

THE ABI UPDATE

ISSUE 15 FRIDAY 14TH JUNE 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER - MR CLINTON

Dear Pupils, Parents and Friends of Archbishop Ilsley
By the time you read this, 14 Year 12s will be 20,000 feet somewhere over mainland Europe on their way to Cambodia! This is part of Archbishop Ilsley's Global Citizenship enrichment programme. Their role will be to work with local children and promote the UN's sustainable goals. They will be working in a place called Battambang, which is close to the Thai border and featured in the BBC's 'Race Across the World.' We are so proud of them all and this is the culmination of a year long commitment in terms of attending extra curricular classes but also fundraising. We wish Ms Evans, Mr Botwright and all the students the very best of luck. The parish of Holy Souls will be praying for your success.

Talking of Holy Souls, it was a pleasure to attend the Church to celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pupils were told by Father Marco that Jesus' love for us is eternal and although we may all make mistakes, his capacity for forgiveness is infinite and he wants all of us to use our unique God-given talents and is encouraging us to 'let our light shine'. Mr Foley also encouraged pupils to think of Catholics who cannot attend mass due to persecution. This was part of the 'Church in Need' initiative. Pupils were reverent and respectful throughout and it was particularly pleasing to see some many taking leadership roles with serving, reading and singing. Thank you all!

Finally, many of Year 11 will finish their GCSE exams today. Although some still have the Product Design exam on Tuesday, for many, this afternoon's Physics exam was their final test. Year 13s exams will soon finish too. May I commend all candidates for their exemplary conduct and attitude and we look forward to some excellent results in August. Year 11 will have the opportunity to attend their Year 11 -12 Transition Days on June 24th and 25th and enrol for Sixth Form on 22nd August. In a years' time, maybe they too will find themselves heading over to South East Asia!

Enjoy your weekend, Mr Clinton

KEY DATES

- 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
- Thursday 27th June - STEM Day; Jess Phillips Yardley Debate (Year 12 and, Pupil Parliament)
- Friday 28th June - Drayton Manor Reward Trip
- Monday 1st July - Year 10/12 Work Experience until Friday 5th July; Year 11 Prom at Hogarth's
- Monday 1st July INSET Day - school closed to students and pupils

SCHOOL YEAR 2024 TO 2025

Autumn Term 2024

Term begins: Wednesday 4th September 2024

Half-term: Monday 28th October 2024 to Friday 1st November 2024

Term ends: Friday 20th December 2024

In service training days - INSET DAYS (School closed to pupils and students)

Spring Term 2025

Term begins: Monday 6th January 2025

Half-term: Monday 17th February 2025 to Friday 21st February 2025

Term ends: Friday 11th April 2025

Monday 2nd September 2024

Tuesday 3rd September

Monday 30th September 2024

Monday 2nd December 2024

Monday 21st July 2025

Summer Term 2025

Term begins: Monday 28th April 2025

Half-term: Monday 26th May 2025 to Friday 30th May 2025

Term ends: Friday 18th July 2025

St Teresa of Calcutta Multi

Academy INSET Day

Friday 14th February 2025

CATHOLIC LIFE: THE GOSPEL - MARK 3:20-35

Jesus went home with his disciples, and such a crowd collected that they could not even have a meal. When his relatives heard of this, they set out to take charge of him, convinced he was out of his mind.

The scribes who had come down from Jerusalem were saying, 'Beelzebul is in him' and, 'It is through the prince of devils that he casts devils out.' So he called them to him and spoke to them in parables, 'How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot last. And if a household is divided against itself, that household can never stand. Now if Satan has rebelled against himself and is divided, he cannot stand either – it is the end of him. But no one can make his way into a strong man's house and burgle his property unless he has tied up the strong man first. Only then can he burgle his house.

'I tell you solemnly, all men's sins will be forgiven, and all their blasphemies; but let anyone blaspheme against the Holy Spirit and he will never have forgiveness: he is guilty of an eternal sin.' This was because they were saying, 'An unclean spirit is in him.'

