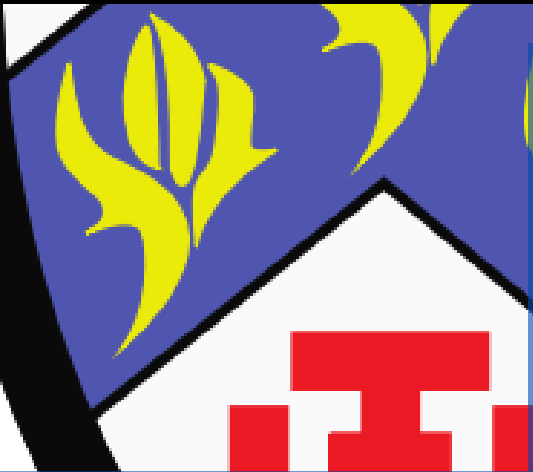


THE ABI UPDATE

ISSUE 4 FRIDAY 24TH OCTOBER 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER - MR CLINTON

Dear parents, pupils, carers, and friends of Archbishop Ilsley, As you will read about in this issue, we hosted a highly successful Sixth Form Open Evening on Tuesday. There are so many strengths and facets of this school and the Sixth Form - who are always so friendly and generous with their time - is another fine example of one. I had the pleasure of introducing excellent speeches from Mrs Grant (Head of Sixth Form and editor supremo of this publication) along with the Head Girl, Catalina and Rayyan, our Head Boy.

I also had the pleasure of announcing to parents and prospective Year 12 students that our famous and highly popular 'Global Links' Club will be re-launched after the November mocks with trips to Thailand this summer for Year 12. For the first time ever, we are going to open this to Year 11 and offer it as a joint senior students group. In the past, as well as having an annual international summer trip, the Global Links Team have learnt languages such as Japanese, German and Spanish (as well as sign language) have learnt about the history of Nepal and Cambodia and explored the Gaza conflict. In this competitive age of university applications and apprenticeships, having a global perspective can help our young people stand apart.

May I take this opportunity to thank pupils, students, teachers and support staff for all their hard work these last 8 weeks. Enjoy your half term.

SIXTH FORM APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!

Year 11 pupils should have received a copy from their form tutor. See our website specific course details and entry criteria. Forms should be returned to tutors. The closing date - January 2026

KEY DATES

- Friday 24th October - HALF TERM
- Monday 3rd November - Pupils and students begin Autumn Term 2
- Monday 3rd November - Year 11 Mock Exams
- Thursday 6th November - Year 9 Information Evening
- Tuesday 11th November - MAD Museum trip Year 7
- Wednesday 12th November - Year 7 & 12 Parent & Tutor Meet - (3.25pm - 4.30pm)
- Monday 17th - Thursday 20th November - Year 11 Geography fieldtrips
- Tuesday 18th November - Year 7 Internet Safety Workshops
- Tuesday 25th November - Year 7 Internet Safety Workshops
- Monday 1st December - INSET Day. School is closed to pupils and students
- Thursday 4th December - Year 11 Parents' Evening (3.45pm - 6.15pm)
- Monday 15th December - Academic Celebration Evening 5.30pm - 7.00pm
- Tuesday 16th December - Sixth Form Christmas Community Afternoon Tea
- Friday 19th December - school closes for Christmas holiday
- Monday 5th January 2026 - School reopens for Spring 1

CATHOLIC LIFE

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: LUKE 18:1-8

Then he told them a parable about the need to pray continually and never lose heart. 'There was a judge in a certain town,' he said, 'who had neither fear of God nor respect for anyone. 3 In the same town there was also a widow who kept on coming to him and saying, "I want justice from you against my enemy!"



For a long time he refused, but at last he said to himself, "Even though I have neither fear of God nor respect for any human person, I must give this widow her just rights since she keeps pestering me, or she will come and slap me in the face."

