

THE ABI UPDATE

ISSUE 8 FRIDAY 17TH JANUARY 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER - MR CLINTON

Happy New Year to all our parents, pupils, carers, students and friends of Archbishop Ilsley!!

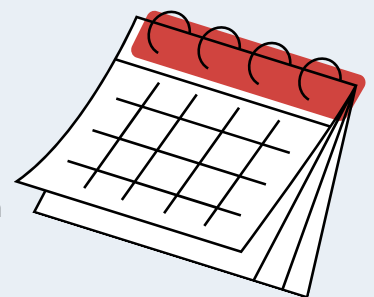
I hope you had a fantastic Christmas and New Year with your family and friends and had the time to relax and unwind from school/work. 2024 was a highly successful year at Archbishop Ilsley. Highlights include some excellent examination results, improved attendance, trips to Germany, Belgium, France and Cambodia as well as various trips to the theatre, museums and galleries in Birmingham and other cities, not to mention thousands of engaging, compelling and challenging lessons, five days a week for 39 week of the year!

2025 promises to be another exciting year full of hope and promise. Which leads me our focus for the year ahead in that we will all be Pilgrims of Hope. We will be joining every Catholic school in the Archdiocese both primary and secondary, for the Year of Jubilee launch event one week today at 9:30 to 10:15. You can search #BhamJubilee or 'BDES' on google for more information.

And finally, in this issue, you can also see the first edition of a pupil newspaper. Thank you very much to the talented Saoirse, Lena, Hermela, Keisha and Prabhveer for sharing their expertise with us. Happy reading and enjoy your weekend.

KEY DATES FOR THE HALF TERM AHEAD

- Monday 20th January - Debate Club trip
- Tuesday 21st January - GCSE Poetry Live trip, Year 11
- Wednesday 22nd January - Year 8 Reward Theatre Trip to Hippodrome - Peter Pan
- Tuesday 28th January - Year 12 Alexandra Theatre Trip - Agatha Christie (pm)
- Thursday 30th January - Year 8 Catholic Partnership Maths Challenge, Bishop Challoner
- Monday 3rd February - Food UCB trip, Year 10
- Friday 7th February - London Trip Year 11/12
- Tuesday 11th February - DT trip to Cosford Museum, Year 9
- Thursday 13th February - DT Silverstone Museum trip, Year 12
- Friday 14th February - INSET Day - school is closed to pupils and students
- Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February - HALF TERM

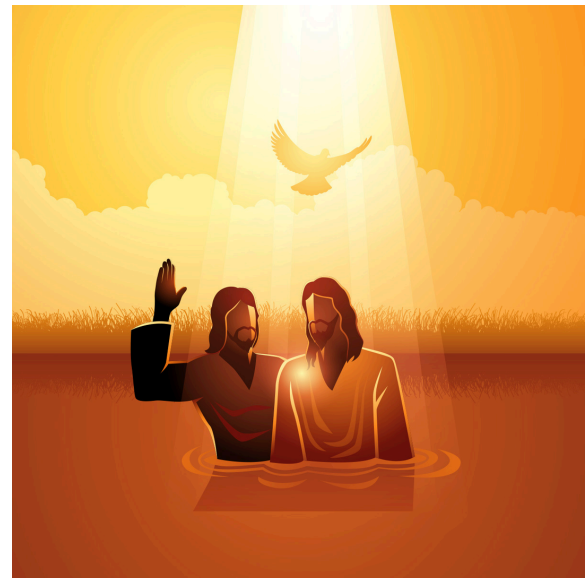


CATHOLIC LIFE - THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

At that time: As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, 'I baptise you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

Now when all the people were baptised by John the Baptist and when Jesus also had been baptised and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.'



Let us reflect:

Jesus' baptism marks the start of His mission. By entering the waters, He steps into His mission of cleansing through repentance and conversion. The heavenly voice proclaiming Jesus as the beloved Son confirms His anointing by the Spirit for this mission.

We too have a great mission at Archbishop Ilsey. Life is short and during our time on earth we should all aspire to be kind to everyone. We have the duty to support justice for all; to show love and not hate to others; to forgive everyone, even those that have hurt us. We should strive to always think of others before ourselves.

