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THE ABI UPDATE

ISSUE 6 FRIDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2026

MESSAGE FROM INTERIM PRINCIPAL - MR HEARNDEN

Dear Parents and Carers,
It has been another incredibly significant and positive couple of weeks in the life of our school. As you will be aware, we welcomed Ofsted inspectors into school on Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th November for our first monitoring visit following the inspection in May 2026. Following this visit, the inspection was deemed a Section 5 inspection, with a team of inspectors returning to school on Tuesday 17th November.

This is a significant milestone in our journey of improvement and reflects the rapid pace of change and transformation that has taken place over recent months. We will now receive a new Ofsted report, which will be published in due course. We very much look forward to sharing the findings with you as soon as we are able to do so, hopefully within the next four weeks.

I want to express my enormous pride in our school community. The hard work, commitment and determination of our staff, the support of our parents and carers, and the increasingly positive attitudes of our students have been instrumental in the progress we continue to make. We are not the same school we were in May, and that is down to the collective efforts of our entire school community.

As a Catholic school, our mission must remain at the heart of everything we do. Academic excellence, high standards and strong discipline are important, but they are not ends in themselves. They are part of our responsibility to ensure that every young person is known, valued, loved and given the opportunity to flourish. Rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ, we are called to develop not only successful learners, but compassionate, responsible and courageous young people who recognise their responsibility to others. Our Catholic identity is not simply something we talk about; it must be evident in how we treat one another, the opportunities we provide and the decisions we make every day. We are, and must always remain, a Catholic school first and foremost.

One of the highlights of the past fortnight was our Remembrance Service on 11th November, which took place in the presence of Ofsted inspectors. The conduct of our students was quite simply outstanding. The respect, maturity and reverence they demonstrated throughout the service were a credit to themselves, their families and our school. Thank you to every student and member of staff who contributed to what was a deeply moving and impressive tribute to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. It was a powerful expression of our Catholic values of dignity, service, gratitude and respect for others, and a reminder of the character and sense of community that make our school such a special place.

Recognition must be given our Year 11 students, whose conduct and attitude throughout their mock examinations have been outstanding. They have approached this important period with maturity, focus and determination. Our Year 13 students, who are sitting examinations this week, also deserve enormous credit for their commitment and professionalism. These are important milestones in their academic journeys, and I encourage them to maintain this focus as they work towards their final examinations.

“...just and firm of purpose.”

As we continue to celebrate the progress being made, we must also be clear about the areas where further improvement is required, each and every day. Attendance and punctuality remain absolute priorities. Whilst many students attend school every day and arrive on time, there are still too many who do not. For some students, attendance and punctuality are simply not good enough, and this must change.

Every day missed is learning lost. Every late arrival disrupts learning and means valuable teaching time is missed. We cannot secure the outcomes and opportunities our students deserve if they are not in school, on time, every day. As parents and carers, you are the first educators of your children, and your partnership in reinforcing these expectations is essential. Please ensure that attendance and punctuality are prioritised at home. Where genuine barriers exist, we will work with families to address them, but our expectations will remain unapologetically high. We have made extraordinary progress in a relatively short period of time, but we are far from finished. Our focus now is on ensuring that the improvements we have made are not temporary but firmly embedded in the everyday experience of every student. Our ambition is not simply to become a better school, but to become an exceptional Catholic school, where faith, character, academic excellence and opportunity go hand in hand.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS AT ABI - MRS BURNHAM

As the colder days and darker evenings arrive, we know that getting out of a warm, cosy bed in the morning can become a little more challenging! However, maintaining good routines and positive habits can make a huge difference to your child's attendance, punctuality and overall wellbeing. With the excitement of new video game releases, online gaming and social media, it can be tempting for young people to stay up later than usual. While we recognise the importance of downtime and relaxation, a good night's sleep is essential for concentration, emotional wellbeing and being ready to learn. Most secondary aged students need between 8 and 10 hours of sleep each night.

Small Routines Make a Big Difference!

Here are a few simple ways families can help make school mornings calmer and more successful:

- Prioritise sleep: Encourage a consistent bedtime and wake-up time, even during the darker winter months. Try to switch off gaming consoles, phones and other screens at least 30–60 minutes before bed.
- Set gaming boundaries: New game launches can be exciting, but late-night gaming can make the following school day much harder. Agree sensible finishing times, particularly on school nights.
- Establish a homework routine: Encourage homework to be completed at a regular time, allowing pupils to enjoy their evening without the pressure of unfinished work.
- Get organised the night before: Pack school bags, check timetables, organise PE kits and have uniforms ready. Just ten minutes of preparation can prevent a stressful morning!
- Start the day positively: Allow enough time for breakfast, getting ready and travelling to school without rushing.