And the Lord said, 'You notice what the unjust judge has to say? Now, will not God see justice done to his elect if they keep calling to him day and night even though he still delays to help them? I promise you, he will see justice done to them, and done speedily. But when the Son of man comes, will he find any faith on earth?'

Reflection: Keep the Faith and Never Lose Heart

In this week's Gospel, 'The Parable of the Persistent Widow', Jesus shares the story of a widow who refuses to give up. She keeps asking a judge for justice until he finally gives in, not because he is kind, but because she never stops asking. Through this parable, Jesus teaches us about the power of **persistence, prayer, and faith**.

For us in our school community, this message reminds us that God always listens, even when it feels like our prayers go unanswered. Like the widow, we are called to keep trusting and not lose heart, especially when life feels unfair or when challenges seem too big.

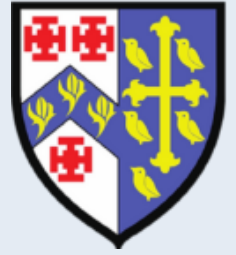
For pupils and particularly our Year 11 pupils and Year 13 students, this might mean staying hopeful through tough exams, friendships, or personal struggles. For families, it might mean continuing to pray and support one another when times are difficult. For all of us, it's a reminder that faith grows stronger through perseverance.

The widow also stands as a symbol of courage and justice. She didn't stay silent when things were wrong – and neither should we. In our school, we are encouraged to speak up for others, to treat everyone with respect, and to live out our Catholic values of compassion and fairness. At the end of the parable, Jesus asks: "When the Son of Man comes, will he find any faith on earth?" May he find it here – in the way we pray, learn, support one another and keep hope alive, no matter what comes our way.

Prayer

Loving God, You remind us to pray always and never lose heart. When we face challenges, give us strength to keep going. When we feel unheard, remind us that You are always listening. Help us to be people of faith, courage, and justice, so that our words and actions reflect Your love every day. Amen.

**"When the Son of Man comes,
will he find any faith on earth?"**



End of Half Term – Behaviour and Learning Update

As we reach the end of this half term, we'd like to thank everyone for their continued effort and commitment to maintaining high standards across our school community.

Uniform:

Please use the half term break as an opportunity to check and update uniform. Any items that have been outgrown or do not meet school expectations should be replaced. A reminder — no trainers, no pencil-tight skirts and no branded sports jackets or Nike Tech Fleece are permitted. Full school uniform should be worn with pride, reflecting our strong sense of identity as Archbishop Ilsey pupils.

Attendance and Punctuality:

Attendance to lessons and punctuality remain key priorities. Being on time and prepared for learning every lesson makes a real difference to progress and success. A huge thank you to all pupils who consistently arrive ready to learn — your commitment is noticed and appreciated.

Litter and Site Standards:

We've seen an increase in litter around the site. This behaviour is antisocial and can attract vermin onto school grounds. We ask all pupils to take pride in our environment by using the bins provided and helping to keep our school clean and welcoming for everyone.

Looking Ahead:

As we move into the next half term, let's continue the great work. There have been so many positives this half term: excellent lessons, improved punctuality, and great examples of kindness and respect around school. Let's build on this momentum and come back refreshed, ready to give our best in the run-up to Christmas.

The screenshot shows the website for Archbishop Ilsey Catholic School. The header features the school's crest and name. The navigation menu includes links to Home, Our School, Catholic Life, Curriculum, Key Information, Parents, Sixth Form, Communication, and Contact. A dropdown menu for 'Parents' is open, listing links to Our School Day, ClassCharts, Term Dates & School Calendar, Year 6 Transition, Uniform, Attendance, Bad Weather and Emergencies, Anti-Bullying, and SchoolCloud. The main content area features a large image of the school building and a banner for 'Archbishop Ilsey Catholic School' with the text 'A St Teresa of Calcutta Multi-Academy Company School'.

