

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER - MR CLINTON

Dear parents, pupils, carers and friends of Archbishop Ilsley

Welcome to our first edition of the ABI update – which is superbly edited by Mrs Grant – particularly if you are new parent or pupils and are reading this publication for the first time.

It has been a lovely first two weeks. Pupils and students have returned to school refreshed and keen to impress. They are as friendly as ever! Year 7 have made a particularly good start.

An exciting couple of weeks lie ahead: on Thursday 25th September, we hold our Open Evening to prospective pupils and parents. If you know any parents of children in Year 5 or Year 6, please encourage them to attend. The school will reopen on that day at 17:30 for two hours.

It has been an absolute pleasure to deliver assemblies to Years 11, 10, 9 and 8 this week. The focus was being a role model. As I am sure that you have seen, Blessed Carlo Acutis (now St Carlo Acutis) was canonised in Rome by Pope Leo last Sunday. The fact he was 15 and used social media and internet so productively means he is a great role to teenagers today. He also taught us to be our own person, do what is right and not be a 'photocopy'.

Why not discuss with your child how they can be a role model themselves this weekend? Maybe if they have younger siblings, they could start by making you breakfast tomorrow! Perhaps they might also do any of the following:

- Encourage a friend to not miss a day of school
- Volunteer to help out at Open Evening
- Offer to help their form teacher
- Help one of their teachers in the classroom
- Help a Year 7 who is looking lost or worried
- Tutor one of their friends
- Learn about their saint and try and follow his/her example
- Follow the rules about mobile phones
- Try not to be influenced by peer pressure
- Read a bidding prayer in assembly



Our prayer for our children

Dear Lord

Thank you for sending Saint Carlo Acutis to be a role model for our young people.

Encourage our pupils to have the confidence to be their own person... to be resilient when the going gets tough...

allow them to live their own life and not be a photocopy.

Look over them this week and over the exciting year ahead.

Saint Carlo Acutis: PRAY FOR US



IMPORTANT INFORMATION AND DATES FOR THE DIARY

We are very pleased to welcome a number of new staff to the Archbisop IIsley Catholic School family.

Welcome to:

Ms Gray; Ms Chesterman; Mr Shepherd; Ms Moulan;

Ms Sirpal; Ms O'Sullivan; Ms O'Toole; Ms Shaw; Mr Mendes;

Mr Hillen; Ms Stephenson; Ms Irons and Ms Witcomb

We are sure that you will be very happy with us and that our community will be all the richer for your joiner us!

ARCHBISHOP ILSLEY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

OPEN EVENING 2025



25TH SEPTEMBER 2025 5:30PM - 7:30PM HEADTEACHER'S ADDRESS 5:30PM AND 6:30PM

OPEN MORNINGS 2025



1ST OCTOBER: 9:30AM-11:00AM 2ND OCTOBER: 9:30AM-11:00AM

No booking or appointment necessary. We look forward to seeing you!

Victoria Road, Acocks Green, B27 7XY



KEY DATES

- Thursday 18th September Welcome Mass - Yr 10 and Yr 11 - 2.15pm in Holy Souls Church
- Thursday 25th September Open Evening (Pupils and students finish at 1:40pm) (5.30pm-7.30pm)
- Friday 26th September MacMillan Coffee Morning; Welcome Mass for Yr 7 & Yr 12 - 2.15pm in Holy Souls Church
- Monday 29th September Yr 7/10 photos
- Thursday 2nd October Welcome Mass - Yr 13 - 2.15pm in Holy Souls Church
- Thursday 9th October Yr 11 GCSE Information Evening (5:00pm -6.30pm)
- Week beginning Monday 6th October
 Yr 13 Mock Exam Week
- Tuesday 22nd October Sixth Form Open Evening & Careers Convention (5:00pm - 6:30pm)
- Thursday 6th November Year 9 Information Evening
- Wednesday 12th November Yr 7 & 12 Parent & Tutor Meet - (3.25pm -4.30pm)

