



THE ABI UPDATE

ISSUE 5 FRIDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER - MR CLINTON

Dear parents, pupils, carers, students and friends of Archbishop IlIsley,

In the Catholic liturgical calendar, November is the month we remember those family members and friends who are no longer with us. All Souls was celebrated on Saturday 2nd November and many parishioners and families will attend blessing of the graves services over this month.

Monday, of course, was Armistice Day. You may have seen on the news or on social media that King Charles along with Kate, the Princess of Wales, laid wreaths at the Cenotaph, up the road from Big Ben and near Downing Street, in a service last Sunday. At Archbishop IlIsley, we produced our own remembrance service, thanks to the hard work of Mr Koryl, Deacons Martin

and Tim, our talented Art Department, committed site staff and with the expertise of our IT team. You can see photos of the event on our website and social media channel.

As your child may have reported, the service was beautifully observed and pupils and students were reverent, respectful and reflective throughout. We prayed for the souls of all those soldiers, not just British soldiers. As you may know, soldiers from all across the world were involved in both World Wars including soldiers from the Indian sub-continent, Poland and east Europe, the Caribbean and African countries.

Of course, it is not just soldiers from the great wars, but even today, soldiers are dying in Ukraine, Israel and Palestine, Sudan and Myanmar. It is important to point out that the service was one of hope, symbolised by the cross which was placed near our chapel.

Our ethos is built around the teaching of Jesus Christ and He was the biggest advocate for bringing peace and salvation to our world. He wanted us all to 'love another as I have loved you'. These are words to live our lives by.

KEY DATES

- Friday 22nd November - DT Year 9-11 The Good Food Show
- Thursday 28th November - Maths Inspiration Trip 30 Years 11 and 12
- Monday 2nd December - INSET DAY. School is closed to pupils and students
- Wednesday 4th December - Flu Vaccinations all year groups
- Monday 9th - Wednesday 11th December - Soli House residential Year 12 and 13
- Thursday 12th December - A Christmas Carol - Year 8
- Friday 13th December - Year 8 - Cadbury World trip



REMEMBRANCE SERVICE - MONDAY 11TH NOVEMBER



On Monday morning the whole school gathered for our Remembrance Service. Led by Mr Clinton and our deacons Reverend Tim Anthony and Reverend Martin Casey staff, pupils and students gathered together in prayer to mark Armistice Day at 11am.

Remembrance Sunday is a national opportunity to remember the service and sacrifice of those who defended our freedoms and protected our way of life. In World War One, 2% of British population was lost; in World War Two 450,000 lives lost.

We heard readings and poems from our Catholic Life Representatives and our Head Boy and Head Girl and other Senior Student Leaders. Wreaths and beautiful art work produced by pupils in the Art Department, were laid at our memorial by Mr Clinton and our Deputy Head Girl. This was then guarded by a group of our Cadets.

It was a very poignant service and we thank all those who organised and participated. We also thank our pupils and students who were respectful and reverent as we remembered all who have gone before us as a result of war and conflict.

*'They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow
old: Age shall not weary
them, nor the years
condemn. At the going
down of the sun and in the
morning, We will
remember them.'*



PASTORAL UPDATE - MRS BURNHAM



As we move forward this term, we would like to emphasise the importance of upholding our school values in both appearance and behaviour. This week, we'll be conducting a uniform drive and checks to ensure all pupils are dressed in line with our school's guidelines. Wearing the correct uniform fosters a sense of pride and unity within our school community, helping pupils to represent Archbishop Ilsey with respect. If any families need assistance with uniform items, please reach out to the Refocus Centre, where support is readily available.

Beyond uniform, we are focusing on maintaining a high standard of behavior both in and outside the classroom. We remind all students of the importance of following instructions and ensuring they attend every lesson. Maximising learning time is key to each pupil's progress and success and being fully engaged in every lesson is part of that commitment.

Safety is another priority. During social times, we encourage everyone to make thoughtful, respectful choices to ensure a positive and secure environment for all.

