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THE ABI UPDATE

ISSUE 13 FRIDAY 3RD MAY 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER - MR CLINTON

We are into exam season at Archbishop Ilsley! The examinations begin in earnest next week. Pupils and students are working very hard in lessons, in intervention sessions during form, during period 6, and of course, revising at home. The strong relationships between teachers and pupils and students has been really in evidence this last week. Our ethos of 'let your light shine' is being lived by all.

This chimes with Sunday's gospel, which comes from John. In it, Jesus says to his disciples, "I commissioned you to go out and bear fruit." This is what all the staff are saying to Year 11 and 13: you've worked hard, show your knowledge and skills in your examinations and go out into the world and be successful, whatever that path you choose to follow.

A letter is going out today to confirm the arrangements for the examinations from Mr McDonald and Mrs Burnham. In short, these are the key points:

- Thursday 23rd May – period 5 – final assembly for Year 11 and shirt signing
- Friday 24th May – thanksgiving and celebration mass in Holy Souls Church
- Monday 1st July – Year 11 Prom at Hogarth's

We wish all our Year 11s and 13s the very best of luck.

The examination timetables can be found on our website or you can use this link:

<https://www.ilsley.bham.sch.uk/curriculum/exams/exam-timetables/>

KEY DATES

- Monday 6th May - Bank Holiday - School is closed to pupils, students and staff
- Tuesday 7th May - External examinations begin
- Wednesday 15th May - Year 8 Theatre trip, 'Boy at the Back of the Classroom'
- Wednesday 22nd May - Friday 24th May - Silver DofE practice expedition (Peak District) Year 10
- Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May - Half Term - School is closed to pupils, students and staff

St Teresa of Calcutta Multi
Academy Company (MAC) Parent
Survey - Summer 2024 Term



HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

YEAR 7 - MS. DOHERTY

Year 7 have started their new enquire and create rotation this will be the last rotation for the year. The pupils have all engaged really well with this programme and have gained a great deal of knowledge about Birmingham.

Pupils had an assembly last week on the importance of forgiving others and themselves. This is a really important part of catholic teaching. Pupils who have demonstrated a great work ethic in science this year have been invited to the Big Bang Fair. If you have received an invitation please send reply slips in to secure these places.

Cricket is starting after school for pupils on a Monday. We encourage pupils to get involved in as many after school clubs as possible. This week's Stars of the Week are below. Well done!

Form Group		
7JK	Olivia	Xavier
7BSH	Fatima	Huzaifa
7GJ	Priscilla	Ayan
7LS	Maddie	Zachary
7NZ	Pheobe	Allanah
7DL	Frankie	Adam
7MR	Elah	Shayan
7SM	Darcie	Jakub



YEAR 10 - MISS BRADY

There has been lots going on in Year 10 over the past couple of weeks. Our silver DofE expeditioners are in full swing preparing and organising. They have been dedicated to their silver award and are putting in the hours- well done! We have a new date for the Challenge Academy Trip Friday 14th June. If your child had already booked on the last trip, their place is secure for this one. We do have a few more spaces as the coach capacity is slightly higher than the previous booking. Therefore, if your child did not get a place on the last booking and would now like to go, please tell them to come and see me for a letter in E2. Spaces are limited so they will need to be quick to avoid disappointment. I will contact you again with specific information nearer the time.



On Thursday 2nd May Miss Evans took some lucky pupils to visit Oxford University where they found out what University life is like and the courses that they might consider in their future.

10SW have all now returned their consent forms for Work Experience, well done. Please keep having conversations with your child about their placement and support them where you can.

Being 'Ready to Learn' is one of our three school rules. Please ensure your child is properly equipped for lessons with items like black ink pens and pencils. Due to their hard work during the academic year, supplies may need replenishing; a full equipment list is available in their diary. Additionally, punctuality is essential to our school values, respecting the learning environment and maximising educational experiences by ensuring timely arrival at school and lessons. Please remind your child of the importance of being on time. I hope you have a nice long Bank Holiday Weekend.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

YEAR 8 - MR BRUTON

It doesn't seem like it was only 2 weeks ago I was writing to you. Here are a few important updates as we move further into the school year under increasingly skies.

