

# THE ABI UPDATE

ISSUE 11 FRIDAY 7TH MARCH 2025

## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER - MR CLINTON

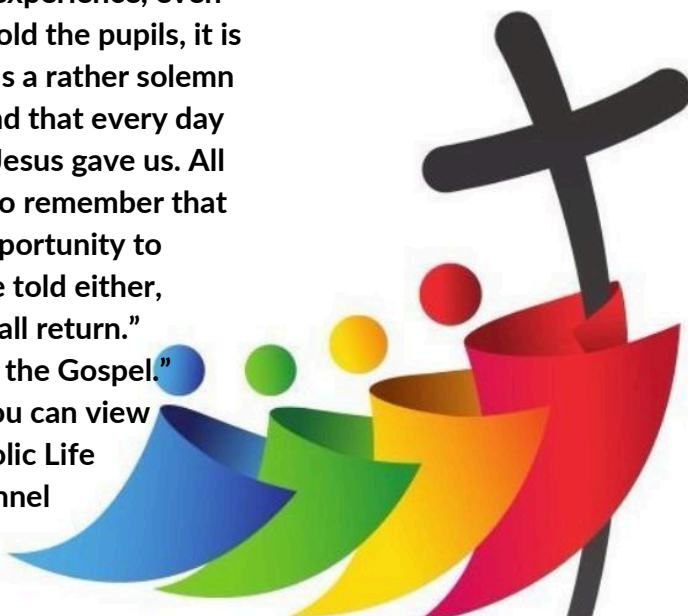
It has been a wonderful week at Archbishop Ilsley. I have had the pleasure of spending a lot of my week in different classrooms – the best place to be as a headteacher – and have enjoyed teaching a variety of different classes. What I found was polite, extremely friendly and hardworking pupils. Some of the work that was produced has been of the highlight quality – particularly from Year 11s.

Speaking about our oldest pupils, I must commend them for their superb attitude and focus in the recent mocks. Thank you, parents, for supporting and preparing them so well. Much thanks must also go to Mr McDonald, Miss Brady, Mr Newey, Ms Wrobleska, Ms O'Donnell and our army of loyal invigilators. We are all very much looking forward to some excellent results in the summer. Results have improved by 10% over the last two years. We are predicting similar growth this summer. Keep it up, Year 11!

Wednesday was of course Ash Wednesday, the first to be celebrated in school since 2019, so it was a new experience, even for our older students. As Deacon Tim Anthony told the pupils, it is an ancient tradition that spans many religions. It is a rather solemn service but it reminds us all that we are fallible and that every day we must strive to be more like the example that Jesus gave us. All pupils – whether they were Catholic or not and do remember that only around 40% of the children are – had the opportunity to receive the ashes. When we receive them, we are told either, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” Alternatively, we are told, “Repent and believe in the Gospel.” Humbling words that we should all remember. You can view photos of the well observed services in our Catholic Life pages of the Update and on our social media channel @ABIsley.

## KEY DATES

- Wednesday 12th March - Catholic Partnership KS5 Debate; KS5 English trip 'Death of a Salesman' at the Rep
- Thursday 13th March - Year 8 Catholic Partnership STEM event
- Thursday 27th March - Year 10 Parents' Evening (3:45 - 6.15pm)
- Monday 31st March - Year 11 Photos
- Thursday 10th April - Year 8 Parents' Evening (3:45pm - 6.15pm)
- Monday 12th May - GCSE and A Level examinations begin

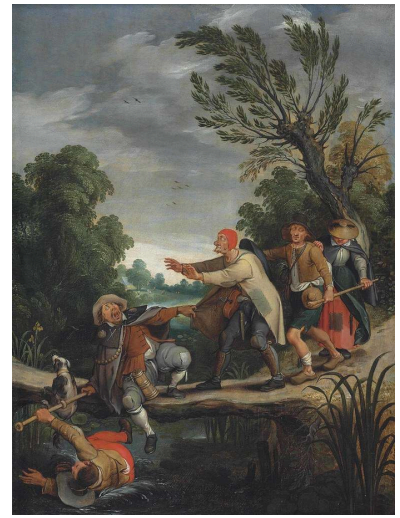


HOPE

## CATHOLIC LIFE - THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: LUKE 6:39-45

Jesus told a parable to his disciples: 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye.

'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills his heart.'