Everyday Counts – Even the Cold Ones!

Regular attendance is about much more than academic achievement. Being in school every day helps students build friendships, develop confidence, establish positive routines and feel part of our Archbishop Ilsley community. We understand that some mornings can be more difficult than others, and that families occasionally face challenges. If something is making it difficult for your child to attend school, please talk to us. Our Attendance Team is here to listen, understand and work with you to find solutions.

As we approach the winter months, let's continue to celebrate the students who arrive each morning, ready to learn and give their best. Thank you to our parents and carers for your continued support. Together, we can make every school day count! Every Day Matters. Every Lesson Counts. Every Student Belongs.

CATHOLIC LIFE • SCRIPTURE REFLECTION
MATTHEW 25:31-46



Jesus said: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, with all his angels, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered in front of him, and he will separate people into two groups, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you whom my Father has blessed! Receive the kingdom that has been ready for you since the world was made. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger and you welcomed me; I needed clothes and you clothed me; I was ill and you looked after me; I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

Then the good people will ask, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we see you as a stranger and welcome you, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you ill or in prison and visit you?'

The King will answer, 'I tell you the truth: whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' Then he will say to those on his left, 'Go away from me, into the fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat; I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink; I was a stranger and you did not welcome me; I needed clothes and you did not clothe me; I was ill and in prison and you did not visit me.'

They will ask, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger, needing clothes, ill or in prison, and not help you?' He will reply, 'I tell you the truth: whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' And they will go away to eternal punishment, but the good will go to eternal life."

How is this relevant today?

In this week's Gospel, Jesus shares the parable of the sheep and the goats, reminding us that the way we treat others is at the heart of our Christian faith. As we continue our whole-school focus on 'Being Kind', this Gospel challenges us to recognise that kindness is more than simply being polite or treating our friends well. Jesus calls us to notice those who may be struggling, welcome those who feel excluded and show compassion to everyone, particularly those who need it most.

In today's world, where people can be quick to judge or overlook others, this message is especially important. We never truly know what someone else may be experiencing, and sometimes the smallest gesture of kindness can make the greatest difference.

Within our school community, kindness might mean including someone who feels alone, offering help without being asked, speaking respectfully or standing up for someone who is being treated unfairly. Importantly, Jesus reminds us that kindness is not just about what we do, but also about what we choose not to ignore. We are challenged to notice when others need our support and have the compassion and courage to act.

As we reflect on this Gospel, perhaps we can ask ourselves: Do my words and actions make others feel valued? Do I notice when someone needs kindness? Am I willing to help, even when there is nothing in it for me? May we continue to build a school community where kindness is not simply something we talk about, but something we live out every day. May we always remember that even the smallest act of kindness can make a lasting difference.

"... Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me...."

SEND AND INCLUSION - MRS GRANT

Reading Builds Brighter Futures – Supporting Every Reader

Reading is one of the most important skills our young people can develop. It opens doors to learning, builds vocabulary, strengthens comprehension and develops confidence across every subject. Being a confident reader is not just essential for academic success; it is a skill for life.

At Archbishop Ilsley Catholic School, we are committed to developing confident, independent readers who read both for learning and for pleasure.

How Do We Support Reading in School?

Our dedicated reading lessons provide opportunities for students to develop their skills through guided reading and independent reading. During guided reading, students explore texts together, discuss new vocabulary, ask questions, make predictions and summarise what they have read. Independent reading then allows students to practise these skills, build fluency and develop positive reading habits.

We also recognise that not every child finds reading easy. Some students experience difficulties with recognising words, reading fluently, understanding vocabulary or making sense of what they have read. These literacy barriers can affect their confidence and their ability to access learning across the curriculum. We work hard to identify these difficulties early and provide appropriate support. This includes:

- Reading assessments: We use NGRT assessments and Little Wandle Code screening to identify students who may need additional support and understand their specific reading difficulties.
- Lexia: A personalised reading programme that develops essential literacy skills, including word recognition, vocabulary and comprehension.
- Precision Teaching: A targeted intervention that helps students develop accuracy, automaticity and fluency when reading words they find difficult.
- Adaptive teaching: Teachers use strategies such as explicit vocabulary instruction, modelling, scaffolding and checking understanding to help students access challenging texts without lowering expectations.
- Ongoing monitoring: We review students' reading progress and adapt support to ensure interventions are making a difference.

Our aim is to remove barriers so that every student can access the curriculum, experience success and develop confidence as a reader.

What If My Child Finds Reading Difficult?

