



THE ABI UPDATE

ISSUE 16 FRIDAY 3RD JULY 2026

MESSAGE FROM INTERIM PRINCIPAL - MR HEARNDEN

I would like to thank you for your continued support of the school. There has been a noticeable improvement in the standards of uniform and appearance over the last couple of weeks; we will not relent on these expectations, we will hold the line and we expect your support. Working together is vital in ensuring that every young person can achieve their very best.

End of Term Arrangements - The final day of term will now be Thursday 16th July 2026. Pupils will finish school at 12.35pm. Please ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place for your child to travel home safely from school. Year 12 students will finish on Wednesday 15th July at 3.15pm.

Uniform and Appearance- 2026/2027 - Our Uniform and Appearance expectations for the new academic year will be published during the week commencing Monday 6th July 2026. Please look out for this communication before purchasing any new uniform to ensure that all items meet the school's requirements.

Attendance and Punctuality - I would like to sincerely thank all parents and carers who ensure that their child attends school every day and arrives on time. Excellent attendance and punctuality are fundamental to academic success and help pupils and students develop positive habits that will benefit them throughout their lives. Unfortunately, we continue to have too many pupils who are either absent too frequently or arrive late to school on a regular basis. Every lesson matters, and even small amounts of lost learning time can have a significant impact on progress and achievement. To encourage excellent attendance as we finish the academic year, we have launched our '12 Days of Summer Challenge'. Please see the 'Pastoral' section for more details.

Looking Ahead - We are currently undertaking a thorough review of our SEND and Inclusion provision, alongside our approaches to attendance, behaviour, standards and pastoral support, to ensure that every pupil receives the very best education and care. We are continually seeking ways to develop our curriculum and strengthen classroom provision, ensuring that high-quality teaching is consistently delivered in every classroom, in every lesson, for all pupils.

Over the coming months, you will begin to see a number of developments designed to strengthen our high expectations, improve outcomes and ensure Archbishop Ilsley Catholic School continues its journey of improvement, this will include improvements to our physical environment. We are committed to creating a school where every child feels safe, valued, supported and inspired to succeed. Be ready, Be Safe, Be Kind and Respectful are very clear and basic expectations we want to see every pupil exhibiting and we expect your support in echoing these expectations to your child/ren at home.

Thank you once again for your continued partnership and support. Together, we can ensure that every pupil and student makes the most of every opportunity. Please look out for further communication regarding the positive developments being made.

“...let your light shine.”

CATHOLIC LIFE

SCRIPTURE REFLECTION: MATTHEW 16: 13-19

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”



Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you release on earth will be released in heaven.”

Why is this relevant to us today?

Finding Peace in Knowing Who We Follow

This week in school, our theme is peace — a gift that we all seek in our world, our communities, and within ourselves. The Gospel passage where Jesus asks his disciples, “Who do you say I am?” invites us to reflect on where true peace begins.

The disciples share what others believe about Jesus, but Jesus asks them a more personal question: “Who do you say I am?” Peter’s response, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God,” shows his faith and trust in Jesus. In recognising who Jesus is, Peter discovers a foundation on which he can stand.

For us today, this question remains just as important. In a world that can often feel busy, uncertain, or divided, we are invited to think about what guides our choices and actions. Jesus calls us to build our lives on values that bring peace: love, forgiveness, compassion, and hope.

When Jesus tells Peter that he will build his Church on him, we are reminded that each of us has a part to play in creating a peaceful community. Peace is not only something we pray for; it is something we practice. It can be found in the way we speak to others, the kindness we show, the patience we offer, and the courage we have to forgive.

As a Catholic school community, we are called to be people who bring peace into our classrooms, our friendships, our families, and the wider world. By following Jesus’ example, we can help build a community where everyone feels valued, welcomed, and supported; let us reflect on Jesus’ question: “Who do you say I am?” and consider how our answer shapes the way we live. May our faith inspire us to be peacemakers wherever we go.