Firstly, despite the warmer weather, our school uniform policy has not changed. I ask all parents and carers to ensure their children are dressed appropriately, adhering to the guidelines, especially regarding correct footwear. Maintaining this standard is vital for keeping our environment disciplined and conducive to learning.

I am also pleased to touch upon the recent changes we've implemented in our system for detentions. The response from the pupils has been encouraging, demonstrating that they are understanding the importance of their choices and actions. It's crucial to remember that our staff do not issue referrals without just cause. I encourage each of you to engage in meaningful conversations with your children about the significance of taking responsibility for their actions, as it is a crucial step towards maturity and responsibility.

Furthermore, we recently held an assembly that reiterated our core school standards: Be Ready, Be Safe, Be Respectful and Kind. These principles are the pillars of our community at Archbishop Ilsley and it is essential that they are upheld not only in school but in the community and at home. Reinforcing these values will help ensure that our pupils not only excel academically but also grow into considerate and responsible individuals.

In extra-curricular activities, Year 8 pupils soared at the Aim Higher event at University College Birmingham and the University of Birmingham! They explored the exciting differences between university life and school, broadening their horizons and sparking future aspirations. My heartfelt thanks to Mr Meredith for organising this event.

Finally, I'd like to conclude on the note of solidarity, a theme we are focusing on this term at our school. Reflecting on the words from Ephesians 4:32, "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you," reminds us of the strength found in unity and mutual respect. As we teach our children to live out these values, we build a stronger, more connected community.

Thank you all for your continued support and cooperation. Together, we are making a significant impact on our children's futures.

YEAR 9 - MR FRANCIOSO

What a few weeks we have had. Year 9 have been working really hard in preparation for the start of the GCSE years. With the lure of the rewards trip to Drayton Manor, Year 9 are hitting a record number of house points, so well done!

I have previously mentioned the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award. This has been the largest take up for this opportunity which we are all excited about. Last weekend there was a practice expedition where the pupils could practice their campcraft, hiking and orienteering skills, it was very successful so I am looking forward to the real thing in July. Please see below some pictures from our Campcraft day.

As we approach the final half term of the year, there is the understandable feeling of tiredness but we must continue to make the right choices and continue to work hard. These final few weeks will go a long way to setting up Year 9 for the start of Year 10.



HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

YEAR 11 - MRS BURNHAM



The exam period can be a stressful time. You may find the following websites useful when offering support to your child:

- <https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health/children-and-young-adults/advice-for-parents/help-your-child-beat-exam-stress/>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coping-with-exam-pressure-a-guide-for-students/coping-with-exam-pressure-a-guide-for-students>
- https://www.studentminds.org.uk/examstress.html?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

You will have received a letter an email outlining the arrangements for Year 11 pupils in the GCSE exams and when they need to be in school. The following information was communicated:

Tuesday 7th May – exams begin. Please be aware of the following:

- Pupils must attend school every day, up until half term, and as usual, arrive at 8.40am.
- All pupils must wear full school uniform, including shoes, when in school.
- Each morning, pupils will either be sitting their exam, attending lessons or receiving booster sessions. Pupils with an afternoon exam will have an early lunch.
- From Thursday 9th May, pupils may receive a free breakfast from 8:00am in the canteen
- All pupils must wear full school uniform when in school
- All pupils arrive in school at 8:40am and line for 8:45am to enter the exam.
- For afternoon exams, pupils will have an early lunch and must be lined up at 12:45pm
- Pupils will remain on site for the whole day and will not be allowed to leave until the end of their final exam or booster.

