

# Bulletin for Ansford Families

Issue 15: 19th May 2023

## Message from the Headteacher

Dear Families

Since the last edition of the Family Bulletin, our local community has suffered the impact of the flash flooding which, for some families, caused devastation. Our thoughts have been with all families who have been impacted by the floods. On a more positive note, we have been especially proud of a number of our students who got involved with the clean up - supporting neighbours and the wider local community - and are grateful to parents and members of the wider community who shared information about this with us.

This week, the GCSE written exams started in full force. We have been really pleased to witness the positivity and resilience of our Year 11 students who are coping really well so far with their exams. It is important that they build in rest and relaxation time as it is a 'long game' with the exams spreading over a number of weeks so building strategies to enable sustained effort over time is really key. Both staff and our invigilation team have commented on the impeccable way that Year 11 students have conducted themselves so far - they have been a credit to themselves and to the school. We wish them every success in the weeks to come.

We are also about to enter the exam season for students in Years 7-10. Students have exam revision lists to help them prepare but do not hesitate to contact their subject teachers if you have any queries. Students will need a full set of equipment for their exams which includes two pens, ruler, protractor, compass and a scientific calculator for Maths and Science.

Over the last few weeks, Ms Mallord has been co-ordinating the recruitment of our new student leaders and our Student Leadership Team for the next academic year. The process was completed with the process for appointing our new Head Students. The students engaged in a robust process of letters of application, informal interviews, a presentation and a final formal interview which I was privileged to be a part of with Ms Mallord and Mr Mitchell. The students were really impressive and it was fantastic to hear them talk about the school and its role in supporting their development as well as their ideas for improving aspects of the school further. We have been delighted to appoint Freya B (Student Voice inc School Council), Lyla P (Transition and New Students) and Walter T-Z (Leadership Team) to these important roles and look forward to working with them to keep improving students' experience at Ansford.

Finally, we wished Mrs Martin (from our English Department not the Finance Office) a temporary farewell today as she left for her maternity leave with her baby due on Sunday! We hope that she manages to have a bit of a rest before the baby arrives.

I hope that you have a lovely weekend and can enjoy some sunshine.

Rachel Purnell  
Headteacher

## Academy Calendar: Key Upcoming Events

Week	Date in May	Event	Location Timing	Staff Contact
2	22nd May	Year 8 exams start		Mrs Dyal Mr Musson
2	23rd May	Summer Interform	<b>Sports Hall</b>	Mrs Wood
	29th May	Half Term		
1	5th June	Year 9 Exam Week Starts		Mrs Dyal Mr Musson
1	8th June	Year 1 Primary Sports Festival	<b>Sports Hall</b>	Mrs Wood

## 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.*

## Regular Notices

### From Assembly Themes

22nd-26th May	<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> <li>● Individual accolades/achievements</li> </ul>	HoY
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[Pentecost](#) (28 May)

5th-9th June	<b>Global climate crisis</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Understanding climate change/global warming</li><li>● An introduction to the COP summit/plans</li><li>● What is Britain doing to reduce our national emissions</li><li>● Examples of how weathers are becoming more extreme</li></ul>	CK
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[World Environment Day](#) (5 June)

12th-16th June	<b>Ethos - Teamwork</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Understanding the concept of teamwork/playing your part</li><li>● Exploration of why some teams are incredibly successful</li><li>● Understanding the importance of team work within the workplace</li><li>● Understanding essential workplace skills and how these can be developed at school</li></ul>	RM
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[Father's Day](#) (18 June)

**From the Safeguarding Team**

**Roblox**

We have been alerted to yet more concerns about online conversations that take place on the game Roblox. Please can we urge you to speak with your children about being safe online and reporting anything to you that is a concern. We have information going into the Student Bulletin too but monitoring this particular game is advised. There is additional information attached to this bulletin [here](#)

**Emotion Coaching**

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 8 th 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. All parents are welcome, no booking required.

**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

### Year 11

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of the families who are going above and beyond to support their children during this busy GCSE exam period. It is fantastic to see how many of our students are attending additional revision sessions, even a 7.30am Maths club.

We kindly ask that you continue to ensure your child arrives with the correct uniform and equipment required for each exam in order to minimise disruption and unnecessary stress as they are waiting to enter. Mrs Dyal, our Exams Officer, would also like to remind students to:

- to be on time
- to be fully prepared with all equipment needed for the exam they are taking
- to switch off mobile phones and put them in their bags
- to not have any unauthorised items on them during any exam
- to be in full school uniform

This week, I sent an additional letter to Year 11 families detailing our plans for the **Celebration Morning** on Friday 25th May [09:00 - 11:30]. Please ensure that you have read this as it details the plan for the day, dress code, items they need to bring in and the requirement for travel/collection upon completion.

### Rewards Week - July

Next week, we will introduce students to a range of activities that our staff will be hosting in July. Many of our students have accumulated hundreds of reward points during the year and our superb student council has helped to develop a menu of events which students can use their points to gain access to.

### Half term Learning Behaviour Update

Each half term, our student council identifies a personal value which the entire school will focus on and explicitly reward when seen. This term, 'Caring' was our focus and we have been thrilled to read the hundreds of logs which have been added by staff across the academy noting how our fantastic young people care about their learning, each other, our staff and our environment. Please continue to check your Class Charts app to monitor and celebrate when achievement points are added.

### Mobile Phones

We would like to remind families that our mobile phone policy requires students to have them **off and away** during school hours [08:30 - 03:30]. We kindly ask families to avoid messaging their child during the school day to limit distractions. All parents are welcome to contact the main reception during the day with any urgent messages.

### School Production

Ansford Academy Proudly  
presents...



Come and be our guest as we audition  
for our next school musical

Location – Drama Studio  
Date/Time - 25/05/23 1.45pm This  
is your opportunity to sign up and  
collect your audition sheet

06/06/23 1.45pm  
Singing audition



**From Miss Thomas, PE technician**

**Spare PE kit**

If anyone has any old PE kit which is no longer needed, please do consider donating it to the PE department.

**From Mrs Bevan, PA to the Headteacher**

**Water Bottles**

Now that the weather is (finally) improving, can I ask you to ensure that your child has a water bottle with them in school each day. If they need hayfever medication, please try and make sure that they have taken this before they come to school.

**From Mrs Holloway, Dt Technician**

**Duke of Edinburgh Award**

A massive well done to Connor, Charlie, Liam, Mackenzie, Nathan, David and Tim for doing their Bronze DofE expedition last weekend at Carymoor. It was 18 miles in total over the two days and there was lots of laughter and smiles. Well done boys, you smashed it!



### From the Caterlink team

#### Food

Please could parents make sure that the pupils' accounts are regularly topped up, there are quite a few with money owing at the moment which can cause real embarrassment for both students and staff.

### 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**

	<b>Lunchtime (1:45pm - 2:30pm)</b>	<b>After School (3:30pm - 4:30pm)</b>
<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 PE/Sports Studies: In IT2 with Mrs Wood, Mr Darby and Mr Hill <b>Citizenship:</b> In WS4 with Mr Willson
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Geography:</b> In WS3 with Ms Perkins (2-2:30pm)	<b>English:</b> 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****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 \(maternity cover\)](#)

[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](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, Mappa 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>