What does this mean for us?

Jesus uses this vivid imagery of the blind leading the blind to remind us that we all have our own blind spots! Our weaknesses, temptations, faults and sins obscure our vision of truth. Today, we pray for the grace to recognise our own blindness. Acknowledging the areas where we struggle, is already a significant step towards opening our hearts fully to Christ. Saint Augustine said, "It is no advantage to be near the light if the eyes are closed", warning us against spiritual blindness.

Perhaps too, we should consider the fact that human beings are easily influenced. Are you someone who influences people to do good? What or who is influencing your behaviour and attitude? Is it for the good?

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Each year as a school community we take part in Operation Christmas Child, with pupils and students making up shoeboxes filled with treats for children less fortunate than ourselves. It was lovely to receive this feedback from Hannah at the Samaritan's Purse charity...

"I wanted to write to you and say a huge thank you for your participation with Operation Christmas Child last year. You have been a part of something truly amazing! As a result of the partnership of groups like yours, Operation Christmas Child in the United Kingdom sent an amazing 241,015 gift-filled shoeboxes to children around the world. That is part of a global total of 11.9 million shoebox gifts sent by the UK and other partnering countries to hurting children worldwide.

These shoeboxes act as a beautiful expression of God's love to children all over the world. Thank you for being part of that!

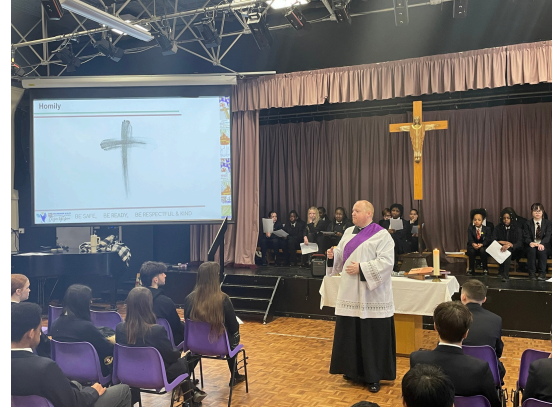
We look forward to keeping in touch with you and trust that your involvement with Operation Christmas Child will continue to be a blessing to you and your group in the coming year. Through your service as a project leader and your group's involvement in this project, the impact of simple shoebox gifts is being felt by children and families across the world. It is a great blessing to serve alongside you and we are here to support you in any way that we can."

Once again we say thankyou to all of our pupils, students, families and staff for their very generous contributions.



## CATHOLIC LIFE - ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday, which signals the start of Lent, was on Wednesday 5th March. Lent is a period of prayer, fasting, and giving for Christians. Ashes represent death and repentance, reminding Christians of human mortality. We held six beautiful Ash Wednesday services in our school hall. In each service, the choir sang, pupils and students participated by reading the readings and our Sixth Form Head Boy and Girl distributed the ashes. Many thanks to Father Marco, Deacon Martin, Deacon Tim, Ms Jones and Mr Koryl for all of their hard work preparing for this occasion.



## CATHOLIC LIFE - LENTEN CHARITIES

First and foremost, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for all your generous donations prior to Christmas as part of our schools Advent Hamper Appeal. It's incredible to note that enough food was brought into school to fill 70 hampers which were delivered to families in need in Acocks Green and across the West Midlands.

During our Ash Wednesday services, all of our pupils, students and staff were reminded of the importance of prayer, fasting and almsgiving throughout this period of time running up to Easter. As part of our Lenten Charities campaign we will be supporting St Chad's Sanctuary which looks after and cares for our brothers and sisters who have escaped wars, environmental disasters and persecution across the world and are now trying to rebuild their lives here in Birmingham. The charity is in desperate need of food, clothing and toiletries for those they care for. Therefore, we would be most sincerely grateful if you could support our efforts by getting your child to bring into school any of items listed here and handing these to their form tutor. All donations will be transported to the St Chad's Sanctuary throughout the Lenten period.