1. If your child struggles with reading, the most important thing is to keep reading a positive experience.
2. Avoid putting pressure on them to read texts that are too difficult or comparing their progress with others.
3. Choose manageable texts, read together and offer encouragement. Even listening to stories and discussing them helps develop vocabulary and comprehension.
4. If you are concerned about your child's reading, please contact the school. Our Reading Lead and SEND team can help identify potential barriers and consider whether further assessment or targeted support would be beneficial.

Reading is everyone's responsibility, both in school and at home. We want every young person to recognise that reading is not simply something we do in English lessons; it is the foundation of learning across the curriculum and a gateway to new opportunities.

Every child deserves to experience success as a reader. With the right support, encouragement and opportunities to practise, we can help every learner belong, achieve and flourish.

Small steps, big stories – every page makes a difference!

STANDARDS FOR LEARNING - MR FOLEY

This half term our students have been exploring the Catholic Social Teaching theme, 'Rights go both ways' through the SAINT tutor-time programme. The theme teaches that we all have rights and responsibilities. Over the last fortnight they have put it into practice in some very special ways.

Remembrance



Our students were outstanding at Remembrance. In the week leading up to 11th November, every tutor group learnt why we keep two minutes' silence. They reflected on the theme of Dignity: every person who died in war had a name, a family and a future, and each one was loved by God. Students wrote their own, "I will remember..." prayer cards and prayed St John Henry Newman's prayer together. On Remembrance Day itself, the whole school gathered outside in silence. Students behaved impeccably, with real reverence and respect. As November is the month of the Holy Souls, forms have also been praying the Eternal Rest each week for all who have died. Thank you to every student for the dignity they showed.

International Day of Tolerance and Anti-Bullying Week

On Monday 16th November we marked the International Day of Tolerance, and this week we are taking part in Anti-Bullying Week. This year's national theme is Break the Silence. In their Ilsley Spirit sessions, each year group has looked at why it is wrong to be a bystander and what it takes to be an upstander:

- Year 7 looked at what bullying is and why staying silent is never "nothing to do with me".
- Year 8 focused on online bullying and the line between "banter" and bullying in group chats.
- Year 9 explored why people stay silent, including when someone is targeted because of their religion. This linked to tolerance of different faiths and beliefs, part of our DR MIT British Values.
- Year 10 learnt about the "bystander effect" and why filming an incident is never acceptable.
- Year 11 thought about how bullying and harassment can carry on into college and work, and about leading by example for younger students.

Every year group also had a review session that brought together what they have learnt this year in RSE, our school values and DR MIT. This week's Gospel for the Feast of Christ the King (Matthew 25) reminds us that, "whatever you did for one of the least of these, you did for me." Our faith teaches us that every person is made in the image and likeness of God. Bullying attacks that dignity, and it has no place at Archbishop Ilsley. If anyone is worried, for themselves or for a friend, they should always speak to a trusted adult in school.

How we deal with bullying

As a reminder, we take every report of bullying seriously. When something is reported, we will listen, look into it carefully and make sure the student affected is supported and kept safe. Those responsible will face clear consequences and will be helped to change their behaviour, and we will keep families informed.
Students can report bullying, whether it happens in school or online, in any of these ways:

- Speak to any member of staff, such as their tutor, Head of Year or any adult they trust in school.
- Report it on Tootoot, our safe online reporting platform. Students can use it at any time, from home or school, to tell us about anything that is worrying them.

All students had their Tootoot logins resent to them this week. Please could parents and carers check that your child knows how to log in. If your child is worried about anything, please encourage them to break the silence and tell us.

As part of Anti-Bullying Week, our Year 11 artists were embracing our multicultural society and celebrating the diverse cultures within Birmingham. Students have produced a wide range of artwork inspired by different cultures and traditions as part of their coursework. Their work reflects the importance of respecting and appreciating the diversity within our community.








Celebrating Success

Ilsley Standard Awards recognise students who are on time, in the correct uniform and working well. In the week beginning 9th November, staff gave out 12,420 Ilsley Standard Awards and 1,021 students received at least one. That is a fantastic reflection of the effort and standards our students show every day.

Congratulations to 7THE, who were the top tutor group in the whole school with 488 awards, and to Year 7, who earned the most awards per student. Not bad for our newest students! Here are this week's top tutor groups and star students in each year:

Year Top tutor group Star Student(s):

Year	Top tutor group	Star Student(s)
Year 7	7THE	Izabella C. and Khaleesi S.
Year 8	8BER	Ed T.
Year 9	9JHN	Zenayah D.
Year 10	10BER	Cristian B.
Year 11	11ROM	Zuzanna K.
Year 12	12BAK	Mary M. and Aleksander S.
Year 13	13BAK	Reeni-Mai M.

Well done to every student who received an award this week. Keep it up!