His mother and brothers now arrived and, standing outside, sent in a message asking for him. A crowd was sitting round him at the time the message was passed to him, 'Your mother and brothers and sisters are outside asking for you.' He replied, 'Who are my mother and my brothers?' And looking round at those sitting in a circle about him, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers. Anyone who does the will of God, that person is my brother and sister and mother.'

What does this mean for us?

This passage describes a chaotic scene; a large crowd surrounding Jesus. Some of the crowd are out to verbally attack Jesus and insult him in front of others.

Unfortunately we see similar scenes in our community. We see scenes of unrest on the news and in newspapers and hear about people who feel unsafe.

Large crowds can be intimidating and make our most vulnerable members feel very anxious. In tutor time this week, we have thought carefully about our own school environment. Caring for our environment isn't just about plants and animals. It is about doing our bit so that our school is a peaceful and safe space for all. Ask your child about some of their ideas about how we can all work together to be safe in school.

SUBJECT UPDATES

As we enter our final half term of this academic year, please see below for an update regarding what pupils and students are studying in their subjects.

MATHEMATICS

Years 7, 8 and 9 have recently completed their End of Year assessments testing the material covered since

September. Pupils will continue to finish the remaining topics in each of the schemes of work. The next topics to be studied from the dedicated textbooks are as follows:

Year 7 (MyMaths Year 1 Textbook)

Chapter 9 - 'Transformations and symmetry'

Chapter 12 - 'Constructions and 3D shapes'

Chapter 16 - 'Probability'

Year 8 (MyMaths Year 2 Textbook – builds on the Year 1 course from Year 7)

Chapter 13 - Sequences (Algebra)

Chapter 14 - 3D shapes (Geometry and measures)

Chapter 15 - Ratio and proportion (Ratio and proportion)

Chapter 16 - Probability (Statistics and probability)

Year 9 (AQA GCSE Maths Textbook)

Year 9 are studying the specification for their GCSE. Classes are now consolidating understanding of the topics taught so far and 'closing the gap' on topics identified as areas of weakness from the recent assessment.

Year 10 (AQA GCSE Maths Textbook)

Year 10 are preparing for their mock assessment on the 19th June. Revision assignments have been posted on MathsWatch to help pupils prepare. Each question has an associated video that pupils can watch. They can also approach their teacher for additional help outside of lesson time.

Extracurricular:

- Maths Club continues every Tuesday after school. Pupils can get help with homework and/or play maths games and take part in maths challenges.
- Chess Club continues to grow. Pupils have been entering online national competitions fortnightly and performing more than respectably.
- National Junior Maths Competition: A few weeks ago, 100 Year 7 and Year 8 pupils took part in the UK
- Maths Trust Junior Maths Challenge. This is a prestigious national competition, so well done to all who participated!
- Congratulations to the 17 pupils who won Bronze, 9 who won Silver and to Jakub, Lorelai and Humza who all won Gold certificates - a superb achievement.
- Times Tables Rock Stars: Please encourage your Year 7 and Year 8 children to engage with the TTRS app. It has helped many pupils to improve their times tables knowledge.

SUBJECT UPDATES

SCIENCE

A group of Year 7 scientists will be discovering exciting possibilities and connecting to inspiring STEM role models at the Big Bang Fair at the NEC on Friday 21st June. In their lessons Year 7 scientists are currently studying the science that informs the search for extra terrestrial life including the basis for life, geology, the atmosphere & solar systems.

Year 8 are rounding off their year's scientific explorations by investigating the question, 'What is space weather?' They will be looking at seasonal changes, the aurora, the electromagnetic spectrum and satellites.

Year 9 scientists have started their GCSE curricula and are developing mastery of the basic knowledge required to unlock understanding of the concepts they will meet in Years 10 and 11.

Our Year 10 scientists are enthusiastically preparing for their mock exams through focused, diligent revision. We wish them every success in their forthcoming exams and know that they will acquit themselves well, securing a sound foundation for GCSE success.

