

# Bulletin for Ansford Families

Issue 12: 24th March 2023

## Message from the Headteacher

Dear Families

We had quite an unusual week last week: it started with a really useful INSET day for teachers which was focused on key areas of our school improvement priorities, including sessions on aspects of SEND, whole school behaviour management systems and the further development of a range of teaching and learning approaches. This was followed by one 'normal' day in school before the next two days of strike action by the NEU. We were pleased that we were able to offer on site provision for both our Year 10 and Year 11 students and we worked hard to make their experience as valuable and purposeful as possible. The final day of the week ended with our first MUFTI day for a long time; thank you to all families who were able to make a contribution as we raised almost £500 for Comic Relief which is brilliant. Our next MUFTI event will support a local charity which will again be decided through our Student Council.

Year 7 Parents attended their first parents' evening at Ansford this week which is another important milestone, especially for those families who are new to Ansford. These events really help families to get to know the school and build a real sense of community. We are really pleased that the 'hybrid' model has worked so well this year - as ever, if you have any suggestions for how it might be improved further, please do let us know.

Our Year 11 students are now moving into the final stages of their school career at Ansford and it is a really busy time for them as well as one that is packed with many emotions related to exams, endings and new beginnings. There are lots of revision sessions that are ongoing and invitations will also be sent out shortly for our Easter Revision Conference in the holidays. We hope that our Year 11 students make the most of these opportunities that are on offer. The Prom Committee have also been busy organising lots of fundraising events so that they can reduce the price of the tickets for all. These have included more cake sales, selling refreshments at Year 7 Parents' Evening and the most exciting of all... the Easter Bingo event. Many thanks to Mrs Switzer and Mrs Martin who are supporting them with these events.

Since the last Family Bulletin, we have offered a variety of different enrichment activities. Mr Hill organised and led two different STEM activities: an Engineering Challenge day organised by the Fleet Air Arm Museum and a visit to Yeovilton Navy Air base for the STEM Club who participated in the regional heats of the Flying Start Challenge. Mr Hill was really impressed by the students' conduct and the way that they worked together in the tasks; they were great Ansford Ambassadors. Students from all year groups have participated in the Spring Interform competition where they were able to participate in one of the following: netball, basketball and capture the flag. Mrs Switzer and Mr Cue accompanied our Year 10 Geographers to Bristol this week for their Field Work which is a compulsory part of the GCSE course. Ms Mallord has also launched the application process for our Student Leaders in Year 10; our student leaders make such a fantastic contribution to the Academy and also develop many personal skills and qualities whilst doing so - we are hoping to see lots of applications for this important role.

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.

## Academy Calendar: Key Upcoming Events

Week	Date in March	Event	Location Timing	Staff Contact
2	Friday 31st	Ski Trip Departs		Mrs Wood
Monday 3rd April		<b>Start of Easter Break</b>		
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

27th-31st Mar	<b>Achievement Assembly</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Subject/Tutor group winners</li> <li>● Top 5 girls/boys</li> <li>● Tutor group winners</li> </ul>	HoY
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual accolades/achievements</li> </ul>	
17th-21st Apr	<b>Headteacher's Address</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome back/celebration of last term</li> <li>• Challenging yourself to participate with enrichment</li> <li>• How to reflect on personal gains/failures</li> <li>• Key expectations/re-sharing the vision</li> </ul>	HT
<b>St George's Day (23 April)</b>		
24th-28th Apr	<b>Ethos - Pride in Ansford</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why Ansford is a school to be proud of</li> <li>• Exploring the opportunities/industry within the local area</li> <li>• Sharing examples of alumni success</li> <li>• Student leadership success stories/applications</li> </ul>	AHT

### From the Safeguarding Team

#### Safeguarding assemblies

The safeguarding assemblies this term have included information on child-on-child abuse and online safety. We are promoting our new email address [tellme@ansford.net](mailto:tellme@ansford.net) as a way for any student to report anything that has happened to them that has made them feel unhappy or uncomfortable. Bullying of any nature is completely unacceptable but, should it happen, we would want students to report it so we can deal with it immediately. We want students to report openly and encourage students to tell any adult in school as they will help them and get a resolution but students can report anonymously if they wish.