Toiletries	Clothes especially men's clothes	Food
Shaving cream	Jeans	Tins of food
Deodorants	Joggers	Rice
Hair gel	T-shirts	Pasta
Skin creams (especially for hands)	Jumpers/hoodies	Snacks
Shampoo/Conditioner/other personal hair products.	Coats	
Toothbrush/toothpaste/floss	Socks	
Soap	Trainers	
Brushes /Combs	Carrier bags (long life, strong bags)	
Razors/other shaving supplies	Backpacks	
Tissues		
Sanitary Products		

The other charity we will be supporting over Lent is Father Hudson's. They work tirelessly to help those in need in the West Midlands, offering support to the elderly, the housebound, the sick and those seeking refuge in Birmingham. Pupils and students have been asked to organise charity events over the coming weeks to raise money for this noble cause. If you can spare some change for your child to partake in these activities this will be collected and sent to Father Hudson's at the end of the Lenten period. We would like to thank you in advance for supporting our school's efforts to collect charitable donations to help those most in need.

# RAMADHAN

Ramadhan has brought a wonderful sense of community and reflection to Ilsley this year! This sacred month, observed by Muslims worldwide, is a time of fasting, prayer and charity and our staff and pupils have embraced it with both readiness and enthusiasm! Across school, we've been celebrating the spirit of Ramadhan through various activities that highlight its values of empathy, gratitude and togetherness. Our pupils have enjoyed having meaningful discussions with both their peers and teachers about the significance of fasting and the idea of giving back. Tutors have also shared informative presentations to their tutees about the significance of this blessed month, while two Year 12 students (Aayan H and Daniyal A) delivered a fantastic presentation to the Sixth Formers earlier in the week!

Today, we held the Friday Prayer (Jumu'ah) for our pupils, which was a huge success. The pupils absolutely loved it; coming together and adopting the Ilsley spirit of peace and reflection, which truly captured the essence of Ramadhan. We had a wonderful turnout of around 85 pupils and students; they were punctual, respectful and well behaved from start to finish. And they were only too willing to help with the setup! But more importantly, it was eminently clear that they were happy to share such a positive experience with their peers. Hopefully we can look forward to seeing them build on this camaraderie and togetherness in the coming weeks and throughout the rest of the school year.

Looking ahead, next Friday's Jumu'ah on 14th March promises to be extra special. We have invited Imam Mohammed Fahad Ahmed from our local community to deliver a short talk on the virtues of Ramadhan and to lead pupils and staff in prayer. I have no doubt we will all make him feel welcome if we see him on our travels! Thank you to Mrs. Begum for arranging to bring him at such short notice.

And finally - for the first time in Ilsley's history, we will be hosting a Grand Iftar on Wednesday 19th March at around 6pm. This event will bring pupils together to break their fast, and the response has been incredible - around 30 pupils have signed up to attend! Some have even invited their non-Muslim friends to join, which has been a wonderful show of inclusivity and togetherness. It is so good to see our school community unite in such a meaningful way and we look forward to reaping all the benefits! Thank you all for your ongoing support.



# PASTORAL UPDATE - MRS BURNHAM



At Archbishop Ilsley, we are committed to maintaining high standards of behaviour to ensure a positive, safe, and successful learning environment for all pupils. As we move through the term, we appreciate your continued support in reinforcing these expectations at home.

## Uniform and Equipment

Pupils should arrive each day wearing the correct school uniform, including appropriate footwear and any required PE kit on designated days. A full list of uniform expectations can be found on our website. Additionally, all pupils must bring the necessary equipment, including a pen, pencil, ruler, and any subject-specific items, to ensure they are fully prepared for learning.

## Attendance and Punctuality

Being on time to school and to every lesson is crucial. Every minute of learning counts and we expect all pupils to arrive promptly, ready to engage. Please support your child in establishing good routines to ensure they leave home with enough time to arrive at school before the morning bell.

## Behaviour at Social Times and Travelling To and From School

We expect pupils to conduct themselves in a responsible and respectful manner both during social times in school and while travelling to and from school. This includes:

- Treating peers, staff, and the wider community with kindness and respect.
- Using appropriate language and behaviour in and around the school grounds.
- Following school rules regarding where they can be during breaks and lunchtimes.

## Being Ready for School

A successful school day starts with good preparation. Please encourage your child to pack their bag the night before, check their timetable, and ensure they have completed any homework. Having a structured morning routine helps students arrive at school feeling calm, prepared, and focused.

## Being Safe at School

Safety is our priority. Pupils should:

- Follow all school rules and staff instructions.
- Move sensibly around the building, being mindful of others.
- Report any concerns to a trusted adult.

