

# THE ABI UPDATE

ISSUE 6 FRIDAY 29TH NOVEMBER 2024

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

### - MR CLINTON

Dear parents, pupils, carers, students and friends of Archbishop Illesley,

Firstly, well done to Year 11 and 13 for all their efforts with their mocks and assessments. They are so working so hard. Mock results look very promising, so well done everyone. We are looking forward to welcoming all parents and carers of Year 11 pupils to school on Thursday 5th December for Parents' Evening.

We have started receiving donations for our famous Hamper Masses. Thank you so much to all of you who have been so generous. We are still receiving! Please note, all donations should be no perishable (tins, pasta, tea, coffee etc). Your son or daughter should bring them to their form teacher. Each form will be so proud to bring their hampers to the Holy Souls Church in the last week of term.

In addition, 26 shoes boxes were sent off as part of Operation Christmas.

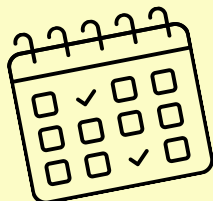
Lastly, the Sixth Form are raising funds for the FutureSense Foundation and will be running 5km next Saturday 7th December at Oaklands Recreation Ground at 9am. Get your running shoes on!

These are all examples of Catholic Social Teaching in action.

## KEY DATES

- Monday 2nd December - INSET DAY. School is closed to pupils and students
- Wednesday 4th December - Flu Vaccinations all year groups
- Friday 6th December - Year 13 trip to Crown Court
- Monday 9th - Wednesday 11th December - Soli House residential Year 12 and 13
- Thursday 12th December - A Christmas Carol - Year 8
- Friday 13th December - Year 8 - Cadbury World trip
- Wednesday 18th December - Reward Trip German Christmas Market

REMINDER: SCHOOL IS CLOSED TO ALL PUPILS AND STUDENTS ON MONDAY 2ND DECEMBER. ENJOY THE THREE-DAY WEEKEND.

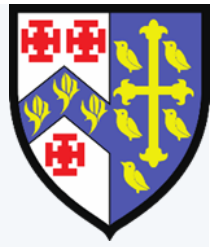


YEAR 11 PARENTS' EVENING -  
THURSDAY 5TH DECEMBER 3.45-6.00PM.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING PARENTS AND CARERS THERE

## PASTORAL UPDATE - MRS BURNHAM

As we progress through the term, we want to share some important updates and reminders with you.



### Respecting Our Community and Environment

We have been made aware of incidents of anti-social behaviour involving a small number of pupils on their way to and from school. We want to stress the importance of showing respect for our local community and environment at all times. Our pupils are ambassadors for the school and their behaviour reflects not only on themselves but also on the wider school community. We ask for your support in reinforcing this message with your children to ensure they act responsibly and respectfully.

### Fire Alarm Incidents

There has been a recent spate of fire alarms being deliberately triggered by pupils, which is completely unacceptable. Each incident has been thoroughly investigated and those involved have received severe sanctions in line with our behaviour policy. To address this further, we held a whole-school assembly with PC Kay, who highlighted the serious legal implications of such actions and the disruption it causes to the school community. We are confident that this will help to prevent any future incidents.

### Cold Weather and Uniform Policy

As the colder weather sets in, we want to remind parents and pupils that our uniform policy remains in place. Blazers are to be worn at all times around school and in lessons. Wearing only a coat without a blazer does not conform to our uniform expectations. Pupils are encouraged to wear warm underlayers, such as a plain jumper beneath their blazers, but blazers must remain the visible top layer inside school.

Thank you for your continued support in upholding the high standards and values we expect at our school.

## CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING IN ACTION

Our Christmas preparations began with Operation Christmas Child. Operation Christmas Child with Samaritan's Purse is a project that we have been involved in for many years. Their mission is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. Our pupils, students, staff and parents filled a fantastic 26 shoeboxes with toys, personal care items, school supplies and fun gifts. Thank you to everyone who took part.



## ARCHBISHOP ILSLEY CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Every year Archbishop Ilsley Catholic School is proud to partake in the Christmas Hamper charity event. It's clear from reading the news that each year there are more and more people that need a helping hand with every day essentials. The costs

of living are going up each week and we hope, as always, to make a difference to those within in our community that need a helping hand. This year we are asking parents/carers to donate an item from the list above. Our target is for each tutor group to produce at least one hamper. Some of our hampers go to our own pupils' families, while others are distributed by local parishes' St Vincent de Paul (SVP) Society groups. This year the Holy Souls' SVP have suggested that they would like to send some of our hampers to be distributed by St Chad's Sanctuary – a project based in Birmingham city centre which supports asylum seekers and refugees. Please note that all donations have to be meat free. Thank you in advance for your support.

