Contact us: 0121 706 4200 @ABIlsley www.ilsley.bham.sch.uk

THE ABI UPDATE

ISSUE 17 FRIDAY 18TH JULY 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER - MR CLINTON

On behalf of the governors, directors and CEO Professor Paul Ryan, may I wish you all a very happy six weeks' holiday.

Parents/Carers – thank you for your support over this busy term. Pupils, students and colleagues - thank you for all your hard work. This is our last ABI Update of the academic year and what a year it has been! Highlights? Too many to mention, but perhaps Berlin, Normandy, Nepal and Peru would be up there? Then again, the Year 9 careers fair this week was a roaring success as were the DT Days. Duke of Edinburgh – Year 13 are currently in the Lake District – is always hugely enjoyable.

On the other hand, the two Proms were both brilliant events and the Year 6 transition day was also a success. Trips to London, the police dog visit, the debate with Jess Philips and local councillors were very popular with pupils. This is before we mention each child experiencing a broad, balanced and engaging curriculum for 25 hours a week, 39 weeks a year. Whatever your personal highlight was, it has been a hugely successful year and as I reflect on my two and half years as headteacher, I feel very blessed to work with such inspirational colleagues and friendly children on a daily basis.

We bid farewell to some very loyal and much loved colleagues. I must mention Mr Simmons, who started at Archbishop Ilsley as fresh faced keen French teacher back in 2005. After 20 years' loyal service and helping countless pupils in his role as behaviour lead and SENCO, he departs to pastures new. Special mentions also to Mrs Mockler and Deacon Tim who have done so much for our Catholic Community. We also have very mixed feelings that Father Marco is departing to be the parish priest of St John Fisher in Coventry; we are very happy for him but also very sad to lose someone who has done so much for our school as school chaplain and as a governor.

I hope you enjoy reading this final issue and are also very pleased to see all the opportunities the children of Archbishop Ilsley have enjoyed over these summer months.

KEY DATES

- Thursday 14th August - A Level Results Day. Students can collect their results from 9am from the Common Room
- Thursday 21st August - GCSE Results Day. Pupils can collect their results from 9am from the main Hall Room

The School Year: 2025 to 2026
Autumn Term 2025

- Term begins: Wednesday 3rd September 2025 (Year 7 and 11 begin on the Wednesday; Year 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13 all start on Thursday 4th September)
- Half-term: Monday 27th October 2025 - Friday 31st October 2025
- Term ends: Friday 19th December 2025

Spring Term 2026

- Term begins: Monday 5th January 2026
- Half-term: Monday 16th February 2026 - Friday 20th February 2026
- Term ends: Friday 27th March 2026

Summer Term 2026

- Term begins: Monday 13th April 2026
- Half-term: Monday 25th May 2026 - Friday 29th May 2026
- Term ends: Friday 17th July 2026

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

- Monday 1st September 2025
- Tuesday 2nd September 2025
- Monday 1st December 2025
- Friday 13th February 2026 (St Teresa of Calcutta Multi Academy INSET Day)
- Friday 1st May 2025
- Monday 20th July 2026

A reminder that holidays during term time will not be authorised

Thank you to our departing staff

Thank you Mr Simmons, our much loved SENCO and much valued member of the leadership team. Mr Simmons has dedicated nearly half his life to this great school. A supremely intelligent professional, always looking out for the 'silent stars', giving a voice to some of our most in need, unconfident and vulnerable. Mr Simmons is a man of integrity and has a heart of gold. Thank you for everything and good luck.

Our SEND team also bid farewell to two other valued members: Ms Johnston – a superb teacher with great potential – and Mr Brennan – an extremely selfless man who is so self-deprecating. Bright careers lie ahead for both.

Thank you to a talented trio of teachers who have worked here on short term contracts to bolster our staff team: Mrs Rose - a superbly skilled and talented English teacher. We thank Mr Rohman for his contribution in Science and Mrs Saeed for her work in the Sixth Form team as a tutor and teacher of Psychology and EPQ.

We must thank Ms Voaden for sharing her knowledge and expertise with our Religious Studies pupils and also to Mr Dixon, our talented musician.

Thank you to a trio of maths teachers: Mr Marshall, a supremely intelligent Mathematician and Mr Ekins who will be sorely missed by his department.

Thank you also to Deacon Tim for promoting and consolidating our understanding of what it means to work in a Catholic School.

Miss McMahon brought Irish charm and girls' Gaelic football to ABI and we thank her for securing outstanding outcomes for our Year 13 students.

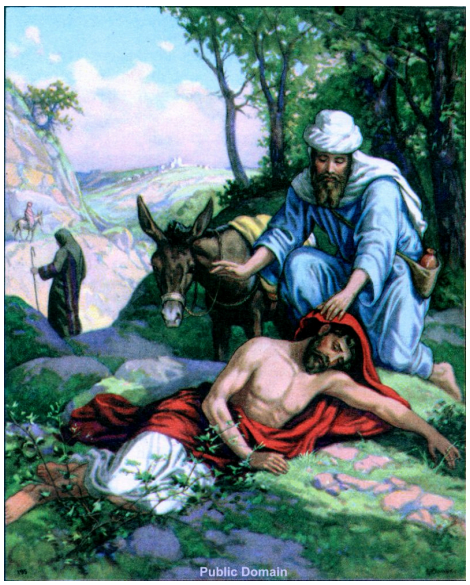
Mrs Mockler – a living legend of Archbishop Ilsley. Enjoy your third and final retirement!