THE SCHOOL YEAR: 2025 TO 2026

Autumn Term 2025

Term begins: Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Half-term: Monday 27th October 2025 to 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 to

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 to Friday 29th May 2026

Term ends: Friday 17th July 2026

In service training days - INSET DAYS

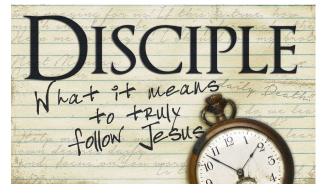
(School closed to pupils/students) Monday 1 st September 2025 Tuesday 2 nd September 2025 Monday 1 st December 2025

Friday 13 th February 2026 (St Teresa of Calcutta Multi Academy INSET Day)



CATHOLIC LIFE SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: LUKE 14: 25-33

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. "If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.



And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, "Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish."

Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'

How is this relevant today?

Jesus is asking for total dedication, meaning that following him requires putting first things first. For our pupils and students, this can mean learning the importance of commitment—whether to their studies, responsibilities, or personal growth. If they want success, they need to make sacrifices, stay focused, and not let distractions take them away from their goals.

The examples of building a tower and a king preparing for battle, stress the importance of preparation and foresight. For pupils, this relates directly to their study habits: before exams or projects, they must plan, manage time, and assess what resources they need to succeed.

"Carrying the cross" symbolises accepting challenges and difficulties. We can all learn that discipline, perseverance, and sacrifice are necessary parts of achieving anything worthwhile in life. Success often comes with effort, not comfort.

When Jesus teaches about giving up possessions, he does not necessarily mean abandoning everything, but being free from letting material things control our lives. Perhaps we can all apply this by not being overly focused on gadgets, wealth, or popularity, but instead valuing knowledge, character, and relationships. Instead we are called to to think about values and deeper life purposes.

As part of our school community, we are reminded by Catholic Social Teaching (CST) that we are all one family and that every person has dignity. This means we are called to treat each other with respect, kindness, and love, even when it's difficult. Sometimes showing courage means standing up for what is right. Sometimes showing wisdom means thinking carefully before we act or speak. And showing dignity means recognising the value of every person, no matter who they are.

Following Jesus isn't just about believing in Him - it's about living differently, making choices that bring us closer to God and closer to each other.

This is a challenge for us all - how can we show courage, wisdom, integrity or dignity in the way we treat others in our daily lives?

PASTORAL UPDATE - MRS BURNHAM

As we come to the end of the second week back, it has been really positive to see the vast majority of our pupils settling back into routines and demonstrating high standards both in and out of school.



We would like to remind all pupils and families of some key expectations that support a successful start to the year:

- Uniform: Pupils should arrive each day in full school uniform, worn with pride. This includes blazers, school shoes (not trainers), and no sports jackets.
- Equipment: Being prepared for learning is essential all pupils should have the correct equipment for lessons, checked daily in form time.
- Standards: Good behaviour in school, as well as on the way to and from school, is vital. Pupils represent our school at all times and should be role models in the community.
- Respect and kindness: These values underpin everything we do. Treating staff, peers, and the wider community with respect ensures a safe and supportive environment for all.

Thank you for your continued support in reinforcing these expectations at home. Together we can ensure our pupils reach their potential and uphold the standards our school community is proud of.

YEAR 10 - MR BRUTON

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

Welcome Back to Year 10! As Year 10 pupils begin their GCSE journey, it is important to recognise the link between hard work, preparation, and success. As Michele Agemang and the England Women's Football Team have shown, being ready and committed leads to great achievements. We encourage pupils to follow the same approach in their studies by staying organised, focused, and prepared for every school day. This includes being punctual to school and lessons, arriving with the right mindset and equipment to make the most of learning opportunities.



