



# THE ABI UPDATE

ISSUE 6 FRIDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2023

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER - MR CLINTON

Dear parents, carers and friends of Archbishop Ilsley,

It seems like just the other week that we were welcoming our pupils back after their exciting summer holidays, yet the end of the autumn term is but three weeks away. As a school, we have been thinking of the true meaning of Advent. Today, in churches across the world, the first of the four candles will be lit to mark Jesus' coming. O'Donnell Hall will soon be decorated with the crib and will be bedecked in purple to mark this holy month.

Today is also the anniversary of our patron, Edward Ilsley. He was the first Archbishop of Birmingham and cared so much for the local children of Acocks Green and South-East Birmingham. He was particularly committed to their education. It our mission to continue his great work, hence why our school is named after him. This morning, Deacon Martin reminded staff of his great work.

It has been a busy term as both Year 13 and 11 have worked very hard completing their mocks. Their diligence was reflected in some very pleasing results which will be shared at Parents' Evening. Year 11 parents' evening will take place on Thursday 7th December.

Finally, I invite you all to tune into our MAC Christmas Carol Service on Friday 15th December at 13:30. A link will be sent to parents and careers next week.

## KEY DATES

- **Friday 1st December - INSET Day.** School is closed to pupils and students. Charity Race Night
- **Year 11 Parents' Evening:** This will be held on Thursday 7th December between 4:00pm and 7:00pm. All appointments will be face-to-face in school. Parents/carers will have received an email and Class Charts notification on how to book an appointment via our booking system 'School Cloud'. We look forward to seeing you at this important event.
- **Monday 18th December - Academic Celebration Evening** for last year's Year 11 and Year 13
- **School will reopen on Monday 8th January 2024**



## CHARITY RACE NIGHT TONIGHT!

This starts at 6pm at Holy Souls Social Club. You are invited to a charity horse race night to raise money for our parish St Vincent De Paul group who help the most vulnerable members of our community and those in crisis. Entrance is £2 which also enters you into a prize draw. This event has been planned by the Minnie Vinnie groups at Archbishop Ilsley and Holy Souls Primary.

## CATHOLIC LIFE

Last Sunday's Gospel passage told us that when we are kind to others, it is an act of worship to God. Next week is the start of Advent - Jesus is born to reveal what God's kingdom is really like.

This half term our focus is on the Catholic Social Teaching, 'We all have rights and responsibilities'. We have been reflecting on the right we all have to our dignity being respected, to be helped when we struggle and to be supported when we face a disadvantage. This is coupled with our responsibility to respect the dignity of others, to help those who struggle or are disadvantaged.



Thank you to everyone who gave to add to our Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal. A total of 52 beautifully wrapped Christmas boxes were collected by the Samaritan's Purse Christian Organisation. Samaritan's Purse has helped meet needs of people who are victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease, and famine with the purpose of sharing God's love. A special thank you to Olympia O and Katy P from 7SM and Cristina S and Macey H in 9MB for their amazing contributions!

On Sunday 26th November it was wonderful to see members of our school community come together at the 12pm Youth Mass. The Christmas cards designed by pupils at Holy Souls and Archbishop Ilsley went on sale in the piety shop and are available to buy throughout Advent.

We are supporting Fr Hudson's who work with disadvantaged people and families across the Midlands. On 8th December, staff, pupils and students can wear a Christmas jumper or a Christmas item with their uniform e.g. a bit of tinsel, Christmas socks, Santa Hat, Reindeer headband etc. Please bring in donations; a suggested donation of £1.

## ARCHBISHOP ILSLEY CHRISTMAS HAMPER APPEAL 2023

Advent is time of hope, peace, love and joy - gifts we can give each other. Winter unfortunately for some is a time of rising heating bills, loneliness and poverty.

At Archbishop Ilsley, we 'let our light shine.' This means offering a light of hope in the dark through our generosity, compassion and love.

