

Bulletin for Ansford Families

Issue 11: 10th March 2023

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Families

As you will be aware from previous communications, the next two days of strike action for the NEU (largest teaching union) will be taking place on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March. There are some changes to the arrangements on this occasion and a separate letter will be sent to families detailing the arrangements so please look out for that in your inbox.

It was a pleasure to see so many parents attending the Year 8 Parents' Evening (either virtually or in person) this week. There was a really positive feeling and parents commented on the "lovely buzz" that the face to face event creates. The flexibility of the hybrid model is working really well and we are seeing higher attendance figures as a result.

We are looking forward to our next INSET day on Monday. The day is focused on key areas of our school improvement priorities and includes sessions on aspects of SEND, whole school behaviour management systems and the development of a range of teaching and learning approaches.

We will be finishing the week with a MUFTI day on Friday to raise money for Comic Relief. Mr Mitchell has been working with the student council to develop a plan for MUFTI days which is linked to local and national fundraising initiatives and there is more information about that later in this bulletin.

Have a lovely weekend

Rachel Purnell
Headteacher

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. 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.

Report a student absence by phone: 01963 350 895 or by email attendanceofficer@ansford.net

Contact the Academy by phone: 01963 350 895 or by email mailbox@ansford.net

Academy Calendar: Key Upcoming Events				
Week	Date in March	Event	Location Timing	Staff Contact
2	Monday 13th	Staff INSET	School closed for all students	
2	Wednesday 15th	Strike Action for Teachers in NEU	Further information has been sent by letter.	
	Thursday 16th		ONLY Year 10, Year 11 and identified vulnerable students in school	
2	Friday 17th	MUFTI Day (wear 1 item of red)	Raising funds for Comic Relief	Mr Mitchell
1	Thursday 23rd	Year 7 Parents' Evening	4.15pm - 7.00pm Virtual or Face to Face - information to follow	Mrs Dyal Mr Musson
2	Friday 31st	Ski Trip Departs		Mrs Wood
Monday 3rd April		Start of Easter Break		
Week	Date in April	Event	Location Timing	Staff Contact
1	Monday 17th	Start of Term 5	All students return to school	

Regular Notices

From Assembly Themes		
13th-17th Mar	Safeguarding - Child on Child Abuse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An introduction to what child on child is Understanding the impact of bullying Understanding personal responsibility to report Understanding the support systems provided 	DSL & team
Mother's Day (19 March)		
20th-24th Mar	Careers - Understanding Apprenticeships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guest speakers from the apprenticeship service Understanding what apprenticeships are Exploring the wide range of careers Addressing myths/stereotypical thinking 	HoY/ASK
Ramadan begins (23 March)		
27th-31st Mar	Achievement Assembly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject/Tutor group winners Top 5 girls/boys Tutor group winners Individual accolades/achievements 	HoY

Report a student absence by phone: 01963 350 895 or by email attendanceofficer@ansford.net

Contact the Academy by phone: 01963 350 895 or by email mailbox@ansford.net

From the Safeguarding Team

Wellbeing

Please find [here](#) a letter from Somerset County Council about a wellbeing survey that schools are asked to carry out. Students will be given time to complete the survey by the end of May and we will report the outcomes to you once they have been sent to us. This is part of a much larger programme about wellbeing which will include a series of lessons that students will be part of, a tutorial programme during the month of June, extra curricular activities, workshops in Year 7 and a parents' information evening for all year groups about Emotion Coaching to help support children at home. If any parent is interested in being part of a Wellbeing Action Group then please email frances.hirst@ansford.net.

PACE – Parents Against Child Exploitation

We have a representative from Escapelines, a charity committed to the prevention of child exploitation across the South West coming into school to speak with parents and answer any questions you may have about this topic. [Here](#) you can see the parent pack that they have provided in advance. This will take place on Tuesday 28th March at 5.30pm – 6.30pm in PA2. We are looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible. County Lines and Child Exploitation are something that all parents need to be aware of so they recognise the signs and intervene should their child be affected by this. Both the police and Escapelines emphasise that any child can be drawn into this no matter their background or upbringing so want to be able to inform all parents of what to look out for. We very much hope that our students do not come into contact with any of these issues but are conscious that by informing students, staff and parents we may be able to spot any concerns as soon as possible and intervene immediately.

From Mr Mitchell, Assistant Headteacher: Community and Conduct

Learning Behaviour Focus

Our fantastic student council team were tasked to identify a core value which the entire academy would promote, practise and be rewarded for when seen and carried out. This 1/2 term kindness was chosen and we are thrilled to see how many acts of kindness are carried out across the Academy every day. Having explored ideas for how students could show this within lessons, more and more are being rewarded for actions which demonstrate a genuine willingness to support staff, their peers and the wider community.