Staple Items		Additional Items	Luxury Items
Tinned foods Beans; vegetables; soups; tomatoes; rice pudding; etc.	Instant foods Cup a soups; pot noodles; pasta in sauce; etc.	Tea bags Coffee Hot chocolate	Christmas chocolates Tin of biscuits
Jarred foods Pasta sauces; curries; pickles; etc.	Powdered foods Gravy; stuffing; etc.	Biscuits Sugar Jam	Mince pies Sweets Desserts
Pasta (dried) Breakfast Cereal Cordials	Rice		

## CATHOLIC LIFE

### GOSPEL READING: JOHN 18:33-37

'Are you the king of the Jews?' Pilate asked. Jesus replied, 'Do you ask this of your own accord, or have others spoken to you about me?' Pilate answered, 'Am I a Jew? It is your own people and the chief priests who have handed you over to me: what have you done?' Jesus replied, 'Mine is not a kingdom of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, my men would have fought to prevent my being surrendered to the Jews. But my kingdom is not of this kind.' 'So you are a king then?' said Pilate. 'It is you who say it' answered Jesus. 'Yes, I am a king. I was born for this, I came into the world for this: to bear witness to the truth; and all who are on the side of truth listen to my voice.'



In this Gospel, we hear of Jesus' role. Jesus is not a king who tells people to do things for him. Instead, Jesus is the kind of king who gives – he shares God's love, forgiveness and healing with others. He teaches others to learn how to receive God's love, forgiveness and healing so that they can then share just like Jesus did.

On Sunday 24th November we celebrated both Youth Sunday and Christ the King Sunday. The Feast of Christ the King celebrates the kingship of Jesus over both Heaven and Earth. The Feast day is celebrated in the Roman Catholic Church on the last Sunday of the liturgical year. Thank you to all of our staff, pupils and students for attending this very special mass at Holy Souls Church and to Father Jonathan for celebrating our mass.

On Sunday, we enter the season of Advent; the start of a new liturgical year. The word 'Advent' comes from the Latin 'Advenio', meaning 'the coming' - in the present tense, not referring to a past event. It is a time of waiting and preparation for the celebration of Jesus's birth at Christmas.

Each week of Advent emphasises the themes of hope, peace, joy and love. These are represented by the four advent candles. One candle is lit each Sunday at mass. At school, we will begin the season of Advent by thinking about those who are most in need in our community.



## IN LOVING MEMORY

November is the month that we pray for those members of our family and those members of our school community that are no longer with us. Eternal rest, grant onto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

As a school community remember those pupils, students and members of staff who are no longer with us:

David Howard

Caroline McGuire

Helen Scahill

Lynne O'Donnell

Rita Griffin

Caroline McGuire

Trina Clarke

Mary Quigley

Barry Clarke

Agoth Ring 28.08.95 – 14.12.12

Robby Lebita 05.06.03 – 10.02.16

Archie Hughes 06.05.10 to 23.01.22

Louie Sheldon 26.03.09 to 26.11.22



## HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

### YEAR 7 - MRS WAFI

As the weather continues to shift, we want to take this opportunity to remind parents and guardians about the importance of ensuring pupils are dressed in the correct school uniform. A consistent and appropriate uniform fosters a sense of pride, discipline, and unity within our school community. To help everyone stay aligned with our expectations, we encourage you to review the detailed uniform policy available on the school website.



Here are some key points to keep in mind:

- **Blazers:** These must be worn every day as part of the standard uniform.
- **Footwear:** Only black shoes are permitted. Trainers or other non-uniform footwear are not allowed.
- **Skirts:** For those wearing skirts, they must be knee-length. This is both for maintaining our dress code and ensuring a neat, professional appearance.
- **Hoodies:** Hoodies are not part of the school uniform and should not be worn on school grounds.

We are delighted that the majority of pupils consistently follow the uniform guidelines and their effort is commendable. However, there are still a few pupils who need ongoing reminders about these expectations. Your support in reinforcing these rules at home makes a significant difference and helps create a positive learning environment for everyone.

