

THE ABI UPDATE

ISSUE 9 FRIDAY 9TH FEBRUARY 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER - MR CLINTON

Dear Pupils, Parents and Friends of Archbishop Ilsley

It's hard to believe, it's half term! Please remember, the school is closed the first Monday back (Monday 19th February) so this means that the children have 10 days off school. Year 11 and Year 13 should spend this time wisely: they should definitely use the time to recharge and relax and enjoy spending time with their friends and families.

However, they should spend at least 10 hours revising and preparing for their forthcoming mocks/AFPOLs. I would suggest 'little and often' is the best approach and they should spend no more than 30 minutes on one topic at one time. They should also seek to transfer their knowledge into another form, using flashcards, mindmaps, tables and essay plans. There are a whole host of resources on ClassCharts and Google Classroom which can be referred to.

Similar to last year, it will be Ash Wednesday over half term, which will mark the start of Lent. Traditionally, this is a period of abstinence for Christians, where many will give up chocolate or treats. This is why it is tradition to eat pancakes the day before on Shrove Tuesday. Lent is also a time where we reflect and remember our humility and our own mortality. There will be various church services on over Birmingham and the country. Even if you are going away, why not to see if you can make it to your nearest church next Wednesday? Holy Souls have services at 10:00, 12:30 and 19:00 on his holy day.

Enjoy the weekend and the well-earned break.

Mr Clinton

KEY DATES

- **Monday 12th - Friday 16th**
February - HALF TERM. School is closed to pupils and students
- **19th February - INSET Day.**
School is closed to pupils and students
- **Tuesday 20th February - School**
opens to pupils and students.
Spring Term 2
- **Wednesday 21st February -**
'Foxes Lair' Business Trip
- **Thursday 22nd February - Year 10**
Challenge Academy trip
- **Friday 23rd February - Year 12**
Enrichment Hour - UCAS
- **Monday 26th February - MFL**
Restaurant Experience Year;
Candle Conference: God and the Good
- **Monday 4th March - Year 11**
Photographs
- **Tuesday 5th March - English**
Romeo & Juliet Workshops (in school)

CATHOLIC LIFE THE GOSPEL - MARK 1:29-39

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus went with James and John straight to the house of Simon and Andrew. Now Simon's mother-in-law had gone to bed with fever and they told him about her straightaway. He went to her, took her by the hand and helped her up. And the fever left her and she began to wait on them.

That evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were sick and those who were possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door and he cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind or another; he also cast out many devils, but he would not allow them to speak, because they knew who he was.

In the morning, long before dawn, he got up and left the house, and went off to a lonely place and prayed there. Simon and his companions set out in search of him, and when they found him they said, 'Everybody is looking for you.' He answered, 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' And he went all through Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out devils.

What does this mean for us?

- This is a passage about being busy. Jesus is surrounded by people seeking his help and attention. It is interesting that the Gospel writers specifically mention that he got up to have some time alone in prayer. Some quiet and some stillness. Our lives are busy! It is easy to go from lesson to lesson, to screen to screen; face to face interaction, to social media interaction - it can be relentless. Moments of silence are crucial for our own mental wellbeing.
- What are the biggest barriers to you have some silence in your day?

WELLBEING

After Christmas and with the rising cost of energy and food prices, we are all finding it difficult to make those pennies stretch into pounds. With that in mind, you may find the links below helpful:



https://www.findfoodbanksbrum.org.uk/project_category/food-banks/



Join Our Food Waste Movement

The app that lets customers rescue unsold food from shops and restaurants to save it from going to waste. Try it today.

toogoodtogo.com



StepChange Debt Charity. Free Expert Debt Help & Advice

StepChange is the UK's leading debt charity. Get expert debt help and advice and fee-free debt management to help you tackle your debts.

stepchange.org



Help is available for every household

Get support with the Cost of Living.

Help for Households



A charity offering free, confidential, independent and impartial advice on a wide range of topics such as: Benefits, debts, work, consumer(buyer, customer, shopper), health & disability, housing, immigration.