In June the ABICS science department will be welcoming Year 5 & 6 pupils from local primary schools to gain an exciting experience of the hands-on science they can look forward to when they go to secondary school.

MFL

Year 10 – Firstly congratulations to Year 10 linguists for completing their speaking assessments this week. We hope you have taken lots of positives from the experience. Over the next couple of weeks, you will have a listening assessment in usual lesson time as well as reading and writing papers in the sports hall. Following your work experience we will review each paper in class so that you can inform your revision for Year 11.

Year 9 – Semester 4 has a cultural focus. Pupils will learn about cultural aspects of the French or Hispanic speaking world: for example history, geography, sport, festivals or music. We enjoy linking language learning and cultural relevance in order to develop empathy and understanding of our world.

Year 8 – pupils are learning the future tense and vocabulary for jobs and careers. This is an early opportunity at school to learn about the options available post-16 for education and the choices that need to be made for certain careers.

Year 7 Spanish pupils are also looking at the topic of school. Bringing together the likes and dislikes vocabulary they have learnt this year and applying it to a different context. Whilst Year 7 French pupils are learning to talk about their houses and towns. In both languages the pupils are working on extending their sentences with additional details and building towards paragraphs.

On Wednesday 19 June we are looking forward to taking a small number of Year 7 pupils to Warwick University for a Euros24 inspired event which combines football and languages.

SUBJECT UPDATES

GEOGRAPHY

Year 8: Pupils have just completed their end of year assessments and have moved onto investigating the human and physical geography of the continent of Africa with particular emphasis on life in the tropical rainforests of West Africa and the hot desert of North Africa. They will then move on to look at the Horn of Africa as a rapidly changing area of the continent.

Year 9: Pupils have also just completed their end of year assessments and have moved on to investigating Natural Hazards with particular emphasis on the tectonic hazards of earthquakes and volcanoes.

Year 10: Pupils have now completed the first 3 units of the GCSE specification and have begun to make a start on the 4th unit titled 'UK Physical Landscapes' in which they will be studying Rivers and Coasts. Pupils are working hard revising in preparation for their upcoming Year 10 mock exams which will be based on the 3 units that have been fully completed (Natural Hazards, The Living World, Urban Issues).

Year 12: Students have just completed their end of year assessments. In class they are continuing to work through the concept of 'place' in their 'Changing Place' unit and the concept of the 'Global Commons' in the Global Systems & Global Governance unit.

SUBJECT ENRICHMENT:

Year 8 Carding Mill Valley river studies trip - Wednesday 19th June, Thursday 20th June, Friday 21st June.

Year 9 Dorset residential - Wednesday 26th - Friday 28th June.

HISTORY

Another brilliant term for the Ilsley Historians!

- Year 7 are thoroughly enjoying investigating our fabulous city, Birmingham. They are gaining a great understanding about why we are all so proud to belong to this wonderful, diverse and inclusive city.
- Year 8 and Year 9 are currently completing their end of year assessments. They need to be commended for their focus in the revision lessons with their teachers and their conduct in these assessments.
- Year 10 are working very hard, ready for their Crime and punishment mock paper next week. Many of them are going on the History trip to Berlin in July, led by Mr Jones. They are very excited and will have an absolutely brilliant time. A big thank you to Mr Jones for organising and leading this trip.
- Year 11 completed their third and final GCSE History paper on Tuesday. Their attendance to the Booster sessions was very pleasing and we wish them much success in their final GCSE exams.
- Year 12 have completed their end of Year exams and Mrs McMahon has started the History NEA- Coursework with them. They have made a brilliant start and are currently completing their research on the Darby family.
- Year 13 have completed their History A Level papers and we would like to commend them for all of their outstanding efforts, and wish them the very best of luck.

A fantastic term Ilsley historians!

