



THE ABI UPDATE

ISSUE 14 FRIDAY 24TH MAY 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER - MR CLINTON

Dear parents, carers and friends of Archbishop Illesley,

Today has been a very emotional day today for us at Archbishop Illesley. Today was the day we had to bid farewell to our lovely Year 11 and Year 13. We are hopeful that the majority of Year 11 will return to our flourishing Sixth Form. They can enrol on Results Day on Thursday 22nd August. We wish Year 13 all the best at university, the world of work or their degree apprenticeships.

Their final day was marked with a beautiful celebration mass at the ornate Holy Souls Church. It is fitting that they were welcomed to the school with a welcome mass back in 2017 or 2019. Thank you to Father Marco and Deacons Martin and Tim for celebrating mass with us.

Thank you also to our form teachers, pastoral staff, Mrs Burnham, Mr McDonald, Mrs Grant, Mrs McMahon and Mrs O'Neill for all the expertise and support they have given to Year 11 and Year 13 respectively.

I will finish with a line from Sunday's gospel, the same line I ended my speech to congregation in church today. The gospel ends with Jesus saying to us all, "Go and make disciples of all nations. Know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time."

Year 11 and Year 13 - well done and congratulations.

Enjoy the half term break and we look forward to welcoming our pupils and students back to school on Monday 3rd June.

Mr Clinton

KEY DATES

- 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
- Tuesday 11th June - British Motor Museum trip, Year 10
- Friday 14th June - Friday 28th June - Year 12 Cambodia trip
- Wednesday 19th, Thursday 20th, Friday 21st June - Carding Mill trips Year 8
- Friday 21st June - Big Bang Fair, Year 7
- Monday 24th June - UCAS Preparation Day Year 12. Year 11 into 12 Transition Day
- Tuesday 25th June - UCAS Conference at the NEC, Year 12. Year 11 into 12 Transition Day
- Wednesday 26th - Friday 28th June - Dorset Residential Year 9

CATHOLIC LIFE: THE GOSPEL - JOHN 15:26-27

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Advocate comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who issues from the Father, he will be my witness. And you too will be witnesses, because you have been with me from the outset.

'I still have many things to say to you but they would be too much for you now. But when the Spirit of truth comes he will lead you to the complete truth, since he will not be speaking as from himself but will say only what he has learnt; and he will tell you of the things to come. He will glorify me, since all he tells you will be taken from what is mine. Everything the Father has is mine; that is why I said: All he tells you will be taken from what is mine.'



What does this mean for us?

In this passage, Jesus talks about the Holy Spirit and being a Witness. Catholics believe the Holy Spirit inspires us to do and say what is good; God working through us. At Pentecost, the Apostles went out into the world and preached the Gospel. They preached what they had learned from Jesus and they encouraged others to live out these teachings. This required them to be brave.

How can we bravely encourage others to do good today?

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING IN ACTION

This term we have been focusing on the Catholic Social Teaching of Solidarity. On the feast of the Ascension our team of Catholic Life reps from Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 went to mass at Holy Souls Church along with Holy Souls Primary School. We offered up our Mass for Catholics who are unable to attend mass due to persecution. This was an initiative to support Aid to the Church in Need.

Today, we held a non uniform day in support of our Year 12 Global Links students. 14 students in Year 12, will travel to Cambodia next month to support the FutureSense Foundation which aims to tackle inequality around the world by addressing the UN sustainable development goals. You can learn about the goals by watching this video <https://youtu.be/RpqVmvMCmp0> or by visiting this website: <https://futuresensefoundation.org/>

Year 11s attending our Sixth Form in September will also have the opportunity to do something similar. To find out more information about the company they are travelling, please click on this link <https://challengesabroad.co.uk/>

Well done to all of our pupils, staff and students who supported today and donated £1 and a huge thank you to Mr Botwright and our Year 12 students for organising this.

