phone.

If pupils are struggling to secure a placement please let form tutors, Mr Meredith or myself know; we as a school have some contacts. If pupils do not find a work placement, we will be running a career programme in school. They must either attend their work placement or attend school as normal. We will be visiting pupils whilst on placement during the week, or if a visit is not possible, we will call employers to see how they are getting on. I am personally so happy that pupils are getting the opportunity to experience the world of work.

Pupils are now working towards their Mock Examinations 18th June- 27th June. We expect pupils to be starting their revision at home now, so please encourage conversations around this.

Thank you for your continued support.

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

YEAR 11 - MRS BURNHAM



I am delighted to announce that the Archbishop Ilsley Prom to celebrate the end of Year 11 is on Monday 1st July 2024 at the Hogarths Hotel, Dorridge.

Dress for this special event will be formal and the cost will be £38.00, payable via Parentmail, to include a buffet meal and a disco. Pupils may arrive at Hogarths from 6.00pm when there will be an opportunity to take photographs outside for pupils only.

The event will start at 6:45pm the buffet will open at 7.30pm. The evening will finish at 10.30pm. There will also be an opportunity for pupils to take photos in the photobooth we have booked, which always proves very popular.

Parents/carers will need to arrange for their child's safe journey to and from the venue. If your child would like to attend this occasion, we require the full payment to enable us to confirm the booking. Payment should be made via Parentmail by Monday 10th June 2024. Alcohol will not be available at the venue. In the interests of all those attending, any pupil found to be in the possession of, or under the influence of alcohol will not be admitted to the event. Vaping and smoking are also not permitted. We do not recommend that pupils bring high value items such as cameras to the Prom. If they choose to do so it will be at their own risk.

To ensure the vehicles have space to turn once dropping pupils off and to avoid large numbers crowding around the entrance, the venue asks that parents take photos of their son/daughters before they leave home. There will be an opportunity to take pictures of your child as they arrive, each car takes its turn to drop guests off by the door quick photos can be taken then the procession moves on for the next car to drop off. Please note, there is a bar where pupils can purchase soft drinks and water will be provided. We hope this will not cause any inconvenience and trust that parents will co-operate with the guidelines issued by the venue. We are really looking forward to seeing many of our pupils at what promises to be a memorable evening and that they can complete the year in the traditional, celebratory way.

This week, many Year 11 pupils received their offer letters for our Sixth Form following their interviews. This letter informs our pupils of the next steps towards enrolment. Three very important dates were given in the letter, these being our Year 11 into 12 Transition Days and our Sixth Form Enrolment Day.

- Transition Days take place on Monday 24th June and Tuesday 25th June.
- Sixth Form Enrolment takes place on GCSE Results Day on Thursday 22nd August.

Pupils that have received an offer letter, should return the slip at the bottom of the letter indicating that they and their parents and carers have read and understood the contents of the letter.

All offers given are conditional and based upon pupils securing the required grades as determined by our Sixth Form subject entry criteria. All information regarding our Sixth Form can be found on our website using the following link

<https://www.ilsley.bham.sch.uk/sixth-form/>

It was lovely to welcome our Year 12 and 13 students back last week following the Easter break. Students have arrived back ready to work and looking smart. Thank you for your support with helping your child to maintain our high expectations.

Your support was also evident on Thursday 11th April at our Parent Consultation Evening; we had a packed hall. Subject teachers were able to discuss the progress and attainment of your child and share areas for development and top tips for revision and study. This comes at a crucial time for Year 13 students in particular who will begin external examinations in a matter of weeks. All students have been given copies of their exam timetables. Some Year 12 students will also sit external examinations in Core Mathematics, IT Unit 1 and Unit 3, Criminology Unit 2.

Our Saturday 13th began bright and early last weekend as staff and students met at Oaklands Park in Yardley to join the Parkrun. Our Year 12 students had gained sponsorship as they are raising money to support the travel costs of their Cambodia trip in June.

We all finished the 5k run and more importantly raised lots of money to be split between our students and the charity Future Sense Foundation, whom we support while we are in Cambodia. It was a fantastic Illesley community event and a great show of solidarity. Thank you to all staff and students who ran and to all those that have donated using our Go Fund page. If you are in a position to support us, please use the following link - thank you in advance! <https://gofund.me/e5cdb7c4>



Student Finance, Year 13

On Monday, Year 13 attended an assembly on Student Finance. Student Finance refers to the funding available to students to help pay for university tuition fees and the costs associated. In the UK, the maximum tuition fees that universities can charge to English students is £9,250 per year. Students can also apply for Maintenance Loans towards the cost of living, food, transport and accommodation.

