

Bulletin for Ansford Families

Issue 14: 5th May 2023

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Families

I am very grateful for your continued support and patience as we manage the days of NEU Strike Action in school. We have tried to accommodate as many year groups in school as we can and, in line with government guidance, have prioritised our Year 11 students whilst also being able to accommodate some of our KS3 students to attend on a rotational basis. No further dates have been announced at this stage and we will keep you informed as we hear more.

The GCSE practical exams have already started and others will take place next week so the exam season will now feel very real for our Year 11 students. We wish them all the very best of luck as they prepare for and sit their exams.

Many thanks to Miss Worthy-Jarvis for organising and leading Duke of Edinburgh training weekend last weekend and to the other staff who supported the event. This is a fabulous opportunity for our students which equips them well to develop a range of life skills. You can find out a bit more later on in this Bulletin.

We have been really pleased that so many of our Year 10 students have put themselves forward for various roles as student leaders at Ansford - they make such a fantastic contribution to school life and we cannot wait for these positions to be filled and students to be active in their new roles. On a personal level, I have been privileged to be involved in the interview process for our new Head Students this week. All of the students interviewed performed really well and it was a privilege to hear them talk about their own personal experiences and how the school has supported them to grow and develop. We will share the outcomes with you in the next edition of the Family Bulletin.

Have a lovely weekend and I hope that you are able to enjoy the additional Bank Holiday.

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 May	Event	Location Timing	Staff Contact
2	8th May	Coronation Bank Holiday		
1	16th May	Summer Interform	Sports Hall	RW
2	22nd May	Year 8 exams start		
	29th May	Half Term		

Regular Notices

From Assembly Themes		
8th-12th May	<p>Mindfulness and positive self-esteem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the importance of maintaining/looking after our mental health • Understanding common triggers that cause a person to have low self esteem • Exploration of growth mindset thinking 	HoY
VE Day (8 May)		
15th-19th May	<p>Participation - life beyond the classroom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An introduction to the importance of building a strong CV • Looking at the opportunities in our area • Exploring the benefits of participating in clubs • Sharing alumni success stories 	Mr Cue
International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia (17 May)		

From Mrs Comyns, Business Manager
<p>Use of Aerosol Deodorants</p> <p>I would like to bring your attention to the fact that any aerosols, including spray deodorants and perfumes ,are banned items in the Academy and students are not able to bring these items into the Academy. Amongst both the staff and student body we have a number of severe asthmatics and use of these sprays can cause a severe, life-threatening asthma attack. This extends to the smell and particles lingering in the air a few minutes after a spray is used. Aerosols are also flammable and a risk to our fire protection and detection measures. Therefore, please can you ensure that your child <u>does not bring aerosols into school.</u> Incidents of use by students will result in confiscation of the item and may result in further consequences. Students will also be reminded of this rule through assemblies.</p>

From the Safeguarding Team
<p>Nikishan Martial Arts</p> <p>As you are aware, we have been working alongside Avon and Somerset Police on a variety of initiatives this academic year; the next project they have kindly funded is in conjunction with Nishikan Martial Arts to provide some personal safety classes taking place over the next half term. These are aimed at Year 9 and Year 10 girls in the first instance and will be delivered during PE lessons.</p>



Reminder: Parent Workshop on Mental Health and Wellbeing

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 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. No pre-booking is needed, all parents are welcome to attend.

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 Mitchell, Assistant Headteacher: Community and Conduct

School Blazers

All students are expected to wear their school blazer at all times with the exception of in lessons where the teacher has given permission, when eating in the canteen or if playing sport. As we begin to enjoy the warmer weather, students can begin to remove their jumpers which are worn underneath. Our blazer is a vital part of the Academy uniform.

Mobile Phones

We continue to be very impressed by the majority of students who adhere to the Academy's expectation that mobile phones are 'off and away' during school hours [08:30 - 15:30]. It is so important that our learners are able to detach from the distractions that mobiles offer, encouraging interaction and wellbeing.

When students are seen using their mobile phones, they are expected to hand this to the relevant member of staff who in turn passes it along to our re-tracking base. Students collect their phone from this room at the end of the school day.

If required, students are welcome to use the phones in reception should they need to contact parents/carers for issues such as topping up money for food or arranging alternative transport home. We kindly ask parents/carers **not** to message their children directly during the school day, this can be a source of distraction, disruption to learning and lead to their phone being confiscated.

Year 11 Exams

We would like to commend all of the Year 11 students who have already completed GCSE exams. This week Photography, 3D Design and PE students completed the practical elements and moderation activities required for their course.

With just one week remaining until the main exam season begins, we ask that all Year 11 parents/carers:

- Encourage your child to attend lunchtime and after school revision sessions
- Ensure they have a dedicated revision space, ideally free from distractions
- Ensure your child is revising during the evenings and weekends
- Contact relevant staff if unsure how to support your child to revise particular subjects
- Ensure your child arrives to school on time and in the correct uniform to ensure there are no delays to the exams

Science Festival

Ansford was proud to support the widely attended Science Festival held in Castle Cary on Monday 1st May. Our larger rooms provided ideal settings for a range of companies showcasing and demonstrating a range of experiments and services provided.

From Miss Worthy-Jarvis, Teacher of ICT

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Training Weekend

Twenty students who are completing their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh this year took part in a fun-filled bank holiday weekend to prepare themselves for their upcoming expedition. On Saturday, students had a long day of practical and theoretical training. They looked at how to navigate confidently by refreshing their Geography map reading skills, and also learned some new compass skills including the secondary intercardinal directions and how to take a bearing. Practical skills included how to set up their camp safely, first aid, what to do in an emergency, survival skills (the bivvy bags were an interesting exercise), and the highlight of the day - cooking a gourmet meal using Trangia stoves. On the very grey (but not too rainy) Sunday, students completed a 10 mile circular walk around the local area, climbing up and down many hills - perfect preparation for the Quantocks. For some groups this was closer to 12 miles due to some navigational errors, but all groups made it back before the expected arrival time. A big thank you goes to Mr Nickson, Mr Musson and Mr Newbury for giving up time on their weekend to help out.



From Mrs Rice, Teacher of English

THE BIG QUESTION

Each term, the English Faculty will be posing a BIG QUESTION to run alongside our usual topics. This is for any student to respond to in whatever way, and in whatever format, they choose. Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 in particular should treat this as an independent project that they can work on in their own time. This term's question is: **How would the world be different if Shakespeare had never been born?**

Students can present their work in any format, including:

- a collage or scrapbook
- a speech
- a slideshow
- a drawing, painting or cartoon
- a sculpture or model
- a song or rap
- a play or poem - how about a sonnet?!
- any type of writing
- a podcast
- a video

The work is entirely optional, and should be submitted to students' English teachers any time during the term. We can't wait to see what our amazing Ansford students come up with!

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 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 Mascal 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
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](#)

[Head of Humanities \(with Geography\)](#)

[Teacher of Maths \(Deputy Curriculum Lead\)](#)

[Assistant SENDCo](#)

[Head of Design Technology](#)

[Teacher of DT \(part-time\)](#)

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, Station Lane, South Croydon, Surrey, CR0 7JF
Tel: 01889 438800
Email: head@ansford.net

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

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