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

YEAR 7 - MS. DOHERTY

As we get to the end of our penultimate half term I continue to be awed by Year 7's work ethic and attitude to learning. After half term, they will have their end of year assessments and I'm sure they will perform to the very best of their abilities. I wish Year 7 a very restful half term and look forward to seeing them refreshed for our final half term. As we watch Year 11 taking their GCSEs I can't help but reflect on their time here and how not long ago they were in Year 7; the time has gone so fast! I urge Year 7 to keep making the most of all the learning opportunities available to them both in and outside the classroom. With the evenings staying lighter, it may be now more appealing for them to join an after school club for the last 7 weeks of the year.



Keep up the good work year 7 and enjoy your break!

YEAR 9 - MR FRANCIOSO

It doesn't seem like it was only 2 weeks ago I was writing to you. Here are a few important updates as we move forward to our last half term.

Firstly, despite the warmer weather, our school uniform policy has not changed. I ask all parents and carers to ensure their children are dressed appropriately, adhering to the guidelines, especially regarding correct footwear. Maintaining this standard is vital for keeping our environment disciplined and conducive to learning.

We recently held an assembly that reiterated our core school standards: Be Ready, Be Safe, Be Respectful and Kind. These principles are the pillars of our community at Archbishop Ilsley and it is essential that they are upheld not only in school but in the community and at home. Responsibility was another key message delivered. We all have a responsibility to do the right thing, in lesson, in social times and in the wider community. Reinforcing these values will help ensure that our pupils not only excel academically but also grow into considerate and responsible individuals.

In the last half term there will be a lot of activities going on for Year 9. The rewards trip, aimed to reward those pupils who are consistently doing the right things. The Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award expedition taking place over a hopefully dry weekend in July. Then, there's Enterprise Day where pupils complete their eco home project in design and technology while also taking the opportunity to learn about new and possible more familiar jobs or future learning opportunities.

Finally, I hope you have a very restful and enjoyable half term and thank you all for your continued support and cooperation.



HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

YEAR 10 - MISS BRADY



Year 10 have had a fantastic half term. There has been lots going on since Easter! Some lucky pupils visited Oxford University to find out what University life is like. The Silver DofE expedition has taken place this week and I have heard from Dr Regan that pupils are doing wonderfully even against the horrid weather; they are digging deep and working on their resilience. Some Year 10s have been informed that their work will be published in a book as part of a young writers' competition. Well done to Tia W, Malachi R, Alex N and thank you to Miss Moore. So many Year 10 pupils have finalised their placement for work experience happening the 1st-5th July. Please keep encouraging them to contact companies if they have not yet secured a placement.

We also had our rewards assembly with the following all receiving a certificate for their work ethic and contribution to our school community.

Jakub W, Harjas B, Kian F, Simran K, Reen Mc, Kyrel C, Rimsha A, Ruth Z, Ruo Xin C, Musa K, Evie C, Aleena A, Umar A, Camille C, Nathan Mc, Jack L, Jack B, Alex M, Natalia M, Ezra T, Charlie B, Mikey O'C, Ayan W, August W, Shafi A, Isabella B, Harvey S, Kiki O, Muhammad Z, Teah W, Junior K, Raaina Z, Tyrone M, Evie F, Haydar A, Lily H, Stuart B, Ciara D, Toby A, Olivia T.

My Head of Year award this term went to someone who has shown maturity and real progression across various subjects this term; Ameliah T, well done!

Over the half term it is imperative that pupils revise for the upcoming Mock examinations which start with MFL 11th-13th June. Then all other subjects the following week from Tuesday 18th June. This is a great opportunity for us as teachers to assess your child's understanding and knowledge of the subject. Mock exams allow us to provide specific feedback to your child in order for them to improve. Therefore, it is vital that pupils treat these examinations seriously. We would appreciate you having conversations at home and helping with revision where possible.

I hope you have a restful and peaceful half term. We look forward to welcoming pupils back on Monday 3rd June for their final 7 weeks of the year! Thank you for your support.

KEISHA HAS THE RIGHT IDEA!