God loves us all and has given us a unique set of skills. Pupils and students have been encouraged to think about this message in their tutor time sessions. We want everyone to make the most of their talents; we ask our pupils to pray for and be kind to their teachers who only want the best for them. For our staff, teaching is a vocation, a mission to give children the best chance of making their dreams come true; we want to empower our pupils and students to one day look after their own families and children, as well as be members of their local, national and international extended family.

YEAR OF JUBILEE 2025

The Holy Father has decided that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee. The theme is "Pilgrims of Hope" and is a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis.

The Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee presents each one of us with an opportunity to reignite the flame of our faith in our own hearts and to share the light of that faith with those in darkness.



The concept of Jubilee is one rooted in the earliest days of Judeo-Christian tradition. In the Book of Leviticus, we read that the people of Israel celebrated this tradition every 50 years. Its purpose was to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation. It involved the forgiveness of debts, the return of misappropriated land, and a fallow period for the fields. Today, the Catholic Church celebrates this tradition once every 25 years as a year of grace, offering the faithful the opportunity to renew faith through prayer, pilgrimage, acts of charity, and by asking for a plenary indulgence – a special grace that strengthens our wounded souls in the fight against sin. As a school we will be launching this special event in the coming weeks and our school will join other schools in the Diocese in celebration.

PASTORAL UPDATE - MRS BURNHAM



Setting the Standard for Success

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we embark on this new term, I'd like to share some key reminders and priorities to help ensure that all pupils thrive in a respectful, safe, and supportive school environment. Together, we can set the standard for success both inside and outside the classroom.

Uniform and Equipment: The Foundation for Success

A smart uniform reflects pride in our school and sets the tone for a focused learning environment. Please ensure that your child is wearing the correct uniform each day, including appropriate footwear. Additionally, having the right equipment—pens, pencils, notebooks, and any required subject-specific items—means they're ready to learn and succeed. Preparing for school each morning is a small but vital habit that makes a big difference.

Respect for School Property and One Another

Our school is a shared space that belongs to everyone. Respecting school property—keeping classrooms clean, treating furniture and resources with care, and avoiding vandalism—shows pride in our community. Equally important is how pupils treat one another.

We encourage all pupils to respect differences and be tolerant of others' beliefs, backgrounds, and perspectives. Kindness and understanding are core values that foster a positive school environment for everyone. Let's work together to ensure all students feel safe, valued, and supported.

Online Presence and Mobile Device Use

In today's digital age, monitoring your child's online activity is more important than ever. Regularly check their social media use and ensure the content they view aligns with your family values and our school's expectations. Encourage open conversations about their online interactions and remind them to use technology responsibly and respectfully. Limiting screen time and balancing it with other activities can also support their well-being and focus.

Commitment to Learning

Every lesson matters. Attending every class and engaging fully with learning is essential for your child's progress and success. Encourage your child to participate actively in lessons, ask questions, and strive to improve each day. Missing lessons not only impacts their academic growth but also their confidence and ability to keep up with their peers.

Working Together

Thank you for your ongoing support in reinforcing these expectations. By working together, we can create a school environment that allows every student to flourish academically, socially, and emotionally. If you have any concerns or would like further guidance, please don't hesitate to contact the school.

For more information regarding any of our policies, please see our website.

By clicking on the curriculum pages and subjects, you can also see what our pupils and students are studying this half term.



HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

YEAR 7 - MRS WAFI

Welcome back, Year 7! We hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable break and are feeling refreshed, energised, and ready to embrace the opportunities that this new term brings. Whether you spent your time unwinding at home, catching up with friends and family, or pursuing hobbies, we're excited to see you back and ready for what's ahead.



The last term ended on an incredibly high note with our Awards Assembly, where we were proud to celebrate so many pupils for their hard work, dedication and consistent efforts to "get it right." A heartfelt congratulations to all the award recipients, you've set a wonderful example for everyone.

For those who may not have achieved their goals last term or felt like they didn't quite meet their own expectations, this is a fresh start and a chance to turn things around. Each term brings a new opportunity to grow, make positive changes, and achieve the success you're capable of. Remember, improvement is a journey, and every step forward is worth celebrating.

We've already hit the ground running this term! It's been fantastic to see pupils being recognised and rewarded with hot chocolate for their excellent behaviour and achievements. Additionally, many of you had the pleasure of attending the fabulous Peter Pan pantomime, a truly memorable and captivating performance that brought smiles, laughter and excitement to everyone who watched. It was wonderful to see so many Year 7 pupils engaging with the performance, cheering along and enjoying the magic of live theatre.