Mufti Days

Thanks again to our student council team who have coordinated and selected a series of charities to raise funds for. We have opted to split our days to support national events, but also local charities who operate within our immediate area, including an event for Cary Cares in May. Our first fundraising MUFTI day is on **FRIDAY 17th March**, raising funds for Comic Relief Pupils are welcome to wear their own clothes [ideally one item being RED]. We ask for a donation of approximately £1 which can be paid online via School Gateway in advance or with cash on the day.

Student Tour Guides

A team of outstanding Year 9 and 10 pupils, nominated by staff, have undertaken a training package to become student tour guide ambassadors. These students play a vital role in recruitment events and helping to manage events where guest speakers and other visitors are working at the academy. Student ambassadors aim to represent our ethos and explain to guests the functionality of different areas within the academy.

Year 10 Prefect Applications

We are thrilled to announce that the window for senior and subject prefects is now open. Ms Mallord addressed the year group in assembly on Wednesday to talk about what for many young people is an excellent opportunity to show and develop their leadership and management capabilities. Becoming a prefect is also a mark of the many years of dedication and participation they have put into their education and extracurricular activities. The application deadline is March 20th.

Report a student absence by phone: 01963 350 895 or by email attendanceofficer@ansford.net

Contact the Academy by phone: 01963 350 895 or by email mailbox@ansford.net

Year 11 Prom Committee

We are incredibly impressed with the efforts of the prom committee team who have organised and led a number of in school events to raise funds for their end of year prom. To date, £450 has been raised - further events are planned. These funds will help to reduce the overall ticket price for every member, ensuring as many as possible are able to enjoy the event.

From Mrs Switzer, Geography Teacher

Easter Bingo Event

The prom committee is holding an Easter Bingo event. Please see [this flyer](#) for more information.

Year 10 Geography Field Trip

Year 10 geography field trip to Bristol is on Friday 24th March. All the details have been sent out, the closing date is 17th March. **All Year 10 Geography students need to attend as this is a compulsory element of the GCSE course.**

Year 11 Prom

This will be held on Thursday 6th July 2023 from 7pm. Venue is: Holbrook Manor, Wincanton. £5 deposit to be paid via School Gateway by Friday 17th March

From Mrs Uffendell, English Teacher

World Book Day

Last week marked formally celebrated reading on World Book Day. To celebrate the joy of reading at Ansford Academy, students are invited to mark this occasion by creating a character from a book - this can be in the form of a Lego build, creating a vegetable version of your chosen character, a painting, drawing, clay or toilet roll tube model - be as creative as you like! Simply take your creation to Mrs Uffendell in EN1 during break or lunch on Monday or Wednesday of next week to show off your work. Prizes and achievement points are up for grabs!

You can access your £1 book token here: [World Book Day 2023 Book Token](#)

A list of participating retailers can also be found here: [World Book Day 2023 Participating Retailers](#)

From Mrs Kenchington, Head of World Studies

GCSEpod Key Stage 4

We had some problems with our subscription over the weekend. These have now been solved and GCSEpod should be working again. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Report a student absence by phone: 01963 350 895 or by email attendanceofficer@ansford.net

Contact the Academy by phone: 01963 350 895 or by email mailbox@ansford.net

From Mr Hill, Science Teacher

'The Parent Edition: LCR Careers in the Gaming Industries'

All About STEM/All About Futures is excited to be hosting 'The Parent Edition: LCR Careers in the Gaming Industries' on behalf of the [Liverpool City Region Careers Hub](#). Parents, and their young person, are invited to join an online webinar on **Wednesday 30th March from 6-7pm** to hear from an incredible group of industry-leading, Liverpool City Region-based gaming companies, including:

- [Avalanche Studio Group](#)
- [D3T](#)
- [Lucid Games](#)
- [Ripstone](#)
- [Scenegraph Studios](#)
- [Skyhook Games](#)
- [Usspeaking](#)
- [Wushu Studios](#)

Representatives from the eight companies involved will be discussing their sector and exploring the variety of job roles and entry routes available. There will also be an opportunity for attendees to post questions to the panel about working in the gaming industry. Register in advance to attend using this link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Neiw7kCcTXuhRP3uk32eiA

From the Caterlink Team

Top up Balances

Please could parents check that their child's account balance has been topped up. The team tries hard to make sure every child has something to eat but there are currently quite a few accounts with a negative balance on their food accounts.