<https://www.bcabs.org.uk/page/view/debt>



Debt advice | Free debt advice | National Debtline | National Debtline

Click Learn more to view our Cookies policy or Accept to close this box.

nationaldebtline.org



Your Local Sharing App

Olio is a local sharing app where you can pass on items you no longer need to people who live nearby. Reduce waste and help our planet!

Olio /

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

YEAR 7 - MS DOHERTY

As we draw to the end of a very short but very busy half term I find myself reflecting on how far Year 7 has come since September. They have grown in confidence and ability over the last few months. I am looking forward to the next half term and watching our pupils promote fundraising during Lent as well as our trip to Woodlands Adventure. Please get those letters back to me if you haven't already.

Well done to the pupils below nominated by their tutors for this half term's awards.

Have a wonderful and restful half term.

	Integrity	Integrity	Tutee of the term	Outstanding Achievement / contribution
7BS	Preston L	Ethan O	Ellie G	Lily Yan L
7DL	Ethan D	Nour J	Aadil Waheed D	Joey
7GJ	Liam	Bianca M	Chaysen L	Sam
7JK	Olivia C	Emmelin P	Kelsey K	Jack C
7LS	Joy A	Riley C	Zachary W	Naomi M
7MR	Ethan S	Anton M	Sophia Y	Elah T
7NZ	Dona W	Ayona	Nafisa E	Jia X
7SM	Wisdom M	Jolie N	Archi M	Alarna C

YEAR 8 - MR BRUTON

The reward winners for this term are as follows. Well done everyone. Have a restful half term.

Jacob M	Ruo X	Karolina P	Owen M
Dominic R	Olivia M	Riley D	Chloe C
Hermela E	Michael K	Maryum	Jakub P
Elizabeth O	Evie D	Kai	Ksawier T
Shamal A	Daniel A	Khadijah A	Sean C
Keisha N	Harvey	Skye S	Sarah B
Nicolas Z	Meekaiyl L	Damla K	Lorelai C
Lena W	Sahib P	Phoebe O	Derrick D

YEAR 9 - MR FRANCIOSO

I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Year 9 for embracing me as their new Head of Year. This half term has been a few short weeks and has flown by.

We have a few important weeks coming up with you having to choose your GCSE option subjects. Mr Meredith has produced a lot of information on the careers google classroom page to help you choose. MFL put on an amazing day for Year 9 to help give you a flavour of how languages could help you in your future careers. You all worked really hard that day and were a credit to our school.

Have a restful half term and we'll get ready to go in a weeks time.

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES - YEAR 10 - MISS BRADY

It is quite hard to believe that we are over half way through the school year. In 17 weeks our wonderful Year 10 pupils will be the oldest pupils in the school and our new Year 11s. On Thursday our assembly was focused on what future pupils envisage for themselves, as a reminder that their future is fast approaching and choices they make now, will have a great impact on it. As we approach the summer term I would like Year 10 to start to look at their options after GCSE examinations and start thinking about what they need to do in order to achieve their goals.

At the start of the year, a group of Year 10 students visited Soli House and experienced a wonderful retreat. Thank you to Mr Anthony and Ms Duffy who accompanied the pupils.

The first Monday after half term will be an INSET Day- Monday 19th February. On Thursday 22nd February, half of the year group will be having a lot of fun and challenging themselves at Challenge Academy; more information to follow separately. In January, we also had a wonderful Parents' Evening, it was so lovely to see so many families in school and invaluable conversations between teachers, students and families taking place.

I hope you all have a restful and peaceful half term.

YEAR 11 - MRS BURNHAM

It seems like yesterday we were celebrating the New Year and here we are at February half term. Time is flying by, meaning the GCSE examinations are fast approaching. The half term is a time to reflect, organise revision and finalise your child's study practice. Help and advice is always at hand from all of your child's teachers. Session 6 is still available, please encourage your child to attend as many as possible. Our assembly this week was all about rewards and how hard work pays off; staying focused, attending school every day and having a positive mind set will lead to success. Revision is important, so is mindfulness. Ensuring that your child gets regular break's, hydration and fresh air all contributes to a well-rounded approach to the exam season.