Can we also remember two former teachers from Archbishop Ilsley: Head of Science, Howard Ashton and Geographer, Barry Clarke. Keep both in your prayers.

Thank you to all our committed staff for their hard work and the love and care they have shown to the children of Archbishop Ilsley.



CATHOLIC LIFE
GOSPEL REFLECTION: LUKE 10:25-37



There was a lawyer who, to disconcert Jesus, stood up and said to him, 'Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the Law? What do you read there?' He replied, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself.' 'You have answered right,' said Jesus 'do this and life is yours.'
But the man was anxious to justify himself and said to Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' Jesus replied, 'A man was once on his way down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of brigands; they took all he had, beat him and then made off, leaving him half dead. Now a priest happened to be travelling down the same road, but when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. In the same way a Levite who came to the place saw him, and passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan traveller who came upon him was moved with compassion when he saw him. He went up and bandaged his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them. He then lifted him on to his own mount, carried him to the inn and looked after him. Next day, he took out two denarii and handed them to the innkeeper. "Look after him," he said "and on my way back I will make good any extra expense you have."

Which of these three, do you think, proved himself a neighbour to the man who fell into the brigands' hands?' 'The one who took pity on him' he replied. Jesus said to him, 'Go, and do the same yourself.'

How is this relevant today?

The meaning of the Parable of the Good Samaritan, centres on the nature of true love, mercy and what it means to be a neighbour. There are many ways that we we can interpret this parable. Jesus emphasises that eternal life is not just about knowing the law (love God and neighbour), but living it. Real faith is expressed through compassionate action, not just religious knowledge or status. The lawyer wanted to define "neighbour" narrowly—likely as fellow Jews or righteous people. Jesus redefines the concept radically: a neighbour is anyone in need, regardless of race, religion, or social background. The priest and Levite represent religious people who fail to show compassion, possibly out of concern for ritual purity. The Samaritan, seen as religiously impure and socially hated, is the one who lives out the heart of God's law—mercy and love.

Jesus deliberately chooses a Samaritan—someone despised by Jews—to be the hero of the story. This challenges racial, cultural and religious boundaries, urging us to see the humanity in everyone. Jesus ends with a command: "Go and do likewise." He is calling his followers to actively love others—especially those who are hurting, marginalised, or different.

Thus, Luke 10:25–37 teaches that true righteousness is shown through mercy and compassion. Being a neighbour means seeing and serving anyone in need, regardless of their background—and living a life of selfless love that reflects the character of God.

PASTORAL UPDATE - MRS BURNHAM

Behaviour and Standards – End of Year Update

As we reach the end of a successful academic year, we'd like to thank all our pupils, parents and carers for their continued support in upholding the high standards that help make our school a safe, respectful, and focused environment for learning.

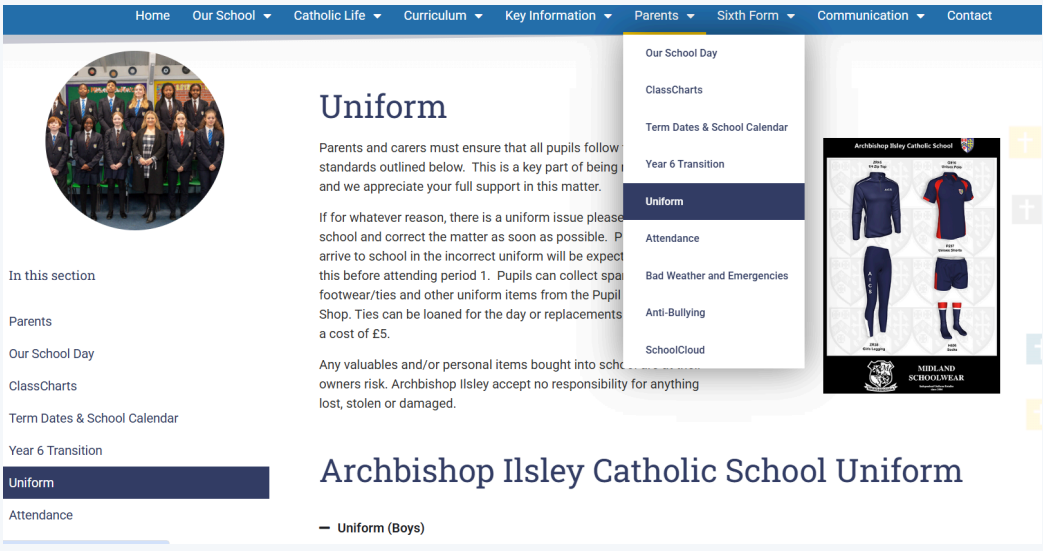
Over the past year, we've seen improvements in punctuality, behaviour and engagement across all year groups. Our focus on being Ready, Respectful, and Safe has been embraced by many pupils who continue to set a fantastic example day in and day out.