We are very proud of the excellent standard of uniform shown by Year 10 pupils so far this term—it reflects their maturity and readiness for the challenges ahead. To support this, tutors will carry out daily equipment checks to ensure pupils are consistently prepared. We ask parents and carers to reinforce this at home by encouraging pupils to pack their school bag each evening.

This week, Mr Clinton spoke to pupils about the importance of being safe in school and maintaining excellent attendance. We are delighted to share that Year 10 currently has the highest attendance in the school. This is an excellent foundation for success at GCSE.

- We would like to remind parents and carers:
- Pupils should aim for at least 96% attendance.
- Attendance below 90% is classed as persistent absence and will have a significant impact on GCSE outcomes.
- Good attendance and punctuality are key to pupils reaching their full potential.

Thank you for your continued support in helping Year 10 maintain such high standards. Together, we can ensure every pupil is well-prepared for success.

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

YEAR 7 - MISS BRADY

A very warm welcome to our wonderful Year 7's and their families. What a fantastic start they have had!











Last week Year 7 met their tutors and pastoral support. This week they will now have met all of their subject teachers. Some pupils may have found it a challenge finding certain classrooms in a new and much larger school, but they are all doing really well and will remember rooms in no time. We have given Year 7 a 'grace period' so they will not receive a late to lesson during this week or next. They have also enjoyed early break and lunchtimes so they have been able to access the canteen before the rest of the school.

Everyone will now have visited our lovely library and taken out a book. We ask that pupils read their book for at least 10 minutes each day, this is classed as homework and their book needs to be with them along with their diary and equipment each day.

Today, we had our first real assembly and we looked at things that are going to help pupils to be successful at Archbishop IIsley. We discussed things such as being organised, presenting ourselves smartly, having a full uniform with our shirt tucked in, taking pride in our work, contributing to lessons by raising our hand- all of these things will help us be successful and settle into secondary school life.

I told Year 7 today that they are now part of our community, of our Archbishop IIsley family. We look after each other, we are kind to each other and love one another. I am extremely proud of the start Year 7 have made and I know their achievements and successes will continue. Well done Year 7!!

YEAR 8 - MRS WAFI

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

ugust1r

Why Join Debate Club?

suffering in the world?

Should Donald Trump never be allowed to run

for President again?

We are delighted to welcome our Year 8 pupils back for what promises to be a positive and enriching academic year. After a well deserved summer break, it has been wonderful to see pupils return with enthusiasm, ready to embrace new challenges and opportunities.

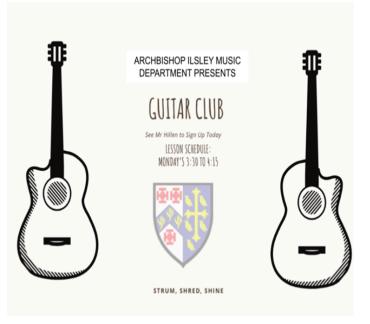
The start of term has been particularly heartening. Year 8 have shown great maturity in the way they've supported our new Year 7 cohort, helping them to settle in and find their way during these important first few weeks. Their kindness, patience, and leadership have not gone unnoticed, and they are setting an excellent example for the younger year group.

In the classroom, pupils have returned with a clear sense of focus and determination. Their early commitment to learning is commendable, and it's encouraging to see such a strong start. We look forward to supporting them as they continue to develop both academically and personally throughout the year.

As we return to routines, we'd like to take this opportunity to remind all families that blazers are a required part of the school uniform and should be worn every day. High standards in uniform reflect the pride we take in our school and help create a positive learning environment for all. As a school rooted in Christian values, we begin the year with a message of encouragement from Scripture: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters." — Colossians 3:23

We are excited for the year ahead and confident that, with continued support from home, Year 8 will make the most of every opportunity to grow, learn, and thrive.

There are a variety of extra curricular opportunities that our pupils can get involved with. Please see below for a clubs beginning next week after school.