Congratulations to Keisha in Year 8 for her remarkable achievement! Not only has she completed her Bronze iDEA Award, but she has also become the first pupil to complete her Silver iDEA Award earning herself a £10 gift voucher.

Keisha's dedication, hard work, and passion for digital skills are truly inspiring. We are incredibly proud of her accomplishments and look forward to seeing her continue to excel in all her future endeavours.

Well done, Keisha!



HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

YEAR 8 - MR BRUTON



As we approach the end of this half term, I am pleased to report that the weather has improved significantly, bringing a sense of renewal and anticipation for the summer months ahead. With the warmer days, our summer uniform policy is now in effect. While this allows for lighter clothing, I want to remind everyone that maintaining high uniform standards remains crucial. Please ensure that pupils adhere to the uniform guidelines, presenting themselves with pride and respect.

Our Catholic social teaching theme for this term is solidarity. This concept, rooted in our faith, calls us to stand together in support and compassion for one another. As 1 Corinthians 12:26 states, "If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honoured, every part rejoices with it." This biblical passage beautifully captures the essence of solidarity, emphasising our interconnectedness and mutual responsibility.

This theme was vividly brought to life during our recent trip to see "The Boy at the Back of the Class." The play's powerful messages about empathy, friendship, and the refugee experience resonated deeply with our Year 8 pupils. Their behaviour on the trip was exemplary and they demonstrated a profound understanding of the play's themes, showing solidarity with the characters and the real-life issues they represent. It was heartening to see our pupils embodying the values we strive to instil in them.

As we look ahead, I want to remind you of the importance of being well-prepared for the upcoming AFPOL tests. Ensuring that pupils have the correct equipment is essential for their success. Teachers will be providing revision resources via Google Classroom and for homework. Additionally, parents and carers will receive information on all tests shortly. Please take a moment to check that your child is equipped with all necessary materials for their lessons.

With the rising temperatures, it's crucial for pupils to stay hydrated throughout the day. Please remind your child to bring a water bottle to school. However, I must stress that water fights are not permitted on school premises, as they can lead to disruptions and accidents.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to all parents and carers for engaging in meaningful conversations with your children about antisocial behaviour and the responsible use of social media. These discussions are vital in helping our pupils navigate these challenges. I encourage you to continue these conversations at home, reinforcing positive behaviour and digital citizenship.

Thank you for your unwavering support and partnership in your child's education. Your involvement is invaluable and together, we can continue to nurture and guide our young people towards a bright and responsible future.

Yesterday pupils had there rewards assembly the winners were as follows:

Solidarity	8AP	Filip K
Solidarity	8AP	Alicja G
Tutee of the Term	8AP	Tayla A
Outstanding Contribution to School Life	8AP	Karolina P
Solidarity	8CE	Litia S
Solidarity	8CE	Nicola D
Tutee of the Term	8CE	Marcus R
Outstanding Contribution to School Life	8CE	Paula A
Solidarity	8EM	Sanaa B
Solidarity	8EM	Mahek S
Tutee of the Term	8EM	Summer R
Outstanding Contribution to School Life	8EM	Jakub P
Solidarity	8JR	Ksawier T
Solidarity	8JR	Kai R
Tutee of the Term	8JR	Evie D
Outstanding Contribution to School Life	8JR	Emilia M
Solidarity	8LB	Shae O' C

Solidarity	8LB	Zuzanna K
Tutee of the Term	8LB	Teagan F
Outstanding Contribution to School Life	8LB	Julia N
Solidarity	8MJ	Isaac E
Solidarity	8MJ	Zala S
Tutee of the Term	8MJ	Evie O'G
Outstanding Contribution to School Life	8MJ	Dilraj S
Solidarity	8MM	Riley F
Solidarity	8MM	Amelia F
Tutee of the Term	8MM	Lorelai C
Outstanding Contribution to School Life	8MM	Nicolas Z
Solidarity	8SS	James K
Solidarity	8SS	Mikhail H
Tutee of the Term	8SS	Rittika D
Outstanding Contribution to School Life	8SS	Saoirse B

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

YEAR 11 - MRS BURNHAM



Today marks our Year 11's final school day at Archbishop Ilsley. After the half term break, Year 11 will only be expected to come into school to complete their exams and any booster sessions. Even though pupils are not at school, we still actively encourage pupils to follow a revision plan/timetable.