REMINDERS FOR ALL PUPILS

Stay Hydrated and Live Simply



A water bottle is part of every pupil's essential daily equipment. A small number of pupils who arrive without one sometimes ask for a plastic cup during lessons, which is not permitted. As we work towards becoming a CAFOD Live Simply School, we are reducing our use of disposable plastics. Next half term, we will trial a reusable cup system for pupils who forget their water bottle. Pupils can borrow a cup for the day by leaving an item as a deposit (e.g. phone, keys, or bus pass) to help ensure the cup is returned, washed, and reused. We have four refill stations around school – in O'Donnell Hall, Humanities, outside the Chapel, and outside Art 1 – and two in the canteen available at break and lunchtime.



Punctuality and U Codes

The school day starts promptly at 8:40am. Pupils who arrive after 9:15am receive a U code, which means they are marked as having an unauthorised absence for the morning session. Repeated U codes can lead to penalty fines from the Local Authority (£60 per parent, per child, rising to £120 if unpaid). Please support us by ensuring your child arrives on time each morning.



No Sweets or Fizzy Drinks

Pupils should not bring sweets or fizzy drinks into school. High sugar intake can cause energy crashes, poor concentration, irritability, and disrupted sleep. We are aware some pupils purchase sweets or fizzy drinks before school – this is not an acceptable breakfast. Such items will be confiscated and disposed of. Please help by monitoring how your child spends the money you give them. Remember, we offer a free breakfast from 8:00am in the canteen including bagels, cereal and juice.



Autumn Term 2025

Term begins: Wednesday 3rd Sept

Half-term: Monday 27th Oct to Friday 31st Oct

Term ends: Friday 19th Dec

Spring Term 2026

Term begins: Monday 5th Jan 2026

Half-term: Monday 16th Feb 2026 to Friday 20th Feb 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

THE SCHOOL YEAR: 2025 TO 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)

YEAR 7 - MISS BRADY

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

Year 7 have now completed their first half term at Archbishop Ilsey – and what a fantastic start it's been! Our newest pupils have settled in brilliantly, embracing new subjects, making new friends, and becoming a valued part of the Archbishop Ilsey community. We're so proud of how well they've adapted to secondary school life and can't wait to see all they'll achieve in the next half term!



Year 7 have completed their first in-class assessments with impressive enthusiasm and determination. Their positive attitude towards learning has been fantastic to see.

Pupils have all enjoyed visiting the Breakfast Club in the canteen, where they were able to sample the tasty breakfast options on offer. It was lovely to see so many smiles and positive feedback as they shared breakfast together to start their day.

Each tutor group has also participated in a liturgy service with their form family. Pupils engaged thoughtfully in prayer and reflection, demonstrating reverence, respect, and a genuine commitment to our Catholic ethos. Their participation highlights the positive start they have made to their journey within our school community. Thank you for your continued support.

I hope you all have a wonderful and enjoyable half term – a well-deserved rest for students and families alike!

YEAR 8 - MRS WAFI

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

As we come to the end of the first half term, we're delighted to reflect on what has been a very successful and positive start for Year 8. The pupils have returned with a fantastic attitude, settling quickly back into routines and approaching their learning with energy and focus.



One of the most encouraging aspects of this term has been the way Year 8 have naturally stepped into their roles as leaders and role models for our new Year 7 pupils. From offering guidance and support, to setting an example through their behaviour and kindness, they have shown real maturity and community spirit.

We also want to give a special mention to tutor groups 8TL and 8JHN, who each led year group assemblies in recent weeks. The pupils who took part spoke with confidence, clarity, and courage, demonstrating the personal growth and self-belief that we strive to foster in all our pupils. Their contributions were inspiring and a real reflection of the strengths within our Year 8 community.

As we reflect on the term, we are reminded of the words in 1 Timothy 4:12: "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity." This verse captures the spirit of what we've seen in Year 8 this half term, they are leading by example and growing into thoughtful, capable individuals who are making a positive impact. We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved so far and look forward to what the rest of the year will bring. Wishing all our pupils and families a restful and enjoyable half-term break.