The new term starts on 20th February. This is the beginning of the second set of mock examinations. Your child should be equipped with a black pen, pencil, ruler and calculator. This should be in a clear pencil case. Please see the mock examination timetable below:

Date	Exam	Time	paper	year	length	location
Tuesday 20th February 2024 MOCK EXAM	ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 2	9.00AM	WRITTEN	YEAR 11	1HR 45	S.HALL/DRAMA
MOCK EXAM	SCI COMINED BIO & TRIP SCI PAPER 1	1.30PM	WRITTEN	YEAR 11	1HR 45/1HR 15	S.HALL/DRAMA
Wednesday 21st February 2024 MOCK EXAM	MATHS H/F PAPER 1	9.00AM	WRITTEN	YEAR 11	1HR 30	S.HALL/DRAMA
MOCK EXAM	SCI COMINED CHEM & TRIP SCI PAPER 2	1.30PM	WRITTEN	YEAR 11	1HR 45/1HR 15	S.HALL/DRAMA
Thursday 22nd February 2024 MOCK EXAM	MATHS H/F PAPER 2	9.00AM	WRITTEN	YEAR 11	1HR 30	S.HALL/DRAMA
MOCK EXAM	RELIGIOUS STUDIES PAPER	1.30PM	WRITTEN	YEAR 11	1HR 30	S.HALL/DRAMA
Friday 23rd February 2024 MOCK EXAM	PRODUCT DESIGN	9.00AM	WRITTEN	YEAR 11	1HR 30	S.HALL/DRAMA
MOCK EXAM	HOSP & CATERING	9.00AM	WRITTEN	YEAR 11	1HR 30	S.HALL/DRAMA
MOCK EXAM	HISTORY PAPER	1.30PM	WRITTEN	YEAR 11	1HR 45	S.HALL/DRAMA
Monday 26th February 2024 MOCK EXAM	FRENCH HIGHER & FOUNDATION	9.00AM	WRITTEN	YEAR 11	1HR 30	S.HALL/DRAMA
MOCK EXAM	SPANISH HIGHER & FOUNDATION	11.30AM	WRITTEN	YEAR 11	1HR 30	S.HALL/DRAMA
MOCK EXAM	BUSINESS PAPER	1.30PM	WRITTEN	YEAR 11	1HR 30	S.HALL/DRAMA
Tuesday 27th February 2024 MOCK EXAM	SCI COMINED PHY & TRIP SCI PAPER 3	9.00AM	WRITTEN	YEAR 11	1HR 45/1HR 15	S.HALL/DRAMA
MOCK EXAM	GEOGRAPHY	1.30PM	WRITTEN	YEAR 11	1HR 30	S.HALL/DRAMA
Wednesday 28th February 2024 MOCK EXAM	MEDIA STUDIES	9.00AM	WRITTEN	YEAR 11	1HR 30	HALL
MOCK EXAM	MUSIC	9.00AM	WRITTEN	YEAR 11	1HR 30	CLASSROOM
MOCK EXAM	COMPUTER SCIENCE	1.30PM	WRITTEN	YEAR 11	1HR 30	CLASSROOM
Thursday 29th February 2024 MOCK EXAM	ART PRAT	ALL DAY	WRITTEN	YEAR 11	ALL DAY	HALL

SUBJECT UPDATES

SCIENCE

2024 has started with enthusiastic resolve to deepen our understanding of the world around us through our scientific endeavours.

Year 7:

Our emerging scientists in Year 7 have been looking at how we obtain nutrition from our food and what constitutes a healthy diet.

Understanding this direct impact of science on their lives is vital so they are empowered to make positive choices that lay the foundations for happy healthy lives.

Thereafter, they will study a topic of possibly even greater relevance to them, "How Mobile Phones Work". While we may worry about the influence of portable devices on our young people, this technology drives so much cultural, social and economic change and if our pupils are to participate fully in the modern world they need to understand the science behind the gadgets.

Year 10:

Year 10 continue their key stage 4 learning with the "Infection and response", "Chemical change" and "Particle model of matter" topics in biology, chemistry and physics lessons respectively. Pupils should continue to regularly review and consolidate their learning using the GCP revision guides and workbooks (available through ParentMail) alongside homework tasks set by their teachers.

