

Bulletin for Ansford Families

Issue 13: 21st April 2023

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Families

I hope that you have all had a lovely break at Easter. In spite of the long delays at Dover at the start of the trip, students had a fantastic time on the school ski trip in the first week of the Easter break. I am really grateful to Mrs Wood and the team of staff who accompanied the trip and provided this opportunity for our young people. As usual, our students were great ambassadors for the school. You can see some photographs later in this bulletin. I would also like to thank the staff who gave up time in the Easter holiday to provide revision sessions for our Year 11 students. The sessions were well attended and of real benefit for students.

We have been really pleased to see students return so positively from their Easter break and standards of behaviour and conduct have been excellent, making this a great start to our final term of the academic year. In assemblies this week, we have focused on re-framing the way that we think about failures and mistakes in order to embrace them as part of our learning experiences which enable growth. This is at the core of our school values which have at their heart the idea that we are all working and learning to become the best version of ourselves that we can.

You may be aware from media reports that the NEU (largest teaching union) have scheduled two further days of strike action. These will be taking place on Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May. We are currently planning for these and a separate letter will be sent to families early next week detailing the arrangements for Thursday 27th so please look out for that in your inbox. We will try to accommodate as many year groups as we can manage safely, with Year 11 students remaining our priority. Many thanks for your ongoing patience and support.

Since the last edition of the Family Bulletin, we have said goodbye to some valued members of the Ansford team: Mrs Ruth Summerbell who has been working as a Teaching Assistant with our young people in The Learning Bridge; Miss Lauren Reid-Vaughan who has been working as our Attendance Officer providing important administration support with attendance; Mrs Amanda Uffendell who has played a key role developing our KS3 English provision and providing English related enrichment opportunities beyond the classroom, inspiring many Ansford students; Mrs Clare Kenchington who has worked at Ansford for over 8 years and has played a pivotal role in developing many aspects of the curriculum at departmental, faculty and whole school level, inspiring many students with a love of languages. I am sure that you will join me in wishing these staff the very best of luck in their next steps - for some this takes them outside of the world of education which is a great loss.

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 April	Event	Location Timing	Staff Contact
2	26th Apr	Year 4 Primary Sports Festival	1pm - 3pm, Sports Centre	Mrs Wood
2	27th Apr	NEU Strike Action		Mr Musson
Week	Date in May	Event	Location Timing	Staff Contact
1	1st May	Bank Holiday		
1	2nd May	NEU Strike Action		Mr Musson
2	8th May	Coronation Bank Holiday		

Regular Notices

From Assembly Themes		
24th-28th Apr	Ethos - Pride in Ansford <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why Ansford is a school to be proud of• Exploring the opportunities/industry within the local area• Sharing examples of alumni success• Student leadership success stories/applications	Mr Mitchell
2nd-5th May	British Values/Safeguarding <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An introduction to the 5 fundamental British values: Democracy, Rule of Law, Respect, Tolerance and Individual Liberty.• Understanding the role these play within modern Britain.	Mr Musson

[World Press Freedom Day](#) (3 May)

From the Safeguarding Team
Escapelines <p>We ended last term with some powerful assemblies by the Escapeline charity which students responded extremely well to. If this has raised discussion at home and you would like some more information about this then please find a parent pack here. Thank you to the parents that came to the evening session; I hope this was informative and useful.</p>
Mental Health Support <p>We have been promoting wellbeing and strategies that students can use to help them manage their emotions through PSHCE lessons. We have Mel Young who works with the Mental Health School's Team coming to give assemblies and workshops to students this term and she is also putting on an after school session for parents 'Introduction to Emotion Coaching' on Thursday 8th June at 5.30-6.30pm to provide information to you to support your children at home and builds on what they are learning about in school. In addition, we have new signage in classrooms for students to tell them about apps, websites and helplines which are aimed at providing support. These are attached to this bulletin and can be seen here.</p>

From SEND Department
Homework Support Club <p>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.</p>
SEND News <p>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/</p>

From Mr Mitchell, Assistant Headteacher: Community and Conduct

Uniform Reminder.