Sixth Form Transition Days

If your child has applied to our Sixth Form and had an interview, they will have received their offer letter. All places and entry onto Level 3 courses are dependent upon pupils meeting the entry criteria and achieving 5 Grade 5 passes or above. Subject entry criteria was discussed at the interview stage, however, you can also look at individual subject requirements online at <https://www.ilsley.bham.sch.uk/sixth-form/apply-now/>

Please note that all courses are offered subject to educational and financial viability and these could change up until the start of the new academic year in September 2024.

Next steps for pupils joining our Sixth Form are as follows:

1. You respond to your offer letter by completing the slip and handing it into the Sixth Form office no later than Monday 20th May 2024.
2. Pupils attend our Sixth Form Induction Days and Masterclass Sessions on Monday 24th June and Tuesday 25th June 2024 from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Pupils can wear their own clothes on these days but are reminded to wear appropriate clothing.
3. Enrol with us on GCSE Results Day on Thursday 22nd August from 9:00am – 12:30pm in the main Hall

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

Thursday 23rd May – Shirt signing period 5

Pupils will have the opportunity to sign each other's shirts and enjoy an assembly celebrating their time at Archbishop Ilsey. The signing of shirts will not be allowed at any other time.

Friday 24th May – Celebration Mass

Celebration Mass will take place on Friday 24th May. Pupils will meet staff at Holy Souls Church at 12:30pm for a prompt 12:45pm start. Pupils can wear their own clothes, dressing appropriately for Mass (no crop tops or short cycle shorts).

After mass, pupils will leave Church and walk to the Holy Souls Social Club for their Leavers' Assembly. After the celebration, pupils are free to leave and make their own way home at 2:30pm. Please note, to attend the Leavers' Assembly, pupils must attend Mass beforehand. If your child has the French exam on the morning, they are to attend school at the normal time and can make their own way to the Leavers' Mass when their exam has finished.

Half term begins on 24th May. Pupils return on Monday 3rd June

After half term, from Monday 3rd June, timetabled lessons will no longer continue. Pupils must attend school for their exam and the scheduled booster session. If pupils are not attending a booster session, but have an afternoon exam, they must arrive via main reception on Victoria Road at 12:35pm.

The Prom – Monday 1st July

The Prom will take place on Monday 1st July at Hogarth's Hotel, Dorridge. Pupils may arrive from 6:00 pm when there will be an opportunity to take photographs outside for pupils only. The event will start at 6:45pm the buffet will open at 7:30pm and the evening will finish at 10:30pm.

The cost is £38 and can be paid via Parentmail by 10th June. The price includes a buffet meal and disco. There will also be an opportunity for pupils to take photos in the photo booth we have booked, which always proves very popular.

Parents/carers will need to arrange for their child's safe journey to and from the venue. Alcohol will obviously not be available at the venue. In the interests of all those attending, any pupil found to be in the possession of, or under the influence of, alcohol will not be admitted to the event. Vaping and smoking are also not permitted. Please note there is a bar where pupils can purchase soft drinks and water will be provided.

CATHOLIC LIFE THE GOSPEL - JOHN 10: 11-18

Jesus said:

'I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep. 'I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep. And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well. They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock, and one shepherd.

'The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again; and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'

What does this mean for us?

- We can show solidarity with those in need by offering up our prayers for them.
- We can show solidarity by doing something for them which perhaps they cannot do
- How have you shown solidarity to another this week?

OUR ILSLEY MATHEMATICIANS EXCEL!

Last week 96 pupils in Year 7 and 8 took part in the @UKMathsTrust Junior Maths Challenge. This is a prestigious national competition, so well done to all who participated!

Congratulations to the 17 pupils who won Bronze:

Jacob C; Tia D; Tiale L; Maddie L; Jolie N; George S; Mason T; Elah T; Ismael B; Lucas C; Nicola D; Alicja G; Zuzanna K; Immy-Rose M; Evie O; Duggie R; Dominik R

Big well done to those who won Silver:

Sufian A; Ali M; Aleeza R; Suhaib A; Daniel A; Sanaa B; Freya H; Dorando M; Jia Xi Z

Huge congratulations to our Gold winners:

Lorelai C; Jakub P; Humza K - a superb achievement 🏆

CAMPCRAFT IN PICTURES YEAR 9



IN OTHER NEWS...