Our Christmas Hampers appeal is a long standing tradition for over 25 years. As a school community, pupils and students are asked to create a Christmas Hamper in their tutor groups. Pupils and students can bring in items to go into their Christmas Hamper. The hampers will be delivered by members of the St Vincent De Paul Society to families in need of TLC this Christmas.

In tutor groups, pupils and students will decorate a box to fill and add a Christmas card signed by the tutor group. Below are just some ideas for items that can be included in our hampers:

- Christmas Cakes
- Christmas Puddings
- Mince Pies
- Custard (500g carton)
- Sweet Biscuits
- Savoury Biscuits
- Stuffing mix
- Fizzy Drinks/Cordial
- Tea/Coffee
- Sugar
- Tinned goods
- Crisps, Pringles, twiglets
- Christmas Selection Boxes
- Chocolates/Sweets
- Nice unisex Toiletries
- Christmas crackers
- Pack of cards/Games
- A gift card



Hampers need to be collected and ready by Thursday 15th December

"I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink; I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least important of these followers of mine, you did it for me!"

Matthew 25

# HEAD OF YEAR UPDATE

## YEAR 7 - MS DOHERTY

It's starting to look a little like Christmas.....Year 7 have started to get excited about Christmas in school and I am really looking forward to this continuing over the season of advent!

Our trip to the theatre, despite the late return of one of the coaches, was a wonderful adventure and the pupils seemed to really enjoy the play; Santa Claus receiving the biggest applause when he appeared on stage!

The Christmas Hamper Appeal has started in school and pupils have started bringing in items for the hampers which will go out to those in our community who need them just before Christmas. This spirit of giving and showing love to our neighbours is at the heart of the Christmas spirit we try to promote within school.

We are also busy preparing for our end of term celebration assembly and talent show, thanks to all pupils involved.

A lot of pupils have been very quick to help with fundraising over the next few weeks, I am so proud to be this year groups head of year. Well done Year 7!

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## YEAR 8 - MR BRUTON

It has been great for me to get into Year 8 lessons over the last few weeks. It is really nice to see some great work from our pupils. Olivia and Alby have been working particularly hard in their English lessons and Oliver has been doing some great work in Maths. Well done to those and all our pupils working hard in their lessons. It does not go unnoticed and it is great to see that the Ilsley Spirit is blooming in Year 8.

As we move into the Holy season of Advent, could we all please get behind our Christmas Hamper Appeal. If you can spare a few tins or anything from the list that your child has been shown in their tutor group, then please do. It is one of my favourite times of the year and I hope Year 8 can enjoy it too.

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## YEAR 10 - MISS BRADY

Only three weeks left now and Year 10's first term in KS4 is complete. I am immensely proud of how pupils have stepped up; they have shown real determination and commitment to their studies.

Homework is key, please continue to ask your child about their homework and current studies.

We have had so many pupils sign up to attend the retreat to Soli house in January; we have more capacity so please get forms in and don't miss out on such an amazing opportunity!

Don't forget, Challenge Academy letters and payment is due on the last day of term!

# HEAD OF YEAR UPDATE

## YEAR 9 - MR NEWMAN

It is great to see so many of our Year 9 pupils excited about the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award. Doctor Regan has over 70 pupils signed up. With four different parts that include volunteering, developing skills, physical activity and the expedition; this is a fabulous opportunity for Year 9 pupils to develop a wide variety of our 'Ilsley SPIRIT' attributes.

In assembly this week we highlighted our responsibilities. With advent upon us as a community we are raising money for Fr Hudson's with our 'Christmas Jumper day' and will be collecting items for the Christmas Hamper Appeal which will be delivered by members of the St Vincent De Paul Society to families in need this Christmas. Our very own Mr Vidaurri has also raised over £350 by growing his moustache throughout 'Movember.' I look forward to Year 9 following his example with their fundraising and charity efforts this advent.