...“you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church....”

A huge thank you to our pupils and families for their support with our recent focus on uniform and standards. It has been fantastic to see so many pupils taking pride in their appearance and making positive choices each day.

Since the start of our uniform drive, there has been a noticeable improvement in standards around the school. Pupils are arriving better prepared for learning, looking smart, and representing Archbishop Ilsey with pride. We have also been encouraged by the positive response from parents, who have worked closely with us to ensure their children meet our expectations.

Whilst there are still a small number of pupils who require reminders and support, the vast majority have embraced the changes and are helping to create a calm, purposeful environment where everyone can learn. These improvements have only been possible through the partnership between pupils, parents and staff, and we are grateful for the commitment shown by all.

As we move towards the end of the academic year, we encourage pupils to continue making positive choices, maintaining high standards, and taking pride in being part of our school community. Thank you for your continued support.

From Wednesday 1st July until Thursday 16th July, every pupil and student who attends school every day and arrives on time will be entered into a prize draw with the opportunity to win some fantastic prizes. We hope this provides an exciting incentive for everyone to finish the year positively.



IMPORTANT! Please remember to check the MCAS parent app regularly for important notices and updates; you will receive a push notification on your device each time a communication is sent out.

If you do not have the app, please install it.

You will still receive communications by email, so please make sure you check your emails regularly.

If you have changed any contact details, please ensure that you contact the school and let us know. Thank you!

EVERY MINUTE MATTERS
9 DAYS OF SUMMER CHALLENGE!
MONDAY 6TH JULY – THURSDAY 16TH JULY

9 DAYS OF SUMMER ATTENDANCE CHALLENGE

100% ATTENDANCE, NO LATES TO SCHOOL OR LESSON IN THE 9 DAY PERIOD

The challenge is inclusive! Every student is in a category based on their current attendance.
2–3 prizes per category – so whatever your starting point, if you meet the criteria, you're in the draw!

CAT 1	CAT 2	CAT 3
80% AND BELOW	80.1% – 89.9%	90% – 100%

★ PRIZE DRAW FOR INDIVIDUALS ★

AMAZON VOUCHERS (£20), GREGGS VOUCHERS, FREE CHICKEN BURGER, VIP CANTEEN PASS, FREE SLUSHY

If you meet the criteria, you'll be in the draw to win!

★ BEST FORM GROUP PRIZES ★

The best form group in each year group wins...
FREE ICE CREAM ON THE LAST DAY!

BE IN ON TIME, ATTEND EVERY DAY, MEET THE CHALLENGE, BE IN THE DRAW!

SHOW UP. BE ON TIME. GET REWARDED. EVERY MINUTE MATTERS!

As we reach the end of what has been a very busy couple of weeks, I wanted to share an update you all regarding recent events, some incredible pupil achievements, and a look ahead to our final weeks.



Unfortunately, the extreme weather closure meant that we had to completely cancel Sports Day. I am incredibly disappointed about this, as it is always one of my absolute favourite events of the year where we come together, support one another, and celebrate as a school family. So it was lovely to see so many pupils enjoying themselves on Thursday having an absolutely wonderful time at our Beach Theme Disco! The evening was full of dancing and great activities that the pupils loved getting involved in. We had lots of competitive spirit on display, with many winners on the night across our boat race, limbo, hoopa, hula hooping and pin the tail on the donkey. The pupils were superb, and I truly hope they enjoyed the event as much as we did. We as staff, also saw a superb array of talent during this evening which means we are still looking for acts for our talent show in the final assembly, so if your child wants to showcase their skills, please encourage them to sign up! Furthermore, the school will soon be making a big announcement regarding next year's school play. To any budding Olivia Rodrigues or Zac Efrons out there, full information will be sent out before the summer holidays so you can sign up.