Uniform and Equipment

A reminder that uniform and equipment are key to setting the tone for a successful day. We are proud of how smart our pupils look and we will continue to maintain high expectations next year. Please ensure your child returns in full school uniform in September, with all the necessary equipment to be ready to learn from day one. Details of uniform and equipment requirements can be found on our school website here: https://www.ilsley.bham.sch.uk/parents/uniform/

Looking Ahead

Being ready for the next academic year means arriving with the right mindset, a positive attitude, and a willingness to give your best. We'll continue to focus on routines, respectful behaviour, and positive relationships so that all pupils can thrive.



Holiday Safety and Community Conduct

As we head into the summer break, we encourage all pupils to make safe, sensible choices in the community. Please be mindful of the impact of your actions on others and remember that being respectful and responsible extends beyond the school gates.

We want everyone to have a safe, enjoyable summer and return refreshed, recharged, and ready for another successful year. Thank you once again for your support.

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

YEAR 7 - MRS WAFI

As we approach the close of the academic year, I would like to wholeheartedly commend Year 7 for their remarkable resilience, positive attitude, and unwavering dedication throughout the year. Despite the challenges they may have faced, this year group has consistently demonstrated a strong commitment to their learning and school community.

Over the course of the year, Year 7 pupils have actively engaged in a variety of enriching activities. They have successfully fundraised for important causes, participated enthusiastically in reward trips, taken part in numerous competitions, and consistently attended reward assemblies to celebrate their achievements. These experiences have not only contributed to their personal growth but have also helped foster a strong sense of community and teamwork among the pupils.

Additionally, we are proud to congratulate the four Year 7 pupils who have been selected as Wellbeing Ambassadors for the school. These pupils stood out through a competitive process that included completing detailed application forms and attending interviews, showcasing their leadership skills and dedication to promoting a positive and supportive environment within the school.

Year 7 achievements this year are truly commendable and we look forward to seeing how they continue to grow and contribute in the years ahead. As we reflect on the journey of this past year, we are reminded of the words in Galatians 6:9: “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

Year 7 have embodied this spirit with their perseverance and kindness, and the rewards of their efforts are clearly visible. We hope you all have a wonderful summer break, filled with rest, joy, and the opportunity to spend time with loved ones.

YEAR 8 - MRS LYNCH

As we come to the end of a successful year, I would like to say a heartfelt well done to all our pupils in Year 8. You have shown real dedication, enthusiasm and resilience throughout the year and we couldn’t be prouder of everything you’ve achieved. Whether in the classroom, on trips, or engaging with visitors and special events, you’ve made the most of every opportunity to learn and grow.

This year has been packed with memorable experiences. From the magic of Peter Pan at the pantomime to the excitement of Laser Quest and bowling, to our time exploring nature at Carding Mill Valley — every trip has brought fun, friendship, and learning. Our residential visits to Normandy and Belgium were truly unforgettable, giving pupils the chance to experience new cultures and create lasting memories. We also had the chance to share our knowledge beyond our own school community — visiting Holy Souls Primary School to discuss and explore our understanding of Religion was a fantastic example of leadership, confidence, and kindness in action.

We’ve been fortunate to welcome inspiring visitors into school as well. Jess Phillips MP spoke with pupils about democracy, representation, and the importance of having a voice. We also held a series of important assemblies featuring guest speakers who addressed vital topics such as the dangers of vaping, knife crime awareness, and how to keep ourselves safe — powerful messages that we know will stay with our pupils as they grow.

YEAR 8 - MRS LYNCH

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

One of the most exciting and unique visits this year was from the West Midlands Police Dog Unit. Pupils were fascinated to learn about the incredible work of the police dogs and their handlers. Watching the dogs in action and hearing how they help to keep our communities safe was both educational and inspiring. It was a brilliant opportunity to understand the role of the police in a positive, engaging way — and of course, the dogs were a big hit!

None of these opportunities would have been possible without our incredible staff. A huge thank-you to all the teachers and support staff who have given up their time, energy and care to plan and support trips, organise events and ensure pupils are safe, engaged and inspired at every step. It has been a truly fantastic year — filled with achievement, community, and growth — and we look forward to even more success and joy in the year to come.

As we now take time over the summer to rest and recover and enjoy precious moments with our friends and families, we must also remember the Catholic ethos that is at the heart of our school. Scripture reminds us in Ephesians 4:32: "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Let this be a guiding message over the summer and beyond — encouraging us to live with kindness, compassion, and forgiveness in all that we do. Wishing all of our pupils, staff and families a safe, peaceful and joyful summer break. We look forward to welcoming you back in the new school year.

As we look ahead to the new school year, I want to share a special message for our Year 9 pupils. Year 9 is an important milestone in your journey. It's a year where you will begin making some key decisions about your future — choices that will help shape the path you take in your education and beyond. This is an exciting time, filled with opportunity, growth and the chance to reflect on who you are and who you want to become. There will be plenty of support along the way; you'll be offered guidance, information and advice from your teachers, pastoral staff and careers teams to help you make informed, confident decisions. But just as importantly, success in Year 9 begins with you — your mindset, your effort, and your willingness to embrace every opportunity that comes your way.

