

THE ABI UPDATE

ISSUE 2 FRIDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER - MR CLINTON

Dear parents, pupils, carers and friends of Archbishop Ilsley,

So much to say and so little space to write it! Thank you so much to all of you who visited Archbishop Ilsley yesterday for Open Evening. As I looked out of my window at 16:30 and watched the rain pour down, I wondered to myself would anyone actually turn up!? But you came in your droves! It was lovely to meet you and your child.

It was a great evening as the school was awash with activities, laughter and interactions. I must also thank all the staff for staying late after a long day. If you are reading this and couldn't make it, don't forget we have our Open Mornings on Tuesday and Wednesday. Simply report to reception from 9am and I will meet you there. After delivering my presentation, I will take you for a tour of the school.

Yesterday was also the Welcome Mass for Year 7 and 12. Thank you again to all the family members who also attended. Bearing in mind it might have been some pupils' first time in a church, everyone was reverent, respectful and reflective. My thanks to Father Marco for celebrating with us. As I said to the whole congregation, they are not only part of the Archbishop Ilsley family and the St Teresa of Calcutta family, we are all part of God's family.

In this action packed issue, you will also see an advert for a parent governor position. After reading the code of conduct, and the eligibility and conditions, if you feel you embody the Nolan principles, we would love to hear from you. Remember, you would be a representative of parents, not a parents' representative.

A reminder that school is closed on Monday to allow for staff training. Enjoy your long weekend with your family. The gates will reopen at the Holy Souls entrance on Tuesday at 8am.

KEY DATES FOR THIS HALF TERM

- Monday 30th Sept - INSET Day. School is closed for all pupils and students
- Thurs 3rd Oct - Twycross Zoo trip - Year 9
- Fri 4th Oct Twycross Zoo trip - Year 9
- Thurs 10th Oct - Y11 GCSE Info Evening (5:00pm - approx 6.30pm)
- Tues 22nd Oct - Sixth Form Open Evening & Careers Fair (5:00pm - approx 6:30pm)



CATHOLIC LIFE: THE GOSPEL - MARK 9:30-37

Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, 'The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him.

They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.' He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, 'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

It is important that everyone at Archbishop Ilsey feels welcome and a part of our school family. In our tutor sessions this week, pupils and students have talked about how we can achieve this together.



THANK YOU TO OPEN PALM!

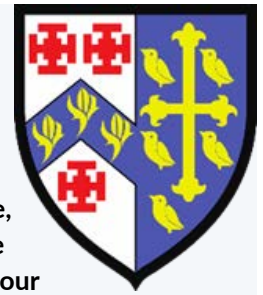
Archbishop Ilsey would like to thank Open Palm for their extremely generous donations of 250 calculators and 30 laptops. This vital contribution will be directed toward the Mathematics Department, providing much-needed support to pupils who may otherwise struggle to afford these essential learning tools.

Mathematics teacher Mr Zaman who helped secure the donation said, "This is aimed at ensuring every pupil has equal opportunities to succeed in their mathematics education, regardless of financial circumstances. By providing these calculators and laptops, Open Palm is helping to break down barriers to learning, ensuring that all pupils can achieve their full potential." Headteacher, Ciaran Clinton said, "We are incredibly grateful to Open Palm for their generosity. These resources will make a significant difference to many of our pupils, helping them to engage fully in their studies and succeed in mathematics. This donation is a wonderful example of how communities can come together to support education and opportunity for all."



All the staff, governors and pupils would like to extend its heartfelt thanks to Open Palm for their continued dedication to improving educational access for young people.

PASTORAL UPDATE - MRS BURNHAM



Encouraging Positive Behaviour During Social Time

At our school, we aim to create a welcoming and safe environment for all pupils and students. Social time, including breaks and lunchtimes, is an opportunity for pupils and students to relax, socialise and recharge for the rest of the day. To ensure that this time is enjoyable for everyone, we encourage pupils to follow our simple guidelines for appropriate behaviour and remain in their designated areas.

Hands-Off Approach for a Safe Environment

- We operate with a "hands-off" approach to ensure every pupil feels comfortable during social times. This means pupils should avoid physical contact with others.
- Pushing, shoving, or any kind of rough play is not permitted. This approach promotes respect for personal space and contributes to an inclusive, safe environment where everyone can relax without worry.