SUBJECT UPDATES

MEDIA STUDIES

Media Studies pupils in Year 10 have got lots to be doing! As exam season approaches, our pupils are deep into their preparation. We have an extensive range of revision materials available on Google Classroom to support them. These resources are designed to help pupils consolidate their knowledge and build their confidence. We encourage pupils to make full use of these materials and to dedicate regular time to their revision.

In addition to exam preparation, pupils are also focusing on their coursework. A crucial part of their coursework involves gathering images for their magazines. This practical aspect allows pupils to apply theoretical concepts in a creative and hands-on manner. We urge all pupils to take the initiative and obtain the necessary images for their work as soon as possible. This is a key component of their assessment and timely completion will ensure they stay on track.

We understand that this can be a challenging time and we are here to support both pupils and parents. If you have any queries or require further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us. Our team is ready to provide the necessary guidance and support to ensure our pupils succeed. Thank you for your continued support.

ARTS FACULTY

Art Department: Congratulations to artists from Year 11 and 13 on completing their GCSE and A-Level Art and Design. We are so proud of your achievements and journeys as artists. The moderation went well; all feedback and results will be revealed on the result days in August. Students' beautiful artwork has been documented and stored away and we will publish this on the school's social media and website in September. Students can collect their artwork at anytime from September 2027. If students wish to have digital copies of work for a college or a job application, they are advised to please contact us via email on enquiry@ilsley.bham.sch.uk

Performing Arts Department: Drama: Well done to the Ilsley choir! Our school masses were very touching and many members of staff and members of public commented on how lovely it was to be there and listened to them singing.

Music: Please keep an eye out for our school's participation in the SFE Youth Proms Concert 4 at the Symphony Hall on Thursday 11th July 2024. This is an exciting opportunity for our young musicians to perform on the Birmingham Symphony Hall stage.

For further information on the event and ticket purchase, please visit <https://bmusic.co.uk/sfe-youth-proms-2024>

SOCIOLOGY

Year 12 Sociologists are currently delving into social research methods and their application in education. Understanding research methods is crucial for sociologists. It provides the tools to systematically explore questions about how educational systems work, the factors influencing student outcomes, and the dynamics within school communities. Our curriculum emphasizes both theoretical knowledge and practical application, ensuring students can critically analyse and conduct research effectively.

SUBJECT UPDATES

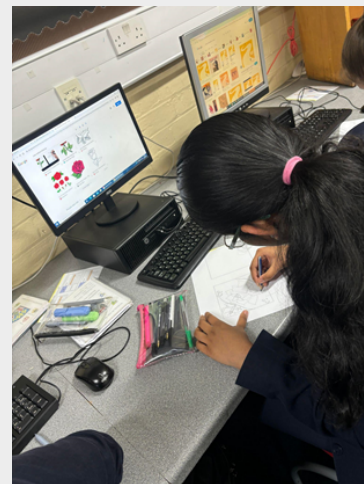
COMPUTING AND IT

Year 7 pupils are continuing their exciting journey in the Archies Cyber Unit to earn their Digital Security and Digital Programmer badges. They will delve into the thrilling world of binary numbers, encryption, and programming constructs, and put their skills to the test by creating an interactive maze game using Scratch. Get ready for an adventure in the digital realm!