Year 12:

In the recent mock exams many students impressed with their commitment to revision. The results will make clear those areas of the curriculum students understand well. The priority for all is to address any areas of weakness now to lay the foundation for mastery of the curriculum to come.

Year 13:

Our senior scientists are continuing to prepare for A-levels success through regular practice and developing confidence with the concepts and skills required for attainment of the best possible results. The best assurance of success in their A-level studies is to devote as much time as possible to the completion of past papers as part of a well-structured revision programme.

Year 8:

Their chemistry investigations are continuing as they work through the topic, "What is stuff made of?". They will delve into the nature of matter and come to understand how atoms and molecules interact to form different substances. They will move onto "Where do I come from?" where the processes by which life starts and our genetic inheritance are explored. Homework tasks will be based on committing these important facts and ideas to memory.

Year 9:

At this point in an ABI pupil's science career their course moves towards preparing them for transition to the greater challenge and more closely focussed knowledge requirement of the GCSE course. They will be developing mastery of the foundational knowledge required for the next stage of their science journey. Homework tasks will be a blend of online learning and written tasks.

Year 11:

Year 11 will be completing the specification content in each of their science subjects and are beginning the practice that is an essential part of the preparation for the imminent GCSEs. After half term they will be sitting mock exams (PPEs) on the paper 2 content they have studied since last year. Pupils should regularly review and consolidate their learning using the GCP revision guides and workbooks (available through ParentMail) alongside homework tasks set by their teachers.

SUBJECT UPDATES

MATHS

Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 have recently completed January assessments testing the material covered since September. All pupils have login details allowing them to access the online version of the textbooks used in class. These contain interactive lessons and videos. In addition, MyMaths and Mathswatch are used for online homework. The next topics to be studied from the dedicated textbooks are as follows:

Year 7 (MyMaths Year 1 Textbook)

Chapter 10 - 'Solving Equations'; Chapter 5 - 'Angles & 2D Shapes'

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

Chapter 5 - 'Angles & 2D Shapes'; Chapter 6 - 'Introduction to Graphs (Algebra)'

Year 9 (AQA GCSE Maths Textbook)

Year 9 are studying the specification for their GCSE. Chapter 5 - "Fractions, Decimals & Percentages"; Chapter 6 - 'Formulae & Functions'

Year 10 (AQA GCSE Maths Textbook) Foundation tier

Chapter 13 – 'Factors, Powers & Roots'; Chapter 14 – 'Graphs 1'

Year 11 (AQA GCSE Textbook)

Year 11 will be finishing the final topics left to teach on the specification. In addition, they will be continuing to close the gaps in their knowledge highlighted by their period 6 tests. Year 11 will be set online Mathswatch past GCSE papers over half term to help them revise for their February mock exams.

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 goes from strength to strength! We entered a team online in a national school's competition and the pupils gave a very good account of themselves. The team continue to improve and will be entering a national qualifying competition at Solihull School in March.
- Catholic Maths Competition: We recently took two teams from Year 8 to a maths competition at Bishop Challoner. The pupils flew drones and programmed robots and acquitted themselves very well. We finished 6th out of a very strong field of 16 teams.
- Times Tables Rock Stars: Please encourage your child in Year 7 and Year 8 to engage with the TTRS app. It has helped many pupils to improve their times tables knowledge.

ART

In our first art trip this year, our Sixth Form and GCSE artists went to the national gallery and had an amazing time. We loved taking selfies with lots of famous artwork!



SUBJECT UPDATES

HISTORY

Ilsley Historians have been working incredibly hard in the month of January! Year 7 are finishing their enquiry unit of work on our magnificent city, Birmingham. They have relished the opportunity to learn about their city and gain a deeper understanding about its role in History.

Year 8 and 9 have now both successfully completed assessments which tested them on their historical skills and knowledge from the first term of the new Academic year. Year 8 have now turned their attention to the Tudors and will be debating "Who was the most significant Tudor Monarch?" Maybe you could discuss this at home, as we know that so many Ilsley parents and caregivers have a real love of History. Year 9 are investigating the causes of WW2 and will study the Home Front and the role of women in the war.