That means coming back in September focused, determined and ready to give your very best from day one. It's a fresh start — a chance to build on everything you've already achieved and to show how committed you are to your goals. As a Catholic school, we are also called to remember that our journey is not just academic — it is spiritual. Matthew 5:16 reminds us: "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." So as you step into Year 9, do so with confidence and purpose — but also with compassion, humility and kindness. Let the light of Christ shine through your actions, your words and your attitude. Be a role model, a friend, a helper. Be the kind of person who lifts others up, even as you aim high for yourself.

Year 9 is full of potential — and we believe in each and every one of you. Let's make it a year to remember for all the right reasons.

Wishing all of our pupils, staff, and families a safe, peaceful, and joyful summer break. We look forward to welcoming you back in the new school year.

YEAR 9 - MR BRUTON

As we reach the end of a busy and exciting summer term, it's a perfect time to reflect on all of the fantastic opportunities Year 9 have experienced over the past few months. This term has been packed with enrichment, learning, and celebration. Pupils enjoyed a Geography field trip to Dorset, where they explored coastal landscapes and put their classroom knowledge into practice. They also stepped back in time during a visit to the Black Country Museum, gaining valuable insights into the region's industrial past.

The Envision Project gave many pupils the chance to develop leadership and teamwork skills, tackling real-world social issues and presenting their ideas confidently. Meanwhile, our maths enthusiasts were inspired by the Maths Theatre Trip, which brought mathematical concepts to life in a fun and engaging way.

We also celebrated our love of sport during an action-packed Sports Day, with fantastic participation and house spirit on display throughout.

Even this final week of term has been full of activity. Year 9 took part in a Careers Day—a big thank you to Mr Meredith for organising such an insightful event and all our outside visors for giving up their time to shape students future careers. Year 9 also got stuck into an Eco Homes Project Day led by the DT department and visiting architects. Some pupils who had studied cooking this year, had an opportunity to cook with our visiting 'Outside Chief'. Huge thanks to the DT department for their hard work in bringing this exciting event to life.

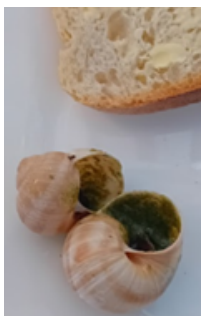
We ended the term with an uplifting Awards Assembly celebrating pupil achievements, followed by a reflective and meaningful End of Term Mass. It's been a wonderful way to end what has been a busy and rewarding year for Year 9. They have grown so much and we are incredibly proud of their efforts and progress. We hope all our pupils enjoy a well-earned rest over the summer and return refreshed, ready to begin their GCSE journey, including their chosen option subjects. Wishing you all a safe and happy summer break.

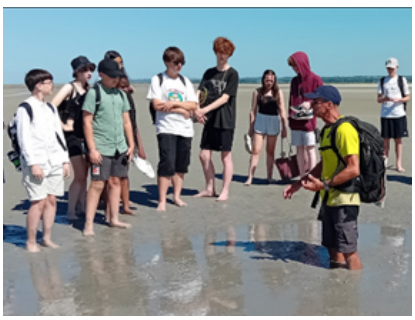
CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT

Normandy Trip 6th – 11th July 2025

What an amazing week! It was such a pleasure to take 30 students to France to improve their French and try new things. For some of us the new things started straightaway with a 6 hour ferry trip from Portsmouth to Caen. For others, it came at mealtimes with typical French food served 3 times a day. We spent two days at the Chateau, where we were staying, doing activities like bread making and canoeing. All the instructors spoke only French to us. We also had two day trips: the first to a market and then the D-day beach at Arromanches and the second to Mont St Michel. Thank you to Mrs Walton for organising this fantastic trip and thank you also to the staff who accompanied her.











YEAR 10 - MR FRANCIOSO

We have done it! The end of an important and eventful year for our Year 10 pupils; I want to take a moment to reflect on their achievements and share our gratitude for your continued support.

Academically, pupils have made great progress as they near the end of their GCSE journey. Many have shown increased maturity, focus and a real commitment to their studies, setting a strong foundation for Year 11.

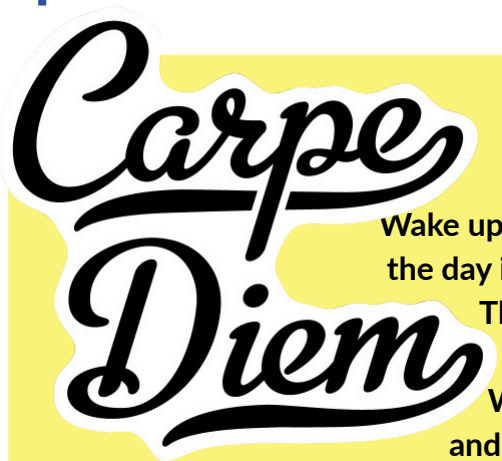
This term has also seen pupils take part in a range of enriching experiences beyond the classroom. Many successfully completed their work experience placements, gaining valuable insight into the world of work and developing confidence, independence and employability skills. We've also launched the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award, with pupils rising to the challenge and demonstrating teamwork, resilience and determination.