As we embark on this term together, let's aim high, support one another, and create an environment where everyone can thrive. Whether it's through academics, extracurricular activities, or simply being a kind and supportive member of our Year 7 community, there are countless ways to make this term memorable. Let's make this term one to remember, full of growth, achievement, and plenty of moments to celebrate. Welcome back, and let's make it great!

YEAR 8 - MRS LYNCH

Welcome back, Year 8! It's fantastic to see you all returning to school after the break and I want to take a moment to congratulate you on the great start you've made to this new year. Whether you've come back refreshed, excited, or ready to tackle new challenges, it's clear that you are all prepared to make the most of the year ahead.



The start of a new school term is a perfect opportunity to set new goals, build on what you've already achieved and continue growing both academically and personally. You've shown incredible effort so far, and I have no doubt that this positive attitude will continue to drive you towards success. Remember, it's not just about getting the best grades, but also about embracing new experiences, learning from mistakes, and supporting each other along the way. Keep that enthusiasm and determination alive as you embark on this exciting chapter in your education.

Once again, well done on your strong start, Year 8! Let's make this year one to remember!

On January 8th, Year 8 had the fantastic opportunity to visit the pantomime production of Peter Pan in Birmingham, and what an amazing experience it was! The performance brought the magic of Neverland to life with incredible sets, vibrant costumes, and plenty of laughter. The talented cast really made the story come alive, with their energetic performances, hilarious comedy, and captivating audience interaction. It was a wonderful chance to enjoy some well-deserved fun while also celebrating the joy of live theatre. From the thrilling moments of flight to the excitement of meeting beloved characters like Peter, Tinkerbell, and Captain Hook, the panto was a perfect way to kick off the new year with a sense of adventure and joy.

YEAR 9 - MR BRUTON

Welcome Back, Year 9! Happy New Year! We hope you had a wonderful Christmas and are ready to embrace the opportunities and challenges of 2025. As we start this new term, it's a great time to think about resolutions for both personal growth and academic success. Let's make this year one to remember!



New Year Resolutions... What are your goals for 2025? Whether it's improving in a favourite subject, joining a club, or being more organized, now is the perfect time to set achievable targets. Remember, small steps lead to big achievements!

Exciting Opportunities in 2025... This term brings plenty of opportunities for Year 9 students:

- Harry Potter Studios - Several pupils had the opportunity to delve into the magical world of J.K. Rowling. Thank you to Mrs Rose, Mrs Portman and Mr Edge for organising and taking pupils.
- Pantomime Trip to Birmingham Hippodrome. A number of year 9s have taken the opportunity to go to the Pantomime next Wednesday 22nd January to see Peter Pan. It's a great chance to enjoy some theatre magic and laughter with friends. Thank you for Mrs Lynch who has organised this event.
- Year 9 mass - Wednesday 29th January

YEAR 10 - MR FRANCIOSO

Welcome Back, Year 10! Happy New Year! I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable Christmas break, spending time with family and friends and recharging for the exciting term ahead. As we step into this new year, it's a great opportunity to set fresh goals, stay focused, and make the most of the learning opportunities ahead. This term will bring new challenges, but with hard work, determination, and a positive mindset, you can achieve great things.



A message to parents to say thank you for all of your help and hard work last term. We all know it's a long one but with your support makes it much easier. Let's keep those standards high. Let's make 2025 a year of growth, success, and memorable experiences. Welcome back, and let's get started!

YEAR 11 - MISS BRADY

Year 11 has had a fantastic start to 2025! Many have returned after the Christmas break, refreshed and determined as they prepare for round two of Mock examinations. These exams will take place from Monday 24th February for two weeks. Pupils should have started their revision, as we know repetition and consistency is what will help achieve success.



Some Year 11's had the opportunity to visit Harry Potter world last week as part of their computer and business studies, a great day was had by all. Thank you Ms Rose for organising! 50 Year 11's are out next Tuesday taking part in 'Poetry Live GCSE Event' at Symphony Hall Birmingham, where they will meet and listen to poets who have written the poetry they have studied in English and will need to write about in their exams. This is such a fantastic opportunity to hear from the poets in person and gain insight into their work, sessions have proven invaluable to pupils in the past so thank you for supporting this trip. Thank you to Mrs McKeown for organising!