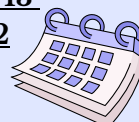
Students need to apply for Student Finance before they start university. Unlike the UCAS application, this is not coordinated through school and students will need to do this independently. The Student Finance application is done online on the government website here: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance>. Information has been sent to parents/carers via ClassCharts. Please also see the links below for further information and advice:

Useful links:

- <https://youtu.be/stvFdN5m3sE>
- <https://youtu.be/-lLOj-MFglw>
- <https://www.thescholarshipclub.org.uk/complete-guide-cost-of-university-parents/>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/student-loans-a-guide-to-terms-and-conditions/student-loans-a-guide-to-terms-and-conditions-2024-to-2025>
- <https://www.ucas.com/connect/blogs/top-ten-student-money-tips>

The Sixth Form Calendar - Key Dates

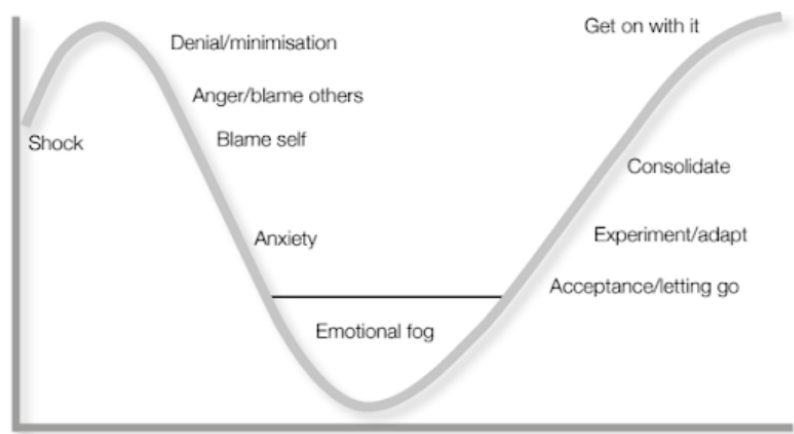
- Monday 13th May - external examinations begin for Year 13
- Week beginning Monday 20th May and 3th June - Year 12 assessment weeks and assessment 2 report issued
- Friday 14th June - Friday 28th June - Year 12 Cambodia
- Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th June - Year 11 into 12 Transition Days
- Monday 24th June - UCAS Preparation Day Year 12
- Tuesday 25th June - UCAS Conference Year 12
- Monday 1st July - Friday 5th July- Year 12 Work Experience Week
- Sunday 7th July - Thursday 11th July - Gold DofE practise, Year 13
- Thursday 4th July - Year 13 Prom
- Thursday 18th July - Monday 22nd July - Gold DofE qualifying, Year 13
- July - Sutton Trust Summer Schools. Dates to be confirmed



This half term in their pastoral programme, students will be focusing on 'Attitude' which means their learning behaviours and mindset. There are 7 'Attitude' sessions that tutors will deliver over the course of this half term beginning with a session about the 'Change Curve.'

The Change Curve is based on a model originally developed in the 1960s by psychologist Elisabeth Kübler-Ross to explain the phases people go through during the grieving process. Today, the curve is used to help people understand their reactions to significant change in their lives. Starting A level studies is a significant change in any student's life and, like any change, it's likely that students will experience some of the following feelings:

- Rejection: 'I don't believe what you're telling me about A level study. It doesn't seem any different. I'll carry on as normal.'
- Denial/minimisation: 'I'm fine. It'll be alright. Stop hassling me about how different it is.'
- Anger: 'I actually hate this. This is rubbish. The subjects are nothing like they said they would be. I wish I'd never started or gone to that other college.'
- Blame self: 'It turns out I'm just not clever enough to do this.'
- Anxiety: 'Everyone else is better than me. I'm missing deadlines. I'm not sleeping well. I don't understand the work. I'm not enjoying this challenge at all. I'm scared I'll fail.'
- Emotional fog: Withdrawing effort. Giving up.
- Acceptance/letting go: 'Things are different now. It's hard, but I'm getting to grips with it.'
- Experiment/consolidate/get on with it: 'I'm getting better at this. My grades aren't great but they're improving. There are some parts of these courses I like.'



Students have been encouraged to talk about how they have felt during their studies and reassured and reminded of the following:

1. Everyone goes through these feelings. They should acknowledge and accept them.
2. Some students go faster than others, but for most people it takes until the spring to get through the fog.
3. Wherever they are on the curve, they should keep their eyes on the next stage. They will get there!

Work Experience - Monday 1st July - Friday 5th July

This is a really important part of our Year 12 journey. Students are encouraged to seek a work placement that is within an area of interest to them. All students have received a work placement booklet. In this you will find the parental consent form. Please can this be signed and returned to school as soon as possible. The booklet also contains a daily diary where pupils reflect on their placement. An employer/student/parental review of the placement. Please encourage your child to actively seek a work experience placement. Tutors have discussed email etiquette. Students can also visit in person, or contact potential placements via phone. Work Experience placements are viewed highly by universities, apprenticeships and potential employers.

Year 12 Mock Examinations

Year 12 students will sit their second set of Mock examinations on the week beginning Monday 20th May and week beginning 3th June. Following these assessment weeks, their Academic Report 2 will be issued. It is very important that students revise and work hard for these examinations. In our tutor time programme we have focused on 4 key study strategies:

- The Cornell Notes Method
- Flashcards
- Mind-mapping
- Graphic Organisers

Please ask your child about their revision habits and encourage them to work without their mobile phones which often act as a distraction.