As we come to the end of a very busy and productive half term, we would like to take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the wonderful pupils in Year 9. You have truly raised the bar and returned to school with a renewed sense of purpose, energy, and commitment.



Throughout the past few weeks, you have demonstrated exactly what makes our school community so special – your resilience, your willingness to learn, and your dedication to supporting one another have been inspiring. Whether in the classroom, in extracurricular activities, or through your interactions with staff and peers, you have shown maturity and a genuine desire to do your best.

Much of our focus this term has been on starting the academic year positively and intentionally, with Christ at the centre of all we do. We've encouraged each other to live out our school values every day, and it has been uplifting to see Year 9 pupils embracing this approach wholeheartedly.

This term also saw the launch of our new pupil-led assemblies – and what a fantastic start it has been! We were incredibly proud to witness our students stepping up to take the lead, and I have to say, it was truly inspiring to see them speak with such confidence, clarity, and purpose.

A huge thank you goes to Mrs Ruprai, whose hard work and encouragement made this possible, and of course to all the pupils in 9TL who delivered our very first pupil-led assembly with such enthusiasm and professionalism. You set a brilliant example for the rest of the year group and have certainly raised the standard for what's to come. We're looking forward to seeing more of our pupils take on this exciting opportunity throughout the year!

This term has also included a number of trips and enrichment activities, and we're delighted to share how brilliantly our pupils represented the school throughout. Their behaviour was exemplary – showing maturity, respect, and enthusiasm at every opportunity. It's always a proud moment when staff and members of the public comment on how well our pupils conduct themselves outside of the classroom, and this term has been no exception.

As we head into the half-term break, it's important that we all take time to rest, recharge, and reflect. Rest is not just a pause from work – it's a vital part of living well and caring for ourselves and others. Pope Leo reminds us that, "rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass under trees on a summer's day... is by no means a waste of time." Taking time to rest allows us to return with renewed energy, clearer minds, and open hearts – ready to continue our journey together.

We encourage all our pupil and families to make the most of the break: spend time with loved ones, enjoy the simple things, and take a well-earned pause. You've certainly earned it!

As we reach the final week of this half term, we would like to take a moment to celebrate the wonderful achievements and positive attitude shown by our Year 10 pupils over the past few weeks.

Our focus in Catholic Social Teaching this half term has been on the message that, "We are a family, and each person is a precious part of it." This has encouraged pupils to recognise the value and dignity of every member of our school community and to treat one another with kindness, respect, and understanding.



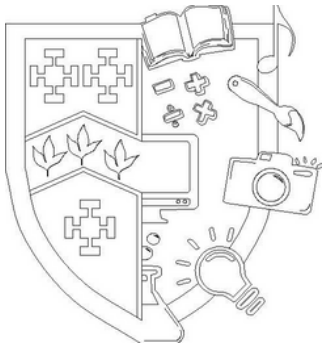
This week's theme is Integrity – acting with honesty, fairness, and doing the right thing even when no one is watching. Pupils have been reflecting on how integrity strengthens our relationships and helps us to live out our faith through our actions.

We have also held our first tutor group assemblies of the year, which have been both thoughtful and inspiring:

- St Teresa of Lisieux Tutor Group introduced their house saint, exploring how St Teresa's message of Love and Charity calls us to show compassion through even the smallest acts of kindness.
- St John Henry Newman Tutor Groups presented on their house saint, focusing on the virtue of Prudence and how making wise, thoughtful decisions helps us to grow in faith and character.

It has been wonderful to see our Year 10 pupils participating so positively and demonstrating leadership, teamwork, and reflection throughout the half term. Their enthusiasm and sense of community continue to set an excellent example to others.

