



# THE ABI UPDATE

ISSUE 16 FRIDAY 28TH JUNE 2024

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER - MR CLINTON

Dear Pupils, Parents and Friends of Archbishop Illesley

Firstly, may I remind you that Archbishop Illesley is closed to all pupils and all students this Monday, 1 st July 2024.

This is to allow all staff to engage in training as part of our drive to raise standards at the school. There are so many great things happening at Archbishop Illesley and much of this is detailed below, but we will be bringing in new rules about mobile phones and uniform to make it even better. We would like to hear parents' and carers' views about these changes before they are ratified by governors. We will therefore be holding rolling meetings on Wednesday 3rd July between 15:30 and 18:00 in the main hall. We would love to see as many of you there as possible.

So what are these great things that have been happening this week? As well as the Drayton Manor trip today, yesterday we were honoured to welcome our local MP, Jess Phillips, to the school as well as three other local candidates. This happened in the hall straight after the Catholic Schools' STEM event. We have two trips returning this weekend: Geographers are returning from Dorset and on Sunday, our intrepid Year 12s will be flying in from Cambodia, via Dubai! We also have to mention the Year 10 Diana Award trip, the SGO event, visits from Holy Souls Primary, the Year 11 into 12 'Step Up' Transition Days and of course the visit on Wednesday from our lovely new Year 6s and their parents. It has been a great week. Thank you for your support and thank you to all the staff for organising these trips. Enjoy your weekend – let's hope the England football team can get their act together!

## KEY DATES

- 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
- Wednesday 6th July - Year 6 Transition Day
- Thursday 4th July - Art Celebration Exhibition 5.30pm-7.30pm; Year 13 Celebration Dinner, The Village Hotel, Shirley, Solihull
- Friday 5th July - Year 8 Thinktank trip. DofE Bronze Expedition (Blackwell Adventure) July 5th - Saturday 6th July
- Monday 8th July - DofE Gold Practice Year 12 - Thursday 11th July

# 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 4:26-34

Jesus said to the crowds: 'This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man throws seed on the land. Night and day, while he sleeps, when he is awake, the seed is sprouting and growing; how, he does not know. Of its own accord the land produces first the shoot, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the crop is ready, he loses no time: he starts to reap because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'What can we say the kingdom of God is like? What parable can we find for it? It is like a mustard seed which at the time of its sowing in the soil is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet once it is sown it grows into the biggest shrub of them all and puts out big branches so that the birds of the air can shelter in its shade.'

Using many parables like these, he spoke the word to them, so far as they were capable of understanding it. He would not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything to his disciples when they were alone.

What does this mean for us?

Jesus spoke in parables (stories with a deeper meaning). The Mustard Seed was tiny but produced a bush that surrounded the entire land of Jerusalem. The parable highlights the idea that something seemingly insignificant can carry immense significance. Although not the smallest seed known, the mustard seed's humble beginnings lead to remarkable growth, illustrating the theme that many great things start small. Similarly, our faith can become a source of strength and reliance for others, even if it starts as small as a mustard seed. The mustard seed serves as a profound reminder of the transformative power of faith. It teaches us that with unwavering belief, we can conquer the seemingly impossible and inspire those around us.



This half term we are focusing on improving our environment and in particular this week, we focus particularly on putting litter in our bins. If we all ensure that litter is disposed of properly, it will keep our school looking how we all want it to be.

# PASTORAL UPDATE



## Reminder regarding our Equipment Standards and Uniform and our Mobile Phone Policy

As we strive to maintain a high standard of excellence at our school, we kindly ask for your cooperation in ensuring that your child adheres to our equipment standards, mobile phone and uniform policy.

### Equipment Standards

It is essential for students to come prepared for their classes each day. This preparation helps them to engage fully in their lessons and maximizes their learning opportunities. Please ensure that your child has the following items every day:

- Pens, Pencils: Basic writing tools for all subjects.
- School diary
- Textbooks and Reading Materials: Required books for each subject.
- Calculator: For maths and science classes.
- PE Kit: For physical education classes, including appropriate sportswear and footwear.

### Uniform Policy

- Our uniform policy is designed to promote a sense of pride and belonging within our school community. We appreciate your support in ensuring that pupils wear the correct uniform every day.

### Importance of Adherence

Adherence to these standards helps create a disciplined and focused learning environment. It also reduces distractions and ensures that all pupils are treated equally, fostering a sense of unity and school pride.

In our ongoing efforts to create an optimal learning environment, we are reviewing our mobile phone policy in line with Government guidelines. This policy aims to minimise distractions and ensure that students remain focused on their education during school hours.