Extra Curricular

On an incredibly proud note, I was very fortunate to visit Birmingham City University recently with five of our wonderful Year 7 pupils. In partnership with ConnectFutures, they represented the school phenomenally well by taking part in a formal, professionally recorded debate on the topic: "Has technology made humans less intelligent?" Our pupils made us all incredibly proud with their eloquence and confidence. The debate will be released on YouTube within the next month, and we will share the link as soon as it goes live!

Following this success, Mr. Botwright would absolutely love to welcome some more Year 7 pupils to the school Debating Club, so please encourage them to join the next session.

With so much talent in Year 7, a special mention must go to our fantastic girls' football team. They were straight into action this week, playing a brilliant match just before the school disco kicked off. Well done, girls!

Attendance and House Points Triumph

I want to extend a massive thank you to all parents and carers for your continued support. As a year group, we do still need to work hard on improving our attendance, and there is definitely progress to be made here moving forward. However, the pupils who are in school, have been working exceptionally hard over the past two weeks. I am absolutely thrilled to share that Year 7 achieved the highest number of House Points and the lowest number of negative points across the entire school! This makes me extremely proud and proves that when our pupils are in school, they make the absolute most of their opportunities. The pupils truly are the shining light within our school community.

YEAR 7 - MR SMITH

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

Uniform and Standards Push

I also want to extend another massive thank you to all parents and carers for your brilliant support during our recent uniform and standards push. The pupils are looking absolutely fantastic, but more than just looking great, studies have shown that looking smarter actually helps you to feel and act smarter. The day-to-day attitude I am seeing from the vast majority of our pupils is exemplary. They are consistently being kind and pushing each other to excel in everything they do. I am aware that a small minority are still struggling to meet our core values of being kind, safe, and ready and respectful; his behaviour does need to change but I am incredibly grateful for the positive standard the rest of the year group is setting.



Important Policy Update: Mobile Phones

Finally, I would like to direct all parents and carers to the upcoming legal changes regarding mobile phones in schools. Please read the information in the link provided below, as school-wide policy changes will be implemented this coming September:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy8wjv3x81qo>

Thank you all again. Have a fantastic, restful weekend!

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."
— Matthew 5:16

YEAR 8 - MRS WAFI

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

It was wonderful to welcome our Year 8 pupils back to school following the shortened week caused by the exceptionally hot weather. Despite the disruption and the continued warm temperatures, it was encouraging to see pupils return in full school uniform, looking smart, well prepared, and ready to engage positively in their learning.



Although the weather has become slightly cooler, temperatures remain high. We continue to remind pupils to bring a refillable water bottle to school each day and to stay well hydrated throughout the day. Unless otherwise communicated, all pupils are expected to bring their blazer or blue school jumper to school every day, even during warmer periods, as classroom temperatures can vary.

We would also like to remind parents and carers that pupils may wear only one pair of small stud earrings as part of our uniform policy. Your continued support in reinforcing our school expectations helps us maintain the high standards of presentation and pride that we value as a school community.

As we approach the end of another successful term, I would like to thank all parents and carers for your ongoing partnership and support in upholding our school uniform expectations and standards. Working together enables us to create a positive learning environment where every pupil can flourish.

As we are reminded in Scripture: "Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters." Colossians 3:23. May we continue to encourage our young people to take pride in all they do, approaching each day with commitment, respect, and a willingness to give their very best.

YEAR 11 PROM

Our Year 11 Prom at The Village Hotel on Wednesday 1st July was a real success. Pupils were dressed for the occasion and enjoyed celebrating their time with us. Well done Year 11! Thank you also to our Year 11 team, all those who helped to organise the Prom and to all our staff who came along to help pupils celebrate.

We will see you on Results Day/Sixth Form Enrolment on Thursday 20th August.



CHARITY FUNDRAISING

As part of our CST this term, 'We are called to care for God's creation. Our common home', we are focusing on stewardship. To do this, we are sponsoring Birmingham Dogs' Home through activities like 'Guess that Jellycat' and a popcorn sale.