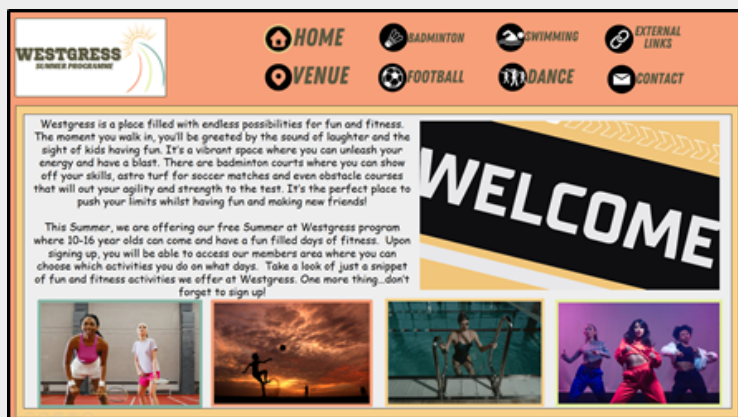
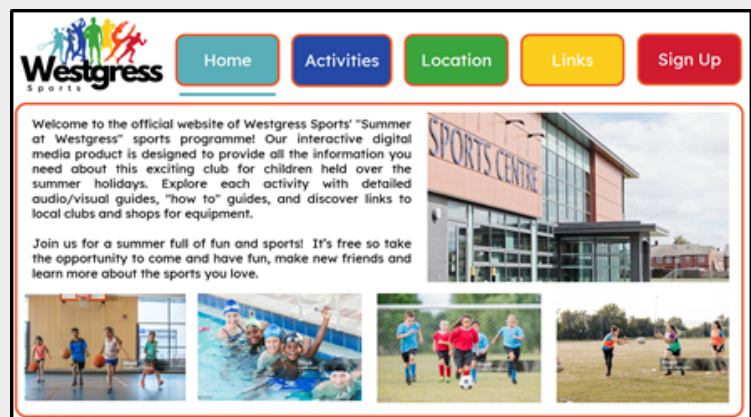
Year 8 pupils are diving headfirst into the fascinating realm of cyber security. They will learn how to protect against cyber threats, understand the importance of secure coding practices, and explore the hacker's mindset to better defend against digital intruders. Get ready for an electrifying journey into the world of cyber security!

In an exciting transition, Year 9 pupils will shift gears from computer programming in Code Combat to the domain of graphic design. They will be honing their creative skills by learning Adobe Photoshop techniques to design captivating album covers. Get ready for a thrilling blend of technology and artistic expression!

Year 10 Creative iMedia pupils have wrapped up their first unit of coursework, which has been submitted to the exam board for moderation. They are now transitioning from designing and creating an interactive product to learning about the world of Creative iMedia in the media industry in preparation for their mock exam. To prepare for the next unit of coursework, they will be mastering Photoshop skills through a series of designer workshops.



Example work - Their Westgress Sports Interactive Products



Year 10 Computing pupils are gearing up to complete their Component 1 theory by exploring technological issues, including the impact of technology on the world and legislation.

Year 12 students are on the verge of completing their Game Design coursework and will be presenting their final game prototype. Who knows, they might be the next game maker in the making! Satoshi Tajiri, move over!

SUBJECT UPDATES

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

In Design and Technology, Year 7 are midway through their 9 week project creating their pop up books or they are in Food Technology doing the Brilliant Birmingham project and making a range of dishes. .

Year 8 have started their practical work for electronic night light, maze and puzzle project, CAD/CAM furniture or Food Commodities. We look forward to our Year 8 trip to Thinktank on the 5th July.

Year 9 pupils are designing and making their eco homes and eco food. Architects from The Royal Institute of British Architects will come and talk to pupils and tell them about what it is like to have a career in architecture and how to design and make a home that considers sustainability. We also look forward to welcoming a past Ilsley student Shelley- Anne Haung, she will come and talk to pupils about her Architecture journey.

Year 10 have just started their coursework which is 50% towards their final GCSE grade. Please talk to them about this and find out which design brief they have chosen. In the coming weeks, they will need to take photos of existing products and their uses; please support them in this. They will also be visiting the British Motor Museum this week.

Year 12 are working hard continuing with their coursework. Please continue to talk to your child about completing their coursework at home. We are now working on the Design Development section and if your child has not completed the research or design sections please encourage them to do this at home. Year 11 and Y13 should also be revising at home by making flash cards and practising past exam questions and looking at the marking schemes to look at exemplar answers. This is for their final preparation for their exams next week. Good luck Y11 and Y13.

PE, SCHOOL SPORT AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

During all of our PE lessons this half term, as well as continuing to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence to lead healthy, active lives, our pupils are preparing for the Ilsley Sports Day.