Finally, we want to remind pupils of the importance of kindness and inclusivity. Each member of our school deserves to feel respected, valued, and included and we ask all pupils to be considerate and inclusive toward one another.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership in making Archbishop Ilsey a welcoming, positive and successful community.

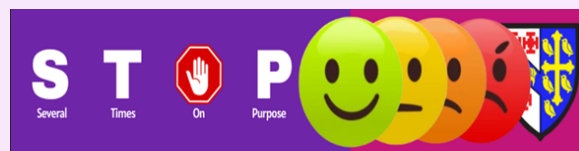
PASTORAL FOCUS - ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2024

This week is Anti-bullying Week and this year, the theme is 'Choose Respect.' This has come about following consultation with teachers and pupils by the Anti-Bullying Alliance which coordinates Anti-Bullying Week every year in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Teachers and children wanted a theme that empowered them to do something positive to counter the harm and hurt that bullying causes.

Following the success of the campaign in 2023 – when 80% of schools marked the week, reaching over 7.5 million children and young people – this year, it is hoped that the campaign will help to empower children and young people to choose respect.

In their Tutor Time sessions pupils have focused on this theme and considered the following:

- **Session 1** - What is respect and what does it look like?
- **Session 2** - What are the consequences of bullying on:
 - the victim
 - the bully
 - families
 - the people who witness it
- **Session 3** - How do we report bullying in School?
- **Session 4** - How can we disagree respectfully?



For further information about bullying, the signs of bullying and our school approach, please see our website using the following link:
<https://www.ilsley.bham.sch.uk/parents/anti-bullying/>

Throughout our sessions, pupils were reminded about the following important information:

- Our definition of bullying is **STOP - Several Times on Purpose**
- Our **Designated Safeguarding Lead** is **Mr Corrigan**
- Pupils were reminded that they all have a **Tootoot** Login. Tootoot is an online anti-bullying and safeguarding platform and app that allows our pupils to report any incidents or concerns in a confidential and discreet manner. These individual cases are monitored, managed and resolved by Tootoot trained staff within the school.

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

YEAR 7 - MRS WAFI

We've had a fantastic start to the second half of the term! Pupils have returned energised and focused, diving right back into their work. Our hot chocolate awards have celebrated pupils with the most improved attendance, outstanding work and positive behaviour. It was also wonderful to connect with so many parents and families at the Year 7 form tutor meetings, thank you for joining us and supporting your children's journey.



As we continue our educational journey together, it is essential to remind ourselves of the importance of embracing each other's differences with tolerance and compassion. In the spirit of Remembrance Sunday, let us honour those who came before us by fostering a community where everyone feels valued and supported. This is a time to strengthen our commitment to kindness, unity and understanding, supporting one another in all aspects of school life. Together, we can build an environment where respect and empathy are at the heart of everything we do.

YEAR 8 - MRS LYNCH

Year 8 had a fantastic start to the new half term. The pupils arrived eager and ready to learn, bringing a positive attitude that set the tone for the term ahead. It's clear they're excited about the opportunities for growth and discovery this year. On Friday, the hot chocolate awards were a huge hit—everyone enjoyed the chance to relax and connect in a fun, informal setting. It was a pleasure to meet so many wonderful pupils and I'm looking forward to seeing all the great things they will achieve throughout the year. Their enthusiasm and energy are truly inspiring!



As we approach Christmas, it's important to remember those who are less fortunate. This season is a time for giving, and if you're able to help, donating to the Shoebox Appeal would be a wonderful way to make a difference. Every little bit helps and your generosity will bring some much-needed joy to others this holiday season. Thank you in advance for your kindness and support!

This week is Anti-Bullying Week, a time to raise awareness about the impact of bullying and to promote kindness, inclusion and respect in our school and communities. It's an important opportunity for us all to reflect on how we treat one another and to take a stand against all forms of bullying—whether it's physical, verbal, or online. The theme of the week encourages us to come together and work towards creating a safe and supportive environment for everyone. Let's make this Anti-Bullying Week a reminder of the power of kindness and the importance of looking out for one another, both inside and outside the classroom.