## Being Respectful and Kind

We are proud of the respectful culture within our school community. All pupils are expected to show kindness, consideration, and respect to staff and peers at all times. We encourage parents to reinforce these values at home, ensuring that our school remains a welcoming and positive environment for everyone.


Thank you for your ongoing support in upholding our high expectations.



### Uniform

Parents and carers must ensure that all pupils follow the uniform standards outlined below. This is a key part of being ready to learn and we appreciate your full support in this matter.

If for whatever reason, there is a uniform issue please contact the school and correct the matter as soon as possible. Pupils who arrive to school in the incorrect uniform will be expected to rectify this before attending period 1. Pupils can collect spare black footwear/ties and other uniform items from the Pupil Services Shop. Ties can be loaned for the day or replacements purchased at a cost of £5.



### Archbishop Ilsley Catholic School Uniform

— Uniform (Boys)

- Navy blue blazer with a school badge
- White shirt and house tie
- Medium grey, plain school trousers.
- Plain navy blue V-necked pullover (optional).
- Plain black shoes – no logos, boots, trainers, fashion shoes, canvas – business/office footwear only.
- Plain grey, black or navy blue socks
- Summer uniform can be worn after the Easter holidays until October half term.
- If choosing to have a shaven hair cut you must have a grade 2 – no shorter, no lines, no patterns, no extreme partings.
- No artificial nails or nail varnish.
- Hair must be of a natural colour and pupils are not permitted to wear brightly coloured or large hair accessories.

# HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

## YEAR 7 - MRS WAFI



It has been a fantastic start to the new half term, with pupils diving straight into their work and demonstrating great dedication. Year 7, in particular, has shown remarkable growth over the past two weeks, settling into secondary school life, building confidence and forming strong friendships. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm and commitment, both in and out of the classroom, as they continue to embrace the opportunities available to them.

It was a delight to meet so many parents at our recent Parents' Evening and to see such a fantastic turnout. This was the first Parents' Evening for this cohort at their new school, marking an important milestone in their secondary education journey. We hope all parents enjoyed the opportunity to meet teachers, hear the wonderful things being said about their children and gain valuable insights into their progress. These evenings are not only a chance to celebrate pupils' achievements but also to discuss ways to further support their learning and development. A strong partnership between home and school plays a vital role in ensuring every pupil reaches their full potential and we appreciate the continued support from parents and guardians.

As we enter the season of Lent, this marks an important time for reflection, growth and giving to others. Pupils have been actively discussing how they will observe this period, particularly through acts of kindness and generosity. As a school, we are proud to be supporting two incredible charities—St Chad's Sanctuary and Father Hudson's. Both charities provide essential support to those in need, and our pupils have shown great enthusiasm in finding ways to contribute, whether through fundraising, donations, or acts of service. Lent was solemnly marked by Ash Wednesday, during which pupils attended a special service of Word and Ashes, offering them a meaningful moment of reflection as they embark on this season of self-improvement and compassion.

Beyond their academic studies, pupils have a range of exciting opportunities to engage with this half term. We are thrilled to introduce a series of inter-form competitions designed to bring pupils together, encourage teamwork, and allow them to showcase their talents. These competitions include five-a-side football, photography challenges and form quizzes, offering something for everyone to enjoy. We hope all Year 7 pupils take part, embrace the spirit of friendly competition and make the most of these fantastic opportunities to develop new skills, build confidence, and strengthen their bonds with classmates.

As always, we are incredibly proud of our pupils and look forward to seeing them continue to thrive in the weeks ahead.

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## CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING FOCUS

This week pupils and students have learned about two important charities, St Chad's and Father Hudson's Caritas; all of the work done by these important charities is rooted in dignity.

Father Hudson's Caritas provide a range of services to people across the Catholic Archdiocese of Birmingham, an area encompassing Oxford, Stoke-on-Trent, Coventry, Warwick, Worcester and Wolverhampton. They work with people from all walks of life, offering friendship, care and support.

St Chad's Sanctuary is a charity that offers a warm welcome, hospitality and practical support to asylum seekers and refugees. The project was founded in 2010 by Sister Margaret Walsh of the Infant Jesus Sisters and works in partnership with the Salvation Army, the Archdiocese of Birmingham and Father Hudson's Caritas.

These are both charities that as a school we have supported for many years particularly during the time of Lent. There will be more information about our Lenten fundraising to follow. Pupils and students will be engaging in inter form sporting competitions, bake sales and raffles.