After a three year absence our sports day returns on Tuesday 16 th July when the whole of Key Stage 3 descend on Norman Green Sports centre in Solihull, for a fun filled, action packed day of sport. The day will be a mix of traditional and non-traditional sports day activities with Ilsley Spirit being at the core of the day. I hope that you will encourage your child to take part and experience first hand the wonder of Ilsley Sports day 2024.



PASTORAL UPDATE



As we strive to maintain a positive and respectful learning environment at Archbishop Ilsley Catholic School, we would like to remind everyone of our core expectations regarding behaviour, uniform and equipment.

School Uniform and Equipment

Uniform: All pupils are required to wear the correct school uniform each day. This includes the appropriate school blazer, tie, and footwear. Please ensure that all uniform items are clean, neat and properly maintained.

Equipment: Pupils must come to school fully equipped for their lessons. This includes pens, pencils, rulers, books, PE kit and any other required materials. Being prepared helps ensure a productive and uninterrupted learning experience.

Behaviour and Respect

In School: We expect all pupils to be kind, respectful and ready to learn each day. This means treating teachers, staff, and fellow pupils with courtesy and consideration and adhering to the school rules at all times.

In the Community: Our commitment to respect extends beyond the school grounds. Pupils are representatives of Archbishop Ilsley Catholic School when traveling to and from school. Please be mindful of your child's behaviour in the community, showing respect for others and the environment.

Key Values

Kindness: Act with kindness towards your peers and teachers. A supportive and friendly attitude creates a welcoming school atmosphere for everyone.

Respect: Respect is fundamental to our school culture. Respect each other's differences, personal space, and belongings.

Readiness to Learn: Come to school each day with a positive attitude, prepared to engage actively in your education. Being ready to learn helps you and your classmates succeed.

School will be conducting standards checks over the coming weeks, please ensure that your child is prepared for the school day.

Thank you for your attention to these important standards. By working together, we can ensure Archbishop Ilsley Catholic School remains a place where every student feels safe, respected, and inspired to achieve their best.

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

YEAR 7 - MS DOHERTY

It has been a great start to this half term with Year 7 working hard to revise for their exams. They have been taking their assessments seriously and it has been wonderful to see. It was lovely to get to celebrate mass with Year 7 for the feast of the sacred heart of Jesus. The choir, the altar servers and readers were exceptional.



This half term we are working on the catholic social teaching of caring for God's creation. We have been discussing this in our RSE lessons and assemblies.

Please see this weeks Stars of the Week. Well done Year 7!

Form Group		
7JK	Nathaniel	Zakariya
7BSH	Fatima	Lilly Lai
7GJ	Gabriela	Danyaal
7LS	Isa	Lexie
7NZ	Savio	Joseph
7DL	Hira	Annabelle
7MR	Shayan	Szymon
7SM	Harry	Shristhi

YEAR 8 - MR BRUTON

As we progress through the term, I would like to share some important updates and reminders with you.

This term, we are emphasising the importance of environmental stewardship as part of our Catholic social teaching. Our theme, "All are called to care for creation, our common home," is inspired by the biblical quote from Genesis 2:15: "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." This reminds us of our duty to look after the environment. We are encouraging pupils to be environmentally friendly by reducing waste, recycling, and conserving energy. By fostering these habits, we hope to instil a lifelong commitment to caring for our planet.



As we approach the end of the term, it is crucial that pupils maintain high standards regarding their uniform and equipment. Wearing the correct uniform and having the necessary supplies are essential for creating a conducive learning environment. Please ensure your child comes to school prepared each day. Failure to adhere to these standards will result in sanctions, as we strive to uphold the values and expectations of our school community.

We are proud of the positive behaviour displayed by Year 8 pupils both in school and within the community. It is vital that we continue to set high expectations and encourage kindness in all interactions. Positive behaviour enhances the learning environment and reflects well on our school. We ask that parents support this by reinforcing the importance of respect, responsibility, and kindness at home.