ENGLISH EXTRA CURRICULAR

KS3:

Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 should all be reading their Accelerated Reader book at home to help them develop their reading skills, learn new vocabulary and recognise sentence variety. Please listen to your child read, encourage them to read x3 times per week and talk to them about what they're reading. From September we will launch our new whole school reading strategy; more details to follow soon. Watch this space!

KS4 Revision:

Year 10- Use knowledge organisers to revise key quotations from 'An Inspector Calls' in preparation for Mock exams in June. Talk to your child about their spoken language topic; exams are at the start of the mock period.

Year 11- Revise 'Macbeth' and 'Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde' to prepare for the first English Literature exam on 13th May. Pupils should use their knowledge organisers/flashcards to learn key quotations and vocabulary, re-read key scenes or chapters and complete practice questions.

ENVISION PROJECT

Year 9 pupils have participated in the Envision Project, led by Mr Vidaurri. Kanisha in Year 9, has summed up the project brilliantly.

"Envision is a programme that empowers young people to develop 4 essential skills:

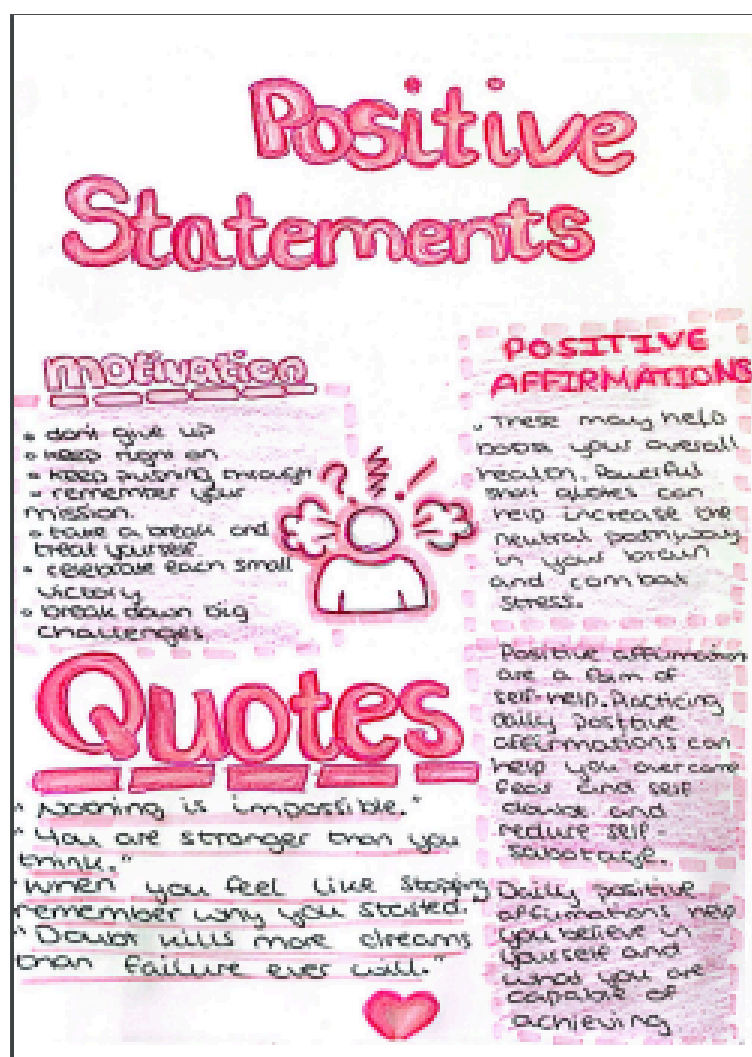
- Communication
- Creativity
- Determination
- Teamwork

It helps young people to understand the main skills of what might impact them in the future. Envision allows young people to provide action to today's world/environment. It also allows pupils to project their voices to improve society. It teaches children essentials which are critical for success in life."