We have noticed a decline in equipment, please could you ensure your child has a fully stocked pencil case available. This is vitally important, especially for exams. Highlighters, calculators, a compass, are often things that we find pupils are missing and we only have a small amount in school. Thank you for your support with this.

This week I have visited many Year 11 lessons, I've been so pleased with the effort and fantastic attitude applied. Mr McDonald and I have had many conversations during these visits around the amount of time Year 11 have left before exams. Many guessed they have over 100 days and many are making assumptions that they have loads of time left. When we take away mock exams and half term/Easter Holidays, there are only 54 school days left before the first exam. It would be great if you could join in the countdown in your home. Thank you for your continued support.



SCHOOL NEWS

**JANUARY
EDITION**

YOUR NEWSLETTER ABOUT OUR SCHOOL!

ABOUT US

WE ARE YEAR 9 GIRLS AND WE HAVE CREATED THIS NEWSLETTER, NOT ONLY TO LEARN A NEW SKILL FOR DUKE OF EDINBURGH BUT ALSO TO KEEP YOU INFORMED ABOUT WHAT IS GOING ON AROUND THE SCHOOL AND WHAT OPPORTUNITIES ARE COMING YOUR WAY.

UPCOMING EVENTS

THERE ARE MANY TRIPS COMING UP SUCH AS Y9S HIPPODROME TRIP TO SEE PETER PAN AT THE THEATRE. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PAY ON PARENT PAY AND KEEP A LOOKOUT ON CLASS CHARTS FOR NEW TRIPS.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

AT OUR SCHOOL WE HAVE A RANGE OF EXTRACURRICULARS. ONE OF WHICH IS MR KORYL'S FISHING CLUB SO FIND HIM FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THAT!

QUESTION

ARCHBISHOP ILSLEY HAS A NETBALL TEAM AND FOOTBALL TEAM SO IF WE WERE TO CREATE A CHEERLEADING SQUAD WOULD YOU JOIN? LET US KNOW!



**VISIT THE SCHOOL'S
WEBSITE**

**[HTTPS://WWW.ILSLEY.BH
AM.SCH.UK](https://www.ilsley.bham.sch.uk)**

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

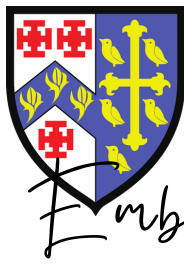
January is the month where we all make resolutions aimed at making us better; gyms and fitness classes are busier, we might be trying to eat more healthily, spend less money, save more or take up new hobbies. In our assemblies over the last two weeks, we have considered the success rate of people making grand resolutions and instead thought about the little things that we can do to make us better; importantly, we have thought about the little things that are sustainable - the marginal gains that we can make, the new habits that we can form and keep. I shared my '10 life hacks for Sixth Form' with students and we are going to really work on these this half term!

1. Remember why you chose Sixth Form!
2. Systems: Be organised - The start of a new year is the ideal time to get into some good study habits, as these will help our students to get the best possible A-level grades, as well as standing them in good stead for degree level study and beyond. This half term our tutor programme is all about Systems; teaching students about the importance of routines, routines that incorporate study time, the use of 'To Do' lists to help students maximise their productivity and prioritise homework tasks and active revision strategies. One of the best things that students can do is revise as they go along by revisiting topics in order to learn them more deeply and commit them to long term memory. This will reduce their revision workload nearer to exam time as when they come to revise the topics, they will be revisiting content that they already understand and are familiar with. After a class, students should get into the habit of reading over what they learned, in order to consolidate their new knowledge; they could make flashcards with short snippets of useful information on. These can then be used by students to self quiz both days and months down the line.
3. Complete further reading around subjects
4. Consolidation from the off. Use active study strategies; Cornell Notes, flashcards, self quizzing
5. Study periods - use them wisely
6. Speak with your teachers - they are the experts! Ask advice; ask for help!
7. Get involved
8. Think carefully about outside school commitments, especially part-time jobs
9. Sleep
10. Enjoy it!