**'Workers have rights,  
all our work should  
be rooted in  
dignity'**



# HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

## YEAR 8 - MRS LYNCH

Welcome back, Year 8! I hope you've all had a well-deserved rest and are feeling refreshed and ready for the exciting half-term ahead. It's great to see everyone back and I'm sure you've all made the most of your break, whether that was to relax, recharge, or explore new hobbies.



As we dive into this new half-term, there's plenty to look forward to, from engaging lessons to fun activities and projects that will help you grow both academically and personally. Remember, this is a fresh start—a chance to build on all that you've already accomplished and set new goals for yourselves. Whether you're focusing on improving your grades, discovering new interests, or developing your skills in and outside the classroom, there's no limit to what you can achieve.

As Lent begins, it's not just a time for personal reflection and fasting, but also an opportunity to let our light shine in meaningful ways. Traditionally, Lent is a time when many people give up something—whether it's a bad habit, a food item, or something else—in order to focus on spiritual growth. However, this period is also about becoming more mindful of the world around us and thinking about how we can contribute positively to our communities. Lent invites us to be more thoughtful and generous, to think of others before ourselves, and to offer acts of kindness. The idea of fasting during Lent isn't just about giving something up, but about creating space for more compassion, service, and love. While we may be sacrificing something in our own lives, we can fill that space by doing nice things for others—whether it's a simple smile, a kind word, or offering a helping hand to someone in need.

This is a time to reflect on how we can be a light in the world, even in the smallest of ways. By showing kindness and thinking of others, we not only brighten their day, but we also allow our own light to grow. Whether it's helping a friend with their schoolwork, donating to a cause, or simply being patient and understanding with those around us, these actions have a profound impact.

So, as we embark on this season of Lent, let's make a conscious effort to think of others. Let's look for opportunities to spread kindness and do good, whether it's in our school, our family, or our wider community. Through our actions, we can reflect the true spirit of Lent and let our light shine brightly for all to see. We are in the process of setting up an interform competition for year 8 so there will be more to follow on this in the coming weeks.

## YEAR 9 - MR BRUTON

Welcome Back! We hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable half-term break. By the end of this week, we'd like to remind all pupils that option forms should now have been returned to your tutor. If you haven't submitted yours yet, please do so as soon as possible.



### A Busy Week!

- Ash Wednesday Service (Year 9) – On Wednesday, Year 9 took part in a special Ash Wednesday service, marking the beginning of Lent, a time for reflection, prayer, and giving.
- World Book Day – Thursday was World Book Day, celebrating our love of reading and storytelling!
- Supporting Charities During Lent - This Lent, we are supporting St Chad's Sanctuary and Fr Hudson's Care. We encourage families to discuss ways that their child can help to raise money with their forms to help these wonderful charities. Every small effort makes a big difference
- Catholic Social Teaching Focus - Our Catholic Social Teaching theme for this term is: "The work we do should be rooted in dignity; all workers have rights."

What does this mean? It reminds us that every person, no matter their job, deserves respect, fair treatment, and proper working conditions. It challenges us to think about how we treat others and how we can support dignity in the school and the wider community. Thank you for your continued support, and let's make this half-term a great one.

# HEAD OF YEAR UPDATES

## YEAR 10 - MR FRANCIOSO

As we move further into the academic year, I want to take a moment to commend our Year 10 pupils for their hard work and dedication so far. This is a crucial time in their education and the next 12 months will be pivotal in shaping their success. Now is the time to maintain focus, stay committed and keep working hard towards their goals. Your support at home is invaluable in helping them sustain this momentum.



I'd also like to extend my thanks to Mr. Anthony for taking some of our Year 10 students to Soli House. Opportunities like these enrich their learning experience and contribute to their personal growth. This reminds me that we are coming up to the silver Duke of Edinburgh expedition; if your child has signed up, please ensure to keep up with any payments. It is such a valuable experience it would be a shame to miss out. One reminder from me about the school's mobile phone policy - I have reminded all pupils about this - mobile phones should be switched off and in bags for the duration of the school day.

Let's continue to work together to support our pupils in making the most of this important year.