From Ms Watson, Careers Adviser

Year 10 Work Experience

The deadline for submission of placement details is now **Monday 24th April 2023**. If you have secured a place but are yet to notify us, please do this as soon as possible so the place can be booked, checked and paperwork completed. If you are unsure of your options and would like support, please email Wendy who will arrange to see you after half term.

Report a student absence by phone: 01963 350 895 or by email attendanceofficer@ansford.net

Contact the Academy by phone: 01963 350 895 or by email mailbox@ansford.net

From Mrs Marshfield, Head of Creative Arts

The Ansford Academy Choir



Come and join the new
Ansford Academy Choir, bring
your lunch for a weekly
singing sesh!

When:
Wednesday lunchtime
(1:45-2:20)

Where: PA1

Who: Mrs Marshfield

From SEND Department

Homework Support Club

Struggling to get homework completed? Need help with a particular piece of homework? We will be offering a Homework Support Club in the Intervention Room from 8.50 - 9.20. Ansford's amazing teaching assistants will be on hand to support you with your homework and there might even be a cup of tea and a biscuit available! No need to book, just come along to the Intervention Room.

SEND News

Please see the link below for the latest edition of SEND News, with updates for children and young people aged 0-25 with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND), their families and professionals in Somerset.

<https://beta.somerset.gov.uk/education-and-families/the-local-offer/>

From Mr Kershaw, Head of Science

STEM Festival

Ansford Academy will be taking part in a very exciting STEM festival (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths). This is the first time such an event has taken place in Somerset. The Academy will be hosting a number of exhibitors, including organisations like Thales, Royal Navy, Leonardo Helicopters, along with many other companies who are involved in STEM fields. This is an amazing opportunity to find out about the high tech and groundbreaking organisations in the local area, with the hope of opening the eyes of, and inspiring the young people of Somerset to amazing career openings that exist in our part of the world.

The event is being held on Monday 1st May 2023 at locations in Castle Cary, Bruton and the surrounding area. Here is the website to showcase the event which is free of charge: <https://somerscience.co.uk/>

Report a student absence by phone: 01963 350 895 or by email attendanceofficer@ansford.net

Contact the Academy by phone: 01963 350 895 or by email mailbox@ansford.net

From Modern Foreign Languages Department



MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES CLUBS IN WS1 LUNCH 13.50-14.20
French KS3 Wednesday week 1
Spanish KS3 Wednesday week 2
French KS4 Thursday week 1-2
Thanks to come along and enjoy
cooking, games, films, food tasting
music , crafts.... Bring your lunch.
Merci Adios NK

From Maths and Computer Department

Extra-curricular activities

Mathematics and Computing

Autumn 2022

Your weekly timetable of extra-curricular activities

	Tutor Time 09.00 – 09.20	Lunchtime 13.45 – 14.30	After School 15.30 – 16.30
Monday	Numeracy Mentors Ms Buckley MA2	KS3 Homework Club Mrs Withers MA5 (Wk 1)	NO CLUBS – STAFF MEETINGS
Tuesday	Numeracy Mentors Ms Buckley MA2	Sudoku Club Mrs Withers MA5 (Wk 2)	Minecraft Club Miss Worthy-Jarvis IT1
Wednesday	Numeracy Mentors Ms Buckley MA2	Maths Logic Challenge Mrs Piper MA4	
Thursday	Numeracy Mentors Ms Buckley MA2	Higher Paper Drop-In Session in MA3 with Ms Harris and Mr Musson	Year 11 GCSE Maths Intervention/Revision and Support Foundation Paper in MA5 with Mrs Withers and Mrs Piper Higher Paper in MA3 with Ms Harris and Mr Musson (please check the calendar)
Friday	Numeracy Mentors Ms Buckley MA2	KS3 Games and Chess Club Mr Wong in MA2 Drop in to The Learning Bridge with Ms Buckley	

From Year 11 Team

Year 11 Intervention/Revision/Support/Catch-up Timetable

Starts Monday 12th September

	Lunchtime (1:45pm - 2:30pm)	After School (3:30pm - 4:30pm)
Monday	Spanish: In WS3 with Miss Kenchington	
Tuesday	Art & Photography: In AR1 with Mrs Reddick	Science: In SC1 with Mr Kershaw, Mr Cocks and Miss Mascall PE/Sports Studies: In IT2 with Mrs Wood, Mr Darby and Mr Hill Citizenship: In WS4 with Mr Willson
Wednesday	Geography: In WS3 with Ms Perkins (2-2:30pm)	English: In EN5 with Mr Noott, Mrs Uffendell, Mrs Hardy-Stewart, Ms Mallord
Thursday	Design & Technology: In DT2 with Mr Oats	Maths: Foundation Tier in MA5 with Mrs Withers & Mrs Piper Higher Tier in MA3 with Miss Harris & Mr Musson RE: In WS4 with Mr Willson