Miss Patel and Mr Botwright

Revision MATHS

Chess

CLUB IN S10

The Maths

Arty Maths CHESS Challenge

CLUB IN 2.2

Computers

Homework

YEAR 9 - MRS LYNCH

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

Welcome Back, Year 9! I hope you all had a wonderful and restful summer break. As we return to school, let us carry with us the energy, focus, and enthusiasm needed for the year ahead. Year 9 is an important time in your journey—full of opportunities to grow, discover, and become the best version of yourselves.

This year, we are especially blessed to be part of the Jubilee Year, a sacred time in the life of the Church—a time of renewal, grace, and new beginnings. As Pope Leo reminds us through his example and teachings, we are called to live with faith, courage, and compassion in all that we do. Let us remember his words: "Let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier." Let that be our mission this year: to lift each other up, to support one another, and to make our school a place of kindness, learning, and joy.

As we begin this new chapter together, let's stay focused, work hard, and aim high. With God's grace and Pope Leo's blessing upon us, may this be a year of great achievement, strong friendships, and personal growth. Let's be the best we can be.

Uniform Reminder

• As we start the new school year, it's important that we all take pride in our appearance and wear the correct school uniform each day. Uniform shows unity, respect, and readiness to learn — it's a small but powerful way of saying we're serious about being our best.

Please make sure:

- You are wearing the full and correct uniform each day.
- Shoes are appropriate and in line with school policy (no trainers unless medically required).
- PE kit is brought in on the correct days.
- Hoodies, non-uniform jumpers, and excessive jewellery are not part of the uniform and should not be worn.

Let's start as we mean to go on — looking smart, feeling confident, and ready to learn.

Let's Follow the Rules and Make This Year Great

- To make sure everyone has the best chance to succeed, it's really important that we all follow the school rules and expectations. This helps create a safe, respectful, and productive environment where everyone can thrive. Here are a few key things to focus on:
- Be on time to lessons punctuality shows respect for your teachers and classmates and helps you not miss out on important learning.
- Work hard put your full effort into every task, no matter how big or small. This is your chance to challenge yourself and grow.
- Stay engaged and focused active participation, listening carefully, and asking questions will help you get the most out of every lesson.
- Respect others kindness and cooperation create a positive atmosphere for everyone.

Remember, your attitude and effort make a huge difference — not just in your grades, but in how much you enjoy school and prepare for the future. Let's all commit to giving our best every day and supporting one another along the way. Together, with determination and respect, we can make this a successful and memorable year.

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

YEAR 11 - MR FRANCIOSO

Welcome to Year 11! A warm welcome to all our Year 11 pupils and their families as we begin this important final year of secondary school. This will be a year filled with opportunities, challenges, and achievements as pupils prepare for their GCSEs and take their next steps toward the future.

We are excited to support each pupil in reaching their full potential, both academically and personally. Parents and carers, your encouragement and partnership are vital; together we can ensure this is a successful and rewarding year. We look forward to celebrating the hard work, resilience, and successes of our Year 11s throughout the year ahead. Let me leave you with the message I gave to year 11 in my first assembly:

Take a moment and look around you. Every single person sitting here today is about to begin their most important and exciting year of their school life so far. This is it. Your final year. The year where everything you've worked towards comes together. Now, some of you might already be feeling nervous. Some of you might be thinking, "I've left it too late." Some of you might be thinking, "I can't do this." And some of you might even be thinking, "Does it really matter?" Well, let me tell you something clearly; If you think it's too late, it's not. If you think that you can't, you can. If you think it doesn't matter, it does. Because this year is not just about exams. It's about proving to yourself what you are capable of.

Think of this: every athlete who wins gold at the Olympics, every actor who steps on stage, every person who achieves something great – they all have a moment where they could have said, "It's too late... I can't... It doesn't matter." But the difference is, they didn't stop there. They chose to believe that there was still time, that they could, and that it mattered.