## YEAR 11 - MISS BRADY

The past two weeks as you know Year 11 have sat their final Mock examinations before their GCSE exams. It has been very clear to see that students are dedicated and committed to achieving. They conducted themselves in an exceptional manner and I know there has been lots of revision, conversations with teachers and time dedicated to their mocks. I want to say a huge well done to the year group and I sincerely hope they all achieve the grades they deserve. From Monday, Year 11 has 34 school days left. It is so important in these final weeks that pupils are in school every day, on time and organised. Teachers will be going over mock papers next week and discussing gaps.



How can families help?

As your child embarks on arguably one of the most important times in their lives there are things that you can do to assist them.

- You will undoubtedly have seen your child with revision cards, please spend some time with them each day testing them. It often helps when someone asks the question and they have to respond verbally.
- Act as the student, get them to teach you what they know. Ask questions.
- Provide quiet space for them. Sometimes they will sit a past paper, time them.
- Make sure they are drinking enough water, eating well and getting enough sleep. The examinations and revision is tiring so it is important to keep up their stamina.
- Make sure they are organised, that they have pens, pencils, highlighters, rulers, calculators.

Reminder- Prom will be on Wednesday 25th June at The Village Hotel Solihull. We want all pupils to attend Prom, it is a privilege. In order to attend Prom pupils need to sit all scheduled Mock exams and all scheduled GCSE examinations. I want to make it clear that attendance will be looked at from Monday 27th January only. From this date pupils need to achieve 95% attendance (exceptional circumstances will be taken into consideration) in order to attend Prom.

Finally, ensure they are still maintaining standards with their uniform. Blazer, school bag, tie and school shoes are still essential. Should anyone have any concerns around this please contact me and we can work together to find a solution.

Thank you for your continued support.



# SUPER CURRICULAR ENRICHMENT

## OXFORD UNIVERSITY TRIP

On Thursday 28th February, 14 Year 10 pupils had the opportunity to visit Oxford University. Below, one of our pupils has written a review of their day...

"Knowledge is power"

Is that why the minute I stepped into Oxford, it seized my breath and captivated my eyesight with its beauty? My time at the University of Oxford largely consisted of me being marvelled by the ethereal architecture, but it was one of the most educational and informative experiences I have ever encountered.

The University of Oxford is the oldest in Great Britain, but the second oldest in the entire world! A common misconception is that Oxford is a singular campus. It isn't! Oxford has many colleges that are part of it, which are spread out throughout the entire city. During my visit, I explored two marvellous colleges called Keble and Oriel. They contained a cafeteria, libraries, a bar, student accommodation, a common room, and lecture rooms.

At this time, we met multiple undergraduates (including ex-Ilisley pupil Niamh) who pursued their interests at the University and essentially turned their hobbies into their courses. Such as gaming, history, languages and archaeology. Oxford offers multiple courses, some of which aren't offered at many others, like classics and material sciences. The established University of Oxford is not like many other universities; it is well-known due to its teaching, magnificence, courses, competition and the impression it sets on the upcoming generation like us. It wasn't intimidating or pressurising but it was welcoming and compassionate. It was a truly memorable experience that I will cherish forever.

Thank you to Ms Evans for arranging this fantastic opportunity and to Father Marco for accompanying them.



## YEAR 10 ALTON CASTLE TRIP

Year 10 pupils visited Alton Castle last week on a fun and faith filled four day residential. The pupils enjoyed a plethora of activities including bike riding, nature walks, tackling assault courses as well as spending time with fellow year 10 pupils from St Francis Catholic School in Aldridge. They seized the opportunity to develop their teamwork and communication skills and a great time was had by all.

Very importantly an integral part of the residential was pupils being given the opportunity to focus on their faith. They attended a number of masses and workshops which focused on them thinking about their relationship with God and the fact that they are wonderful and unique creations with so much potential to help and care for others.

It is fair to say that all of the pupils that went on this journey enjoyed every moment and as a school we cannot wait for our next adventure to Soli House. We will definitely visit the Kenelm Youth Trust team again in the not so distant future.

Thank you to Deacon Tim for accompanying our pupils.



# SUPER CURRICULAR ENRICHMENT

## A FANTASTIC COMMUNITY EFFORT AT SHIRLEY GOLF CLUB

On Thursday 6th March, 10 of our fantastic Year 9 pupils joined our very own avid golfer Mr Corrigan and members of Shirley Golf Club to take part in a mammoth environmental project. Pupils and members planted 700 saplings along the right hand side of the club's driveway. This was all part of Solihull Council's 'Planting Our Future' project which aims to plant 250,000 trees by 2030. The project aims to make a lasting impact on our environment as well as supporting our broader sustainability goals.