Year 8 pupils have much to look forward to with upcoming trips to Dorset for Geography and Drayton Manor. These excursions offer valuable learning experiences outside the classroom and an opportunity to bond with peers. We are excited for our pupils to explore new environments and gain practical knowledge that complements their studies.

Lastly, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all parents for your ongoing support. Your involvement and encouragement are invaluable to our students' success and well-being. Together, we can ensure that Year 8 continues to thrive and excel in all aspects of school life.

Thank you for your attention to these matters and for your dedication to our school community. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

YEAR 9 - MR FRANCIOSO

I'd like to start this update with a word about our wonderful Mass Year 9 took part in last week. As we all know, Mass is a time to reflect on what has been and what is coming. I was extremely proud of the way Year 9 conducted themselves on this day and I thank everyone involved in the preparation and delivery.

Over the past couple of weeks, Year 9 have been sitting their AFPOL tests to give teachers an indication of their progress in individual subjects. It has been lovely to see so many pupils taking these seriously and wanting to do well. This kind of dedication and focus will be key to success in the future.

We are approaching the end of the academic year and I ask that you keep supporting your children over the next 5 weeks to work hard and remain calm. There are lots of positive activities happening with lots of trips being carefully planned and events taking place in school. From the Drayton Manor trip to the Year 9 enterprise day.

There have been yet more Duke of Edinburgh training sessions in the build up to the expedition. The team are putting on the largest ever bronze award at Archbishop Ilsey and I wish them all the luck and success this could bring. 5 more weeks to go. We can do this! Well done Year 9.



YEAR 10 - MISS BRADY

Last week Mr Clinton and Mr McDonald from our senior leadership team delivered an important assembly for Year 10. Mr Clinton spoke to pupils about memory, how types of the brain works and delivered a step by step revision technique. As an English teacher, Mr Clinton used a text children have studied as an example but pupils can apply this technique across most of their subjects.



Mr McDonald then spoke with pupils about the process for the mock examinations starting on Tuesday 18th next week. Mr McDonald clearly advised pupils of the rules and regulations we must abide by, by law and the exam conduct we expect. We will be having a practice line-up on Monday morning so that pupils know where we will meet, where they will stand, how they will enter the hall and what is expected of them before the exam begins. Pupils may have to have lunch at different times in order to complete examinations, this is a true reflection of the real exams next year, which must be sat at the same time nationally.

I was extremely impressed with how the year group listened attentively during the assembly and I have been inundated with teachers telling me how well pupils are doing. The past couple of weeks I can see pupils are taking ownership of their education and are having open conversations with teachers in order to succeed; this makes me extremely proud!

Please do have conversations this weekend about revision, managing time and stress the importance of getting enough sleep and eating well. I have every faith that pupils will do their very best and we as teachers look forward to marking exams, teaching any gaps pupils may have and then moving forward with new content. I hope you have a restful weekend, thank you for your ongoing support.

We have been particularly impressed with our Year 12 students over the last two weeks. They have completed their first full set of PPEs and have conducted themselves very well indeed. They sat examinations in each of their subjects as an end to Year 12 and a dress rehearsal for their Year 13 final examinations. Our team of exam invigilators commented on their excellent learning behaviours and attitude.

Students will be receiving their grades back over the next few weeks and teachers will be talking to students about their results. Parents and carers will receive a report containing these grades and reporting on attendance to date, effort, attitude to learning and attitude to homework. Please ask your child about their results.

Global Links

Our 14 Year 12 students are beyond excited! Today, they set off on their travels to Cambodia where they will be participating in a programme with the local community; students will be based in a school and will be facilitating English language workshops as well as decorating classrooms. Students will also have the chance to explore the country.

