

Issue 1: 8th September 2023

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Families

I hope that you have all had a wonderful break - in spite of the ongoing dreary weather - and am delighted to welcome you back to a new academic year.

Return to School

We were very grateful not to have our start of year disrupted, as some schools have, due to the presence of reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC). We engaged fully with the recommended surveys last academic year and no issues have currently been identified.

We have had a great few days back at school and have been so proud of our students for the way that they have managed the transition from the summer holiday. Our new Year 7 students have made a fantastic start and we have loved welcoming them to our Ansford Community. Students have returned with positivity and maturity - it has been a pleasure to see them engaging in their learning and managing the heat so well. Thank you to families for supporting at home to ensure that they have started so well.

The forecast for next week is indicating a return to more 'normal' temperatures so we will be expecting to see all of our students in full uniform from Monday 11th September. Mr Mitchell has provided a bit more detail in his entry below.

New Website

We have listened to your feedback about how we might improve our website so that information is more accessible for families. We have been working behind the scenes on a new website with the aim of simplifying its structure, updating the content and capturing the key information that you might need to access quickly. Today is our first day that our new website is LIVE and we hope that you will find time to take a look. As always, we really welcome your feedback so if you have trouble finding what you need or you think of additional content that you would like to see, please let us know by emailing: mailbox@ansford.net

You can find our new website by searching for Ansford Academy or using the following web address: www.ansford.net

Welcome to New Staff

We welcome a number of new staff joining us for the start of this academic year and have been fortunate to recruit staff with a wide range of experience. We are confident that our new team members will play a key role in supporting us as we continue in our improvement journey.

Ms de Mora	Assistant SENDCo, Teacher of Maths
Ms Mitchell	Head of Humanities
Mrs Grove	Head of PE
Mrs Nichols	Teacher of English

We also welcome back Mrs King and Miss Harries from maternity leave, returning to their previous roles:

Mrs King	Deputy Headteacher: Welfare and Inclusion (Job Share with Ms Hirst)
Miss Harries	Teacher of History

We are also delighted to have appointed both Mr Antoine and Mrs Ishmael, who both made a significant contribution to the Ansford community in their roles last year, permanently to the Ansford Staff.

Summer Events

Whilst a new school year is very much about looking forward and preparing for the future, it is also important that we celebrate some of the key events that took place during the summer holidays. Our new Year 7 students had a fantastic experience in Summer School which has really supported their transition to Ansford. We were delighted that over 100 students were able to join us during the 2 days and are really grateful to all of the staff who gave up their time to support the planning of summer school or to lead events in school during the two days.

Finally, our outgoing Year 11 students had a nerve wracking time waiting for their GCSE examination results in August. We were really pleased to see so many personal successes and triumphs with many students reaching their goals. We wish all of our outgoing Year 11 students the very best as they embark on their next steps.

Who to contact?

The relationship between school and home is a key one as a successful partnership between us will support your child's learning, progress and happiness at school. Our aim is to work with you and your child to ensure that happens, which is why it's important to talk with us if you have any questions, concerns or wish to share information with us.

Sometimes, especially when you are new to the school, it can be hard to know who to contact. Our reception staff will be able to direct you to the right member of staff but as a general guide, the key routes for contact are as follows:

- For most pastoral matters, your child's tutor will be the first point of contact. If the matter remains unresolved, or for more complex pastoral matters, please ask for your child's Head of Year;
- For matters relating to lessons and learning in a single lesson, please contact your child's teacher in the first instance; If the matter remains unresolved or is more complex, please ask for the Head of Faculty in that subject area;
- For other matters, please describe your situation to our reception staff and they will direct you to the appropriate member of staff.

Please remember that many of our staff are also teachers which means that they will not be able to make immediate responses due to their teaching commitments. We aim to respond to all queries within 2 working days; for more complex queries this initial contact may be a holding response whilst we look into your concerns. If your concern is more urgent, please explain that when you make contact.

I hope that you have a lovely weekend and enjoy the sunshine!

Rachel Purnell
Headteacher

Academy Calendar: Key Upcoming Events

Week	Date in September	Event	Location Timing	Staff Contact
1	Friday 8th	Student Leaders' Training		Mr Mitchell
2	Tuesday 12th	Individual Photographs (Year 7 and Year 9 only)	PA2	Mrs Bevan
2	Wednesday 13th	Year 10 Information Evening	PA2, 6pm-7pm	Mr Musson
2	Thursday 14th	Year 7 Meet the Tutors	PA2, 4.30-5.30pm	Ms Hirst
2	Wednesday 20th	Year 11 Moving On Evening	PA2, 6pm - 8pm	Mrs Watson

Notices

From the Safeguarding Team

Welcome to the safeguarding section of the Family Bulletin. We aim to bring you all the latest, relevant help and advice on Safeguarding issues we feel will be of importance to you.

Extra Curricular Clubs: Safety First

As the new school year is now under way, parents may well be looking for after-school clubs, theatre groups or sports' clubs. The DfE has a document that helps parents identify the safeguarding issues to consider when choosing a provider. Parents can access the guidance [here](#).