World Youth Day: Sunday 22nd November

This Sunday is World Youth Day, which falls on the Solemnity of Christ the King. It would be lovely to see as many of our students and families as possible at Mass at 12pm at Holy Souls Catholic Church. Please come and join us as we celebrate the gifts of our young people and pray for them together.

Our new Dignity Cross

A prototype of our new Dignity Cross
Justus et Tenax Propositi



We will soon start getting our new Dignity Cross ready. We hope that as many past and present students, parents and parishioners as possible will add their thumbprint to it. Every thumbprint is different. Together they will show that each of us is a unique and distinct individual, made in the image of God, and that we form one community working for the common good. More details on how to take part will follow soon.

The prototype shows what we hope the finished cross will look like. It will be displayed outside our new IT classrooms and will be part of our school for many years to come.

Skips Safety Net

Keeping children safe online



A Parent's Guide to AI Companions



Your child's new online friend might not be human.

AI companions can seem like caring friends, but they are artificial intelligence, not real people. Your child may not understand how their information is used.

scan the QR code with your phone's camera for Parent Guides on how to help keep your children safe online

What are the risks?

- May give poor advice.
- Could encourage secrecy.
- Might introduce inappropriate content.
- Could reinforce harmful thinking.
- May become more influential than trusted adults.
- May lead children to share personal information.
- Even when children speak rather than type, their conversations can be turned into written words and stored online, alongside photographs and personal information they share.

  In the wrong hands, this information could be used to blackmail, groom, bully or radicalise.

What you can do to help

Talk about the apps your child uses. Check age limits and privacy settings. Keep personal details out of chats. Explain that a chatbot is not a real friend. Encourage time with family and friends, and let your child know they can always talk to you without getting into trouble.

Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

Parents please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Skips Educational Email: info@skipsed.com Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Developed in partnership with

Home Office

West Midlands Violence Reduction Unit

west midlands police and crime commissioner

Skips www.skipssafetynet.org

YEAR 7 - MR FRANCIOSO

Consistency is the key to success

As we move further into the term, I want to take another opportunity to congratulate Year 7 on the progress they are making. It has been fantastic to see so many students continuing to settle into life at Archbishop Ilsley and embracing the opportunities and challenges that secondary school brings.

One of the messages I regularly share with the year group is that success isn't about getting everything right once; it is about making the right choices, day after day. Arriving prepared, being punctual, showing respect, working hard and treating others with kindness are the little things that make a big difference. I want to see these standards becoming habits for every member of Year 7.

Celebrating the positives

Following our recent Early Review evening, it was particularly encouraging to hear so many positive comments from parents and carers. As mentioned in the last edition, over 6,000 positive house points had been awarded to just over 200 Year 7 students in our first eight weeks. That is a tremendous achievement and something we should all be proud of.

It is important that we continue to celebrate these successes. When looking at ClassCharts, please take the time to discuss the positives with your child as well as any areas where they may need to improve. Recognition and encouragement can make a real difference.

The Ilsley Standard Awards

The Ilsley Standard Awards remain an important part of our year group's journey. These awards recognise students who consistently demonstrate the standards we expect at Archbishop Ilsley. Whether working towards Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum, the message remains the same: consistency matters. Every lesson and every form time provides another opportunity to demonstrate that you are ready, respectful, safe and committed to doing your best. Remember, these awards are about much more than collecting points. They recognise the habits and attitudes that will help pupils become successful learners and positive members of our school community.

A message to Year 7

I want every student to understand that they matter and that they have an important part to play in making Year 7 a fantastic year group. We will continue to celebrate those who get things right, support those who find things challenging and challenge those who need to make better choices. My expectations will remain high because I genuinely believe every student has the potential to achieve great things. Let's keep the momentum going. Keep working hard, keep looking after one another and, most importantly, keep making Archbishop Ilsley proud.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- Monday 23rd November - Yea 10 Assessmet Week 2
- Monday 30th November - Year 9 Assessment Week 1
- Tuesday 1st December - Year 12 Mock Exam Week
- Thursday 3rd December - Year 11 Parents' Evening 3.45pm - 6.15pm
- Friday 4th December - INSET Day. School is colsed to students
- Monday 7th December - Year 9 Assessment Week 2
- Monday 14th December - Academic Celebration Evening 5.30pm - 7.00pm
- Friday 18th December - INSET Day

YEAR 8 - MR SMITH

As always, Year 8 has been a beacon of activity over the past fortnight, and I continue to be incredibly proud of the attitude, achievements and contributions of our students. They have represented both themselves and the school brilliantly and have demonstrated many of the values that make our year group so special.