This is an absolutely amazing opportunity for our Year 12 students who have raised almost £2000 which is fantastic! Thank you to all those who donated to our GoFundMe page; we are incredibly grateful for your generosity. The money raised has been split between supporting travel costs for the students and the Future Sense Foundation who we support while over there. We look forward to following their journey. Make sure that you keep an eye out for updates and follow us on @ABIllesley6thform

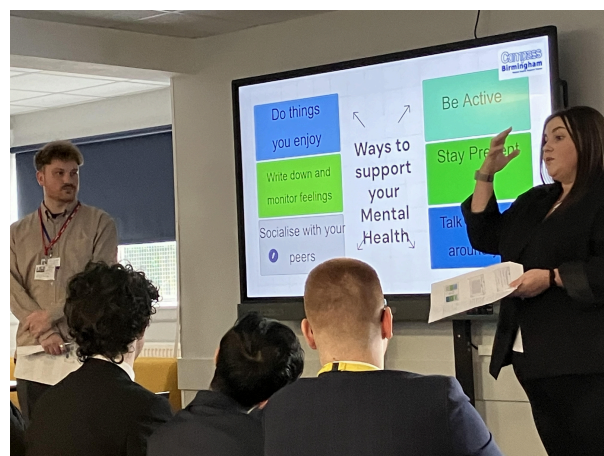


Men's Mental Health Week

On Thursday, our Year 12 boys took part in a very important workshop about mental and physical health.

The presentation and discussion was led by the Compass Birmingham Mental Health Team. We are extremely lucky to have representatives from this team working with pupils and students in our school. Compass will provide support to children, young people and families with mild to moderate emotional health and wellbeing needs. Whether it's feeling sad, scared, worried, or experiencing challenges like anger or frustration, Compass will work to connect pupils and students with the right help. Click on the logo to find about more information about the work that Compass do.

Our students participated in a great discussion about how to break down stereotypes around asking for help and seeking advice. The message very much being that asking for help is always a strength.



UCAS Preparation

We are now beginning UCAS preparation with our Year 12 students. This began with their Aspire lesson last Thursday. In this lesson, they were encouraged to begin thinking more carefully about their post 18 plans and what they are looking to do after Year 13, whether that be going to university, going on to further education, applying for an apprenticeship or going into the world of work.

Regardless of what our students' plans are at this stage, we encourage all students complete a UCAS application form in draft. UCAS is an organisation whose main role is to manage applications to undergraduate courses at UK universities. UCAS stands for the University and Colleges Admissions Service. Even if students are not sure about what they want to do at this stage, it is good practice to write a personal statement. A personal statement is a little bit like a CV. In their personal statements, students will talk about their strengths, their studies and their areas of interest and future goals.

The following are important dates for our Year 12 students:

- Thursday 20th June - All Year 12 students will be off timetable all day and working on UCAS preparation in the Sixth Form area with the Sixth Form team. Here we will talk to students about what UCAS is and the application process for university courses and apprenticeships. We will create a UCAS application and look at Personal Statements. We will also talk about the UCAS Conference that all students will be attending in a few weeks time
- Monday 24th June - All Year 12 students will have a UCAS Preparation Day. On this day, students will be working at home to complete the first draft of their personal statement. Students have already been provided with a wealth of resources and guides and have been given a template to supported their drafting of their personal statements. The deadline for submitting this to their tutors will be Friday 28th June.
- Tuesday 25th June - All Year 12 students will attend the UCAS Conference at the NEC. Their tickets have been booked for them by the school. Students will be given a specific time to attend the conference. They should make their own way to and from the NEC. We will be giving conference timings, maps and travel information to students on Thursday 20th June.

It is very important that students use this time and the wealth of information provided to begin planning for their Post 18 options in order to focus them and give them a meaningful goal to work towards in Year 13.

Their tutors and subject teachers are also ready to support this process and will be engaging students in conversations about what they are considering post Sixth Form; they will discuss what their subject looks like at university, career options in the various subject areas and their experiences of further education, university or the world of work. Please ask your child what they are considering and encourage them to really research their options thoroughly.

See our website for information and guidance on the UCAS process <https://www.ilsley.bham.sch.uk/sixth-form/ucas/>

The Sixth Form Calendar - Key Dates

- 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