Keeping Children Safe in Education

Keeping Children Safe in Education is a statutory Department for Education document that all schools are required to follow when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. It covers many aspects of safeguarding, including different forms of abuse, early help processes, safe-recruitment, how concerns must be reported and the role of the Designated Safeguarding Leads.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is defined as:

- Protecting children from maltreatment
- Preventing impairment of children's mental and physical health or development
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes

Every summer the document is updated. This September the guidance includes information concerning how schools should use filtering and monitoring systems to make sure students are safe. Click [here](#) for the full document.

Are all your contact details up to date?

If you change your home phone/email/mobile number, please let the school know, so that we have the most up-to-date contact details.

Safeguarding Concerns: Who to Contact?

As a parent or carer you want to make sure that your children are safe, happy and well looked after, helping them to grow into confident young people. As professionals we are doing everything we should be to protect your child whilst in our care. The Ansford Safeguarding team have been trained to an advanced level on all aspects of safeguarding. The team is available to any student, parent or staff member to discuss or report any safeguarding concerns. If you do wish to speak to a member of our safeguarding team, their contact details are below.

Mrs Eleanor King eleanor.king@ansford.net

Deputy Headteacher: Welfare and Inclusion, Designated Safeguarding Lead

Ms Frances Hirst frances.hirst@ansford.net

Deputy Headteacher: Welfare and Inclusion, Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs Leanne Sweetlove leanne.sweetlove@ansford.net

Pastoral Lead Attendance: Intervention and Support, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mr Jake Higgins jake.higgins@ansford.net

Pastoral Lead Behaviour: Intervention and Support, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Students are also encouraged to speak to the team whenever they need help or guidance and over the next few weeks there will be assemblies explaining how they can do this and where they can go for support. We also have a dedicated email address where students can report a concern or ask for help if they feel this is easier than approaching a member of staff in the first instance. This is tellme@ansford.net

From Ms Hirst, Deputy Headteacher

Year 7 Families: 'Meet the Tutor' on Thursday 14th September 4.30 – 5.30pm

We are holding an event to enable the families of Year 7 students to come and meet their tutor on Thursday 14th September as they were unable to do this on transition day due to the industrial action that was taking place. Every family has been emailed with an invitation and asking them to indicate if they are able to attend or not. We are really looking forward to welcoming you all.

From Mr Mitchell, Assistant Headteacher

Great Start Back

In the first two days of term, our staff have recorded a staggering 2,900 reward points. Reading how our students are engaging with their learning, showing kindness and generally treating others with respect and excellent manners makes us feel immensely proud. Each week, a Student Bulletin is produced which encourages a sense of competition within tutor groups and year groups - it's a chance to publicly celebrate examples of superb conduct and pieces of work produced.

If your child has achieved success outside of school in areas such as sport, music, business ventures, or any club, we would love to hear about this. You can share such news via your child's tutor.

Class Charts

Now in its second year of usage, ClassCharts continues to serve as a vital communication tool between school and home. Regularly viewing the App (or website) will allow families to:

- Celebrate positive logs and comments added by staff
- View home learning tasks and deadlines
- View time tables
- Keep up to date with any behaviour or conduct concerns
- View conduct data across all lessons

This year, we have activated the comments section, which we hope will provide useful contextual information which allows families to address issues with greater knowledge. We have also moved our detention booking system onto ClassCharts which provides greater consistency and clarity of booking details, including the day, time and primary reason. Families will be alerted to these by receiving an email.

If you are unable to login to the App, or require your login details again, please contact Ms Morgan who looks after the administration of Class Charts via email: elizabeth.morgan@ansford.net

School Buses

This year, approximately two thirds of our students travel to and from the academy via our school buses. We are generally thrilled to see how our students interact with the driver and their peers and treat the vehicles with respect. On behalf of Somerset County Council (SCC), I would like to make the following expectations clear for all passengers.

- Students should not open and close vehicle doors (including tampering with emergency exit doors).
- Students must remain seated until the bus stops.
- All vehicles provided by SCC are fitted with seatbelts and these must be worn on every occasion.
- Students must only travel on the bus which they are registered on.
- The driver is in charge of the vehicle and will liaise with the school to report poor conduct, damage or refusal to comply with the information stated above.

Each vehicle has a trained Year 11 Bus leader, who will support the driver and academy to maintain good order and to support students in situations that may arise in the future, e.g. the vehicle breaking down or arriving late.

Uniform

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to all of the families who have secured the correct uniform for their children. Despite the unusual return adjustments for the heat, the vast majority have met our shared expectations. Due to the return to more normal temperatures next week, we will be expecting to see all students in full uniform from Monday 11th September.

Where any changes are needed to meet expectations our Pastoral Team will contact parents in due course to discuss the required changes. Corrections should be made as soon as possible. Please note that we do hold a stock of uniform, that is in excellent / clean condition, which students will be asked to change into in the near future. If you need to check the school uniform requirements they can be found [here](#)

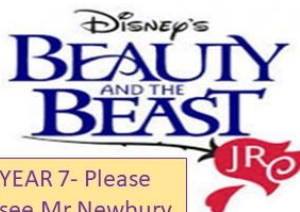
From Mrs Bevan, PA to the Headteacher

Year 7 and Year 9 Individual Photographs

These are taking place on Tuesday morning next week. If you haven't already completed the Google Form which was sent regarding the photos, please can you do so as soon as possible. The form can be found [here](#)

From Mr Newbury, Drama

Ansford Academy
proudly presents...