As we move into a well-deserved break, we thank you for your ongoing support. We are proud of all that our pupils have achieved so far and look forward to continuing their journey of faith, learning, and integrity next half term. Wishing you and your families a peaceful and restful half term break.



ARCHBISHOP ILSLEY CATHOLIC SCHOOL CAREERS CONVENTION: A SUCCESSFUL EVENING OF OPPORTUNITIES

On Tuesday evening, Archbishop Ilsley Catholic School was buzzing with excitement as we hosted our annual Careers Convention. The event brought together

a diverse range of local educational providers, including renowned institutions like Aston University, Solihull College, and South and City College and the RAF.

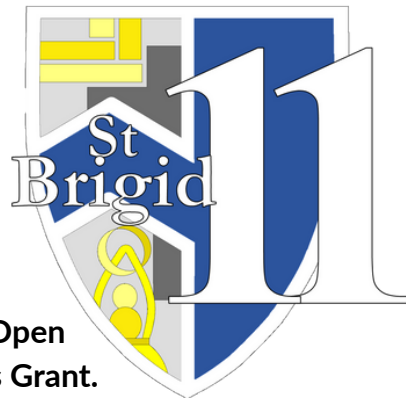
Pupils and students from Year 10 - Year 13 had the opportunity to engage with representatives, explore various pathways, and gain valuable insights into their future careers. From vocational training to university degrees, the fair showcased a broad spectrum of opportunities tailored to our students' aspirations.

We'd like to extend our gratitude to all the participating organisations and to our pupils, students and staff for making the event a resounding success. We look forward to seeing how these connections will help shape our students' futures!

Head of Careers - Mr Meredith



As we reach the end of the first half term, it's been a pleasure to see Year 11 continue to grow in confidence, maturity, and purpose. The momentum they are building now will be crucial as we move towards the mock examinations after the break.



This week saw another key moment in our Year 11 journey – our Sixth Form Open Evening and Careers Convention, superbly organised by Mr Meredith and Mrs Grant.

The event was a great success, giving pupils the opportunity to explore a wide range of post-16 pathways, speak directly with colleges, training providers, and employers, and begin thinking seriously about their next steps. It was inspiring to see so many of our pupils engaging thoughtfully, asking questions, and showing real curiosity about their future possibilities.

We were also privileged to have Mr Clinton, our Headteacher, deliver a special revision assembly focused on preparation, mindset, and the power of consistent effort. His message was clear – success isn't built in the final weeks before exams, but through the daily habits and focus pupils show now. He encouraged everyone to plan their study carefully, use their time wisely, and take ownership of their learning.

After half term, attention will turn to the mock examinations. These are a vital part of the Year 11 experience, providing pupils with an opportunity to test their knowledge, practise exam conditions, and identify areas for improvement before the summer. We encourage all pupils to use the upcoming break to consolidate their revision, organise their notes, and prepare themselves mentally for the challenges ahead.

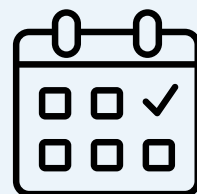
While it's important to rest and recharge over half term, we also remind pupils to stay focused on the task ahead. Balancing relaxation with a steady rhythm of study will help them return refreshed but ready to give their very best.

We are incredibly proud of how far Year 11 have come back this term. With continued effort, positivity, and resilience, they can achieve remarkable things.

Have a restful half term – you've earned it – and let's return ready to make the next stage count.

What Next... important dates ahead for Year 11 pupils

- Tuesday 21st October - Applications open for Sixth Form
- Mock Exams 1: 3rd November – 14th November. Report 1 Issued: 3rd December
- Year 11 'Meet the Sixth Form' events following pupils' Mock Exams
- Parents' Evening: 4th December
- Mock Exams 2: 23rd February – 6th March. Report 2 Issued: 26th March
- Year 11 Sixth Form interviews
- GCSEs commence: 11th May
- 29th and 30th June 2065 – Year 11 into 12 Step Up Days
- All GCSEs concluded on 24th June
- Results Day and Sixth Form Enrolment: Thursday 20th August



Sixth Form Open Evening and Careers Convention - Tuesday 21st October

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all parents and pupils who attended our recent Sixth Form Open Evening and Careers Convention. Your engagement and enthusiasm are vital as we continue to support our Year 11 pupils in shaping their futures. I would just like to take this opportunity to recap some of the information shared on that evening about our Sixth Form provision here at Archbishop Ilsley Catholic School.