On Remembrance Day, our pupils were absolutely fantastic. When we stood outside to observe a moment of silence and reflect on the sacrifices made by soldiers and those who have passed, they showed deep respect and maturity. It was truly moving to see how seriously they took the occasion, standing together in quiet solidarity to honour the lives lost in conflicts around the world. The pupils' conduct was a powerful reminder of the value of remembrance and I'm incredibly proud of how they carried themselves on this important day.

Let's continue to support each other and make every day a great day. By showing kindness, understanding and respect for one another, we can create a positive and uplifting environment where everyone feels valued. Each small act of encouragement or friendship makes a big difference and together we can make each day better than the last. Let's keep building a strong, supportive community where we all thrive!

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

YEAR 9 - MR BRUTON

It is wonderful to see so many Year 9 pupils making a positive start to the half term! This week, we are focusing on Anti-Bullying Week and Catholic Social Teaching, with the theme emphasising that every person has rights and responsibilities.



We were also grateful for the respectful participation of Year 9 during our Remembrance Day service on Monday.

It has been fantastic to meet so many supportive parents over the past few weeks; truly, school is a partnership between home, the pupil and school. Our aim is for every pupil to thrive and achieve their best.

We have a couple of charitable initiatives coming up this half term:

- **Shoebox Appeal** – We would love each Year 9 form to fill a shoebox with a selection of toys, school supplies and personal care items. If possible, include a special item, like a doll, cuddly toy, or deflated football with a pump. The deadline for shoeboxes is approaching quickly, so please send in your contributions in on Monday! The shoeboxes must be completed by Monday 18th November as they are collected on Tuesday 19th November.
- **Christmas Hamper Project** – Each form is encouraged to create at least one Christmas hamper for a family in need. Suggested items include Christmas cakes, mince pies, custard, sweet and savoury biscuits, tinned goods, fizzy drinks, toiletries and Christmas crackers.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and support in making these efforts a success!

YEAR 10 - MR FRANCIOSO

As we move deeper into this term and see the Christmas season approaching, I want to take a moment to recognise and commend the incredible perseverance and resilience shown by our Year 10 pupils.



This term has brought with it a variety of challenges, from academic rigor and coursework deadlines to personal growth and new responsibilities. Your children have shown admirable determination, tackling these demands with a positive spirit and an unwavering commitment to their studies. Their ability to push through moments of difficulty, adapt to new situations and maintain their focus is a testament to their growing maturity. Resilience isn't just about enduring hard times; it's about learning and evolving in the face of them. It's about rising after a setback and continuing forward, a skill that Year 10 pupils are developing with each passing day. Your support at home and encouragement have been vital to nurturing this resilience, and we thank you for the partnership that enables your children to thrive.

As we continue moving toward the festive season, let's celebrate how far they have come. Their hard work and the positive habits they are building now will serve them well, not just in school, but throughout their lives. Though the term isn't over yet, we can already see the growth and it's something worth acknowledging.

It is around this time where standards could start to slip. Uniform is looking more tired, equipment may be missing. Take this weekend to reset. Check equipment and uniform to ensure your child is set for the coming weeks. Thank you for your ongoing support and for being a crucial part of your child's educational journey. We are proud of Year 10's accomplishments and look forward to helping them finish this term strong before a well-earned Christmas break.

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

YEAR 11 - MISS BRADY



What a wonderful two weeks Year 11 have had back after half term. I am not sure they would use the word wonderful, they might say stressful or tiring! Mr McDonald, our exams officer, Mrs O'Donnell and I, have been extremely impressed with pupils' attitude, work ethic and conduct during the examination period. The majority of pupils were on time, listened to instructions and followed requests, which ultimately allowed for a smooth two weeks of exams. Completing more than one exam a day is taxing however this is the reality for the real GCSE examinations and we can already see that pupils endurance and confidence is increasing. We are incredibly proud of them!

Over the coming weeks, your son/daughter will have the opportunity to receive their results, the exam paper back and lesson time to work through any gaps in their knowledge. This time is vitally important to ensure increased marks in the next round of exams. I would urge, as always, excellent attendance around this period of time.