The Dogs' Home will be visiting our school next Wednesday 8th July to present assemblies to talk to pupils about responsible ownership, what the charity does and how pupils can fundraise, as a school and individually.

The Jellycat competition will be running until the last week of school so pupils can still pay £1 to guess the name of the teddy for a chance to win it. Any other donations are highly appreciated and go to a wonderful cause.

You can donate using this link:
<https://gofund.me/4b93b27de>

'The righteous care for the needs of their animals' -
Proverbs 12:10

NAME THAT JELLYCAT

Birmingham Dogs Home

TO RAISE MONEY FOR BIRMINGHAM DOGS' HOME
IF YOU GUESS THE NAME CORRECTLY, YOU WILL WIN THE JELLYCAT!

GUIDELINES

- YOU CAN ENTER AS MANY TIMES AS YOU LIKE
- ALL MONEY IS TO BE COLLECTED BY MISS COPAGE (SCIENCE)
- THE NAME YOU CHOOSE WILL ONLY BE YOURS ONCE YOU HAVE PAID

£1 ENTRY

WHY SHOULD WE HELP?

THE RIGHTEOUS CARE FOR THE NEEDS OF THEIR ANIMALS - PROVERBS 12:10

AS CATHOLICS, WE ARE CALLED TO BE STEWARDS OF GOD'S CREATION. STEWARDSHIP MEANS CARING FOR THE WORLD AND ALL LIVING THINGS THAT GOD HAS MADE. ANIMALS ARE PART OF GOD'S CREATION AND DESERVE KINDNESS, CARE, AND RESPECT. BY SUPPORTING BIRMINGHAM DOGS HOME, WE ARE HELPING TO PROVIDE FOOD, SHELTER, AND CARE FOR DOGS THAT ARE VULNERABLE AND IN NEED.

THEIR VISION

FOR EVERY DOG TO BE CARED FOR AND PROTECTED SO THAT THEY CAN LEAD A HAPPY, FULFILLED LIFE, FEELING SAFE AND LOVED.

As we enter the final stages of Year 9, it is important to take a moment to reflect on everything we have achieved over the last few weeks. It has been an incredibly busy and successful period, and you should all be proud of the effort, resilience and maturity you have shown.



Firstly, well done to everyone for completing your final AFFPOL assessments of Key Stage 3. Many of you have really stepped up to the challenge, worked hard in your lessons and shown just how much progress you have made over the past three years. Your teachers have been impressed with the determination and positive attitude you have displayed. These assessments are an important milestone as they help prepare you for the transition into Year 10, where you will begin the next stage of your GCSE journey.

I would also like to thank everyone for responding so positively to our recent uniform drive. It has been fantastic to see so many of you taking pride in your appearance and representing the year group so well. Looking smart shows respect for yourselves, your school and the wider community. As a reminder, our uniform expectations remain the same:

- One set of stud earrings only; one stud in each ear lobe
- One small nose stud only
- No rings are permitted

During the current hot weather, ties are not required, but shirts must still be worn correctly with the appropriate school skirt or trousers in the correct colours. Thank you to everyone for continuing to support these expectations.

This week also brought an exciting opportunity for our Envision group, who travelled to Alexander Stadium to present the project they developed as part of the Envision programme. Every member of the team should be incredibly proud of what they have achieved. Throughout the project they have demonstrated teamwork, commitment, leadership and creativity, developing skills that will benefit them well beyond school. Watching their confidence grow and seeing the journey they have been on has been a real pleasure, and we wish them every success as they present their work.



Another fantastic opportunity this term has been working alongside historian Carl Chinn. Carl has been supporting both Envision groups with a fascinating project exploring the rich history of Birmingham. Last week, we were fortunate enough to take part in a walking tour of the city, where we visited many of Birmingham's most significant landmarks and learned about the people, events and stories that have shaped the city we live in today. It was a brilliant experience that brought history to life and gave everyone a greater appreciation of Birmingham's heritage and the role it continues to play today.