Our second envision cohort of the year are finalising their social action project to support Year 11s through their exam season. They will then pitch their project to other schools and a panel of judges.

It has been fantastic to watch this group develop the skills that Kanisha mentions, through bringing meaningful social action to life. The group have named their project, 'Don't bottle it up' and have surveyed, researched and compiled an

information pack to support our Year 11s as they go into their exams. As you can see from the above excerpt, it's a wonderful bit of positivity. Pupils have thoroughly enjoyed participating in the project and we thank Mr Vidaurri for working with the pupils and leading the project.



Our Year 13 students are now in the midst of their revision. It is so good to see that students are really making use of the study room during their study periods and after school and are working well together to support each other. At this point, attendance to school and lessons is vital as teachers go over practice questions, revise key content and talk students through all important exam tips. Students have all had copies of their exam timetables. This can also be found on our website here <https://www.ilsley.bham.sch.uk/curriculum/exams/exam-timetables/>

It is good for our Year 12 students to see the example set for them by Year 13 as students studying Criminology and Core Maths will also sit external exams. Year 12 students will also sit a suite of Mock Exams week beginning Monday 20th May and week beginning 3th June. These exams are the gateway for entrance into Year 13 so it is really important that students revise in order to achieve. Please ask your child about their revision timetable and exam schedule.

Global Links news...

Well done to our Year 12 students who are travelling to Cambodia in June. They organised another fund raiser selling cakes to staff on Friday during break and lunch times. A number of the cakes were baked by the students themselves! What a delicious treat and yet more money raised to be split between our students and the charity Future Sense Foundation, whom we support while we are in Cambodia.



Sixth Form Senior Student Leader Pathway

At present, we have a very strong Year 13 Senior Student Leader team comprising of a Head Boy, Head Girl Deputy Head Boy, Deputy Head Girl, Catholic Life, Charities and Fundraising Leaders, Sport and Recreation Leaders, Wellbeing Leaders, Media and Communications Leaders, Link to KS3/4 Leaders, Student Support Leaders and Enrichment Leaders. With Year 13 about to begin their exams, there is an opportunity for interested Year 12 students to take on some new responsibilities starting now, with Student Leader roles beginning properly in September. We are looking for a group of Year 12 students to organise the next sport/ social event. It could be a football match, a Basketball game, a film afternoon. Interested students should see their tutors. Please encourage your child to get involved in their Sixth Form!

The Sixth Form Calendar - Key Dates

- Monday 13th May - external examinations begin for Year 13
- Week beginning Monday 20th May and 3th June - Year 12 assessment weeks and Report 2 issued
- Friday 24th May - Year 13 Leavers' Celebration Mass. Students will meet staff at Holy Souls Church at 12:30pm for a prompt 12:45pm start. Students can wear their own clothes, dressing appropriately for Mass (no crop tops or short cycle shorts). After mass, students will have a Celebration Assembly in the Common Room. Please note, to attend the Leavers' Assembly, students must attend Mass beforehand. If your child has the English Literature or Physics exam on the morning, they are to attend school at the normal time and can make their own way to the Leavers' Mass when their exam has finished.
- Friday 14th June - Friday 28th June - Year 12 Cambodia
- Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th June - Year 11 into 12 Transition Days
- Monday 24th June - UCAS Preparation Day Year 12
- Tuesday 25th June - UCAS Conference Year 12
- Monday 1st July - Friday 5th July- Year 12 Work Experience Week
- Sunday 7th July - Thursday 11th July - Gold DofE practise, Year 13
- Thursday 4th July - Year 13 Prom
- Thursday 18th July - Monday 22nd July - Gold DofE qualifying, Year 13