### Current Mobile Phone Policy: Not Seen, Not Heard

- Phones Off: All mobile phones must be switched off during school hours.
- Out of Sight: Phones should be kept at the bottom of your child's bag, ensuring they are not seen or heard throughout the school day.
- Emergencies: If you need to contact your child in an emergency, please call the school office, and we will relay the message promptly.

### Rationale: This policy is designed to:

- Reduce Distractions: Mobile phones can be a significant distraction in the classroom, affecting both teaching and learning.
- Promote Social Interaction: We encourage pupils to engage with each other and their surroundings without the interference of mobile devices.
- Enhance Focus: By minimising phone usage, we help pupils focus on their studies and participate actively in class activities.

### Thank You!

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. Together, we can create a more focused and engaging learning environment for our pupils.

# HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

## YEAR 7 - MS DOHERTY

Year 7 have been very busy these last few weeks. They were very motivated during their exams and showed all their Ilsley SPIRIT values during what can be a scary experience.

90 Year 7s attended the Big Bang Fair at the NEC last Friday. They were a credit to the school and their parents/carers. They seemed to get a lot out of the trip and gained some hands-on experience of careers relating to science, engineering, technology and maths.

Today, half of year 7 are attending the Drayton manor reward trip. The Year 7 beach themed disco takes place on Thursday 11th July; we are really looking forward to celebrating the end of a fantastic year together there!



## YEAR 8 - MR BRUTON

### Catholic Social Teaching: Caring for Our Common Home

As part of our unwavering commitment to Catholic social teaching, we emphasise the critical importance of caring for creation and looking after our environment. Our school integrates these values into our daily activities and curriculum, encouraging pupils and students to be responsible stewards of our common home.



### Uniform and Equipment Standards

I have recently had the privilege to visit a number of Year 8 lessons, along with other teachers and Senior Leaders. I have been particularly impressed with the standards of uniform and the seriousness with which our pupils approach their learning in lessons. We would like to remind all pupils and parents that our uniform policy, including detailed guidelines on acceptable attire and necessary equipment, is available on the school website. Ensuring that all pupils come to school properly equipped is crucial for their academic success. As a part of this, every pupil should come to school with a pen and pencil. Your cooperation in adhering to these standards is greatly appreciated and helps maintain the orderly and effective learning environment we strive for.

### Rewards and Recognitions

Celebrating the achievements and hard work of our pupils is a fundamental part of our school ethos. This term, we have several exciting events planned to recognize and reward our pupils:

- **Drayton Manor Trip:** To reward outstanding attendance, effort and behaviour, selected pupils will enjoy a day of fun and adventure at Drayton Manor. This trip is our way of acknowledging those who have consistently demonstrated excellence and dedication throughout the academic year. We hope this experience will inspire continued effort and enthusiasm in all our pupils.
- **Sports Day:** Our annual Sports Day is a fantastic opportunity to celebrate sporting success and encourage a healthy, active lifestyle. Pupils will participate in various athletic events, showcasing their talents and competitive spirit. We look forward to witnessing their enthusiasm, teamwork, and sportsmanship during this much-anticipated event.
- **End of Term Rewards Assembly:** To honour the outstanding pupils in Year 8, we will hold a special assembly at the end of the term. This event will recognise those who have excelled academically, shown exemplary behaviour and contributed positively to the school community. It is an opportunity to celebrate the hard work and dedication of our pupils and to inspire others to strive for similar achievements.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation. We look forward to a productive and rewarding end of the term, celebrating the successes and milestones of our wonderful pupils.



# HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

## YEAR 9 - MR FRANCIOSO



What a busy couple of weeks it has been. I want to congratulate year 9 on their continued hard work and effort they have been putting in. The end of the academic year can be challenging because everybody is tired with a lot of activities going on. That coupled with the very hot weather can make it challenging but yet again Year 9 step up and take it in their stride.

There are currently a group of year 9 in Dorset with the geography department. As somebody that has been on this trip, I know that they will be having a thoroughly enjoyable experience by the coast with these temperatures. In the next update I will be congratulating those pupils that are consistently making the right choices. Pupils that everyday are striving for the best so that their futures look bright and successful. We are just a few weeks away from year 10, the start of the GCSE years so its more important than ever that we work together to be successful.



## ENRICHMENT

### ARCHBISHOP ILSLEY GO TO DRAYTON MANOR!

307 pupils have had a fabulous day out at Drayton Manor today! Thank you to all the staff who have accompanied them and looked after them and a special thank you to Mr Jones for organising this mammoth trip!



# HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

## YEAR 10 - MISS BRADY



Over the past two weeks Year 10 have completed their Mock examinations. As a year group sitting exams in a controlled environment, they have done exceptionally well. Staff have been really impressed with the commitment of revision and the positive attitude displayed by many. Mock exams are a useful way in which we can determine success half way through the course. Some pupils might be disappointed in their result, however this is their first exam in this subject and does not mean they are failing; it is a starting point and we expect to see progression as we sit more mock exams in the future.

Half of Year 10 visited Challenge Academy recently where their communication skills and resilience was tested (along with their bravery). Pupils were amazing as you can see from our pictures!!! It was lovely to see them cheering each other on and helping each other out. They particularly enjoyed the park at lunchtime!

This Year Miss Cook has been running the Diana Award, 15 Year 10 pupils have given up an hour of their time between November and April to participate in the award. They learnt lots about work, transferable skills, how to write a good CV and opportunities available post-16. One of the mentors works for a construction company called Overbury kindly organised a careers lounge for them. They had some career talks and then participated in some amazing activities - drylining, building bird boxes, painting, fitting of pipes and some electrical work. Each and every pupil was a credit to Archbishop Ilsey and wore their PPE with pride! Well done to all.

The weather has been glorious this week, however we have noticed standards for uniform slip. Please can you ensure they have a full and correct uniform going forward. Please note that socks are prohibited for girls and should not be worn with a skirt. If your child arrives at school with an incorrect uniform they will be offered items from our stock, you may be called and asked to bring the item/s to school or they will be sent home.

If we feel the weather is extreme the Headteacher will send a message to all parents/carers to notify that PE kit is allowed to be worn. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

On Thursday 27th June some lucky pupils were chosen to run a primary school girls' football competition on the astro. Well done to Isabella B; Izzie C; Danny K; Kian F and Billy Mc-H

As we enter the final three weeks of the year, Year 10 have quite a few things going on. I want to wish all pupils taking part in Work Experience the best of luck; go and let your light shine!

To reiterate:

### Pupils completing Work Experience

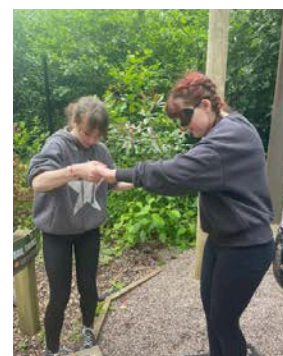
The majority of the year group have organised a work placement and we are extremely proud of them, we really hope it provides them with useful skills and prepares them for their future. Pupils are expected to be on placement Monday July 1st-Friday July 5th. Staff will either make a telephone call or a personal on-site visit to check-in and see that everything is going ok.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school should you have any concerns or questions.

### Pupils not taking part in Work Experience

Pupils in Year 10 still have time if they have not secured a place. However if they have not been successful in securing their week is as follows:

- Monday 1st July- INSET day- Year 10 do not attend school
- Tuesday 2nd July-Friday 5th July - attend school as normal each day, normal time, standard uniform. Pupils' will have assemblies and workshops around work experience so they also can gain some experience.





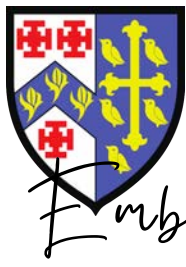
# ENRICHMENT

## ARCHBISHOP ILSLEY'S BIRMINGHAM YARDLEY DEBATE 2024

Ahead of next Thursday's election, we were honoured to welcome Pete Durnell, Roger Harmer, Max McLoughlin and Jess Phillips to our 'Vote 2024 Debate.' Pupils from our Pupil Parliament and our Year 12 students posed a range of excellent questions to our candidates on the pressing issues of today; pollution, climate change, housing and the NHS. What a fantastic opportunity for our pupils and students and a great way to engage them in politics and thinking about their role in the world around them. A huge thank you to all of the candidates for generously giving up their time to be with us and to Mr Pearce for organising this experience.







# Archbishop Ilsley Catholic Sixth Form

*Embrace your future*

Follow us on @ABIlIsley6thform to see all of our pictures and our latest news!

Have you seen our new look website?  
Have a look at all things Sixth Form using the following link:  
<https://www.ilsley.bham.sch.uk/sixth-form/>

We have again been so impressed with our Year 12 students; this week they have really demonstrated their vision! As I type this, I can hear students talking about courses and universities; there is a real buzz in the Common Room following their attendance at the UCAS Conference yesterday at the NEC. Students were able to talk to a vast number of university providers and get important information about the courses that they are interested in. Students were also able to access information about apprenticeships and find out about open days .