We are looking forward to seeing you all in school on Thursday 5th December for Parents' Evening. The evening will provide you and your child with the opportunity to have targeted conversations with subject teachers. You will receive advice and guidance on what you can do to support your child at home and ask any subject specific questions.

The cold weather has finally caught up with us. Please ensure your child wears a suitable winter coat to school. We often hear that it is not fashionable to wear a coat. However, when wearing coats, pupils often forget to wear their blazers; please remind them before they leave the house each morning. The mocks also revealed that some pupils do not attend school with the expected equipment and we had to provide some pupils with necessary resources in order for them to complete exams. Please ensure your son/daughter has their diary and pencil case in their school bag each day.

Thank you for your support during the mock examination period. We do hope pupils found the process inspiring and they continue to work hard towards their goals. I look forward to seeing you on the 5th December.

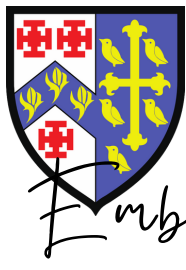
IN OTHER NEWS...

MFL DEPARTMENT: Last Thursday 7 November, 25 Year 8 students were customers at the MFL cafe. They ordered a variety of treats from the Spanish and French speaking worlds. They were served by language teachers as well as students in Year 10 and Year 12. Everyone had a fantastic time and many tried some new foods. The chocolate crepes were very popular. The olives had less fans. One delighted customer even left us a virtual tip!



SCIENCE DEPARTMENT REMINDER: Year 10 are starting their mock exams next week. The times are on google classroom, and revision has been set for each pupil. Please support your son/daughter with their revision.





**Archbishop
Ilsley Catholic
Sixth Form**
Embrace your future

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

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

YEAR 12 GLOBAL LINKS ENRICHMENT

Thank you to our Year 13 students, who this week led our Global Links Enrichment session. They talked all about their experience of going to Cambodia and focused their session on how students can prepare themselves for the experience. They talked about what to experience in terms of travelling and how students might go about planning teaching episodes for the children in the schools they visited. Student also shared their real take away moments and talked about the sheer magnitude of the experience!

This year's trip is to Peru. It will again be another unique opportunity where students will be spending two weeks carrying out community development work. A significant part of the trip will be spent supporting a local primary school community where students will be delivering lessons to help children learn basic English, supporting student enrichment and supporting community development initiatives such as planting trees and supporting local wildlife conservation efforts. Whilst on the trip students will also have the opportunity to visit some of the amazing sites Peru has to offer such as carrying out an expedition to Machu Picchu, one of the wonders of the world!

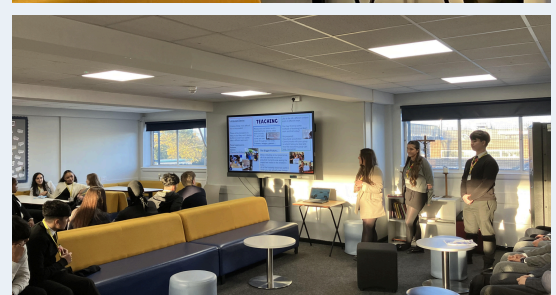
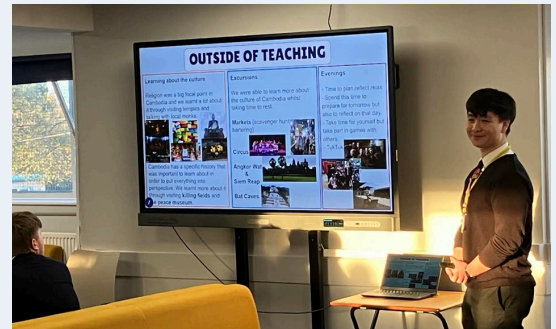
This trip is a real opportunity for students to become global citizens; not only will they develop transferrable skills, they will engage with new cultures and communities and transform their outlook on the world.