As we approach the end of the academic year, there is still plenty to look forward to. Continue working hard, making the right choices and supporting one another. The habits you build now will put you in the best possible position as you move into Year 10 and begin your GCSE courses. Finish Year 9 with the same determination and positive attitude you have shown throughout these last few weeks.

Keep aiming high, continue to do yourselves proud, and let's finish the year as strongly as we have started it.



This week, our Year 10 pupils have been undertaking their work experience placements. This invaluable opportunity has given them a real insight into the world of work, helping them develop confidence, independence and employability skills while exploring potential future career pathways.

As we enter the final two weeks of term, it is important that all Year 10 pupil continue to maintain the high standards we expect in attendance, punctuality and uniform. Every lesson counts and finishing the year positively will ensure pupils are well prepared for the challenges of Year 11.

Over the coming weeks, pupils will receive feedback on their recent Year 10 examinations, giving them valuable guidance on their strengths and areas for improvement. A number of pupils will also be completing coursework days, providing an important opportunity to make further progress towards their qualifications.

I encourage all pupils to remain focused, work hard and make the most of every opportunity available to them. Let us finish the term with the same commitment and determination that we have shown throughout the year, ensuring a successful transition into Year 11 and the start of this crucial stage in their education.

Next week, a number of our pupils will be completing their qualifying expedition for the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award. From Thursday 9th July to Saturday 11th July, they will be developing essential life skills such as teamwork, resilience, leadership and problem-solving, all of which are highly valued by employers and will support them in their future education and careers.

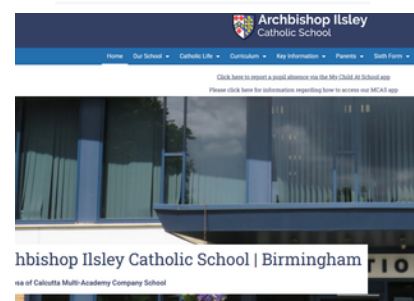
In the final week of term, 44 pupils will be travelling to Berlin on our History educational visit from Wednesday 15th July to Saturday 18th July. Pupils should arrive at Victoria Road, outside the school, by 2.30am on Wednesday for departure. We expect to return at approximately midnight on Saturday. There will be a parent information meeting for the Berlin trip on Monday 6h July at 4.00 pm. This meeting will provide important travel information and give parents and carers the opportunity to ask any questions before departure.

We wish all of our pupils the very best as they take part in these exciting opportunities and look forward to hearing about their experiences.

KEY DATES

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH US! TO SEE MORE OF WHAT HAPPENS IN SCHOOL AND ON OUR TRIPS AND VISITS, PLEASE CHECK OUT OUR TWITTER/X @ABILSLEY OR CLICK ON OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE BELOW:

Date	Event
Monday 6th July 2026	Year 12 UCAS Preparation Day and Enrichment afternoon Year 10 trip to British Motor Museum Year 10 Speaking Exams MFL
Tuesday 7th July 2026	Year 10 OCR Sports Studies Climbing Assessment Year 8 DT Cadbury World trip
Wednesday 8th July 2026	Birmingham Dogs' Home talk
Thursday 9th July 2026	Year 8 Cosford Trip
Thursday 9th and Friday 10th July 2026	Year 10 Silver DofE Practice
Monday 13th July 2026	Year 9 Enterprise Day
Tuesday 14th July 2026	Year 9 Enterprise Day
Wednesday 15th July 2026	Year 12 break up for summer at 3.15pm
Wednesday 15th July – Saturday 18 th Jul 2026	Year 10 Berlin trip
Thursday 16th July 2026	Years 7-10 break up for summer at 12.35pm
Thursday 13th August	A Level Results Day
Thursday 20th August	GCSE Results Day and Sixth Form Enrolment



YEAR 9 MATHS INSPIRATION TRIP

SUBJECT ENRICHMENT

On Monday, a group of our Year 9 pupils enjoyed an inspiring visit to the Crescent Theatre in Birmingham for an engaging and thought-provoking maths show.