Meanwhile, a group of pupils are currently enjoying the Berlin trip, exploring history and culture while representing the school admirably abroad.

As the summer holidays begin, we encourage pupils to rest, recharge, and enjoy time with family and friends—but also to keep one eye on the road ahead. Year 11 is just around the corner and with it, one final push toward their goals.

Thank you once again for your support this year. We wish you a safe, restful and fun summer.

We go again in September—ready for the final chapter. Seize the day!



Wake up, young dreamer,
the day is brand new,
The world is a canvas —
it waits upon you.
With brushes of courage
and colours of fire,
Paint out your purpose, climb ever higher.

Don't wait for "someday," don't drift with the tide,
The doors won't all open — some you must stride.
The path may seem hidden, uncertain, or steep,
But dreams are not given — they're earned when you leap.

Regret is the shadow that follows delay,
It whispers of chances we let slip away.
But boldness is light that burns through the mist,
It starts with a choice: refuse to resist.

So speak up with passion, and dare to be heard,
Don't silence your spirit or swallow your word.
The stars that you chase might seem far apart,
But they're lit by the fire that burns in your heart.

Take risks, be kind, ask questions, stay true,
The world will be changed — in part — by you.
And when you look back, you'll smile and say,
"I gave it my all — I seized the day."

Carpe diem — don't just survive,
Step into your moment. Come fully alive.

YEAR 9 CAREERS INSIGHT DAY - A FANTASTIC TWO DAYS OF INSPIRATION!

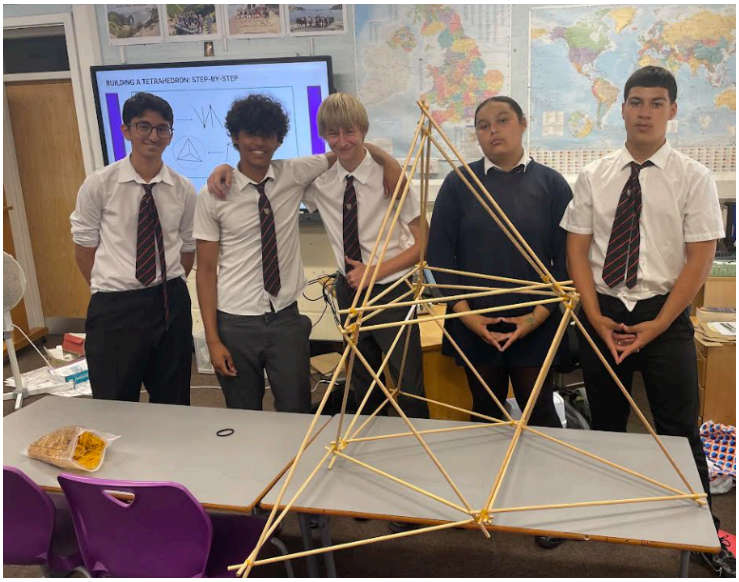
On Monday and Tuesday this week, our Year 9 pupils took part in a two-day Careers Insight event aimed at raising aspirations and helping pupils understand the wide range of opportunities available to them in the future. The event was a fantastic success, thanks to the support of 13 industry volunteers who generously gave their time to speak with pupils about their roles, career journeys, and educational pathways.

We were fortunate to welcome representatives from a wide variety of sectors including SE-LF, Corstorphine Wright, NHS IT Security, NHS Pharmacy, Cadent, Equans, local government, Pioneer Group, Catapult, Solihull College, South and City College, the automotive industry and photography.

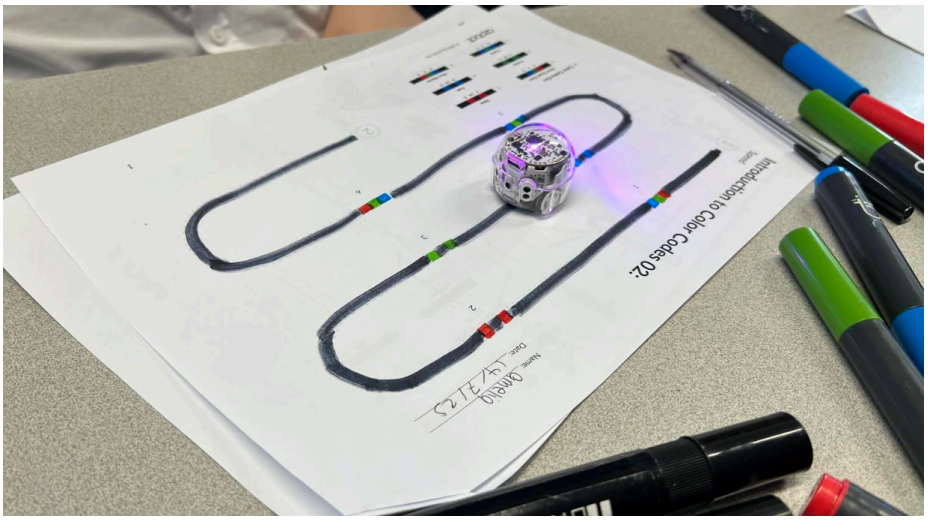
Over the two days, pupils engaged in interactive talks, activities, and presentations, even stepping into the world of politics with opportunities to present their own ideas. These sessions helped pupils connect their current learning with real-world careers, gain insight into potential pathways and ask thoughtful questions about their futures.