Year 10 completed assessments in November and are coming to the end of their unit of work on Crime, Punishment and Law Enforcement from c1000-the present. They will then begin a short investigation on Whitechapel c1870-c1900. They are coping well with the demands of GCSE History and have enjoyed learning about how and why changes to Crime and Punishment over time have taken place.

Year 11 students have just completed their study of Elizabeth I and are preparing for their Mock Exams after February, where they will complete a full paper 2. Continued attendance to period 6 will have a really positive impact on their final grades.

Year 12 have settled in well to their A level course. They completed assessments at the start of January and are studying American Society 1865-1890 and in their British Unit they are examining the 1960s.

Year 13 have also completed assessments and have just started to investigate how and why America became involved in WW2 and in their British unit, they are studying Society during New Labour. Alongside this, they are completing their Coursework on the Darby family.

Keep up the excellent work ethic and positive attitudes to your learning Ilsley Historians!

GEOGRAPHY

Year 8 have been working hard completing AFPOL assessments and responding to the feedback given by their teachers. Pupils will then begin their study of the physical geography of the UK.

Year 9 have been working hard completing AFPOL assessments and responding to the feedback given by their teachers. Pupils will then begin their study of Asia - with particular emphasis on India and China.

Year 10 have now completed their Natural Hazards unit and have moved on to the Living World unit where they are studying ecosystems with a particular emphasis on the tropical rainforest and hot desert biomes.

Year 11 have now completed the Rivers and Coasts unit and are close to completing the Resource Management unit - leaving only the Economic World unit left to study. Please encourage all Year 11 pupils to complete the practice exam papers that were given to them before Christmas. Preparations for the 2nd mock exams should also be well under way at home now - the three units examined in this forthcoming mock will be Resource Management, Rivers & Coasts and Urban Issues.

Year 12 are continuing their study of Contemporary Urban Environments and the Water and Carbon cycles. Year 13 are completing their final unit of work on Globalisation and Global Governance and working their way through the Natural Hazards unit. They are also working hard on the completion of their NEAs which are worth 20% of the final exam mark.

SUBJECT UPDATES

COMPUTING

The focus in Computing this term has been on problem solving. This is such an important skill for pupils to develop. Problem solving is a fundamental part of daily life and we have been practicing this in a variety of ways.

Through the Create curriculum, Year 7 pupils have been cracking codes to decipher messages to catch hackers and rescue people caught in cyber crime.

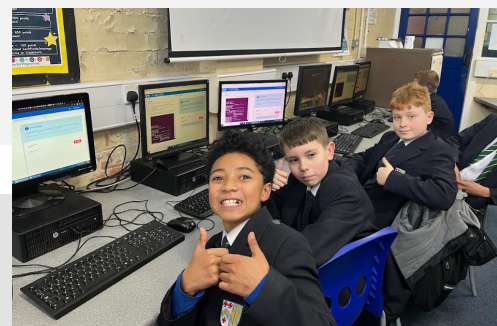
Year 8 are working on a new Business idea which they will be presenting to their teachers after half term. There have been wonderful and varied ideas, from wearable tech trainers that can change design using an app on your phone to a new phone case that charges your phone through kinetic energy.

Year 9 have started to program simple algorithms that can predict the future. I must say that some of these have been impressively accurate.

In Year 10, pupils have been working extremely hard solving Binary calculations in a variety of scenarios. They have learnt that there are 10 types of people: those that understand binary and those that don't. Ask a Year 10 Computer Science student to explain that joke to you!

Year 11 are getting ready to sit their mock exams and have been designing algorithms in Python to meet requirements set by their clients.

In Sixth Form, students have been creating a prototype game. Year 13 should be very proud of their recent feedback from the exam board. Their projects were all graded very highly and the moderator stated the standard of work was excellent!



BUSINESS CLUB

The Business Club has been working extremely hard this term to promote their Business 'Fun E Games'. At the moment they are in the middle of running their second gaming tournament in school which is an individual competition to become the school's FIFA champion. Any pupil can take part in this competition, so if you haven't put your name down yet, be quick as there are only a few places left!

Students have presented their ideas to Business professionals online and have been working weekly with Matthew Lorent who is a Director at Volvo Services & Solutions. The group is working towards the Young Enterprise company program which provides a real-life learning opportunity that introduces young people aged 13-19 to the realities of the world of work. They will be presenting their business to a panel of business experts on 21st February and then everyone will have a chance to see them in Touchwood Solihull, promoting their company.