Last week, we came together as a school community to mark Remembrance Day. On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, we paused to remember those who have sacrificed their lives in service to others. As Head of Year, I was immensely proud of our students, who observed the silence with tremendous maturity, dignity and respect. It was a powerful moment of reflection and a reminder of the importance of gratitude, service and community.

Another memorable event was Odd Socks Day as part of Anti-Bullying Week. Students and staff alike enjoyed taking part, but more importantly, it gave us the opportunity to reflect on the message behind the day. We are all unique, and our differences should be celebrated. Through assemblies and RSE lessons, students explored the importance of standing up for others, speaking out when something is not right and creating a community where everyone feels valued and safe. We continue to encourage students to use Tootoot if they need to report a concern or seek support, whether for themselves or for someone else.

As a year group, our focus has been on the "T" in GRIT - Try. We have challenged students to try their hardest, embrace new opportunities and never give up when faced with obstacles. Success is not about being perfect; it is about having the courage to keep going, even when things are difficult.

I had the privilege of watching the Year 8 boys' football team play their first fixture of the season, where they secured a fantastic victory against Bournville College. With a hat-trick from Prosper and another goal from Rocco, the result was impressive. However, what impressed me most was the team's determination, teamwork and resilience. Every player gave their very best and embodied the spirit of GRIT.



As usual, I have spent time visiting lessons across the school and have once again been impressed by the effort and engagement shown by our students. I have seen excellent learning taking place in English, Science and Design Technology, with students demonstrating a real willingness to challenge themselves and strive for excellence. Across the last fortnight, Year 8 has consistently ranked first and second in the school for House Points, which is a fantastic achievement. This reflects the positive attitude and commitment shown by the vast majority of our students each day.

As we continue to improve, there are two areas that still require our attention: attendance and corridor behaviour. Attendance remains a key priority, as there is a clear link between being in school regularly and achieving academic success. We need to continue working together to improve attendance across the year group. We also need to ensure that conduct around school reflects the high standards we expect. Thankfully, this only applies to a very small number of students, but we must all remember our simple expectations: Be Ready, Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be Kind. Small things make a big difference. Having the correct uniform, bringing the right equipment and carrying a school bag helps students arrive ready to learn. As I often say to students: "Dress smart and act smart."

There are also plenty of exciting opportunities ahead. This Friday, many students enjoyed our Cadbury World trip and we are all looking forward to our visit to see Peter Pan at The REP in December. I encourage all students to take advantage of the wonderful opportunities available to them and to become fully involved in school life.

Next month, we will also be placing an even greater focus on reading. Reading is one of the most important skills a child can develop, improving not only literacy and vocabulary but also imagination, creativity and confidence. Parents can play a huge role by encouraging regular reading at home and helping students discover books they enjoy.

Finally, thank you once again to all our parents and carers for your continued support. The success of our students is built on a partnership between home and school, and we are incredibly grateful for the encouragement and guidance you provide every day. "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." (1 Thessalonians 5:11). This verse reminds us that strong communities are built when we care for one another, support one another and help each other to flourish.

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

YEAR 9 - MRS WAFI

Year 9 have had an exceptional two weeks, and I would like to take this opportunity to recognise and celebrate some of their achievements and contributions to our school community.

Our Year 9 students demonstrated impeccable behaviour and maturity during our Remembrance Day commemorations. It was wonderful to see them show such respect, dignity and thoughtfulness as we came together to remember and honour those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. They represented themselves and the school exceptionally well, and I was incredibly proud of the respect they showed throughout this important occasion.

We also saw the launch of Anti-Bullying Week, and it was lovely to see students getting involved by wearing their odd socks. This simple but powerful message reminds us that it is our differences that make us unique, and that everyone deserves to feel accepted, valued and respected for who they are. We all have a responsibility to create a kind, inclusive and supportive environment where everyone feels safe to be themselves. Let us continue to celebrate our individuality and stand together against bullying in all its forms.

I also had the pleasure of spending some time with our Year 9 Envision groups this week. It was fantastic to observe them in action and see how confidently, positively and professionally they represented our school beyond the school gates. Their enthusiasm, commitment and willingness to embrace opportunities were wonderful to see. They are truly an asset to our school, and I look forward to seeing what they achieve in the future.

Finally, an important reminder that Year 9 assessments commence on Monday 30th November. It is important that students begin preparing now by reviewing their learning, organising their revision and ensuring they are ready to approach their assessments with confidence. Consistent preparation and a positive attitude will make all the difference.

As we reflect on another busy and rewarding two weeks, I would like to leave you with a reminder from the Bible: “Be kind and compassionate to one another.” — Ephesians 4:32. This is a message that sits at the heart of everything we should strive to be as a school community. Whether showing respect during moments of remembrance, celebrating our differences or supporting one another in our everyday interactions, kindness and compassion should always guide our actions.