And the truth is, Year 11, it does matter. Not because grades define you – they don't. But because this year teaches you lessons about resilience, discipline, and effort that will carry you through the rest of your life.

When you revise instead of scrolling. When you push through a piece of work you'd rather give up on. When you decide that your future self deserves the best chance. That is you building strength. That is you taking control. I want you to imagine your future self – six months from now, standing on results day. What will that version of you feel? Proud? Relieved? Grateful you gave it your all? Or wishing you'd started sooner, worked harder, taken the opportunities? That choice is being made every day, starting now.

And that brings me to three simple truths:

- 1. If you think it's too late, it's not. Every page you revise, every lesson you focus in, every question you ask moves you forward.
- 2. If you think you can't, you can. Confidence isn't magic it's built by doing, by trying, by refusing to give up.
- 3. If you think it doesn't matter, it does. Your effort matters. Your future matters. And you matter.

There's a Latin phrase I want you to remember: Carpe Diem. It means Seize the Day. Year 11, this is your day. This is your time. Every single one of you has the potential to do something extraordinary this year. Not perfect. Not easy. But extraordinary – because you chose to give it everything. So when you leave this hall today, I want you to carry this thought with you: Seize the day. Don't wait for motivation. Don't wait for tomorrow. Use today. Use every lesson, every chance, every mistake as a stepping stone to your success. Because in the end, the biggest regret isn't failing. The biggest regret is not trying.

So I challenge you: make this your year. Show yourself what you are capable of. Step up, work hard, and take the opportunities in front of you. Year 11 – this is your day. This is your time. Carpe Diem. Seize the Day.

Let's have a great year!



Follow us on @ABIIsley6thform 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/

It has been fantastic to welcome back our students to Sixth Form for the new academic year. We are again really pleased to see so many of our Year 11 pupils staying on with us and making that step up to Year 12. Last year's Year 13 now begin their final year with us. How time flies!

We also bid a warm welcome to those parents and carers of our new Year 12 students. We are looking forward to sharing this journey with you. At the heart of our Sixth Form is our Vision for all. In the coming months, you will hear us talk about our Sixth Form 6 and our use of VESPAR; the Sixth Form Mindset. These form an integrated pastoral and academic programme rooted in our Catholic values. This programme prioritises clear academic goals alongside a growth-focused mindset, deeply inspired by the virtues of our Sixth Form patron saint, St. Teresa of Calcutta. It supports students not only to achieve academic excellence but also to grow in character, resilience and a spirit of selfless service. Through this, we seek to prepare our students to 'embrace their future'; to 'let their light shine' through success in their studies while living with purpose, compassion and integrity, reflecting the love and teachings of Christ in all they do.

This half term, we focus on Vision. At the start of a new journey, we are asking students to have a clear goal that they want to achieve and the Courage to pursue it, despite challenges. St. Teresa faced numerous challenges and hardships in her work, including opposition and criticism. However, she persevered with courage, driven by her love for God and her commitment to serving the poor. Our assemblies this week have introduced St Teresa's quote, "Life is a challenge; we must take it." We look forward to seeing our students embrace the many, many opportunities and challenges that will be presented to them over the coming months.

We are very pleased with how all of our students have settled back into good habits, whether that be in the Study Room, in their lessons or how they are once again participating in our enrichment. Friday started well with Sixth Form bingo in the Common Room - what a way to start a Friday.







Next on our calendar is our wonderful Year 12 Welcome Mass with new Year 7s on Friday 26th September; we invite all of our Year 12 parents and carers to join us. On this day, Sixth Form will run Macmillan cake and bake sales for staff and pupils. Cakes and treats will also be available to purchase for a small donation after mass!



Follow us on @ABIIsley6thform to see all of our pictures and our latest news!