The assembly also sought to help students to recognize bullying; we are using STOP as a tool – this stands for anything that happens Several Times On Purpose and these are the instances that need to be reported. We are focusing on them to Start Telling Other People and have this signage as a reminder in every tutor group (see [this link](#) and [this poster](#)). We have also provided a list of apps and websites that students can contact if they want to seek any support outside school and have included this as part of the Bulletin (please see [here](#)); these are also in every tutor group.



**SOMERSET BIG TENT** Please could I make you aware of the Somerset Big Tent link which you can find [here](#). Somerset Big Tent is a partnership of Charities, Charitable Incorporated Organisations and Community Interest Companies. These are organisations that provide a range of services including positive activities, therapeutic services and specialist support to increase positive wellbeing and improve mental health within children and young people aged 5-25 in Somerset. All services on the Somerset Big Tent website have gone through a quality and safety assurance process, this means that Somerset Big Tent has met with each organisation and are satisfied

with the key documents and information that they have provided them with.

Why use Somerset Big Tent?

- Everything in one place.
- Accessible for all.
- Quality Assured.
- A wide range of support methods including online services.
- Up to date information including contact information and waiting times.
- Options to filter by support need and area, tailored to your requirements.

#### **Easter Raffle**

One of our Year 9 students wanted to raise money and contribute towards the memorial for Glenn Tracey, our IT manager who sadly passed away this term. He is organising a raffle for an Easter Egg hamper, tickets cost 50p each and will be sold during tutor times, breaks and lunchtimes; the winning ticket will be drawn on the last day of term, Friday 31 st March.

#### **From Mr Mitchell, Assistant Headteacher: Community and Conduct**

##### **Red Nose Day**

A huge thank you to all of the students and members of staff who joined the nationwide fund raising effort in aid of Red Nose Day, who this year are dedicating funds to supporting families and local charities hit hardest by the cost of living increases. Details of future charitable events will be shared after Easter.

##### **Kindness Focus**

This half term, we launched a school wide initiative to promote and reward students for their kind acts in lessons and across the community. We have been absolutely thrilled to read the hundreds of logs added by staff describing the fantastic acts our students do every day. Even small acts such as holding the door open for a member of staff or assisting with resources in lessons role model to others the power of being kind for others around you.

##### **Student Leaders Applications**

We were delighted to see a number of our Year 10 pupils complete application forms. Ms Mallord will publish details about the next stages which will include interviews, and for those who wish to apply for the most senior positions, a presentation. Students will be supported in their preparation and we look forward to hearing about their plans for the role and their futures.

##### **Year 11 Calendar Overview**

With so many deadlines, exam dates, lunchtime activities and after school revision sessions to recall, it's understandable that year 11 students may be feeling a little overwhelmed. To reduce this concern, all students were given a one page overview document which details everything that they need to know. Tutors have guided students through these to ensure each person is aware of key dates and the importance of planning during this period of time.

#### **From Mrs Martin, Finance Manager**

##### **Year 11 Prom**

We are continuing with our Year 11 Prom Fundraising and have two events coming up:

**Easter Bingo** - Wednesday 29th March in Ansford Sports Hall. Doors Open 6.30pm, eyes down 7.00pm. Lots of

wonderful Easter treats to be won, plus a raffle with fabulous prizes.  
Refreshments will be provided by students raising money towards their Kenya trip.  
This is a cash only event so please bring your money along to enjoy a fun evening's entertainment!

**Hot Dog Sale** - Friday 31st March - on sale at lunchtime outside DT1 for £1.50 each - cash only. The price includes a delicious hot dog freshly cooked, served with optional extras of onions, mustard and ketchup!

### From Mrs Kenchington, Head of World Studies

#### Year 11 Easter Revision Conference

There will be Easter revision sessions for a number of GCSE subjects during the second week of the Easter holidays. These are targeted sessions. Parents will be informed via letter this week if their child has a place in some of these sessions.

### From Mrs Swallow, Art Teacher

#### Year 10 Ceramics

The beautiful Year 10 Kate Malone inspired pots completed their final glaze firing this week. The results are so amazing and inspiring. Well done Year 10.