YEAR 12 ACADEMIC REPORT 1

On Friday 10th January Year 12 parents and carers received their child's first KS5 Academic Report. The reports detailed Working at Grades which are the grades for their first examination in each subject. There were then grades for Effort, Behaviour for Learning and Homework. In some respects, these are the most important grades at this stage. If Effort, Behaviour for Learning and Homework grades are at As or Bs, a student will be successful in their studies with us. In almost every discipline, success comes from a combination of talent and grit. But if you listen to most famous figures describe their life journeys, you'll hear them waxing lyrical about their hard work, while strangely downplaying the role of their innate abilities.

Thomas Edison may be the most often quoted, with his claim that, "genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration" but many other variations exist. Just consider Octavia Butler's advice for new writers. "Forget talent. If you have it, fine. Use it. If you don't have it, it doesn't matter. As habit is more dependable than inspiration, continued learning is more dependable than talent." The Portuguese footballer Cristiano Ronaldo also emphasises the blood, sweat and tears that went into his training. "Talent without work is nothing," he said, when asked about the secrets of his success on the pitch. In the coming weeks, the Sixth Form Team will be talking to every student about their report and setting SMART targets with them.



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

Follow us on @ABIllesley6thform 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 13 PRE-PUBLIC EXAMS WEEK

Year 13 begin their second round of Pre Public examinations on Monday 20th January. All students have received their exam timetables and their revision should be well under way. It is wonderful to see how many of our students are taking these examinations seriously and using their time wisely. Please ask them about their upcoming exams and about their revision.

Congratulations to our PE and Sport, our IT and our Health and Social Care students in both Year 12 and 13 who have sat external examinations during the last two weeks. They have been punctual and prepared and conducted themselves exceptionally well.

Tuesday 21st January 2025 MOCK EXAM	BIOLOGY, SOCIOLOGY (OPT B)	9.00AM	WRITTEN	2HRS	HALL
MOCK EXAM	CHEMISTRY, HISTORY (OPT C)	12.30PM	WRITTEN	2HRS	HALL
Wednesday 22nd January 2024 MOCK EXAM	BUSINESS, GEOGRAPHY, THEOLOGY, (OPT D)	9.00 AM	WRITTEN	2HRS GEOG 2HRS 30 MINS	HALL
MOCK EXAM	PHYSICS, POLITICS (OPT D)	12.30PM	WRITTEN	2HRS	HALL
Thursday 23rd January 2025 MOCK EXAM	PRODUCT DESIGN, PSYCHOLOGY (OPT E)	9.00 AM	WRITTEN	2HRS	HALL
MOCK EXAM	MEDIA STUDIES (OPT B)	12.30PM	WRITTEN/ SCREEN	2HRS 15MINS	HALL
Friday 24th January 2024 MOCK EXAM	ENGLISH LIT (2 HOURS 30), MATHS (OPT A)	9.00 AM	WRITTEN	ENG 2HRS 30 MINS, MATHS 2HRS	HALL

YEAR 13 PRE-PUBLIC EXAM TIMETABLE

In other very exciting news, 61 of our students have now made a university application to UCAS. This year in particular, we have also had a growing number of students express a desire to apply for degree level apprenticeships which they are now in the process of researching and applying for. The goal is now very clear for our students; they are working towards very tangible goals!

YEAR 12 WORK EXPERIENCE WEEK TUESDAY 24TH JULY -FRIDAY 27TH JULY

Although this seems like a very long way away, it will be here before we know it! It is our expectation that all Year 12 students secure a Work Experience placement. Well done to the many students that have already done this and returned their forms for their tutors. It is really important that placements are secured soon; many other school students will be looking for placements at this time of year, so please support your child in finding a suitable placement. Do you have family or family friends that might be able to help your child? Can you help them to send emails or make phone calls? All placements must be checked by the school prior to placements commencing, so the earlier places are confirmed, the better. Many thanks for your support.

KEY DATES

- Week beginning Monday 20th and Monday 27th January - Year 13 Mock Exam 2 weeks
- Week beginning Monday 3rd February - Year 12 PAR assessment in class
- Tuesday 28th January - Year 12 Alexandra Theatre Trip - Agatha Christie (pm)
- Friday 7th February - Year 12 London Trip
- Thursday 13th February - Sixth Form Parents' Evening (3:45 - 6.15pm)
- Friday 14th February - INSET DAY
- Friday 14th February - Year 13 Assessment Report 2 issued
- Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February - HALF TERM. School is closed to pupils, students and staff