Our Sixth Form offers a comprehensive and inclusive educational experience, underpinned by our Catholic ethos. We provide a broad curriculum, including a range of A-levels and vocational courses, designed to cater to the diverse interests and aspirations of our students.

Key features of our Sixth Form provision include:

- **Academic Excellence:** We maintain high academic standards, with a focus on fostering independent learning and critical thinking skills.
- **Pastoral Support:** Our dedicated Sixth Form team offers personalised guidance to support students' academic and personal development.
- **Enrichment Opportunities:** We offer a variety of enrichment activities aimed at developing the whole person, both academically and morally, in line with our school and Sixth Form mission statements. We continue to enable our students to 'let their lights shine' and 'embrace their future'
- **Careers Education:** A robust careers programme is in place, providing students with the tools and advice needed to make informed decisions about their future pathways.
- **UCAS Support:** Comprehensive support is provided for students applying to universities, including guidance on personal statements and interview preparation.

For more detailed information on our Sixth Form offer, please visit the Sixth Form section of our school website.

Applications are now open and pupils can complete the paper application form and hand it in to their tutors.

We look forward to continuing to work together to ensure the success and well-being of our students. Should you have any further questions please email our enquiry on enquiry@ilsley.bham.sch.uk use 'Sixth Form applications' as the title.



Year 12 and 13 Recognition Assemblies

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ." (Peter 4:10–11).

Students were reminded this week, that God gives each of us unique gifts and talents—abilities, skills, and strengths meant to be shared with others. This passage reminds us that our talents are not just for ourselves; they are tools to help, inspire, and serve the people around us. The passage also reminds us that when we use our gifts faithfully, we honour God. It isn't just about doing well personally—it's about using what God has given us to make the world a better place and to glorify Him. By serving others through our gifts, we not only grow as individuals but also reflect God's love in our everyday actions.

Using this theme, we celebrated the achievements of our Year 12 and 13 students in our Recognition Assemblies. These assemblies highlighted the hard work, dedication and positive contributions of our Sixth Form students across a range of areas. Awards presented included:

- Vision Award – recognising students who have demonstrated 'vision' in their subject areas through their work ethic and attitude. These students have shown clear goals, high levels of commitment, and perseverance in their studies.
- Tutee of the Term – awarded to a student who has made an excellent start, engaging fully in tutor time and demonstrating a positive attitude, exemplary dress code and commitment to the Sixth Form community.
- Form Mini Hero – for students who have gone above and beyond to support others, contributed to charity events, assisted at open evenings, or provided outstanding support within their form group.
- Rising Star Award – celebrating students who have shown notable improvement in areas such as attendance, punctuality, engagement, or other personal development.

Congratulations to all students recognised this week – your hard work, dedication and positive contributions are truly valued. Well done and keep it up!

Next half term's VESPAR focus is on EFFORT....

We will be talking about what it means to 'work hard'. Fixed mindset learners carry with them the myth of effortless success.

Some of our students may fall into the trap of believing in the saying, 'you've either got it or you haven't'. We are going to be working hard to shatter this myth!

Consistent effort, rooted in Faith will make a lasting difference for each and every one of our students!