It's been an emotional last two days with the pupils signing shirts, walking through the guard of honour from younger years exiting school. Then finally, a wonderful poignant Leavers' Mass and Celebration Assembly. It has been an honour to be Head of Year 11, I can say hand on my heart, that the pupils have made me proud everyday. They have developed and matured into fine young adults who have the world at their feet.

By June 21st, all exams for Year 11 will have been completed; they can rest and prepare for the school celebration of the Prom on July 1st 2024 at Hogarth's Hotel, Dorridge. Arriving from 6:15pm, the event finishes at 10:30pm. Please make sure you have made arrangements for the collection of your child.

If your child has received an offer letter from our Sixth Form, they will attend the Year 11 into 12 Masterclass Days on Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th June. Attendance at these days is vital; pupils will meet the Sixth Form team, experience subject masterclasses in the subjects that they hope to take in Year 12 and they will hear all about our Enrichment Programme including our fantastic trip to Cambodia, which will also run next year.

August 22nd 2024 is results day, all pupils can collect their results from the Main Hall from 9am. If your child is unable to do this they must speak to Mr McDonald to arrange access to their results. It is also Enrolment Day for Archbishop Ilsley Sixth Form. It is important that pupils do this in person, as any changes can be discussed and negotiated far easier face to face than over the phone. Please ensure that your child has returned their offer slip to Mrs O'Neill or Mrs Grant in the Sixth Form.

EXAM UPDATE

We have been incredibly proud of how our Year 11 pupils have approached their exams. They have done so with professionalism and commitment. This link takes you to the letter we sent you a few weeks ago.

<https://www.ilsley.bham.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Letter-to-Parents-for-GCSE-exams-April-2024-Final.pdf>

It outlines the dates of the exams after half-term along with the boosters. Please encourage your child to revise for their final exams and can we take this opportunity to thank you for your support.

IN OTHER NEWS...

GOLD DofE AWARD CEREMONY

On Monday 13th May, some of our ex-students attended a ceremony at Buckingham Palace, London for their Gold DofE award. The ex-students were from two different cohorts:

2021 expedition: Hannah G; Ola B; Paulina L; Angel B; Mikaeel H

2022 expedition: Leo M; Carol L; Shaun T; Joshua J

We thank Dr Regan and Mrs Lloyd for their huge contribution to their achievements. Thanks also go to Ms Evans, Mr Brown and Ms Duffy, who all helped on the expeditions and to Mr Anthony and Ms Ruprai who verified all their awards.

All the recipients were thrilled to receive their award and visit the beautiful grounds of Buckingham Palace.



YEAR 8 THEATRE TRIP - ENGLISH DEPARTMENT



On the 15th May 2024, Archbishop Ilsley, pupils in Year 8, went to the Belgrade Theatre and watched 'The Boy at the Back of the Classroom.' This was organised by Mr Rees, one of the best English teachers. Year 8 enjoyed this show and we will be looking forward to seeing more thrilling shows at The Belgrade Theatre.

-Yumiko S, Year 8 pupil

SINGLE LUNCH TRIAL

After half term, we will trial moving to a single lunch time. Now that Year 11 and 13 are in their exams we do not need a split lunch. This will mean the Astro, MUGA and gym will all be available for extra curricular clubs. It will also mean that lessons are not disturbed while half the school are out on lunch break. The canteen will be selling the cold lunch option at break time so pupils and students can avoid queuing up twice and buy their lunch at break time. We are also in the process of setting up a snack hut that will offer a selection of snacks at break and lunch. This is aimed to reduce queues so pupils and students can enjoy their lunch time.