The interactive performance challenged pupils to think differently about mathematics by exploring puzzles, probability and strategic decision making through a range of games and demonstrations. One of the key themes was how careful mathematical thinking can transform games that are often thought of as being based purely on luck. Even familiar family favourites like Monopoly, were revealed to have hidden layers of strategy, giving our pupils plenty to think about for their next games night!

A special congratulations goes to Alex, who won a prize during Play Your Cards Right, demonstrating excellent strategic thinking under pressure.

Isa from Year 9 said, "It was really fun because it showed that maths isn't just about numbers in a classroom. It made you think differently about games and everyday decisions." Amelia and Bianca said, "it was educational and engaging." Shristi and Fatima said, "it was entertaining and I liked how the host engaged the audience."

Anna, Olimpia and Ellie were impressed by the new maths tricks they learnt! Elah and Sabah were inspired by how maths can be used in everyday life. Sufian and Ghazi said, "it was fun to learn how maths can help in games."

The trip certainly helped our students see maths from a fresh perspective. However, parents, please be warned! If your child suddenly offers to do chores in exchange for a payment starting at just 1p that doubles ever day, our advice is simple, DO NOT ACCEPT!

YEAR 9 GEOGRAPHY DORSET TRIP

Over the past few weeks, our Key Stage 3 geographers have had the invaluable opportunity to take their learning beyond the classroom through a range of engaging fieldwork experiences. We took Year 7 and 8 pupils to the beautiful Carding Mill Valley, where they carried out river studies, developing practical skills in data collection, observation and analysis in a real-world environment linked to their learning in the classroom.

Meanwhile, 20 of our Year 9 pupils embarked on a residential visit to the Jurassic Coast in Dorset, an inspiring experience that will support their transition into GCSE Geography.

We are delighted to share that all pupils represented the school exceptionally well. Their behaviour was exemplary, and their enthusiasm, curiosity and engagement were a credit to themselves, their parents and guardians and our school community.

These experiences are a vital part of geographical education, helping students to deepen their understanding, build confidence and develop a lasting appreciation of the world around them. We thank you for your support and look forward to future fieldwork experiences with our learners. We also thank the geography team; Ms Ruck, Mrs Lloyd, Mr Royston and Mr Morris for making this fantastic learning opportunity happen!



Year 13 Celebration Dinner

We were delighted to celebrate our Year 13 students at their Celebration Dinner, held at The Village Hotel on Wednesday 24th June. It was a highly successful and memorable evening, with students dressing to impress and enjoying a wonderful opportunity to celebrate their achievements together.

The evening included a meal, inspiring speeches, a range of awards recognising students' successes and contributions, and plenty of dancing to finish the celebrations in style.

It was a fantastic occasion that reflected the hard work, dedication, and memories our students have created during their time with us. We are incredibly proud of our Year 13 students and wish them every success as they move on to their next steps.

We look forward to welcoming them back on Results Day on Thursday 13th August and celebrating their achievements with them once again.





“let your light shine...”

Year 11 into 12 Step Up Days

On Monday 29th June and Tuesday 30th June, we held our Year 11 into 12 Step Up Days as we supported pupils in preparing for the next stage of their journey into Sixth Form.