KS5 Senior Maths Challenge

Some weeks ago some students from Year 12 and Year 13 completed the Senior Maths Challenge and we are delighted with their results! Congratulations to the Maths Department and to the following students:

Year 12:

Shafi A - Silver (Best in School)

Umar A - Silver

Arman K - Bronze

Daniel K - Bronze

Abd-Ur-R - Bronze

Year 13:

Michael W - Silver

Catalina M - Bronze

And a huge well done to all of our students that took part, a few of which were 1-2 marks off a bronze: Rayaan A; Jakub K; Trey M; Emma M; Alishba R; Ezra T; Teah W; Steve Z; Jakub B and Adam K

These are fantastic results! It is the first time we have run the Senior Challenge and this is certainly on the calendar for next year!.

Year 12 Enrichment Trip – University of Birmingham



**UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM**

As part of helping our Year 12 students think about their post-18 plans and aspirations, we have arranged an exciting trip to the University of

Birmingham on Friday 14th November. This visit will give students a real insight into university life and help them explore the opportunities available after Sixth Form.

- The University of Birmingham is ranked 16th in the UK (2026) and 76th globally.
- It is home to over 40,000 students from more than 150 countries
- It generates around £4.4 billion for the UK economy annually, supporting nearly 20,000 jobs.
- The university is recognised for excellent career prospects, being the number one UK university targeted by top graduate employers (High Fliers Research 2025), with many subjects ranked in the global top 50.

Trip Details:

Students will meet staff at University Station at 8:30am. Travel options include bus, train, or car. (For example, from Acocks Green, students can take the 4 bus or a train via University Station – see timetable for specific routes.)

Students received trip letters this week in their assembly.

Please encourage your child to return the confirmation slip by Friday 7th November, indicating travel arrangements. Students not attending will follow their normal school timetable.

We are looking forward to an inspiring visit that helps students think about their next steps beyond Sixth Form.

UCAS Applications – Half Term Focus

As our Year 13 students progress with their university applications, it is essential that they use the upcoming half term to make significant progress on their UCAS applications. This period provides a valuable opportunity to refine personal statements, research courses, and explore the wide range of opportunities available.

Students should be using UCAS Hub, the official UCAS platform, to fully research their chosen universities and courses. This ensures that their applications are well-informed and tailored to their academic and career aspirations. Thorough research can make a real difference in ensuring students apply to the courses and universities that best suit their goals.

Key UCAS Deadlines (internal):

- Friday 7th November: Personal Statements to be uploaded to Google Classroom for teacher review.
- Friday 21st November: Subject teacher references to be completed with Predicted Grades.
- Monday 8th December: Completed UCAS applications to be submitted internally for review by the Sixth Form Team

We encourage students to use half term productively, revising and refining their personal statements and making full use of the UCAS Hub tools to explore course content, entry requirements, and career pathways. Timely progress now will help ensure that applications are strong, competitive, and submitted on schedule. We encourage parents to support students in using this time effectively and would value your help in keeping students stay on track to meet the above deadlines. This focused effort now helps ensure applications are strong, well-researched, and submitted on time.

Important: Students who do not wish to make a university application must bring back a signed letter from their parent or carer confirming this decision. This letter can be collected from Mrs Grant. This confirmation ensures we can provide appropriate guidance and support for all students as they plan their next steps after Sixth Form.

Supporting Students with Mock Exams - Year 12

Mock exams for Year 12 begin on Tuesday 2nd December. Students will sit one paper in each of their subjects. These exams are an important part of learning, giving students the first opportunity to test their knowledge and identify areas for improvement. Exams will take place in the Hall. Year 12's Assessment 1 Report will be issued on Friday 19th December. Parents and carers can support students by encouraging regular revision, helping them plan their study time, and ensuring they attend all lessons. Every exam counts toward progress and helps prepare for final exams in Year 13. Parents and carers will have already received 'Settling In' reports for Year 12 students. Please discuss their effort, behaviour for learning and homework grades as learning behaviours now set the tone for their academic journey with us. Tutors will also be having conversations with tutees.

Following their recent set on Mock Exams, Year 13's Assessment 1 Report will be issued on Friday 7th November.

