



ARCHBISHOP ILSLEY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

"Let Your Light Shine"

Victoria Road, Acocks Green, Birmingham, B27 7XY

Tel: 0121 706 4200
Email: enquiry@ilsley.bham.sch.uk
Website: www.ilsley.bham.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mr Ciaran Clinton



Sunday 12th April 2026

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome back!

I hope your child(ren) enjoyed their Easter holiday and their time at home. In the Catholic Church and the liturgical calendar, the period following Easter is when the disciples began to spread the good news of Jesus' resurrection and evangelise the masses. It is therefore a time of positivity, optimism and hope—values we aim to carry into the new summer term.

To support your child in making a positive start to the term, below is some useful information to help them have a successful first week back. I will also send a copy of this letter to their school email address, but it may be helpful to share this message with them.

This letter includes information about the following:

1. Reminder about uniform (including trainers)
2. Reminder about lateness policy and mobile phones
3. Extended tutor time on the first day back
4. Early lunch for Year 11 and Year 7
5. Access to Pastoral Leads
6. Parent survey – getting ready for Term 3.1
7. Staff changes
8. Study leave
9. Term dates and INSET days

1) Reminder about uniform – trainers are not permitted

As we return to school, we would like to remind all parents and carers of our expectations regarding uniform and standards.

Pupils must attend in full, correct uniform, including appropriate shoes. Crocs and Nike Air Force trainers are not permitted. Black or blue leggings are also not allowed. Skirts should be blue, and pupils should wear either a blazer or a blue jumper, with their tie visible at all times.

Now that we are in the summer term, pupils may choose to wear summer uniform, which consists of a blue open-neck shirt displaying their year group badge.



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2) Reminder about lateness policy and mobile phones

We would like to remind you of our expectations regarding mobile phones, punctuality and detentions. Mobile phones must be switched off and kept in bags between 8:40am and 3:15pm; if seen, they will be confiscated.

Our detention system operates on a next-day basis in most cases, ensuring that parents are informed and there is time for any necessary discussion. Detentions take place at lunchtime or after school, and pupils may choose when to complete them. As part of this process, pupils must hand their phone to their tutor on the morning of their detention (or another item if they do not have a phone). This will be returned at the end of the day and supports pupils in taking responsibility for their actions.

If a pupil arrives late to school (after 8:45am), they must hand their phone in at reception and will receive a same-day 20-minute detention in the main hall, finishing at 3:35pm. If there is a valid reason for lateness, please contact the school and the detention will be removed.

Since introducing this approach, lateness has reduced by 70%, reflecting the positive impact of clear and consistent routines. These procedures have been carefully reviewed and ratified by our governors—including parents, community members and professionals—to ensure they are fair, proportionate and in the best interests of all pupils.

A shortened version of the policy is enclosed with this email.

3) Extended tutor time until 9:30am on the first day back

Tutor time will be extended until 9:30am tomorrow (Monday) to ensure all pupils are fully prepared and ready for learning. During this time, staff will carry out equipment and uniform checks and support pupils in setting high standards for the term ahead.

There will also be a whole-school virtual assembly, during which we will conduct the prize draw for our *Every Minute Matters* focus. Last half term, 213 pupils qualified for the draw by achieving 100% attendance, zero negatives and zero lates, with the winner receiving a £50 Amazon voucher.

This incentive will continue this half term, alongside our weekly reward of early lunch on Thursdays for pupils meeting the same criteria. We are pleased to see strong engagement, with the number of pupils achieving this weekly standard increasing from 180 to around 430.



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4) Early lunch for Year 11 and Year 7

We will continue with our split lunch arrangements, as they have had a positive impact on the school day. Since introducing this system, we have seen a reduction in both canteen waiting times and behaviour incidents.

Year 7 and Year 11 will have lunch after Period 3, from 12:25–1:05pm, followed by Period 4 from 1:10–2:10pm.

Years 8, 9 and 10 will have lunch after Period 4, as usual.

We believe this structure supports a calmer, more efficient environment for all pupils.

School day timings

A reminder of the school day timings (also available on our website under the 'Parents' tab):

Time	Event
8:45 – 9:05	Form time (20 mins)
9:10 – 10:10	Period 1
10:15 – 11:15	Period 2
11:15 – 11:35	Break (20 mins)
11:35 – 12:35	Period 3
12:40 – 13:40	Period 4
13:40 – 14:15	Lunch (35 mins)
14:15 – 15:15	Period 5

5) Access to Pastoral Leads

Pastoral Leads will collect pupils from lessons if intervention is required. Pupils should not wait in the Student Services area for their Pastoral Lead.



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6) Parent survey – getting ready for Term 3.1

We value your views and want to ensure a positive start to the new term for all pupils. We would appreciate you taking a few moments to share any feedback, questions or concerns ahead of the return to school by completing the following short survey:

<https://forms.gle/2iVprhTcdY4FBwAN8>

Your input helps us to address any issues promptly and continue improving our provision.

7) Staff changes

We thank Mrs Gabsby (English) and Mr Newey (PE) for their service to Archbishop Ilsley. Ms Toovey will be joining the English Department, and Mrs Lloyd will be utilising her skills in PE.

Parents of pupils who require regular medication will be contacted tomorrow. We have seen a rise in pupils taking paracetamol routinely and advise parents to speak to their child about this, as it can impact lesson and learning time.

8) Study leave

The Senior Leadership Team will meet on Tuesday to discuss arrangements for examinations, including the Celebration Mass. We will contact parents of Year 11 and Year 13 pupils on Wednesday.



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9) Bank holidays, INSET day and term dates

As outlined on the 'Parents' tab of the website, the school will be closed on the following days:

- **Monday 4th May – Bank Holiday**
- **Friday 8th May – Staff training (INSET day)**

Half term will run from **Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May.**

Years 7–10 and Year 12 will begin their summer holidays on **Friday 17th July at 12:40pm** (half day).

The new school year will begin on **Thursday 3rd September at 8:45am for Years 7 and 11.** All other pupils, including the Sixth Form, will return on **Friday 4th September.**

To conclude

I hope you have found this information helpful. We look forward to welcoming your child tomorrow between 8:00am and 8:45am at the blue gate on Warwick Road. An exciting and productive summer term lies ahead.

Ciaran Clinton

Headteacher

On behalf of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and your child's Head of Year