### From Mr Hill, Science Teacher and STEM Coordinator

#### STEM activities

Last week a number of our Year 8, 9 and 10 students took part in a range of STEM activities. On Wednesday and Friday two groups of students took part in an Engineering Challenge day organised by the Fleet Air Arm Museum. The main part of the challenge involved the design, construction, testing and marketing of a self-levelling aircraft carrier deck. Both groups of students performed extremely well in the challenges. It was fantastic to see how the two teams worked together to find a solution.

On Thursday the STEM club students went off the Yeovilton Navy Air base for the regional heats of the Flying Start Challenge. This challenge was based around teams of students designing and constructing a glider. The ten Year 8 students have been working with Engineering graduates from Leonardo Helicopters over the last few months. During the day the teams had to present their design ideas, take part in a quiz and fly their gliders in the helicopter hanger next to the runway. They also got the opportunity to have a look round the Merlin 101 and the

Wildcat helicopters.

Later in the year there are a number of other challenge days that will bring in the expertise of the Smallpeace Trust and a sustainable energy challenge.

### '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](#)
- [Scenegrph 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](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Neiw7kCcTXuhRP3uk32eiA)

### From Mrs 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.

### 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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/>

**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/>

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# 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 - new Maths and Computing times for after the Easter break

<b>Mathematics and Computing</b>		<b>Summer 2023</b>	
Your weekly timetable of extra-curricular activities			
	<b>Tutor Time</b> 09.00 – 09.20	<b>Lunchtime</b> 13.45 – 14.30	<b>After School</b> 15.30 – 16.30
<b>Monday</b>	Numeracy Mentors Ms Buckley MA2	KS3 Homework Club (Wk 1) Mrs Withers MA5	NO CLUBS – STAFF MEETINGS
<b>Tuesday</b>	Numeracy Mentors Ms Buckley MA2	KS3 Homework Club (Wk 2) Mrs Withers MA5	Minecraft Club Miss Worthy-Jarvis IT1
<b>Wednesday</b>	Numeracy Mentors Ms Buckley MA2	Problem Solving Club Mrs Piper MA4	
<b>Thursday</b>	Numeracy Mentors Ms Buckley MA2		<b>Year 11</b> 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  From Thursday 9th June this will become Year 10 GCSE Maths Intervention/Revision and Support
<b>Friday</b>	Numeracy Mentors Ms Buckley MA2	KS3 Games and Chess Club Mr Wong in MA2	

## From Year 11 Team

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

Starts Monday 12th September

	<b>Lunchtime</b> (1:45pm - 2:30pm)	<b>After School</b> (3:30pm - 4:30pm)
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Spanish:</b> In WS3 with Miss Kenchington	
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Art &amp; Photography:</b> In AR1 with Mrs Reddick	<b>Science:</b> In SC1 with Mr Kershaw, Mr Cocks and Miss Mascall <b>PE/Sports Studies:</b> In IT2 with Mrs Wood, Mr Darby and Mr Hill <b>Citizenship:</b> In WS4 with Mr Willson
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Geography:</b>	<b>English:</b>

	In WS3 with Ms Perkins (2-2:30pm)	In EN5 with Mr Noott, Mrs Uffendell, Mrs Hardy-Stewart, Ms Mall
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Design &amp; Technology:</b> In DT2 with Mr Oats	<b>Maths:</b> Foundation Tier in MA5 with Mrs Withers & Mrs Piper Higher Tier in MA3 with Miss Harris & Mr Musson <b>RE:</b> In WS4 with Mr Willson
<b>Friday</b>	<b>History</b> In WS4 with Mrs Kenchington	

## Community News

<b>Cary-Mufulira Community Partnership Trust (CMCPT)</b>
<p><b>Zambia Exchange 30th Anniversary</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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, <b><i>please email Steve at: - <a href="mailto:steve.curtis@avonreflections.co.uk">steve.curtis@avonreflections.co.uk</a></i></b></p> <p>Steve will then give you joining instructions for the CMCPT Virtual World.</p>

<b>Current Vacancies</b>
For more information on any of the vacancies listed below please visit the school website/vacancies page or click on the links below.
<a href="#">Head of Maths and Computing</a>
<a href="#">Head of Year (English Teacher)</a>
<a href="#">Teacher of Science (maternity cover)</a>

## 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](mailto: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, Manna Lane, Castle Cary, Somerset, BA7 7JH  
Tel: 01963 350895  
Email: [mailbox@ansford.net](mailto:mailbox@ansford.net)

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

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