Resit Maths and English dates: Students taking a resit in either English or Maths will sit their examinations on the following dates. All exams are a 9.00am start:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Tuesday 4 th Nov - English Language Paper 1 | • Thursday 6 th Nov English Language Paper 2 |
| • Wednesday 5 th Nov - Maths Paper 1 | • Friday 7 th Nov Maths Paper 2 resit 9am |
| | • Monday 10 th November Maths Paper 3 |

GOOD ATTENDANCE MATTERS!



Every school day counts



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

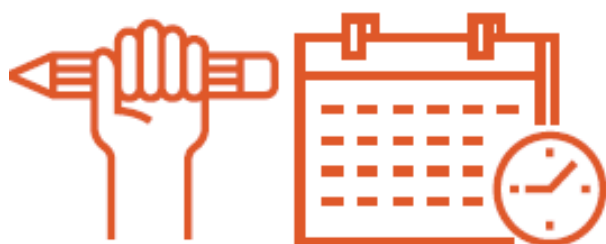
Why is regular school attendance and good punctuality so important for my child?

Regular attendance at school means that your child can make the most of their education and improve their chances in adult life. School can also help your child's social skills such as making and developing friendships.

The link between attendance and attainment in school is clear. The more a child is in school the more they increase their opportunity to fulfil their potential.

Good punctuality is important. For example, if a child arrives 15 minutes late at school each day, they lose almost 2 weeks of education over the year. Good punctuality also helps your child get into good habits for when they enter the world of work.

Lateness can cause your child embarrassment and, in some circumstances, can count as unauthorised absence.



How can I help my child enjoy school and attend regularly?

Be organised, have a plan, be consistent and involve your child!

You should:

- ensure they have an appropriate bedtime routine
- create good routines for mornings at home so that your child can arrive punctually and are properly equipped
- avoid absence from school wherever possible
 - try to make doctors and dental appointments out of school hours
- make time to encourage and show interest in school work, friendships etc.
- attend school open evenings and functions
- Create a calm space for them to do homework, check they understand the homework and that it has been completed.
- share any education concerns your child or you may have with the school staff as soon as possible
- set realistic boundaries

Holidays/Leave in term time

Holidays in term time are not allowed. Parents/carers must apply for the authorisation of any leave prior to travel or their children could be reported to the council as missing in education.

Leave for other circumstances such as bereavement or family illness abroad may also not be authorised. Informing the school does not mean the leave is agreed. In the event of a genuine family emergency, parents should avoid requesting more than 5 school days absence. Leave due to weddings is unlikely to be authorised.

Two weeks unauthorised holiday/leave means at least 50 lessons missed that will never be repeated.



What does the law say I must do as a parent/carer?

Once your child is registered at a school, you are legally responsible for making sure they attend regularly. This means your child should not have any unauthorised absence as this would constitute an offence in law. When attendance doesn't improve after support or, when a minimum of 5 days unauthorised holiday/leave is taken, legal action can be taken.

Courts can fine parents/carers up to £1,000 per child and for repeat offences the court can fine parents/carers up to £2,500 per child or impose a prison sentence of up to 3 months.

In many cases, but not all, parents/carers can discharge an offence by paying a penalty notice of £160 for each parent per child, discounted to £80 if paid within 21 days. For a family of two parents/carers with 3 children that would be at least £480.

Where can I get help and advice?

If you need support in relation to your child's attendance, help is available. Please make an appointment with the school to discuss your concerns.

Most difficulties can be resolved informally, but the staff can also arrange an early help assessment or make a request for support to Birmingham Children's Trust if necessary, with your consent.

School nurses can also be helpful if your child has a medical condition or has a lot of time off due to illness.

Parents/carers are strongly advised to work in partnership with the school to address any difficulties impacting school attendance. For more information about school attendance or if you need help or support, please use these links:

www.birmingham.gov.uk/saap

www.birmingham.gov.uk/love