The event reflected our commitment to linking the curriculum with careers education and providing meaningful encounters with the world of work. Our Year 9 cohort did us all proud with their enthusiasm, curiosity, and professionalism throughout.

A huge thank you to Mr Meredith our Head of Careers for all of the planning and organisation that went into the days. Thanks also to all of the volunteers, staff and of course our amazing pupils who helped make the event so successful. It truly couldn't have gone better, an inspiring two days for everyone involved.









YEAR 9 ECO HOME PROJECT – DESIGNING FOR A GREENER FUTURE

The Design and Technology department ran an exciting two-day event for Year 9 pupils: the Eco Home Project. This hands-on experience brought together months of classroom learning and creativity, as pupils worked in teams to construct their own sustainable home models, with guidance from professional architects from across Birmingham.

The aim of the project was to explore sustainable living, architectural design and career pathways in the built environment. Pupils incorporated innovative features such as solar and wind power, home-grown food systems, wild nature pools, insulation solutions and other eco-conscious elements into their designs.

A real highlight of the event was a live interview with a practicing architect, which helped to demystify the profession and gave pupils valuable insight into the pathways and skills needed to pursue a career in architecture.

All models were proudly displayed on the front of the stage in the school hall, where pupils, staff and visitors could admire the ingenuity and teamwork on show. To celebrate their efforts, a number of awards were given out, including Best Boy, Best Girl, Best Team, Best Sustainable Link and Best Construction.

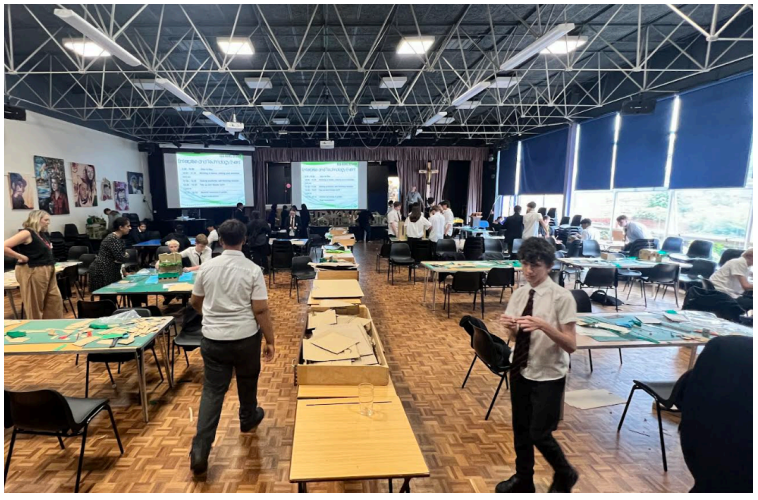
This inspiring event helped pupils apply classroom skills to real-world challenges, introduced them to sustainability in design and encouraged them to consider architecture and engineering as potential career paths.

Well done to Mrs Zannar and the DT Department who worked tirelessly preparing and working with pupils over the two days and also in the run up to the event; thank you to our Year 12 DT students who supported our Year 9 pupils across the two days and a huge thank you to the architects who gave up their time to share their expertise. Finally, well done and thank you to the pupils whose hard work and enthusiasm made the project such a success!









ECO FOOD EVENT – COOKING UP A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT

As part of this week's series of inspiring Year 9 enrichment activities, our Food Technology team hosted an exciting Eco Food Event focused on sustainable cooking, food waste and careers in the food industry. Over two days, four groups of Year 9 pupils had the rare opportunity to work alongside a 5-star industry chef with over 20 years of experience.

Pupils spent the day cooking a variety of dishes, learning hands-on techniques while also deepening their understanding of where food comes from, the impact of food waste and how to create meals that are both eco-friendly and healthy. From choosing homemade over pre-made options to sourcing ingredients sustainably, the pupils were encouraged to think critically about the environmental impact of everyday food choices.

At the end of each session, pupils presented their dishes to the chef, showcasing not only their culinary skills but also their thoughtful approach to sustainability in food.

The event provided a powerful link between the curriculum and careers, showing pupils how the skills learned in the classroom can translate to real-world industry roles, all while promoting environmental responsibility.

A massive thank you goes to the incredible chef who gave up his time and expertise, and to the Food Technology staff, Ms Sewell, Ms Jaka and the pupils who made the event such a meaningful and delicious experience.









Archbishop Ilsley Catholic Sixth Form

Embrace your future

Follow us on @ABIlsley6thform 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/

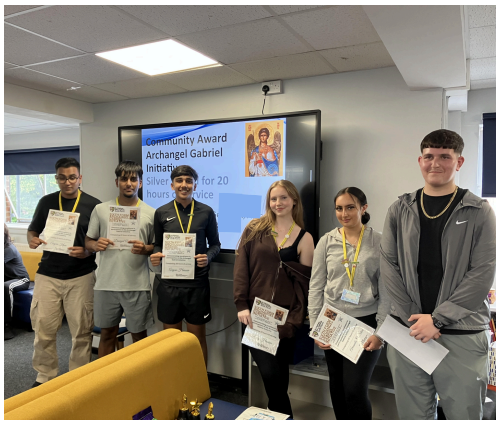
As we approach the end of what has been a rewarding and productive academic year, we would like to take a moment to congratulate all of our Year 12 students on all they have achieved. They have been a real joy to work with and we are so proud of their achievements. We are really looking forward to seeing how much they progress in Year 13.