Please note that if your child wears a skirt to school, please remember that tight/stretchy/elasticated skirts are **not** permitted and skirts need to be of an appropriate length. Full details of our uniform policy and requirements are found on our website: https://www.ansford.org.uk/about_ansford/uniform

Year 11 Silent Study Base

We understand that it can be challenging for some to revise and prepare for exams at home with numerous distractions on hand. We are hosting a silent study room every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in IT2 after school between 3:30 - 4:30pm. Students do not need to book and are welcome to use this staffed base with full IT access.

Year 10 Student Leadership Recruitment

We are excited to begin the recruitment and training of our new student leadership team. A number of students have shown genuine interest in a number of roles including school wide positions, subject leaders, peer mentoring leaders and bus leaders. These are all excellent roles and provide students with first hand experience of leadership and management tasks, working alongside staff. I wish all candidates the very best of luck and look forward to working with them.

Year 7 and 8 lesson visits

Over the next two weeks, leaders across the academy will be visiting lessons to celebrate the excellent conduct and work produced by pupils. Celebrating success is at the core of the work we do as educators and staff are looking forward to visiting subjects outside of their own specialisms. Over the next few weeks, we will aim to capture photographs of work seen during our visits.

From Mrs Wood, Head of PE

Ansford Ski Trip 2023 - Saas Fee, Switzerland

After a gruelling 38 hour bus journey to the resort (following long delays at Dover port) we finally made it and had a brilliant time! Every student on the trip was a credit to Ansford (particularly given the long initial delays). Lots of students learned to ski for the first time, as well as some more experienced students enjoying some challenging slopes. As well as skiing, we enjoyed sledging, tobogganing, shopping, a movie night and pizza night. A big thank you goes to Mr Musson, Mr Cue, Mr Darby, Miss Worthy-Jarvis and Mrs Cole who gave up a week of their Easter holiday to help on the trip. We're already planning for 2024!



From Mr Noott, Head of English

Bedrock Stars

A Bedrock Stars prize draw is currently running! If students earn 120 Bedrock points between the dates of 17th April and 28th May, they are entered automatically into a draw to win a prize. Prizes include Amazon vouchers and a laptop. Last term, a Year 9 student was a proud winner of an Amazon voucher.

From Mrs Rice, English Teacher

Page-Turners

Mrs Rice will be running Page-Turners, a creative writing club, every Tuesday lunchtime in the Library. All students in Years 7-10 are welcome to come along to work on and discuss their own creative writing, enter competitions or simply read a book. There are so many budding authors at Ansford...we can't wait to discover them! Page-Turners will begin in the second week of term, Tuesday 25th April.

From Miss Worthy-Jarvis, IT teacher

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh

A reminder to all students taking part in the school run Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award that the training weekend is fast approaching - 29th and 30th April at Ansford Academy. Full kit is not required for this weekend but students will need walking boots for the practice walk on Sunday. A letter has been sent to parents with full details, including a permission slip.

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 Mrs Martin, Finance Manager

Year 11 Prom Committee Updates

Bingo Night

Many thanks to all those who came to our Bingo Night on 29th March, we had a really fun night and raised £300 towards our Prom.

Hot Dog Sale

Our final fundraising Hot Dog Sale will be on Friday 28th April. These will be sold outside DT1 at lunchtime for £1.50 cash only, this includes a Hot Dog served with onions, ketchup and mustard - they are delicious !!

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/>

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 Mr Kershaw, Head of Science

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From Maths and Computer Department

Extra-curricular activities - new Maths and Computing times for after the Easter break

Mathematics and Computing Summer 2023

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 (Wk 1) Mrs Withers MA5	NO CLUBS – STAFF MEETINGS
Tuesday	Numeracy Mentors Ms Buckley MA2	KS3 Homework Club (Wk 2) Mrs Withers MA5	Minecraft Club Miss Worthy-Jarvis IT1
Wednesday	Numeracy Mentors Ms Buckley MA2	Problem Solving Club Mrs Piper MA4	
Thursday	Numeracy Mentors Ms Buckley MA2		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 From Thursday 9th June this will become Year 10 GCSE Maths Intervention/Revision and Support
Friday	Numeracy Mentors Ms Buckley MA2	KS3 Games and Chess Club Mr Wong in MA2	

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 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 Mall
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
Friday	History In WS4 with Mrs Kenchington	

Community News

Current Vacancies

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

[Teacher of Science \(maternity cover\)](#)

[Attendance Officer with Pastoral Administration](#)

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, Kings 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>