If you are in Solihull on the Saturday 16th March it would be great to see you come along. The students would love to have your support and it could also help their chances of winning so PLEASE COME ALONG! I will keep you updated on their progress.

Students have had a busy five weeks back in Sixth Form! We have had Year 12 and 13 Pre Public exams and students are continuing to work on closing the gaps in their learning. Year 12 Reports have been emailed to parents and carers this week. We have advised all students to use their half term week wisely; a break is important but it is also an excellent time for students to make sure that they are up to date with their notes. For Year 13 in particular, the external examinations are drawing ever closer and regular revision must be a priority. For Year 12, researching their July Work Experience placement and sending emails to prospective work places should be high on their 'to do' lists!

We also had a fantastic trip to London, where we visited Westminster Abbey, the Houses of Parliament, had a River Cruise to see the sights of London and we also visited the London Dungeons - all in one day!

In our Pastoral Programme, we have looked at 'Systems' and explored how we work. Successful students are those students with a an ability to organise themselves; they meet deadlines, they have systems in place that are allowing them to be successful e.g. good use of study periods, revision schedules, use of diaries to plan time, organised folders and books, completing homework, seeking support/advice. In our Aspire lessons, Year 12 students explored relationship values whilst Year 13 looked at how they might manage their own budgets successfully after leaving Sixth Form.

In our Assemblies this week, we have rewarded those students who have once again demonstrated our 'Sixth Form 6.' We have rewarded 100% attendance winners, our tutor group 'Mini Heroes' and our 'Systems' Award winners. Congratulations to the following:

Mini Heroes		
Tutor Group	Name	Reason
12TC	Pharen O	Polite and courteous. Always bright and cheery and willing to contribute to form time
12WT	Zainab H	Always polite, working hard, amazing organisation. Her notes are something to behold!
12BR	Nabin H	Ready every day for upcoming lessons. Meets HW deadlines & regularly reviews work.
12BO	Mohammad R	Always in form with Flash cards revising. He is working so hard at the moment. What a hero!
13NR	Ellie N	Completely reliable, hardworking, super organised. What a star!
13KJ	Grace T	Always organised (she often reminds me about things!), excellent attendance and punctuality, completely reliable!

Systems Award - a student with a an ability to organise themselves; they meet deadlines, they have systems in place that are allowing them to be successful e.g. use of study periods, revision schedule, use of diaries to plan time, organised folders and books, completing homework, seeking support/advice

Subject	Year 12 Name	Year 13 name
English Lit	Grace C & Alex M	Orla McCabe
Mathematics	Nabin H	Madalina C
Biology	Noya S	Dyuthi Denny
IT	Nabin H	Aiden B
Media Studies	Nunes M	Ana G
Sociology	Orlaith F	Courtney W
Chemistry	Tobi B	Kaiden C
Criminology	Skye M	N/A
History	Joshua M	Annie C
HSC	Lacey W	Sandra J
Business	Millie F	Haitham A
Geography	Helena M	Bernice A
Physics	Khalid I	Georgia M
Politics	Reece C	Ellie N
Theology	Liam N	Courtney W
PE	Isaac R	Megan H
Psychology	Grace C	Kaiden C
Product Design	Jessica W	Sandra J
French	N/a	Ana G
Spanish	N/a	Grace T
Art	n/a	Georgia M
Core Maths	Noya S	N/A

The Sixth Form Calendar - Key Dates

- Wednesday 6th - Friday 8th March - Year 12 Biology residential
- Tuesday 12 March - Year 12 DT trip
- Thursday 11th April 2024 – Sixth Form Parents' Evening
- Friday 14th June - Friday 28th June - Year 12 Cambodia trip
- Monday 1st July - Friday 5th July - Year 12 Work Experience Week
- Monday 8th July - Thursday 11th July - Gold DofE Practice
- Thursday 18 - Monday 22nd July - Gold DofE Qualifying



Year 12 100% Award winner: Tawassal K
Year 13 100% Award Winner: Dyuthi D