Well done, Year 9, for another week of positive contributions. Keep making us proud!

YEAR 9 ENRICHMENT

Before October half term over 50 Year 9 students visited the Battlefields of France and Belgium. They visited the famous Thiepval Memorial, Tyne Cot Cemetery, The Passchendaele Museum, Newfoundland Park and the Menin Gate to name but a few places. Students were based in the town of Ypres and were able to enjoy it's beautiful square as well as sample the local chocolate. We also had one day at Walibi Theme Park during their Halloween Season which did scare a lot of the students!





Year 9 were a credit to the school and their parents. A huge thank you to Mr Brookes, Miss Russell, Miss Kelly, Mr Shepherd and Ms Rose. We had a fantastic time and Belgium 2027 is already sold out! Well done Year 9.

YEAR 10 - MR KENYON

I have been pleased to see Year 10 approaching their assessments with focus and determination. It is clear they have a strong desire to start their GCSEs in a positive manner, striving to achieve the best results that they can. The majority of their assessments will take place next week during normal timetabled lessons. I have been encouraging the year group to make full use of the revision materials and guidance provided by their teachers. Revisiting these resources every night will help them feel prepared and identify any areas where they need further support. A manageable daily routine is more effective than leaving revision until the last minute.

I also want to emphasise the importance of maintaining a high attendance. Every day in school is an opportunity to learn and build understanding. Every day missed leads to widening gaps in a students' learning. This puts them at a disadvantage to others, especially during Year 10 and 11. Every year, our school data shows that students with high attendance achieve good GCSE results. Attending school regularly is vitally important to give every child the best chance to succeed. If there is anything affecting your child's attendance, please contact the school so we can offer support.

Silver Duke of Edinburgh

We continue to receive a record number of applications for the Silver Duke of Edinburgh award. DofE is an opportunity to develop new skills, spend time in our beautiful countryside, make lasting memories, and work as part of a team to achieve a shared goal. It is a challenge, but one that gives children a real sense of achievement that stays with them forever.

We currently have 58 applicants across Year 10, which is a fantastic response and reflects the positive, aspirational attitude of the year group. It is particularly encouraging to see so many students willing to challenge themselves, step outside their comfort zone, and take advantage of the opportunities available to them at Archbishop Ilsley.

YEAR 11 - MS RUCK

Following mock exams, we now look forward to welcoming you to our Year 11 Parents' Evening on Thursday 3rd December, 345-615pm. Please make every effort to attend, as this will arguably be the most important Parents' Evening so far. Working together at this crucial stage will make a real difference.

Rights, Responsibilities and Anti-Bullying Week

This half term, our focus is on Rights and Responsibilities, which links closely to the British Value of Mutual Respect. This week, in particular, we have been marking Anti-Bullying Week, with the theme of 'Breaking the Silence'. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to complete our recent survey. Students have been reminded that if they experience or witness bullying, they should break the silence and speak to a member of staff or use Toot Toot to report it.

Important Reminders

Period 6 and 6 O'Clock Club have resumed this week. We greatly appreciate your support in ensuring that pupils attend these sessions and make the most of these opportunities. We thank the members of staff who generously give up their time to deliver this additional support.

You should also have received a text explaining the slightly different arrangements for Year 11 detentions, which reflect the introduction of Period 6 and 6 O'Clock Club.

Please remember:

- Students who arrive late to school must attend a same-day, 15-minute break detention with the attendance team.
- All other Year 11 detentions will take place at 1.40-2.00pm the following day (1.05-1.25pm on a Friday).
- Students should check ClassCharts the evening before or each morning to see whether they have a detention.
- They can also check with their form tutor in the morning and their Period 4 teacher, who can access ClassCharts.
- A physical list of students with detentions is displayed on the Year 11 office window and can be checked during morning break or at the beginning of lunchtime.

Please reinforce the importance of checking regularly and attending all detentions. It is essential that we consistently meet the Ilsley Standard and take responsibility for our choices.

As winter approaches, we ask that you continue to have conversations at home about the importance of resilience, excellent attendance and punctuality. Every lesson matters, and being in school, on time, every day gives pupils the very best opportunity to make progress and achieve their potential.

Please also re-check the school uniform policy on coats and outerwear. Thank you once again for your continued support. Together, we can ensure that Year 11 make the very most of the important months ahead.

A reminder that applications for September 2027 entry to Archbishop Ilsley Sixth Form are now open! If you are planning to join us next September, please make sure you complete your online application as soon as possible, preferably by Friday 27th November.

We are really looking forward to welcoming our new Year 12 students and helping you take the next step in your education.



CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT

- Science Club continues to take place every Thursday, giving students the opportunity to take part in exciting practical activities, investigations and challenges beyond the classroom. It has been fantastic to see so many enthusiastic scientists attending each week!
- Maths Club continues on a Tuesday after school. All students can get help with homework and/or play maths games and take part in maths challenges.
- Chess Club continues every Tuesday after school. Students can play each other for fun but Mr Jackson also organises entry into national competitions, both online and over the board.
- Times Tables Rock Stars Competition: Years 7, 8 & 9 have been taking part in the national times tables competition – 'England Rocks'. This takes place between the 17th and 19th of November. Please encourage your child to hone their times tables knowledge and participate between these dates.
- Times Tables Rock Stars and Numeracy Club: Miss Bielak is running a club to help students improve their tables knowledge and numeracy skills. The club is for Years 7 and Year 8 and runs every Thursday from 3:15 to 4:00 pm in room S10
- Catholic Partnership Maths Competitions: Well-done to the teams in Year 7 and Year 10 who performed commendably in the annual Catholic Maths Partnership Competitions that took place at St Edmund Campion & Bishop Ullathorne schools respectively.
- A Level After School Support: Y12 and Y13 are welcome to come after school on a Thursday for help with their A level maths studies.
- UKMT National Senior Maths Competition: A few weeks ago our Year 12 & Year 13 A level maths students took part in the UK Maths Trust Senior Maths Challenge. This is a prestigious national competition, so well done to all who participated! The results were really pleasing.

Particular well done goes to those who achieved a much prized award:
Year 12: Maxwell B - Bronze; Kevin C – Bronze. Year 13: Umar A - Silver; Danny K - Bronze; Jakub K - Bronze

Archbishop Ilsley Catholic Sixth Form
Embrace your future

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Have a look at all things Sixth Form using the following link: https://www.ilsley.bham.sch.uk/sixth-form/

SIXTH FORM - MRS MCMAHON

Respect Starts With Us

One of the things that makes our Sixth Form so special is the sense of community we have built together. We are incredibly proud of the supportive, welcoming and inclusive environment that exists across Years 12 and 13, where students look out for one another, celebrate each other's successes and help make Sixth Form feel like a family. This week, during Anti-Bullying Week, we have taken the opportunity to reflect on how important it is that we continue to protect and strengthen this community. This year's theme, Break the Silence, reminds us that we all have a responsibility to speak up, challenge bullying and make sure that nobody feels isolated or left out.

We have also linked this theme to our Catholic Social Teaching focus for this half term: We All Have Rights and Responsibilities. This reminds us that everyone has the right to be treated with dignity, kindness and respect, but that we also have a responsibility to show the same care and respect to others. We have reflected on how our words, actions and everyday choices contribute to the community we share. As Sixth Form students, you can help shape the culture of our community by being positive role models, supporting one another and ensuring everyone feels they belong. We want our Sixth Form to remain a place where everyone is known, valued, supported and able to be themselves. It is the little things we do for one another that make our community so special.

Year 13: Rising to the Challenge

Well done, Year 13! We have been extremely impressed by the attitude, resilience and determination shown by our Year 13 students this week as they have completed their first set of mock examinations. They have approached their exams with maturity, focus and a real commitment to doing their best, which has been fantastic to see. We know that preparing for and sitting mocks can be challenging, particularly alongside the many other demands of Year 13, so it has been really pleasing to see the effort and positive attitude shown throughout the week.

These examinations are an important opportunity to reflect on progress, recognise strengths and identify areas where further work is needed. We hope you take some time to consider what has gone well and, just as importantly, what you can learn from the experience as you continue working towards your final examinations. Remember that these mocks are another step along the way, and there is still plenty of time to build on your progress. We are very proud of the way you have risen to the challenge and encourage you to maintain this focus, determination and commitment as we move into the next stage of the academic year. Keep going, Year 13 – your hard work matters!

Year 12: Focus, Effort and Progress

Our Year 12 mock examinations begin the week commencing 30th November, and we look forward to seeing the same positive attitude, preparation and exemplary approach from our Year 12 students as they take on their first set of internal assessments. These first mock exams are an important stepping stone, giving students valuable feedback and a clear picture of their progress as they continue to adjust to the demands and expectations of Sixth Form study. We encourage everyone to use the time leading up to their exams wisely, making the most of study periods, revising and speaking to teachers if they need additional guidance or support. Remember, effective preparation is not about leaving everything until the last minute; it is about building good habits, staying organised and making consistent efforts. Most importantly, approach these examinations positively and see them as an opportunity to demonstrate what you have learned, recognise your strengths and identify where you can make further improvements. We know you are capable of great things and look forward to seeing you approach your exams with confidence, commitment and determination. We wish all our Year 12 students every success!