Students have also begun drafting their Personal Statements and completing the basic details on UCAS applications. Personal Statements are a key part of a UCAS application and are an opportunity for students to talk about themselves and explain why they want to enrol on a particular course. Students can describe their ambitions, skills, and experience. Whilst we understand that not all of our students wish to go to university, completing application forms and covering letters explaining personal skills etc is invaluable experience and a necessary skill. Please ask your child about their Personal Statements and encourage them to seek help for their tutors if they need it.

There is a wealth of information and guidance about next steps and how to draft Personal Statements on their tutor group Google Classroom.

## Global Links

If you have been following our Sixth Form X or ABIGlobal Links 2024 X accounts you will have seen what a fantastic time our students are having. They have been really busy planning and teaching and have also had the opportunity to visit a number of places of interest including the Cambodia Peace Gallery, Angkor Wat and the markets of Siem Reap. They have even had the opportunity to take a well earned break in the Sanctuary Hotel in Siem Reap. What an experience!

Students and staff are doing incredibly well and are a credit to our school and Sixth Form! We look forward to hearing all about it!

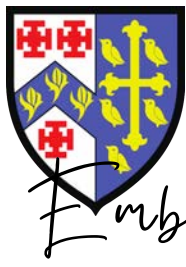
## Work Experience

Many of our Year 12 students will be out on Work Experience next week from Monday 1st July - Friday 5th July. Well done to all of our students who have worked hard to secure these placements. All students have a Log Book to work through so that they are able to document the activities that they do and the skills that they are developing. We hope that this will provide an insight into the world of work and be of real benefit for our students. Thank you to Mr Meredith for all of his hard work in supporting and preparing students.

For those students who have not been able to secure a placement, they are expected into school as normal from Tuesday 2nd July as Monday 1st July is an INSET day and school is closed to students and pupils. They will attend lessons as usual and attend some additional sessions about next steps and careers.







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## Year 11 into 12 Step Up Days

We were delighted with the attendance to our Year 11 into 12 Step Up Days. We had 80 Year 11 pupils join us over two days to experience masterclasses in their intended Level 3 subjects and then learn all about our enrichment opportunities. A huge thank you to our expert KS5 staff who delivered engaging masterclasses on Monday and thank you also to the following staff who talked to pupils about our exciting enrichment offer on Tuesday:

Mr Newman - Why study the EPQ?

Ms Duffy - What is CoRE?

Mr Anthony - Soli House, Lourdes and Flame Congress

Mr Clinton - Why be a global citizen? What is Global Links?

Mrs McMahon - What are your post 18 options?

Mrs O'Neill - What are our Sixth Form expectations?



It was a brilliant two days with our prospective Year 12 students. We look forward to seeing them at their Prom and then on Enrolment Day on Thursday 22nd August. Please look out for more communication to follow regarding Enrolment Day. Any information that you require regarding dress code etc you can find on the Sixth Form section of our website using this link <https://www.ilsley.bham.sch.uk/sixth-form/>

## Sixth Form Expectations reminder - mobile phones

As part of our whole school review on our mobile phone policy in line with Government guidelines, I would like to take this opportunity to remind students and parents and carers about the use of mobile phones in Sixth Form.



Research consistently demonstrates the active use of mobile phones, whether talking or texting, to be distracting and contributes to diminished performance when multitasking (e.g., distracted driving or walking). Recent research also has indicated that simply the presence of a mobile phone and what it might represent (i.e. social connections, broader social network, etc.) can be similarly distracting and have negative consequences in a social interaction. Results of two studies by Thornton et al, 2014, reported that the "mere presence" of a mobile phone may be sufficiently distracting to produce diminished attention and deficits in task-performance, especially for tasks with greater attentional and cognitive demands such as school work. The implications for such an unintended negative consequence may be quite wide-ranging (e.g., productivity in school and the work place). Our students need support in recognising these distractions and the impact of these.

We understand that our Sixth Formers are older and more mature, however, they also act as role models for our younger pupils. With that in mind, it is imperative that students adhere to our mobile phone policy. Sixth Form students are not to be seen walking around the corridors either using their mobile phones or with their phones in their hands. Mobile phones should only be used in the designated Sixth Form area and their usage kept to a minimum during compulsory study periods.

Students should not wear their airpods or other headphones around the corridors; again their usage should be confined to the Sixth Form areas. Many thanks for your support in this matter.

## The Sixth Form Calendar - Key Dates

- Monday 1st July - INSET Day - school is closed for pupils and students
- 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