Staying in Designated Areas

- Pupils are expected to stay within their designated areas during social time. Each year group is assigned a specific zone where they can safely gather and socialise. These boundaries not only help staff effectively supervise but also ensure the safety and well-being of all pupils.
- By staying in the correct areas, we can prevent overcrowding and maintain a smooth, orderly environment for everyone to enjoy.

Expected Code of Conduct

We ask that all students uphold the following behaviour standards during social time:

- Be respectful to peers and staff.
- Use respectful language at all times.
- Take care of school property and equipment.
- Clean up after yourself—rubbish should go in the bins provided.
- Follow instructions from staff promptly and without argument.
- Look out for one another—if you see someone feeling left out or in need, lend a hand.

Uniform and Presentation

- During social time, pupils are expected to remain in full uniform and wear it correctly. This includes having your shirt tucked in, blazers on and no hats or hoods unless otherwise permitted. Maintaining a neat appearance demonstrates pride in the school and respect for the learning environment.

Respecting Each Other

Ultimately, social time is about enjoying a break from lessons while remaining respectful and responsible. By following these simple expectations, we can ensure that every pupil has a safe and enjoyable experience during their breaks.

Thank you for helping us keep social times at school positive and respectful for everyone!

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

YEAR 7 - MRS WAFI

Building resilience in children is crucial for their emotional and mental development as they navigate the challenges of adolescence. In secondary school, children start to face increased social pressures, academic expectations and personal changes, which can be overwhelming. Teaching them resilience equips them with the ability to bounce back from setbacks, manage stress and adapt to new situations. Resilient children are more likely to develop self-confidence, problem-solving skills, and emotional strength, all of which are essential for their well-being now and in the future. By fostering resilience, children can grow into capable, empowered adults who can handle life's challenges with a positive mindset.



Pushing through uncomfortable situations is an essential part of personal growth, and it's through these experiences that children truly learn to let their light shine. Whether it's making mistakes in front of their peers or staying engaged in challenging lessons, these moments of discomfort provide opportunities to build confidence and resilience.

By encouraging children to let their light shine even in difficult times, we help them develop the courage and self-acceptance necessary to face challenges head-on. Stepping outside of their comfort zones allows them to realise that most fears, like being judged or embarrassed, are often larger in their minds than in reality. Overcoming these feelings not only boosts self-esteem but also fosters a mindset where they understand that discomfort is a natural part of life and growth. By learning to let their light shine in tough moments, children build a foundation of emotional strength that will serve them throughout their lives.

I urge parents and caregivers to have conversations with their children about the importance of resilience, reminding them of Joshua 1:9: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous." Let's help our children understand that facing discomfort is a way to let their light shine brighter.

YEAR 8 - MRS WAFI

Well Year 8 - it has been a great first few weeks settling back into life at Archbishop Ilsey. Year 8 is an important year where we continue to build the foundations for our education at school. Make sure you avail of all the extra-curricular activities that are on offer to you after school and give of your time and help to support others.



Over the next few weeks, I want to see you let your light shine for all you meet in your lessons and around school. Let us wear our uniform correctly at all times and arrive to lessons on time. Let's be kind, respectful and considerate to all.

Star of the Week for week beginning 16th September

Very well done to the following Year 8 pupils: Jack C; Owais T; Jakub K; Lily R; Joey K; Joy A; Daimon W; George S. Jesse A- HOY Star of the Week

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

YEAR 9 - MR BRUTON



This week in assembly, we focused on what it means to be a Dignified Person with Integrity. To explore this, we looked at the lives of four remarkable individuals: Malala Yousafzai, Nelson Mandela, Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr. Each of these people is a shining example of standing up for what is right, often in the face of great adversity.



Malala Yousafzai

Malala is a Pakistani activist who fought for girls' education in a region where the Taliban tried to ban it. Even after surviving a life-threatening attack, she continued her advocacy, becoming the youngest-ever Nobel Prize laureate. Her dignity lies in her unshakeable belief in education as a basic human right and her courage to stand up for millions of girls.

Nelson Mandela

Mandela was a South African anti-apartheid revolutionary who spent 27 years in prison for fighting against racial segregation. He later became the first Black president of South Africa and worked towards national reconciliation. His dignity came from his commitment to justice, forgiveness and human equality, always putting the welfare of his people first.

Rosa Parks

Known as "the mother of the civil rights movement," Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a segregated bus in Alabama. Her quiet but firm stand against racial injustice sparked a nationwide movement to end racial segregation. Her integrity lay in her refusal to accept an unfair system, demonstrating that one person can make a massive impact.

Martin Luther King Jr.

A leader of the American Civil Rights Movement, Dr. King is famous for his nonviolent protests against racial inequality. His "I Have a Dream" speech inspired millions to fight for a future where all people are judged by their character, not the colour of their skin. His dignity was rooted in his unwavering commitment to justice and peace, even when met with violence and hatred.

How pupils can show dignity and humanity:

We can all embody these values in our everyday actions. Here are a few ways that we can make a difference and stand up for what is right:

- Provide food and clothes for the homeless: Giving to those less fortunate is a powerful way to show empathy and respect for human dignity.
- Donate medications, toys, or clothing in a hospital or hostel: Simple acts of generosity can bring joy and relief to others.
- Defend a fellow victim of bullying: Standing up for others, especially when they're being mistreated, is an act of integrity.
- Donate money to support Lenten fundraising or contribute to Christmas Hampers: Helping others in need strengthens our community.
- Support a peer who may be struggling: Whether it's through a kind word or just listening, being there for a friend shows your humanity.
- Comfort someone who is upset: Compassion helps to create a supportive and caring environment for everyone.

And finally, a big thank you to Mrs. Ruck for organising the upcoming Geography trip to Twycross Zoo. We're all looking forward to learning more about the world around us!

Let's all strive to be people of dignity and integrity, just like the role models we've spoken about this week.

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

YEAR 10 - MR FRANCIOSO

I wanted to take a moment to acknowledge the fantastic start year 10 have made to this school year. Their enthusiasm, commitment, and positive attitude has been truly impressive. It's clear that they're all ready to take on the challenges ahead and make the most of every opportunity.



As they continue through this important year, remember that their hard work now will lay the foundation for their future successes. I have had so many positive comments from teachers about their maturity and attitude.

Let's keep up this great momentum and make this year one to remember!

YEAR 11 - MISS BRADY

Year 11 are continuing their fantastic start to the school year. Teaching staff are extremely impressed with their attitude to learning and mature approach to their studies. Last week many pupils completed their Silver DofE award, the trip was a huge accomplishment and success. I'm hoping to see many of them in our Sixth Form next year completing their Gold award!



On Thursday just under 70 pupils in Year 11 represented Archbishop Ilsey at our Open Evening as tour guides to prospective new families joining our school. I was particularly pleased that so many Year 11's seized the opportunity, these events provide talking points when asked about experiences at interviews, they also place pupils at an advantage against their competitors. Mr McDonald and I were extremely proud of how pupils conducted themselves, they were a credit to you and our school.

A reminder that wearing the correct uniform is essential as it fosters a sense of pride and unity among pupils. Please ensure that pupils attend school each day in the full school uniform, adhering to the guidelines set out in our uniform policy. This includes appropriate footwear, neatly worn ties and no excessive accessories. A uniform reflects respect for the school environment and sets the tone for a focused learning experience.

Can I also remind you of our school rule that phones need to be off and in pupils bags, not on them, by 8.40am. If a phone is seen by staff, it will be confiscated.

Date for your diary!! GCSE information evening- This will take place on Thursday 10th October at 5:00pm in the main hall. Please make every effort to attend.

Thank you for your ongoing support.



It's been a busy week up in Sixth Form. On Thursday 26th, Year 12 joined Year 7 in Holy Souls Church for their Welcome Mass. It really was a lovely occasion. Thank you to Father Marco for saying mass and reminding us about how important our time on earth is; we should all endeavour to live each day to the full, knowing that it is a gift from God.

All of our Year 7 and Year 12 pupils and students are beginning a wonderful new journey with us; one that we hope they will enjoy and always remember. We wish them every success!



Thank you also to our readers, the choir, our Deacons and to all parents and parishioners who celebrated mass with us. Mass ended with a cake sale organised by our Senior Student Leaders; all proceeds going to Macmillan Cancer Support.

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

It was all about fundraising this week, as the Senior Student Leaders organised their first whole school event. Students and staff donated and made a huge variety of cakes for our annual Sixth Form Macmillan Coffee Morning for staff at break and lunch time.

Year 12 and 13 also enjoyed another round of Stand Up Bingo and wore an item of green as part of our Dress Down Friday outfits! It was fantastic to see our Year 12 and 13 students really getting involved in raising money for this vital charity. Monies are still being counted and final totals will be revealed soon. Many thanks to our students, all our staff for purchasing cakes and giving donations and to Mrs O'Neill who supported students in their organisation. It was a fantastic end to the week.



KEY DATES FOR THIS HALF TERM

- Monday 30th September - INSET DAY
- Week beginning Monday 7th and Monday 14th October - Year 13 Mock Exam 1 weeks
- Tuesday 15th October - Year 12 grade collection for Effort/ Behaviour/Homework
- Friday 18th October - Year 12 EBH Report issued
- Tuesday 22nd October - Sixth Form Open Evening and Careers Fair 5:00pm - approx 6:30pm

This half term is already flying by and Year 12 and 13 are busy with their studies. Year 12 have settled exceptionally well and we are very pleased with their work ethic and commitment. As a year group their attendance is excellent at 96%. In the next few weeks, Year 12 students can expect some mini, in class assessments. These will help their teachers to gauge a student's progress. These assessments will also help to form students' Effort, Behaviour and Homework Grades that will be shared with you on October 18th. We expect all of our students to achieve high grades in these reports. The grades are not as a result of marked assessments but will measure students' effort in class, their attitude to their studies and their engagement in lessons and finally their homework. Please have a conversation with your child about how they feel that they are progressing in their new subjects. On Wednesday 13 November, there will be an opportunity for parents and carers to talk to tutors about how students are getting on. There will be more information to follow about this event.

Year 13 will sit their first set of Pre Public Exams (PPEs) week beginning 7th and 14th October. Students will sit a 2 hour paper in each of their subjects. Exams will test both recent and previous learning, so it is important that students are revising and working at home in addition to their studies at school in order to be successful in these exams. It is important to notes, that grades from these PPEs will help us to form their predicted grades for their university applications (UCAS). Students will receive their exam timetables shortly; exams will take place in the Hall.

Year 13 students have also been working on their Personal Statements with their tutors - this was the focus of their Aspire Session on Thursday 26th. Irrespective of their desire to go to university, students will all need a personal statement of some form for jobs applications etc and so it is important that students really do work hard on these.

With regard to studying and our expectations for this in Sixth Form, please see below what we share with our students. As a rule, our students should engage with three main types of study. Students are supported to organise their workload and prioritise tasks in tutor time in their 'Atomic Habits' sessions at the beginning of the week. We have also provided all students with an academic diary where they can record all deadlines and key dates. Again, please support us by asking your child about their study habits and asking them about the work that they are completing at home.

Consolidation	In the Study Period and/or on the evening following each of your lessons, you should spend 12-15 minutes (24-30 minutes for a double) rereading your notes, writing the summary section at the bottom of your Cornell notes and making relevant flashcards e.g. for key vocabulary, definitions, concepts, events/plot, etc.. Everything that you need to recall etc.
Reactive	This is your 'homework'. Each of your teachers should give you at least 1 hour of homework each week. If they don't – ask them for some! If you find this takes more than 1 hour, that's fine, you can take this from the proactive phase (not from the consolidation phase though). Equally, if you find you finish your reactive work quickly, spend more time on your proactive work.
Proactive	This is the section that will broaden and deepen your overall understanding of the subject you are studying. It will not necessarily involve work that has been set by your teacher, but instead it is about you doing the extra practice questions, wider reading etc. Your teachers will give you a list of things that you could do in order to be proactive in your learning.



PARENT GOVERNOR ADVERT

Archbishop Ilsley are looking to appoint a new parent governor.

- Do you have the time to commit to an enjoyable but demanding role?
- Show a commitment to promoting the Catholic ethos of the school?
- Attend six meetings (and prepare by reading papers beforehand)?
- Maintain confidentiality?
- Attend training for new Governors via the Diocese?
- Visit the school once a term to meet your Senior Leader link?
- Produce governor reports?
- Abide by the Code of Conduct for Governors?
- Have a DBS check.

Please be aware, parent governors are representative parents rather than representatives of parents. In other words, the Governing Body is not the place to raise any complaints or grievances from parents or pupils, including yourself. You should do this through contacting the school directly.

Do you have the following skills?

1. A strong commitment to the role and to improving outcomes for children
2. Good inter-personal skills, curiosity, and a willingness to learn and develop new skills
3. The specific skills required to ensure the governing board delivers effective governance

How to Apply

Please check your email. There is a form to fill out and you will have to give the names of two referees. The closing date for the receipt of nominations by the schools is 9am on Friday 4th October.

Completed nomination form should be emailed to recruitment@ilsley.bham.sch.uk

Please read all the attachments that are emailed to you and have a look at the Governing Body section of the school website:

<https://www.ilsley.bham.sch.uk/our-school/governors/>