IN OTHER NEWS...

YOUNG ENTERPRISE CLUB SHINES AT WEST MIDLANDS FINALS

On Wednesday, 22nd May, the Year 12 pupils of our Young Enterprise Club competed in the West Midlands Finals at Warwick University. Their company, aptly named Fun E Games, captivated the judges with their innovative business concept, which involved running E-sports tournaments, selling rubber chickens, and creating Top Trump cards to promote cyber security. The aim of their business was to help younger students stay safe online in a fun and interactive way.

Having previously triumphed at the Birmingham finals, the team moved on to the Midlands finals, where they faced stiff competition from other regional winners. The competition format was rigorous: students were interviewed by industry professionals from Coventry City Football Club, Alstom, NatWest, and Severn Trent Water. They had to set up a trade stall to showcase their business and finally delivered a four-minute presentation to an audience of a hundred people.

Our boys performed exceptionally well and were awarded the Best in Technology award. The standard of the competition was incredibly high, and the winning team is likely to appear on Dragons' Den in the coming months. As their teacher, I was immensely proud to see them represent themselves and our school with such confidence and knowledge. Their journey in business has impressed many, leading to exciting opportunities like a day's work experience with Lyreco and an invitation to the Young Enterprise annual meeting at HSBC headquarters in Birmingham.

A huge congratulations go to George G, Francesco B, Nabin H, Khalid I, Victor M and Yu Z. As the Head of Faculty, this was my last trip at Archies, and I could not have wished for a better way to conclude my tenure. These students have a bright future ahead of them, and I am confident they will continue to achieve great things.

MR SMITH'S GOODBYE MESSAGE

As I bid farewell after 16 wonderful years as a teacher and Head of Faculty, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the entire school community for your unwavering support. Teaching here has been an incredible journey, filled with countless memories and experiences that I will cherish forever. Our pupils and students are truly exceptional, brimming with potential and kindness, making every day a joy and an inspiration. I am immensely proud of the dedicated and talented teachers I have had the privilege to work alongside; their passion and commitment to education are unparalleled. Thank you all for making my time here so memorable and rewarding. God bless you all.



We had a wonderful afternoon celebrating our fabulous Year 13 students who leave us today; many of our Year 13s have been with us since Year 7 and so it was a very momentous occasion! A beautiful mass of thanksgiving was celebrated by Father Marco, followed by food and speeches in our Sixth Form Common Room.

We are all extremely proud of our Year 13 students who have grown into kind, compassionate, hard working young adults. We are very sorry to see them leave and wish them every success in their examinations and in their future endeavours. Although, from Monday 3rd June, students are on Study Leave, some teachers may invite students in for additional booster sessions. This will be communicated via ClassCharts and Google Classroom. We urge all students to continue their revision at home and remember the strategies and top tips that have been shared by their teachers. Teachers will have provided revision materials and much of this will have been posted on Google Classroom.

Next to look forward to, is the Year 13 Celebration Dinner on Thursday 4th July at The Village Hotel, Shirley, Solihull. Students should arrive for 7.00pm. They will enjoy a two course meal, final leaving speeches, awards and dancing!

Year 12 and 13 Enrichment - Football Match

It was another extremely exciting match on Thursday 23rd May as Year 12 and Year 13 played another football match. All students thoroughly enjoyed themselves; it was a tight game with the final score being a victory to the non bibs! Alex M, Man of the Match scoring a majestic 5 goals! A big thankyou to our Year 12s, Liam N, Yhu Z, Francesco B and Oliver B for organising the teams and to all those students who paid to play and paid to spectate. It was fantastic to witness their sportsmanship and genuine enjoyment. Thank you also to the staff who supported and in particular to Mr McMahon and Mr Rees for being our referees! Thanks also to Grace C, Millie F, Orlaigh F for their support in promoting our Bonus Ball competition to raise funds for our Year 13 Prom.