Report a student absence by phone: 01963 350 895 or by email attendanceofficer@ansford.net

Contact the Academy by phone: 01963 350 895 or by email mailbox@ansford.net

Friday	History In WS4 with Mrs Kenchington	
---------------	---	--

Community News

Cary-Mufulira Community Partnership Trust (CMCPT)

Zambia Exchange 30th Anniversary

Many of you will be aware of our school's pivotal role in creating the longstanding link between the communities of Castle Cary and Mufulira, which started in 1994. Some of you may also have been directly involved as pupils or staff on one of the many exchange visits and if so, the Cary-Mufulira Community Partnership Trust (CMCPT) would like to hear from you, as they would like to bring together all exchange participants in a 'Virtual World', to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the link.

Leading this project is CMCPT founding Chairman, Steve Curtis, who is already in contact with the Mufulira Secondary School Alumni and if you were once an exchange pupil or teacher and would like to re-connect with partners, friends and staff, ***please email Steve at: - steve.curtis@avonreflections.co.uk***

Steve will then give you joining instructions for the CMCPT Virtual World.

Somerset County Council

Somerset Food Champion

As part of our partnership work with Food for Life/Soil Association, the Zing Service of Public Health, Somerset County Council, is launching the Somerset Food Champion Network training, see details attached.

The training offers practical cooking sessions to encourage and enable healthier eating choices with the cost-of-living-crisis in mind. Adopting a train-the-trainer approach, participants are offered training and support as Food Champions to promote the importance of low-cost, nutritious (nutritionally balanced) and seasonal food for healthier eating. The Network serves as a platform for ongoing support and co-learning through collective reflection and sharing of knowledge and best practices.

What is the role of a Somerset Food Champion?

A Food Champion passes on food knowledge and practical skills in group settings for others to learn, cook and share together for confidence building. Evidence shows that people are more likely to make changes to their eating habits and try new foods if they cook the dishes for themselves. Cooking together and sharing what is made is an effective tool in promoting healthier eating.

A Food Champion enables local communities to gain the knowledge, practical skills, and confidence that would make a real difference to their range of food choices, eating habits, and where sustained, an improvement in health and wellbeing in the long-term.

The Somerset Food Champions are offered various types of support from the Zing Service and its valued partnership network. The types of support are reviewed continually to make sure that they are appropriate for the needs of the Champions to support and sustain their role. The current support ranges from free training and a Somerset Food Champion Certificate of Completion to free promotional resources such as recipe and food growing cards and

Report a student absence by phone: 01963 350 895 or by email attendanceofficer@ansford.net

Contact the Academy by phone: 01963 350 895 or by email mailbox@ansford.net

healthier lifestyle leaflets.

After training, the Somerset Food Champions will form part of the growing network of champions across Somerset. The aim of the Somerset Food Champion Network is to co-learn, share resources, and reflect on learnings, and to build knowledge, skills, and confidence in promoting nutritionally balanced foods to support a healthier lifestyle and reduce the risk of lifestyle diseases. Quarterly network meetings (a mix of online and face-to-face) will be arranged by the Zing Service.

Who can become a Somerset Food Champion?

Trainees will be recruited via organisations with providers representing and serving communities across Somerset – particularly people most vulnerable and at risk. These providers will include, for example, Health Coaches, Social Prescribers (including Village Agents and Community Connectors), registered Volunteers, and employees interested in workplace wellbeing. If you are not registered with an organisation, then please contact us for guidance.

If you are interested in becoming a Somerset Food Champion, please see [this flyer](#) for more information on how to apply.

The Zing team look forward to hearing from you!

Victoria Carnegie

Health Promotion Practitioner

Healthy Lifestyle Service

Email: healthierlifestyle@somerset.gov.uk

Bruton Community

Bruton Spring Clean

On Saturday 11th March there will be a 'Bruton Spring Clean', with volunteers litter picking in and around Bruton. If you would like to get involved or need more information please click [here](#)

Current Vacancies

Report a student absence by phone: 01963 350 895 or by email attendanceofficer@ansford.net

Contact the Academy by phone: 01963 350 895 or by email mailbox@ansford.net

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, Weymouth Lane, Castle Cary, Somerset, BA7 7JJ
Tel: 01963 350895
Email: mailbox@ansford.net

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

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

Report a student absence by phone: 01963 350 895 or by email attendanceofficer@ansford.net

Contact the Academy by phone: 01963 350 895 or by email mailbox@ansford.net