In addition to uniform guidelines, we would like to remind you of our policy regarding mobile phones. These devices should be switched off during the school day and securely stored in pupils' bags. Phones can be a distraction from learning, so we appreciate your help in reminding pupils about this rule and ensuring they comply.

Finally, as the weather changes, we encourage all families to prioritise safety, both while travelling to and from school and during any outdoor activities. Adverse weather can pose unexpected challenges, so please take necessary precautions to keep your family safe and well-prepared.

---

### YEAR 9 - MR BRUTON

As we reach the halfway point of this term, we are filled with anticipation for the exciting season ahead. The countdown to Christmas is well underway and our school community embracing the spirit of generosity and giving.



**Christmas: A Season of Giving**

- This year, we are focusing on the joy of giving rather than receiving. We encourage all pupils to participate in our festive initiatives, including:
- **Christmas Hampers:** Pupils are invited to contribute non-perishable food items or small gifts for our school Christmas hampers, which will be distributed to families in need.
- **Shoe Box Appeal:** Thank you to everyone who has participated in creating shoebox gifts. Your generosity is truly heart warming.

**Year 9 AAFPOL Exams**

A reminder that the Year 9 AAFPOL assessments will take place in class during the week starting Monday 9th December. These exams are a key part of the academic year, and it is essential that pupils prepare thoroughly. Teachers will provide guidance, but additional revision at home is required.

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to make this term a success both academically and within our community.



# HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

## YEAR 8 - MRS LYNCH

Year 8 pupils are settling in well and making progress with the tasks at hand. It's always encouraging when they start to feel confident with the challenges they are facing.



Year 8 truly came together and demonstrated great respect and maturity during mass. It is heartening to see pupils not only perform well academically but also show exemplary behaviour in important moments like this. It really speaks to the positive spirit and values of the year group. Celebrating this kind of achievement with them is a great way to reinforce those good habits and continue to build a sense of community.

A warm cup of hot chocolate and a delicious waffle is such a thoughtful treat, especially as a reward for the hard work and achievements. It's moments like these that make the school experience even more special and memorable, particularly when it's cold outside. Well done to the Year 8 pupils that were chosen for their hard work and commitment to learning and here's hoping for even more celebrations in the future!

Some of the standards seem to be slipping a little so please remember:

- Phones should be switched off and placed in bags. This helps prevent distractions and ensures that pupils are ready to focus on their schoolwork. Phones should not be out during lessons; this applies to both break times and lunch time.
- As the cold weather sets in, it's a good time to remind everyone about the importance of wearing the school uniform correctly. The uniform is an essential part of our school identity and it helps create a focused and respectful learning environment.
- No hoodies: These are not part of the uniform and should not be worn. If you need extra warmth, please wear a jacket or coat.
- No trainers: Ensure you are wearing the proper school shoes as outlined in the uniform guidelines. Trainers are not permitted unless specifically allowed for PE or sports activities.
- Blazers should be worn throughout the school day, whether you are inside classrooms, in the corridors, or during breaks. If you are feeling cold, please layer appropriately under your blazer, but do not substitute it with other clothing like hoodies or jackets.

Let's all make an effort to wear our uniform with pride and ensure that we are following the guidelines set by the school. Thank you for your cooperation.

## IN OTHER NEWS...

### Year 8 Computing: Cyber Explorers Initiative

Exciting news for Year 8 pupils! As part of the UK Government's 'Cyber Explorers' programme, our pupils will take part in a virtual session over the next few weeks to explore how digital, computing and cybersecurity skills are shaping future careers. This initiative offers a unique opportunity for pupils to discover the vital role cyber skills play in today's world.



Please ensure that you complete the consent form on Classcharts for your child to participate. We look forward to seeing them take the first steps towards becoming the next generation of cyber heroes!

## HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

### YEAR 10 - MR FRANCIOSO



As we approach the end of this long term, I want to take a moment to congratulate you on your hard work, effort, and commitment. You have shown resilience, determination and a fantastic attitude and these qualities have helped you achieve great things this term. Keep striving for your best and remember that the dedication you put in now lays the foundation for your future successes.

Looking ahead, we are excited to launch the Christmas Hamper Mass—a meaningful opportunity to come together as a school community and make a real difference for those in need. Your participation and generosity in this initiative will help spread joy during the festive season and reflect the values of kindness and service we hold dear.