Similar to last year and the year before, we are working with Challenges Abroad and are supporting the work of the FutureSense Foundation, who support disadvantaged communities and children around the world. To explore the work of Challenges Abroad and the FutureSense Foundation please click of the following links:
<https://futuresensefoundation.org/> <https://challengesabroad.co.uk/>

Our Global Links Enrichment sessions are all designed to prepare students for this opportunity. Only students who are engaging with the sessions on a regular basis will be considered for the trip.

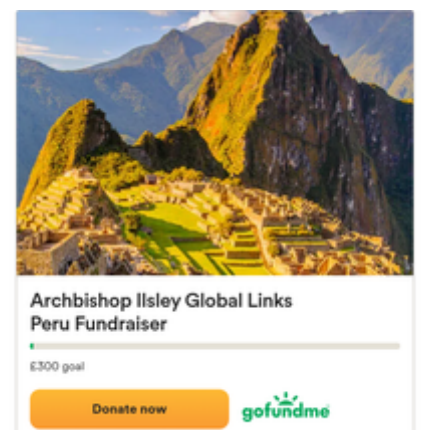
This week we released the Peru Application form. The form is accessed via Google Classroom and students must submit completed applications by Monday December 9th. No applications will be considered beyond this date.

It must be noted that the number of applicants will exceed the number of places available unfortunately.



JOIN US AT PARKRUN! SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER

Back by popular demand are the Global Links Park runs! In order to raise money for this amazing charity and trip, we are encouraging all those with an interest in the trip to help us kick start our fundraising journey. Last year, we managed to raise a staggering amount of money to support both the FutureSense Foundation and the travel costs of our students. We are hoping to do the same again this year. Interested students have been encouraged to collect sponsors on their forms and send out the GoFundMe link to family and friends. We also welcome friends and family to come along to support or even run with us! We look forward to seeing everyone there!



SENIOR STUDENT LEADERS EMBRACING THEIR ROLES

Our Year 13 Senior Student Leaders have again been busy this week delivering assembly, this time to Year 12. Our SSLs spoke to Year 12 about the importance of building routines in Year 12 as a foundation for a successful Year 13. This includes working effectively during Study Periods and using timetables and their academic diaries to plan their work and revision. Year 13 have the benefit of having already been through Year 12; we really hope that our current Year 12 take heed of the very sensible messages given to them and begin that all important revision process begins now!

These messages are being reinforced in students Wednesday VESPAR Sessions. This term we are focusing on effort and 'academic perseverance'.

You can support your child by asking them about their study patterns and routines and monitoring how much extra work they are doing at home.



YEAR 13 NEXT STEPS

Here at Archbishop Illesley Catholic Sixth Form we are aspirational for all of our students. As such, we encourage all students to complete a UCAS application in order to support them to think carefully about their post Sixth Form plans and begin the process of applications and writing CVs.

At this time, students are now completing their UCAS applications ready to send off at the end of this half term. At this stage, students should already have submitted their personal statement to their tutor. They should now be working on completing the application form and considering their five university choices.

Students have been having lots of conversations with their tutor, their subject teachers and the Sixth Form Team to ensure that they are applying for the right courses.

We are however aware that not all of our students wish to go to university. If your child has decided not to complete a UCAS application and not to apply for university at this time they must inform myself and their tutor. If that is the case, they will be given a letter with a reply slip for you to complete and return to school for our records. This is an important decision and one that requires careful consideration; it is very important that students consider what their options are after completing their Sixth Form studies. Should your child require additional support we do have a careers advisor on site.

The following are some key dates for you to be aware of regarding the UCAS application process:

- Friday 25th October - first draft of Personal Statements/CV should have been handed into tutors
- Friday 29th November - UCAS applications forms are completed in full for tutor checking
- Friday 6th December - Completed UCAS forms to be sent to UCAS
- Students will be working on this application during their tutor sessions and should also be working on this at home.

Please speak to your child about their ideas for their next steps and should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

There is also advice and further information about the UCAS application process on our website in the Sixth Form section. This can be accessed using the following link: <https://www.ilsley.bham.sch.uk/sixth-form/ucas/>