YEAR 7- Please see Mr Newbury in the Drama Studio 2pm on Monday 11th September if you want to be involved.

First Rehearsal

WHEN- Wednesday 13th September- 3.30pm-5.30pm

WHO- All performing cast required.

WHERE- Meet in the Drama studio after school

WHAT- rehearsing the opening song- 'Belle'

WHY- Because it will be so much fun!

From Ms Hester, Chaplain

Christian Fellowship

All students are warmly invited to the launch of Christian Fellowship, Thursday lunchtimes at 12.45pm in the Chaplaincy space (Hub 2) . This is a good opportunity to meet with others as we share and talk about Christianity and life today as a Christian. This group is open to all those who have faith and none. It will be friendly and informal; students are welcome to bring in their lunch.

Canteen Accounts

Please make sure you top up your child's account! Our new tariff is attached below.

TARIFF BOARD

LUNCH

MAIN MEAL (FSM) - HOT	£2.30
MAIN MEAL (FSM) - COLD	£2.30
HOT DESSERT	£1.10
PIZZA SLICE VEG	£1.50
PIZZA SLICE MEAT	£1.60
JACKET POTATO & 1 FILLING	£2.00
PANINI (FROM)	£2.20
HOMEBAKE	£1.20
COOKIE	£1.10

DRINKS

WATER	£0.95
CAPRI SUN	£1.50
MILKSHAKE	£1.15
RADNOR FIZZ	£1.05
RADNOR LARGE	£1.10
JUICE SHOTS	£0.50

ALL DAY

SANDWICHES FROM	£2.00
BAGUETTES FROM	£2.00
WRAPS FROM	£2.00
JELLY POTS	£0.75
FRUIT POTS	£1.00
DESSERT POTS	£1.25
SAUSAGE ROLLS	£2.00
CROISSANT	£1.45
PAIN AU CHOCOLAT	£1.35
WAFFLE	£1.60
PASTA	£1.90
PASTA, SAUCE & CHEESE	£2.60
BURGER FROM	£2.20

ALLERGIES

PLEASE SPEAK TO A MEMBER OF STAFF IF YOU HAVE AN ALLERGY AND NEED TO KNOW WHAT'S INSIDE OUR FOOD DISHES. THEY WILL ADVISE YOU OF YOUR AVAILABLE CHOICES.

From Mr Farrant, Facilities

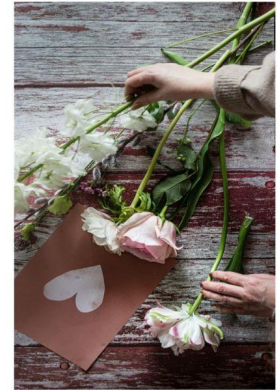


Ansford Academy



In Bloom

Flower Arranging Evening



Tickets

£10

Per person

By

Flowers & Home *Somerset*

14th September 23

7PM

Ansford Academy

In Support of the Academy Production of *Beauty and the Beast*

Tickets on sale at the Flowers & Home *Somerset* Shop or Mrs Pinnions at Ansford Academy



Community News

Current Vacancies

For more information on any of the vacancies listed below, please visit the school website and access the vacancies page or click on the links below.

Governor Vacancy



Would you like to shape the future of our thriving academy?

Vacancies have arisen for a Parent Governor on the governing body.

Becoming a school governor is a rewarding and challenging role and will allow you the opportunity to use your skills and attributes to have a positive impact on the education of all the students in our school. Governors work closely together and play a vital role in the strategic direction of the school, working with the Principal and other senior members of staff to ensure that each of our students can reach their potential and be the best they can be. You will be able to develop and learn new skills in a board-level environment, take on different challenges and work as part of an established and successful Governing Board.

Governors need not be experts in the field of education. What they do need is an interest in the school and the welfare of its students, together with the time, energy and willingness to get involved. As well as attending Full Board meetings, attendance at committee meetings is also required. The frequency of meetings, and therefore the time commitment, has recently been reduced.

We are particularly interested in self-nominations and expressions of interest from individuals with experience and skills in the following areas:

- Finance
- Leadership

Contacting Us

If you are interested in becoming a governor and would like further information please contact our Clerk clerk.governors@ansford.net

Do you have the time and skills to be an examinations invigilator?

We are seeking to expand our team of invigilators, who work with us on a casual contract basis to support the Examinations Office in the running of internal and external examinations.

For more information and how to apply, see the vacancies page on our website:
<http://www.ansford.org.uk/vacancies>

Ansford Academy, Wootton Bassett Lane, Castle Cary, Somerset, BA7 7JH
Tel: 01963 350895
Email: mailbox@ansford.net

For further information on vacancies please click on the link below.

<https://www.ansford.org.uk/vacancies>