Year 12 Parent / Carer and Tutor Evening

A big thank you to all the parents, carers and students who took the time to attend our Year 12 Parent / Carer and Tutor Evening this week. We appreciated the opportunity to discuss how students have settled into Sixth Form, share their settling-in reports and talk about their progress so far. Students were also given their mock examination timetables to help them begin preparing for their upcoming assessments. We really value the support and partnership of our families and appreciate the time taken to work with us to ensure every student gets the very best from their Sixth Form experience.

ARCHBISHOP ILSLEY
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WISDOM • COURAGE • DIGNITY • INTEGRITY

More Than Lessons

DISCOVER
DEVELOP
BELONG
MAKE A DIFFERENCE

EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS

BE INVOLVED | MAKE FRIENDS | TRY SOMETHING NEW

ART

Club	Year Group	Day	Time	Venue
Art Club	KS4	Tuesday	Lunchtime	A1
Art Club	KS4	Wedoesday	Lunchtime	A2
Art Club	KS4	Thursday	Lunchtime	A3

MUSIC

Club	Year Group	Day	Time	Venue
Choir Practice	All Years	Mon - Fri	Form Time	PA1

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Club	Year Group	Day	Time	Venue
Coding Club	All Years	Monday	Afterschool	CS04

GEOGRAPHY

Club	Year Group	Day	Time	Venue
KS3 Homework Club	Years 7,8 8 9	Monday (Week 2)	Afterschool	HU5

MATHS

Club	Year Group	Day	Time	Venue
Maths Club	All Years	Tuesday	Afterschool	S10
Chess Club	KS2	Tuesday	Afterschool	2.1

FILM CLUB

Club	Year Group	Day	Time	Venue
Film Club	All Years	Thursday	Afterschool	1.12

PE

Club	Year Group	Day	Time	Venue
Minfdul Monement	All Years	Monday	Afterschool	Fiteress Suite
Netball	Years 8,8 3	Monday	Afterschool	Sportshall
Netball	Yeers 7	Monday	Afterschool	Sportshall
Year 7 Football	Year 8	Monday	Afterschool	Astro
Year 9 Football	Yeer 9	Tursday	Afterschool	Astro
Dance	KS3	Werloesday	Luncthime	Hall
CCG Intervention	Yr 11	Werloesday (Week 2)	Afterschool	TBC
CCGS FE Intervention	Yr 10	Wedoesday (Week 1)	Afterschool	TBC
Badirintion	All Years	Werloesday	Afterschool	Sportshall
Efird Football	KS3	Werloesday	Afterschool	Astro
Bedirintion	All Years	Thursday	Beffoe Gonod	Sportshall
Beakqball	All Years	Thursday	Afterschool	Sportshall
Year 7 Football	Year 7	Thursday	Afterschool	Astro

RS & CATHOLIC LIFE

Club	Year Group	Day	Time	Venue
Debate Club	All Years	Thursday	Afterschool	V2
Cabiide Life				
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Sgyings of the Salirls: Mes soiset ot thes vortlect on the leolios ont lmbes ben fogre gone lerbtec us hlenstoons.	All Years	Tuesday	Luncthime	Chapel
Lients Diräno: Zoen ne oray arter the Sopolcrng goo see walnt hlemine the lo rsday.	All Years	Wedoesday	Luncthime	Chapel
Reacyt: Raenc oray the the nad harsthks of chesc. Chnet nolm the onpdatlove prgent of Oldx Club.	All Years	Thursday	Luncthime	Chapel
Addiration: Fgood sense oust tose wilt the Lond the gooder of the Gonsol Sacrment	All Years	Friday	Luncthime	Chapel

LIBRARY

Club	Year Group	Day	Time	Venue
Rock Club	All Years	Monday	Afterschool	Library
Crork Club	All Years	Monday	Afterschool	Library
Grrcd Gogers Club	All Years	Werldesday	Afterschool	Library
Momework Club	All Years	Thursday	Afterschool	Library

JOURNALING & OTHER CLUBS

Club	Year Group	Day	Time	Venue
Jounading Club	All Years	Friday	Luncthime	Hub
Lihs Club	All Years	Every Fay	Beake Got Lutck	Hub
Erivsion	All Years	Thursday	Reriod 5	TBC
Soierock Club	All Years	Thursday	Afterschool	TBC

MEET NEW PEOPLE

DEVELOP YOUR SRIULS

TIME SMMETHNG NEW

BE RAMT OF DUR COMMANITY

A Brighter You Starts Here

Opportanuties Inible end Beyond the Classronn

LEARN | GROW | BELONG | THRIVE

FAITH | OPPORTUNITY | EXCELLENCE | FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE