

THE ABI UPDATE

ISSUE 3 FRIDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER - MR CLINTON

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

As I approach nearly two years at Archbishop Ilsley, my focus since September has been building as many links as possible with new and existing parents. I have had the pleasure of visiting a range of primary schools recently including Acocks Green, St Bernadette's, English Martyrs and yesterday, I met some very friendly pupils at Corpus Christie. I am looking forward to visiting all our feeder primary schools over the next two weeks including Holy Souls on Thursday.

Last night was a great opportunity for parents to learn how they can support their child as they embark on the last leg of their educational journey and prepare for their GCSEs in May. Parents, who attended our GCSE Information Evening in very high numbers, heard some great top tips from Mr McDonald and Miss Brady and also from a range of subject leaders. They also heard about our Sixth Form from Mrs Grant. Sixth Form Open Evening is a week on Tuesday, so please mark this on your calendars.

Current parents will have received an email about the parent governor election. You have until next Friday to vote for your preferred candidate after reading their statements. Thank you to all five candidates for putting your names forward to support our Catholic mission.

Enjoy your weekend – let's hope it stays sunny. I am taking Year 13 students up to Liverpool University's Open Day tomorrow, the university I attended myself back in the glory days of 1997. I would urge all Year 13s to make use of these Open Days.



Archbishop Ilsley Catholic Sixth Form

Embrace your future

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING AND CAREERS FAIR



TUES 22ND OCT 2024
5PM - 6.30PM

HEAD OF SIXTH FORM TALKS
AT 5PM AND 6PM



KEY DATES FOR THIS HALF TERM

- Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th October - Year 11 Geography Field Trip
- Monday 21st October - Year 11 Geography Field Trip
- Tuesday 22nd October - Sixth Form Open Evening & Careers Fair (5:00pm - approx 6:30pm)
- Wednesday 23rd - Saturday 26th October - Year 9 Belgium Residential
- Monday 28th - Friday 1st November - HALF TERM. School is closed to all students and pupils

CATHOLIC LIFE: THE GOSPEL - MARK 10:2-16

What God has united, man must not divide.

Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, 'Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?' They were testing him. He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' 'Moses allowed us' they said 'to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce.' Then Jesus said to them, 'It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.' Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them, 'The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too.'



People were bringing little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

What does this mean for us?

In this passage, Jesus becomes frustrated with his disciples because they turn the children away. He is frustrated because they view the children as unimportant. Sadly, many children around the world are victim to poverty and are not seen as important.

In tutor sessions this week, pupils and students have reflected upon how we can show that we respect other people's dignity in the words and actions we choose each day. We thought carefully about how we greet people; how we use our corridors and canteen and how we treat people on our way home.

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY - THURSDAY 10TH OCTOBER

World Mental Health Day is celebrated every year on 10th October. This year's theme set by the World Federation of Mental Health is workplace mental health. The theme highlights the importance of addressing mental health and wellbeing in the workplace, for the benefit of people, organisations, and communities.



We strive to ensure that we support the mental health of all at Archbishop Ilsley; staff, pupils and students alike.

Research shows that talking is good for our mental health and that's what the Mental Health Foundation's 'Tea & Talk' Campaign is all about. Tea & Talk is a great way to come together with friends, family or colleagues to raise money and awareness for the Mental Health Foundation. Last year there were over 7,000 events across the UK, with over 260,000 people having conversations about mental health across their workplaces, schools, homes or the community.

The following three steps are very important when considering what we can each do to support our own mental health:

1. Choose someone you trust to talk to - This might be a friend, family member or a colleague. Or you might be more comfortable talking to someone you don't know, for example, through a support helpline. It can help to do a pros and cons list about talking to someone.
2. Think about the best place to talk - It's important to choose a place where you feel comfortable enough to open-up. You might want to choose somewhere private where you're less likely to be disturbed. You also might want to talk while you do an activity, like walking together.
3. Prepare yourself for their reaction - Hopefully, you will have a good experience when you open-up to someone. But there's a chance that they may not react in the way you hope. This may be for different reasons, like they may be worried or not fully understand at first. If that's the case, try to give them time to process what you've told them. It might help to give them information to read to help them understand. And don't forget to be kind to yourself and practise self-care.

For more information use the link <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/get-involved/fundraising/do-your-own-fundraising/tea-talk-world-mental-health-day>

PASTORAL UPDATE - MRS BURNHAM



Focusing on Behaviour and Standards: A Message to Our School Community

At Archbishop Ilsey, we are committed to maintaining high standards of behaviour and conduct to ensure a safe, respectful and productive learning environment for all. As we progress through the term, we'd like to remind pupils and parents of the key expectations that help us achieve this.

Uniform:

Wearing the correct school uniform is an important part of our school identity. It reflects pride in being part of the school community and supports a sense of belonging. Please ensure that all pupils are in full uniform each day, adhering to the school's uniform policy. This includes appropriate footwear, school blazers and ties where applicable.

Equipment:

Being prepared for lessons is vital to pupil success. All students must bring the necessary equipment to school every day, including pens, pencils, rulers and any subject-specific materials. Coming to class ready to learn ensures that lessons run smoothly and that no valuable learning time is lost.

Code of Conduct:

Our school's code of conduct is designed to promote positive behaviour and respect for others. Pupils are reminded to follow the code both in and out of lessons. This includes being punctual, speaking respectfully to staff and peers and taking responsibility for their actions. By following these guidelines, we can maintain a positive and inclusive atmosphere for everyone.

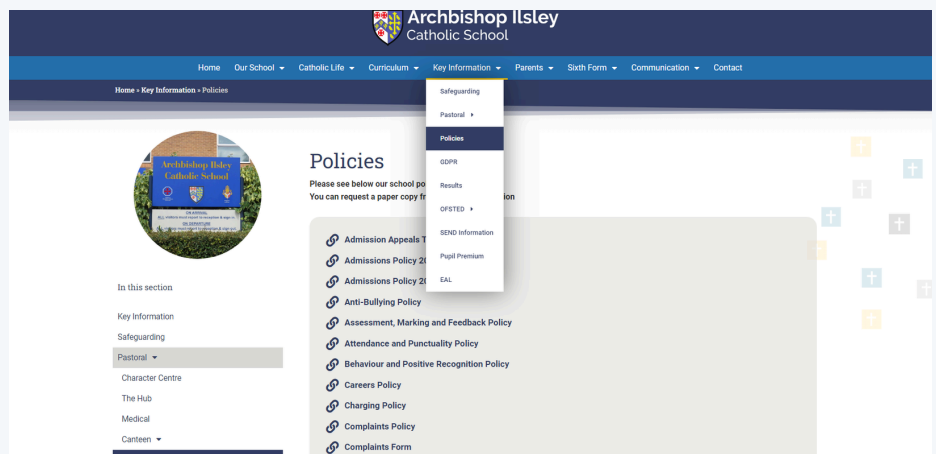
Safe Behaviour at Break Times:

It's essential that students use their break and lunchtime responsibly. Safe behaviour in corridors, the playground, and dining areas is expected at all times. We ask pupils to be mindful of their surroundings, avoid running indoors and respect the personal space of others. Staff are on duty to ensure the safety and well-being of all pupil and we ask for full cooperation in adhering to these expectations.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain high standards of behaviour. Together, we can ensure that Archbishop Ilsey remains a place where every pupil can thrive, learn and feel safe.

For further information regarding our policies on Behaviour and Positive Recognition, Uniform, Mobile Phones or indeed any other information regarding our expectations, please refer to our school website:

<https://www.ilsley.bham.sch.uk/>



HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

YEAR 7 - MRS WAFI

The majority of Year 7 pupils have made an excellent start to their secondary school journey. They arrive well dressed, display good manners and consistently attend school on time. This positive attitude is commendable and sets a strong foundation for their learning experience.



Attendance is a key element in each pupil's educational success. Regular attendance ensures that pupils make the most of every learning opportunity, allowing them to grasp important concepts, engage with their peers and benefit from their teachers' support. It is through this consistent effort, that pupils lay the groundwork for their academic achievements, both now and in the future.

As we move through a long half-term, maintaining this momentum is essential. Irregular attendance or missed days can create gaps in understanding, which may hinder a pupil's progress. By attending school consistently, pupils develop resilience—a quality that is vital not only for their education but also for their personal growth. This idea of resilience is beautifully reflected in the words of James 1:12, "Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him." In much the same way, pupils who remain committed to their education, even when challenges arise, are laying the groundwork for success. Just as perseverance under trial leads to the promised reward in this Bible verse, persistence and dedication to learning will prepare pupils for the greater rewards of knowledge, personal growth, and future opportunities.

By showing up, staying engaged, and working hard even during difficult times, pupils embody the spirit of resilience and are setting themselves up for long-term success—both academically and personally.

YEAR 8 - MRS LYNCH

I have been impressed by how we have started this term - uniform is looking good and we are showing our school community how good we can be - this needs to continue as we progress this this long half term. We are listening to advice given by our teachers and acting on this accordingly - well done Year 8.



Continue to look for extra curricular activities and give something back to the school community. The benefits of staying behind and joining in with sports and arts etc. are proven to help us become more rounded individuals. There are plenty of opportunities, so please avail of them.

Attendance is key to success here at school. We are working very hard on this as a whole school and I want us to make sure we are showing up everyday and going to all of our lessons so that we are giving ourselves the best possible chance at being successful. Research has found that pupils who performed better at the end of secondary school missed fewer days than those who didn't perform as well.

As it says in Galatians 6:9, "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." This wonderful quote asks us to shine our light and do good to others when we meet them, as we lay the foundation stones for our journey here at Archbishop Ilsey. There are times when things might seem like a challenge but we need to bring resilience to help us cope with these times.

Let's continue to work hard and be the best we can be whilst supporting each other and letting our light shine through.

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

YEAR 9 - MR BRUTON



The Catholic Social Teaching focus for this half term is 'Each person is precious, part of our family and has innate dignity'. This emphasises the inherent dignity of every person and the importance of community. Here are some key points Year 9 have been exploring:

- **Human Dignity:** Every individual is created in the image of God and deserves respect and protection. This principle applies to all people, regardless of their background or circumstances.
- **Common Good:** The importance of working together as a community to support one another and promote the well-being of all.
- **Solidarity:** The call to stand with others, especially the marginalised and to advocate for justice and equality.
- **Care for Creation:** Respecting human dignity extends to caring for our environment and recognising our responsibility towards creation.
- **Caring for people in society who are less well off:** Pupils are asked how they can support those in need and create a more equitable society. Next half term we will launch the Christmas Hamper and shoe box appeals

Year 9 had a virtual assembly to launch DofE this week, at the Bronze Award level. All pupils in Year 9 are encouraged to apply. The primary purpose of the DofE Award is to equip young people with essential life skills and foster personal development. Key objectives include:

- **Personal Growth:** Encouraging participants to set and achieve goals, boosting their confidence and self-esteem.
- **Skill Development:** Helping young people develop new skills and interests in various areas, from sports to arts and vocational pursuits.
- **Community Engagement:** Fostering a sense of responsibility and service through volunteering, encouraging participants to make a positive impact in their communities.
- **Adventure and Exploration:** Providing opportunities for outdoor activities and expeditions, promoting teamwork, resilience, and problem-solving.
- **Recognition:** Offering a prestigious award that is recognized by employers and educational institutions, highlighting participants' commitment and achievements.

Overall, the DofE Award aims to inspire young people to push their boundaries, build character and contribute to society while having fun and making lasting memories. For further information please contact Dr Regan at Archbishop Ilsey Catholic School.

I had the real pleasure of going to Twycross Zoo with a number of Year 9s. Their behaviour was fantastic and pupils gained a lot from being outside the classroom. A big thank you to Mrs Ruck for organising the experience. Our next adventure for Year 9 is the battlefields tour to Belgium and France. A massive thank you to Mr Jones who has organised the trip.

There will be a parent meeting on Tuesday 15th October at 4.15pm. The itinerary for the trip and important information will be given at this meeting. A few key points/ reminders:

- Passports, EU cards and £10 and 20 euros are to be handed to your group leader at the meeting
- Passports need to have at least 3 months of validity.
- A towel and toiletries are a must!
- Euro adapter will be needed
- All weather clothes as the weather is unpredictable (but expect cold and wet as anything else is a bonus!)

The following pupils have amassed over 200 positives since the start of the new term and deserve congratulating on this fantastic achievement! Very well done to Philippa W, Ismael B, Kai R, Julia N, Elizabeth O, Shamal A, Saoirse B, Alby W, Meekaiyl L, Kailen K, Lorelai C. Fantastic!

HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

YEAR 10 - MR FRANCIOSO



Year 10 have had an outstanding start to the academic year, demonstrating both enthusiasm and responsibility as they embark on their GCSE journey. Teachers have observed strong engagement in lessons, with pupils actively participating in discussions and showing a solid commitment to their learning. The quality of homework and classwork submitted thus far has been encouraging, reflecting the pupils' focus and determination to succeed.

Behaviour across the year group has been equally commendable, with pupils setting a positive example for younger peers by adhering to school expectations and maintaining excellent standards of punctuality and conduct. Their mature approach to managing the increased academic workload is a clear indicator of their readiness for the challenges ahead. This strong start promises a productive and successful year for Year 10. I cannot emphasise enough how important doing the simple things can be in being successful here. Attendance, punctuality, behaviour for learning and completing homework is key. Please keep encouraging your children to be the best they can be for their own future.

In addition to their academic progress, Dr. Regan's launch of the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award has generated significant excitement among the pupils. Many have signed up for this fantastic opportunity to develop skills beyond the classroom, such as teamwork, leadership and resilience. This programme will allow them to gain valuable experience through physical activities, volunteering, and expeditions; enriching their personal development and preparing them for future challenges.

On a related note, we hope that Year 10's work experience searches, introduced by Mr. Meredith, have been progressing well. This is a critical step for pupils to explore career options and develop workplace skills. The early introduction of work experience this year is designed to give pupils a head start in planning for their futures and we encourage all pupils to continue making the most of this invaluable opportunity. If you are struggling to find a placement please do not hesitate to get in touch.

YEAR 11 - MISS BRADY

It was wonderful to see so many Year 11 pupils and families for our GCSE Information Evening on Thursday. I had some inspiring conversations with pupils and parents; many told me they found the subject workshops extremely helpful and it has enabled a dialogue around their child's next steps. Thank you so much for attending and helping us to support your child on their journey.

The key takeaways from the evening are:

- attendance is vital in order to achieve full potential
- pupils know how to revise; they need to start working early
- cramming last minute will not work
- utilise all resources available, especially Homework Study Plus after school!

There are two weeks left of this half term and Mocks start on Monday 4th November. The message now is to use the mock examinations as a guideline, use them to see what has been achieved, what areas they are secure in and what needs to be worked on.

I am looking forward to seeing some wonderful Mock examination results and having further discussions at Parents' Evening on Thursday 5th December.





Catholic Social Teaching in action!

Through their fantastic fundraising efforts, that included pay to play Dodgeball, Stand Up Bingo, a cake sale and coffee morning and a Dress Down for Macmillan Friday, students raised a total of £423! Thank you so much to all of our students and in particular to Mrs O'Neill, our Senior Student Leaders and our superb bakers! Students are already planning their next event... watch this space for more details.

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

Year 12 Global Links Enrichment
Year 12 continue to impress us! In particular, we are extremely encouraged by the levels of maturity and interest in our Global Links Enrichment Club. Again, over 40 students attended Monday's session led by Miss Evans; the session was all about the UK. Students really demonstrated their geographical and historical knowledge. Students were also asked to think about some of the big questions that they would like to know more about. We have got some great ideas for our future sessions with them!



Subject Enrichment - Politics

On Wednesday 9th October, a group of Sixth Formers attended 'The Rest is Politics Live' at the Utilita Arena. This opportunity arose due to the generosity of Alastair Campbell, who offered £5 tickets to our students. The students had a fantastic time at the event and learnt a lot about current affairs, such as the situation in the Middle East and the Conservative leadership contest.

Our school even got a shout out during the event from Alastair Campbell. He has also sent 20 free copies of his new book to our school to further encourage our students to get involved in the public debate and make an impact in our local community! Thank you to Mr Pearce for organising this fantastic opportunity.



KEY DATES FOR THIS HALF TERM

- **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**
- **Friday 25th October - Deadline for completion of Personal Statements**
- **Monday 28th - Friday 1st November - HALF TERM. School is closed to all students and pupils**

Thank you to our Year 12 and 13 students who gave up their time to support our GCSE Information Evening on Thursday. A special thank you to Daniel H who again played the piano before our keynote talk in the Hall. What fantastic ambassadors of our school!

Year 13 Pre Public Exam Week and Year 12 Assessments

Year 13 have been fantastic this week. We have had excellent attendance at 97% with all students in on time. This all just goes to show how highly they value their learning and how determined they are to do well. Students have also conducted themselves superbly in the exam hall itself adhering to all of the important examination regulations that we put in place to ensure that when their final exams come round in May, the students are well prepared and hopefully less anxious.

As soon as teachers have marked their papers, students will receive their grades and look at where they need to close the gaps in their knowledge or in their application of knowledge. After half term, will begin talking about predicted grades and subject references for UCAS applications. A reminder that students must submit a final first draft of their Personal Statements to their tutors by Friday 25th October. It is really important that students meet this deadline.

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.

Year 12 have also had in class assessments this week and these will continue into next week. Year 12 PPEs in the Hall will take place from Tuesday 3rd December - Friday 8th December.

Attendance protocols

Attendance is a huge factor in the success rate of our students. It is no surprise that those students who attend school regularly are those students who achieve academic success. Please see a reminder below of our attendance protocols in Sixth Form; we remind you to please ask your child about their attendance percentage. All students absences have to be reported on the day by a parent/carer.

Attendance over 97%	This is good attendance. The student will be eligible for rewards that are linked to attendance
Stage 1 - Attendance between 94-97%	Form tutor monitors attendance and has discussion with student about strategies to ensure good attendance
Stage 2 - Attendance drops below 94%	KS5 Coordinator puts support in place: Discussion about strategies to ensure good attendance; review of Sixth Form contract; increased supervised study; contact with parents. Students in receipt of bursary may have payments reduced/withheld
Stage 3 - Attendance below 90%	Attendance below 90% is persistent absenteeism. KS5 Coordinator contacts home. Increased supervised study; contact with parents. Students in receipt of bursary may have payments reduced/withheld. Additional Support Contract in place for 2 weeks. Poor attendance impacts academic progress and is likely to jeopardise a Year 12 student's progression to Year 13.
Continuing poor attendance	Students may lose their privilege to leave at lunchtime. If persistent absence, an Attendance Contract will be put in place and monitored. Parents/carers will be brought into school for a meeting with Head of Sixth Form. Where attendance causes such a negative impact on learning, the right of the student to free examination entry will be reviewed. Students in receipt of bursary may have payments reduced/withheld. Students risk losing their place in Sixth Form if attendance falls below 85% or a student fails to attend for a period of 4 weeks