The Sixth Form Calendar - Key Dates

- Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May - Half Term. School is closed to students and teachers
- Monday 3rd June - Year 12 Mock Exams begin
- Friday 14th June - Friday 28th June - Year 12 Cambodia trip
- 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

Mock Exams

A number of Year 12 students have already sat exams for Criminology, IT and Core Maths. All Year 12 students will sit Mock Exams beginning on Monday 3rd June. It is very important that students demonstrate the progress that they have made. These exams are the gateway for entrance into Year 13 so it is imperative that students revise thoroughly in order to achieve success. Please ask your child about their revision timetable and exam schedule.

Once again this week we were able to celebrate our fantastic Year 12 and 13 students. We rewarded our Tutor Time Mini Heroes and our Attitude winners. As part of our VESPAR tutor time programme, we have focused on 'Attitude.' For us, Attitude is a word that is an umbrella term which covers many elements. When we talk about attitude we mean: a student's process of learning – their mindset; their buoyancy and positivity; their response to challenge or difficulty and their resilience and 'grit.' A student with a great Sixth Form attitude demonstrates this mindset in their studies. Please see below our Term 5 winners! Well done to all of you.

Subject	Year 12 Name	Year 13 name
English Lit	Ruby W	Courtney W Orla Mc
Mathematics	Victor M	Megan H
Biology	Alex W	Dyuthi D
IT	Francesco B; Mohammed R	Madalina C
Media Studies	Mollie Weston	Larissa Archibald
Sociology	Orlaith F	Annie C
Chemistry	Jaafar A	Rian S
Criminology	Billie W	
History	Finlay W	Annie C
HSC	Demi H	Sandra
Business	Mohammed K	Aiden B
Geography	Isaac R	Meah T
Physics	Jessica W	Ezra S
Politics	Kenzie T	Grace T
Theology	Liam N	Courtney W
PE	Millie F	Megan H
Psychology	Joan O	Ella C
Product Design	Ruby W	Tinesha T
French		Ellie N
Spanish		Daniel C
Art		Ana G
Core Maths	Mohammed R	

Mini Heroes		
Tutor Group	Name	Reason
12TC	Finlay W	For 100% consistency in all aspects of Sixth Form life!
12WT	Leonard T	for being so helpful in form time and bringing a positive attitude to the room.
12BR	Mehapreet P	Sorting WX under own initiative!
12BO	Millie F	Always helping out others and brings a smile to the room!
13NR	Daniel C	DC - what can I say - he's a bit of a comic!
13KJ	Kirsty G	An absolute star - always positive, reliable, helpful and thoughtful with a smile on her face.



Term 5 100% Attendance winners:
Year 12 - Kenzie T
Year 13 - Nathan T

Sixth Form Expectations

A reminder about our expectations for KS5 students.

- We expect students to attend Sixth Form every day. Students should aim for at least 97% attendance
- The Sixth Form day begins at 8.40am. Students must beep in using Inventory and sign in in the Common Room.
- Students must attend tutor time each morning where they engage in their pastoral programme and receive important notices for the day/week ahead
- If students are late in the morning, they should attend a 30min same day consequence on the Common Room
- Students are expected to remain in Sixth Form until the end of the day - 3.15pm. Students are permitted to leave for lunch at 1.40pm but must beep in and out using Inventory. A register is taken for all students at the beginning of period 5
- Those students that have attendance at 97% and above and are making excellent progress in their subjects can apply for a 'Relaxed Reg' once a week.
- Student must wear their yellow lanyards at all times
- Students should adhere to our dress code - smart business dress. No trainers
- Friday is 'Dress Down Friday'. Students pay £1 to wear more casual clothing. Student are reminded that this should be appropriate. No crops tops, shorts or vest tops. Clothing should not be overly tight or revealing

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

A reminder about Work Experience. 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 and are receiving weekly reminders. Please ask your child about their progress in finding a placement. Students are being supported by their tutors but must be seeking a placement independently. Work Experience placements are viewed highly by universities, apprenticeships and potential employers. It is an important part of their Year 12 journey.