The saplings - a chosen mix of beech and horn beam - promise to deliver a beautiful display of foliage in the coming years as they establish and grow.

Our pupils were fantastic - a real credit to us! They showed exceptional knowledge of the importance of biodiversity and as well as working hard all day, they enjoyed a visit to the club house for lunch and the bee hives afterwards. Thank you Mr Corrigan and thank you Shirley Gold Club!



WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**

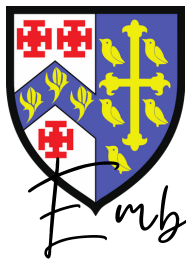
6 MARCH 2025

This year WBD invited everyone to 'Read Your Way'. Research shows that children feel reading is something they have to do, rather than something they choose to do. Read Your Way aims to encourage everyone to let go of reading pressures and expectations and empowers children and young people to have fun discovering reading on their own terms.

There was lots going on in classrooms on Thursday to celebrate this and reintroduce pupils and students to reading. In their tutor time, they considered the importance of reading and listened to a number of staff and students discuss the benefits of developing effective reading habits to support academic outcomes, vocabulary acquisition and wellbeing. Pupils then had the opportunity to immerse themselves in part of a short story throughout the day - each lesson, they were treated to part of 'The Typewriter' by Ayesha Manazir Siddiqi which has featured in the diverse short story collection 'Iridescent Adolescent'. Should you wish to listen along to this story please double click the image.



**READ  
YOUR WAY**



# Archbishop Ilsley Catholic Sixth Form

*Embrace your future*

Follow us on @ABIlIsley6thform to see all of our pictures and our latest news!

Have a look at all things Sixth Form using the following link:  
<https://www.ilsley.bham.sch.uk/sixth-form/>

## OUR SIXTH FORM 6 REMINDERS

Year 12 and 13 have had a great two weeks back! During Tutor Time and their assemblies they were all reminded about the important of our Six Form 6 - our basics.

As a school and a Sixth Form, we strive for excellence in all areas. Excellent attendance and punctuality are inextricably linked with excellent academic outcomes. It is so so important that our Year 12 and 13 students are in good habits with regards to their attendance and punctuality. All students should be aware of their attendance %; please ask your child what this is and if they are unsure, they should speak to their tutor. Please see a reminder of our Attendance Protocols.

Our Sixth Form day begins with Tutor Time at 8.45am. All students are expected to attend after signing into Sixth Form. All of our students then follow a bespoke Pastoral Programme routed in VESPAR, our Sixth Form Mindset. The weekly menu of activities is as follows:

- Monday - Gospel reflection; Year 13 assembly; Year 12 Atomic Habits Weekly Planning
- Tuesday - Year 12 assembly; Year 13 Atomic Habits Weekly Planning
- Wednesday - VESPAR. This half term we focus on 'Practice.'

Practice – the missing part of the puzzle. Often students appear to be working very hard but do not make the progress that they expect. So, effort alone does not equal success. This half term we are encouraging students to think about whether they are working on the 'right things'. All students have access to their subject specifications which detail the specifics of their examinations in each subject. Students also need to be aware of their subject 'command verbs.' These verbs form their exam questions words and inform students of what skill/knowledge application is required in each question. These will be linked to the number of marks for each question. Knowing these command verbs is vital for examination success.

In each of their subjects, the process of learning and mastery can be categorised as follows:

- Content – students must be in the practice of reviewing and consolidating their learning after each lesson
- Skills- students should be actively putting their knowledge into practice in high stakes context e.g., timed exam questions/look, cover, write check using flashcards
- Feedback – listening to and acting upon the expert feedback provided, completing closing the gap activities - this allows students to develop their performance over time
- Independent Study using study strategies; students should use their study periods effectively and be working outside of the classroom at home
- Review - using their Atomic Habits sessions on Mondays and Fridays students should review what they have completed in a week and consider upcoming deadlines

On Thursday and Friday, students complete their week with Transition Thursday - all about careers, university, next steps and advice on how to be prepared for life beyond Sixth Form. This includes a focus on mental health and wellbeing. Finally, Friday is our Atomic Habits review - we ask students to review their week and consider what is coming up in the next week in terms of assignments, homework and deadlines.