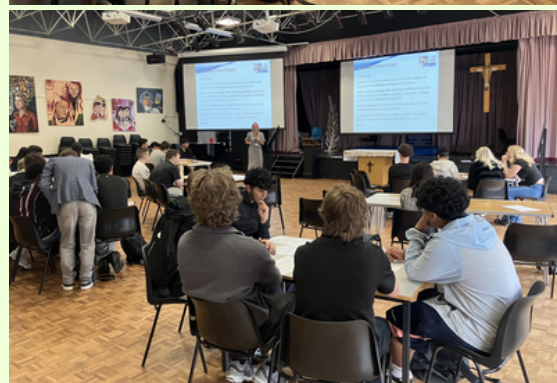
Across the two days, pupils took part in a range of subject masterclass sessions and received a wealth of information about life in our Sixth Form. They learned more about what it means to be a post-16 student, the expectations placed upon them, and how they can make the most of their two years of study with us. Pupils had the opportunity to meet the Sixth Form team, sample a range of A Level and Level 3 lessons, and explore the enrichment opportunities available to them. The days were designed to help pupils feel confident, informed, and ready for the transition from Year 11 into Year 12.

Following the Step Up Days, pupils have been asked to complete a range of Step Up Tasks to begin their learning journey and demonstrate their commitment, dedication and enthusiasm for their chosen subjects. These tasks are designed to bridge the gap between Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5, giving pupils a head start as they prepare for Sixth Form study.

Subject teachers have created a variety of activities to introduce students to A Level and Level 3 expectations. Tasks include researching subject topics, reflecting on their motivations for studying their chosen courses, and engaging with content they will explore during their Sixth Form studies. Pupils will complete tasks for each subject area they plan to study and bring their work in during the second week of Year 12 to share with their teachers. Dates for submission will be shared in September.

The Step Up Days were very well attended, and both teachers and the Sixth Form team were extremely impressed with the attitude, engagement, and maturity shown by our students throughout. We look forward to continuing to support our students as they take this important step towards their future pathways and begin their Sixth Form journey. For more information about the courses, course requirements and our expectations regarding dress code, attendance and punctuality, please see the Sixth Form section of our website here: <https://www.ilsley.bham.sch.uk/sixth-form/>

Enrolment to Sixth Form takes place on GCSE Results Day on Thursday 20th August.



Year 12 Work Experience Week

We would like to congratulate our Year 12 students on successfully completing their Work Experience Week. This was a fantastic opportunity for students to step into the world of work, develop valuable skills, and gain insight into potential future pathways.

Work experience is an important part of our Sixth Form programme as it allows students to apply their learning in real-world settings, build confidence, and develop the personal and professional skills that employers and universities value. Students have had the opportunity to improve their communication, teamwork, organisation, problem-solving, and adaptability while experiencing the expectations of the workplace.

Our students have enjoyed placements across a wide range of sectors, including nursery, primary and secondary schools, retail, law, architecture, engineering, construction and many more. These experiences have helped students explore their interests, discover new career possibilities, and make more informed decisions about their next steps beyond Sixth Form.

We have been incredibly impressed by the maturity, enthusiasm, and commitment shown by our Year 12 students throughout the week. We would also like to thank Mr Meredith, our Careers Lead, for organising this week and all the employers and organisations who supported our students and helped make this valuable experience possible.

Year 12 Next Steps Programme - Monday 6th July

Our planned visit to Coventry University on Monday 6th July has been postponed and will now take place in the new academic year.

Instead, on Monday we will be holding our UCAS Preparation Day, which was originally scheduled to take place last Friday 26th June. During the day, students will reflect on their Work Experience Week and focus on the range of post-18 options available to them; they will also begin working through the UCAS application process.

While not all students will choose to go to university, understanding the application process is important for all students as they consider their next steps. The day will also include guidance on writing a Personal Statement and students will begin planning their own. This is a valuable activity not only for those considering university but also for students who may need to create CVs or personal profiles for apprenticeships, employment, or other pathways.

The day will begin as normal with students arriving punctually, for an 8.45am start. Students may wear their 'dress down' clothes for the day, including shorts, as the weather remains warm. Please ensure clothing is appropriate for all planned activities.

In the afternoon, students will take part in an enrichment activity session from 1.15pm, with a choice of bowling or laser quest. All activities during the day are compulsory; there is no 'Relaxed Reg' available. We hope this will be a valuable and enjoyable day, supporting students as they prepare for their future choices beyond school.