Celebrating a Successful Year

This year has seen our students rise to the challenges of Sixth Form life with focus, resilience and ambition. From academic progress to extracurricular engagement, they have shown maturity and commitment in every aspect of their development. We have celebrated these successes throughout the year, culminating in our final Recognition Assembly on Thursday, where we acknowledged outstanding effort and achievement in line with our VESPAR values, we celebrated the fantastic contributions made to the Archangel Gabriel Initiative and we recognised those who have maintained 100% attendance throughout the year. Congratulations to all award recipients! The final day of term also featured our much-anticipated sports afternoon that saw students play rounders, football and Bingo!! These activities brought the year group together in the spirit of teamwork and fun – a fitting send-off before the summer break.

ARCHANGEL GABRIEL INITIATIVE





Congratulations to our superb role models. These students have completed 10, 20 and 30 hours service to the school as part of our Archangel Gabriel Initiative. They have supported pupils in Year 7 in a variety of lessons throughout the year and have also been ambassadors for our school on Open Evenings, Parents' Evenings and other whole school events. We thank them for their commitment to the life of the school.





SENIOR STUDENT LEADERS 2025-26

Following applications and interviews, our new Senior Student Leaders are ready for their roles. They have lots of exciting plans for Sixth Form and new initiatives to support their both their peers and our incoming Year 12s. More to follow next academic year...

Archbishop Ilsley Catholic Sixth Form

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Looking Ahead: UCAS and Post-18 Planning

On Thursday 17th July, Year 12 students spent the morning with the Sixth Form Team and continued to take their first steps towards their post-18 pathways. Having already launched the UCAS application process in May, students spent valuable time on Thursday exploring university courses, apprenticeships and other future opportunities. They also began completing sections of their UCAS applications, including learning about how to draft a personal statement – an exciting and important stage in preparing for life beyond Sixth Form.

There is a wealth of information, guidance and resources in the Sixth Form section of our website. Use this link: https://www.ilsley.bham.sch.uk/sixth-form/advice-for-parents/

There is also guidance in our Communication>Letters section of the website found here: https://www.ilsley.bham.sch.uk/communication/letters/

New resources uploaded are as follows:

- UCAS Parent, Guardian and Carer Guide 2026
- A Parents' Guide to Apprenticeships
- Applying for Medicine and Dentistry
- Boosting your applications
- Applying for Oxbridge

Over the summer, students have a real opportunity to continue researching their options whether that be university courses, subjects, careers or apprenticeships. An important part of their application is the Personal Statement.

For 2026 entry, the Personal Statement focuses on three key questions as detailed below, to help students clearly communicate their motivations and suitability for the course. On Thursday, students began to reflect on these questions using the prompts to support them.

1. Why do you want to study this course or subject? You should be able to explain what excites and interests you about the chosen subject, and how your interest developed. Try to link your interest to long-term goals if you have a career path in mind, but this will vary depending on course.

2. How have your qualifications and studies helped you prepare for this course? Pick academic accomplishments relevant to the course to highlight your achievements. Here you should demonstrate how your studies have given you the skills for success. Make sure you don't waste characters listing their qualifications, as these will be found elsewhere in your application.

3. What else have you done to prepare, and why are these experiences useful? Here, you can discuss any activities outside school – such as work experience, volunteering, internships or personal projects – and how these experiences have prepared you for university/ apprenticeships/work. Select relevant experiences that show commitment. You can include any challenges you have overcome and how these prepared you for university/apprenticeship/work.

What can you do as a parent?

- Help your child get started. Encourage reflection: Help your child think about why they are interested in the course and what sparked their passion. This reflection is key to answering the first question.
- Identify experiences: Support your child in showing both academic and personal experiences that relate to their course. Whether it's a project, job, hobby or a balancing of their responsibilities, like caring for a family member, these can demonstrate their commitment and readiness.
- Discuss future goals: If applicable – for instance, medical and allied health courses – encourage your child to talk about their career goals and how the course can help them achieve these. This will help them focus their personal statement. Alternatively, you could help your child express what they hope to gain from the course and what they're excited to learn more about.
- Emphasise relevance: Encourage your child to avoid vague statements and focus on specific experiences and achievements that support their application.
- For students without extracurricular activities: Your child can focus on academic achievements and personal responsibilities. Encourage them to:
  - discuss classroom experiences that helped them develop key skills
  - highlight part-time jobs, linking them to transferable skills like time management.
- Suggest alternative means of experiencing extracurricular activities, through online courses, podcasts, or documentaries that can help them expand their knowledge and show their interest in the subject area.

Students should complete the first draft of their Personal Statement over the summer holiday. All resources are on the Google Classroom for them, including the Personal Statement template. This is particularly important for those students applying for Medicine, Dentistry or Oxbridge as UCAS deadlines for these pathways is October 15th 2025.