A big congratulations to the following pupils over the past 2 weeks as highest ClassChart point achievers:

Steev B, Cristina-Maria S, Wojciech P, Fabiano P, Zuzanna K, Thomas B, Mohammadreza R, Macey H, Olivia M and Trisha R. In addition the following students were awarded tutees of the week: 9VY – Ananya S, 9NV – Mattia T, 9TG – Emme W, 9KH – Kanisha S, 9JB – Lawrence A, 9MB/BM – Macey H, 9RG – Victoria J, 9JP – Kesiya G.

They continue to display the 'Ilsley Spirit' in all that they do. Well done to all!

## YEAR 11 - MRS BURNHAM

Mock examinations are now finished and I have been very impressed with Year 11. It is clear that our pupils are taking their studies seriously and next week they will get their results. Parents' Evening appointments are now live and you can make appointments with your child's teacher.

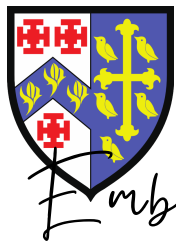
Next week, 6th December, I will be taking my Student Leaders to Challenge Academy to take part in team building activities and build their confidence. Pupils need to be at school at 8:15am to leave promptly at 8:30am. Pupils need to wear casual, warm clothes and bring a packed lunch.

Session 6 is back up and running please encourage your child to attend all sessions. This will help prepare them for their second set of mocks starting in February.

This week we have launched our annual Christmas Hamper Appeal. We are looking for non-perishable food items to create wonderful packages to send to our disadvantaged families in the Acocks Green community.

I had the opportunity to watch a debating competition this week and I was bowled over with the talent and skills demonstrated by my Year 11 pupils. They were amazing! Debora W, Abhijeet S, Ram G, Geraldo X.

Top house point winners this week: Eloise W, Jan D, Tiana B, Donald M, Dominika S, Oliver S, Catalina M, Abiaz K, Abhijeet S, Petr M.



# Archbishop Ilsley Catholic Sixth Form

*Embrace your future*

In this month of November, Sixth Formers have been encouraged to think about their mental health. November is Men's Health Awareness Month, dedicated to bringing awareness to a wide range of men's health issues. Following an excellent assembly led by Mr Botwright, students wore an item of blue, the colour associated with Mind, a mental health support charity, on their 'Dress Down Friday'. Students also organised a charity Football Match, paying to play and watch. It was a much anticipated game and it did not disappoint! Alex M was named 'Man of the Match' although everyone played well and really enjoyed themselves. Thank you to Mr Loney, Mr Brookes, Mr Botwright, Mrs O'Neill and Mrs McMahon for supporting and cheering and to Tana N (Year 9) for refereeing. In total, £170 was raised for Mind by Yr 12 and 13 students.

On Thursday 30th November, Yr 12 and 13 students travelled to Coventry University to experience life on a university campus. Students were taken on a tour of the university and had subject taster sessions in English Literature, Media and Communications, History and Politics, Ethical Science and Business and Finance. It was a brilliant experience and really got students thinking about their choices. Thank you to Mr Meredith for organising the day.

On Monday 18th December, our Sixth Form students have the opportunity to become blood donors. Following the assemblies on Blood Donation last week, a large number of students have registered to donate blood. We will be travelling to Birmingham New Street on the 18th December to donate as a group. If students wish to take part they need to have booked an appointment at the Birmingham New Street Blood Donor Centre and then have chosen a slot between 12pm-2.30pm.

## The Sixth Form Calendar - Key Dates

- Tuesday 5th and Friday 15th December - Yr 12 Product Design group in an Architect's workshop
- Friday 8th December - Deadline for completion of UCAS Personal Statements
- Monday 11th December - UCAS Application deadline
- Wednesday 13th December - Friday 15th December - Soli House Yr 12 & Yr 13
- Monday 18th December - Academic Celebration Evening 5.30pm-7.00pm
- Monday 18th December - Yr 12 & 13 Blood Donation
- Tuesday 19th December - Yr 12 and 13 Christmas Dinner
- Thursday 21st December - Yr 12 and 13 Hamper Mass