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As I stated in their welcome letter, making a strong and positive start to the year is of the utmost importance. The habits and routines established in now are vital, not only for success this year, but also in preparing for the demands of life beyond school. A few key expectations will help to ensure that students are in the best possible position to succeed:

Attendance and Punctuality – Excellent attendance and arriving on time at the start of the day and to all lessons, are crucial. Missing even small amounts of learning can have a significant impact on progress, and punctuality reflects a professional attitude that will serve students well in the future. We expect students to aim for at least 97% attendance or above; this is good attendance and students will be eligible for rewards that are linked to attendance. We do understand that at times, students may be required to attend medical appointments. Where possible all appointments should be scheduled outside of school hours.

All Sixth Form students are expected to be in school by 8.40am at the latest. Students' attendance and punctuality is monitored weekly. Absence can be reported using the MyChildAtSchool App (MCAS).

Relaxed Reg - Students in Year 12 and 13 can now access a 'Relaxed Reg' privilege and leave at lunch time if they do not have a period 5 lesson, have good punctuality and are not required by a teacher. This however, is by agreement with the Sixth Form team and dependent upon the individual student and their performance. This privilege is earned and subject to review.

Dress Code – We are so proud of how smart our students look. However, adhering to the Sixth Form 'business' dress code is about more than appearance; it encourages a sense of community, responsibility and professionalism. We expect all students to take pride in representing our Sixth Form. On a Friday, students can participate in 'dress down' Friday for the cost of £1. This is optional.

Homework and Independent Study – Completing homework on time and working independently outside of lessons is essential. A Levels and Level 3 subjects require a great deal of consolidation, and students should be reviewing, extending, and deepening their learning beyond the classroom. Research shows that the most successful students (i.e. those that make the most progress and get the highest grades) are doing at least 15 hours of independent study in Year 12 and between 20 and 25 hours of independent study per week by the end of Year 13. Students have access to two study rooms and the school Library during their school day.

Assessment and Feedback - Please see the following Assessment and Feedback schedule and make a note of the Parent/Tutor meeting and Parents' Evening in your diaries.

- Year 7/12 Parent/Tutor meeting Wednesday 12th November (3.25 - 4.30pm)
- Year 12/13 Parents' Evening -Thursday 12th February (3:45 - 6.15pm)

YEAR 12

- Half Termly PAR Assessments in all subjects
- Settling in Report (Eff/Beh/HW) -Week commencing 13th October
- Assessment Week 1 Week commencing Monday 1st December
- Report 1 Friday 19th December
- Assessment Week 2 Week commencing Monday 1st June – 5th June
- Report 2 Thursday 2nd July

YEAR 13

- Half Termly PAR Assessments in all subjects
- Mock Examinations Week 1 commencing Week commencing Monday 6th October
- Assessment Report 1 Friday 7th November
- Mock Examinations Week 2 -Week commencing 19th January
- Assessment Report 2 Friday 6th February

Non Violence Resistance (NVR) Programme



What is NVR?

Parenting approach to support parents and caregivers in managing challenging behaviours in young people. It focuses on raising the presence of adults in a child's life, fostering stronger, more positive relationships.

When is NVR useful?

NVR can be applied to various relationships and is particularly effective in situations where a young person exhibits behaviours such as:

> 10 s essions 1 hour and 45

> > minutes.

Online or in-person

Physical aggression (hitting, kicking, spitting)

Verbal threats and destructive behaviour

Self-harm or suicidal thoughts

Isolation or withdrawal

Eating disruptions

The NVR Principles

If you are interested, please speak to a member of staff in school. Alternatively please head over to our website for more information where you can also make a referral https://compassuk.org/services/compassbirming ham-mhst/

Scan QR code for more information



Feedback from parents who have completed the NVR course.

"Thanks to this course, I have a much better relationship with my child."

I did n't know what this course was going to do for me but I'm so glad I stuck with it. I now think it needs to be rolled out across all organisations"



The two "hands" of NVR Structure Firmness

Acceptance Boundaries

Nurture Empathy

Safety