Archbishop Ilsley Catholic Sixth Form

Embrace your future

Follow us on @ABIlsley6thform 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/















Celebrating a Successful Year - Year 12's last day in pictures.... Well done everyone!

NEWSLETTER

July 2025 End Of Year Edition

ARCHBISHOP ILSLEY Library

JULY 2025

The summer holidays are almost upon us which means it's time to choose those important books to read over the summer! We are so lucky to have so many to choose from, but where to begin...



MYTH



FANTASY



THRILLER



AUTOBIOG



HISTORY



ADVENTURE

NEW LOOK LIBRARY

Reading is a past time we can all enjoy no matter what our reading age or ability. This year I have had the task of making the library more user friendly for the whole school community to use. The library has gone through many changes throughout this year and we finally have a safe space we can all enjoy together. From adventure books to books on philosophy all resources are clearly signposted and easy to find.

After SCHOOL CLUBS

All clubs run after school from 3:15 till 4pm

Monday	Book Club
Tuesday	Craft Club
Wednesday	Board Game Club
Thursday	Homework Club

Remember to bring your library books to your reading lessons. Negative points are given to those who forget.

Remember to return your library books on time. Detentions and late or lost book fees will be put in place if not.

BOARD GAMES ON LOAN!

Fun! Fun! Fun!

Great news! For a small fee (which will be returned to you once the board game has been returned in its entirety) you will be able to borrow board games to take home and play with over the holidays and weekends.

Vacancy: Student Librarian

Do you have a love of reading? Are you an organised and tidy person? Would you like to help your fellow peers with your knowledge of books and reading when in the library during your reading lessons? Then why not apply to become a Student Librarian.

If you are interested in becoming a Student Librarian please speak to Ms Rani in the library for an application form and further details.

Don't forget to visit your local library over the summer. Get involved with the Summer Reading Challenge.

Have a lovely summer and stay safe!

YOUTH SUMMER SESSIONS

11-16 YEAR OLDS

FREE

SESSIONS RUN FROM 28TH JULY - 21ST AUGUST 3PM-7PM

SESSIONS AT FOX HOLLIES FORUM, GREENWOOD AVENUE, B27 7RA

FOOTBALL COOKING DANCE DODGEBALL
TABLE TENNIS CAMPFIRES BADMINTON
HIKING CRICKET BAKING ART MUSIC
GIRLS GROUPS TIE-DIE TRIPS SOCIAL
ACTION MAKE FRIENDS CIRCUS SKILLS
MINDFULNESS MENTORING

PLUS: FOOD AND DRINK AVAILABLE AT EVERY SESSION

Bring it on Brum

YOUTH PROJECT ACOCKS GREEN

FOX HOLLIES FORUM

Youth Kitchen

REGISTER HERE

YOUTH[AT]FOXHOLLIESFORUM.COM

YOUTHPROJECTAG

WOODRUSH FOOTBALL CAMP

Rob Newey - Head Coach (FA Qualified)
Drew Ricketts – Head coach (FA Qualified)

Est. Since 2001

WHERE: Woodrush High School, Shaw hurst Lane, Wythall, Worcestershire, B47 5JW
STARTING: MONDAY 11th August 2025 – 15th August 2025
09:15am-15:00pm
WHO FOR:
Year 6, Year 7, Year 8 & Year 9 boys and girls (Aged 11-14)

DEAR PARENTS,

I am pleased to inform you that, due to the huge success of our football courses over the last 25 years, we are following up the Soccer Coaching summer camp. This camp will run for 5 Days and is for boys and girls aged between 11 and 14 years.

THE COACHES & THE COURSE TECHNIQUES:

- The football camp is run by FA qualified coaches who are DBS checked and hold an advanced premier skills licence, paediatric first aid trained. Rob Newey is a PE Teacher at Archbishop Ilsley who is also a Personal trainer, Drew Ricketts is a former Professional Footballer, Personal trainer and Firefighter.
- All children will follow a player development programme. Which consist of the basic fundamentals of football to the advanced.
- We have a 5 day development plan from fitness to nutritional guidance, ball manipulation, attacking sessions vs defensive sessions, shooting drills, passing, positional play and goal keeper sessions,
- Children are always supervised however parents / guardians are very welcome to watch.
- We also have a clear pathway to Birmingham City FC for our gifted players with our official link and a potential for them to come and observe throughout the week.

COMPETITIONS:

- Competitions are held throughout the camp with many individual trophies available to win. The competitions are selected from the following:

Champions League Tournament Penalty shootout
American Shoot Out Competition Skill point winner
Player of the camp award

PRESENTATIONS:

- Presentations will be held on the final day of the camp (14:15) **EACH CHILD** will receive at least 1 award

THE COST:

- The cost of the 5 Day camp is £90 per child (£75 for any additional brothers or sisters).
- Daily rate fee is £25 per child
- Early drop off from 09:15 available Free of charge.

How to Book:

TO RESERVE PLACES PLEASE TEXT: 07809699902
Woodrush summer CAMP + CHILD'S FULL NAME + AGE and receive confirmation by text to: -
There will be consent forms to complete on arrival