I would also like to extend a sincere thank you to parents and carers for your continued support. Your efforts in ensuring high standards of uniform, behaviour and expectations, make a significant difference in helping us maintain a focused and respectful learning environment. Your partnership is greatly appreciated. Let's finish this term on a strong note, working together to make the Christmas Hamper Drive a success and continuing to make Year 10 proud.

### IN OTHER NEWS...

**Year 10 IT pupils Educational Visit to Warner Bros. Studio.**

This a reminder about the exciting educational visit to Warner Bros. Studio Tour London on Monday, 13th January 2025! Pupils will participate in a storyboarding workshop, exploring the journey of a film production from script to screen, with a focus on design and technology in the media industry. The trip also includes a full Harry Potter studio tour and a green screen experience.



Please can payments be made by Friday 6th December via ParentMail. To reserve a place, please return the permission slip or complete the Google Form.

We look forward to an engaging day where pupils can delve into the magic of film-making and technology!

### YEAR 11 - MISS BRADY

Pupils are now approaching a critical phase in their journey through Year 11. They have received many of their PPE grades back and are now looking to close the gaps in their learning. It really is time for pupils to focus on making every lesson count. These are the moments that will shape their future and the efforts that our pupils put in now will determine how ready they feel for about their upcoming exams and beyond.



Whether it's reviewing challenging topics, asking for help, or practicing consistently, working hard in every lesson is the key to closing any gaps in knowledge and building confidence. Use every opportunity to engage fully, stay organised and aim for progress, no matter how small it may seem. Remember, success doesn't come from luck—it comes from preparation and persistence. Let's make this year one of achievement and pride by committing to giving our best each and every day.

Following an assembly with Mrs Grant, our applications to our Sixth Form are now open. So many pupils have been asking excellent questions about the opportunities and subjects on offer. We encourage our pupils to consider the options available to them carefully. Information about our Sixth Form can be found on our website here: <https://www.ilsley.bham.sch.uk/sixth-form/>

We look forward to engaging in conversation with pupils, parents and carers on Thursday 5th December at Year 11 Parents' Evening.

## YEAR 12 GLOBAL LINKS ENRICHMENT

Thank you to Father Marco, who this week led our Global Links Enrichment Club by talking to the students about his experiences of travelling to Kenya.



It was so interesting to hear about Father's travels and about the country of Kenya; we really appreciate him taking the time to speak to us. Very soon the application window for the Peru trip will close - Monday 9th December - following this, 16 students will begin planning their amazing trip!

## ILSLEY DOES PARKRUN... AGAIN! SATURDAY 7TH DECEMBER

Our Year 12 students are doing a fantastic job of raising money for the FutureSense Foundation; they have raised a staggering £835 in sponsorship and donations with the help of their friends and family and our school staff. Thank you so much if you have been able to support their efforts in any way. We are taking part in Parkrun at Oaklands Recreation Ground on Saturday 7th December at 9am. We are very much looking forward to this - it was great fun last year! We welcome friends and family to come along to support or even run with us! See you all there!



Archbishop Ilsley Global Links  
Peru Fundraiser

£835 raised of £700 goal - 65 donations

Donate now

gofundme

parkrun

## YEAR 13 NEXT STEPS

Today, students should have submitted their UCAS application forms to our centre. Students have participated in many conversations with their tutor, their subject teachers and sessions with the Sixth Form Team to ensure that they have applied for the right courses. Now that we have applications, we will check these and add our teacher references. In the coming weeks, these applications will be submitted to UCAS.

Please speak to your child about their ideas for their next steps and should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

There is also advice and further information about the UCAS application process on our website in the Sixth Form section. This can be accessed using the following link: <https://www.ilsley.bham.sch.uk/sixth-form/ucas/>

## YEAR 12 PRE PUBLIC EXAMS SESSION 1

On Tuesday 3rd Dec - Friday 6th December, Year 12 students will take their first set of Pre Public Exams. They will sit an exam paper in each of their subjects. Exams take place in the Hall and are 2 hours in duration unless otherwise stated. Exam sessions start at 9am and 12.30pm. Timetables have been distributed to students and we have looked at the importance of revision and revision strategies with students in their tutor time sessions. Please ask your child about their exams and discuss their revision timetable with them. It is very important that students are given exam practice in order to get used to exam timings and master how to manage revision and exam nerves.