

Bulletin for Ansford Families

Issue 17: 23rd June 2023

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Families

This week we have seen our final GCSE exams for Year 11. This is always a momentous day for students and for schools. We have been so proud of the way that Year 11 have managed the exam season and hope that they will have plenty to look forward to in the coming months. Whilst this is a temporary ending, they have so much to look forward to as they move on to new things - and they will always be a part of our Ansford Community. We look forward to seeing them at the Prom and in the summer when they collect their results.

Looking ahead, we have a number of great events planned for next week. We are really pleased that 100% of our students have secured a work experience placement for next week. This is such a valuable part of their whole school experience and we hope it really helps them to identify what they need to do to secure their next steps or develop new skills for employment. Next week, Year 9 students will be involved in a STEM day as well as Oracy Workshops which will also support their wider personal development.

Stakeholder Surveys

You will have received an email from the Academy with a link to a short survey where you can share your experience of Ansford as a parent or carer. We are also conducting similar surveys with staff and students to support our school evaluation and review. The survey should only take a few minutes to complete and we would be grateful if as many families as possible can complete it. The link is [here](#) and the deadline for completion is Wednesday 28th June at 4pm.

Strike Action

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 Wednesday 5th July and Friday 7th July. There are already two key events scheduled for Wednesday 5th July for which we will need to prioritise our staffing as they are so important for both of the relevant year groups: the Transition Day for our new Year 7 cohort and the Year 10 Yeovil College Experience Day. It is likely that there will be disruption for other year groups on Wednesday 5th so please make an advance note of this in your calendars. We are currently planning for this day and a separate letter will be sent to families in due course. We will, as always, try to accommodate as many year groups as we can manage safely. The second date of planned strike action is our final INSET day of the academic year so this will not have an impact on students or families. Many thanks for your ongoing patience and support.

Uniform Adjustments

Finally, as the warm weather looks set to continue for the next few weeks, we will continue with the current adjustments to uniform **until further notice**, which should help to keep students more comfortable. A reminder that the adjustment is for students to leave ties and blazers at home and all other aspects of uniform remain unchanged. As we did last year, we will keep a close eye on the weather for any severe weather warnings and make appropriate adjustments if these are needed at that time.

Have a lovely weekend

Rachel Purnell
Headteacher

Academy Calendar: Key Upcoming Events				
Week	Date in	Event	Location Timing	Staff Contact
2	Mon 26th June	Year 10 Work Experience Week		Mr Musson Mrs Watson
2	Weds 28th June	Year 9 STEM Day	In school event	Mr Hill
2	Thurs 29th June	Year 9 Oracy Workshops	In school event	Mrs Hardy Stewart
1	Mon 3rd July	French Trip Leaves		Miss Kasereka
1	Wed 5th July	Year 6 Transition Day	Year 6 students in school 9.30am - 3pm, followed by Parent and Students' Evening, PA2, 6.30 - 8.30pm	Ms Hirst
1	Fri 7th July	INSET Day	School closed to students	
2	Thurs 13th July	Year 8 and 9 Catch-up Vaccinations	PA2	Ms Fulton
2	Thurs 13th July	Year 6 Primary Sports Festival	Sports Hall	Mrs Wood
1	Tues 18th July	Sports Day (Field Events)		Mrs Wood
1	Wed 19th July	Sports Day (Track Events)		Mrs Wood
1	Thurs 20th July	Awards Evening	Sports Hall, 6.30pm, by invitation	Mr Mitchell

Who to Contact
<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 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. <p><i>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.</i></p>

Regular Notices

From Assembly Themes			
26th-30th June	Armed Forces Day <ul style="list-style-type: none">● What is the role of the Armed Forces?● Where are they currently deployed?● Examples of the work undertaken domestically and internationally● An exploration of what it is like to have a parent/close family member in the Armed Forces	HoY	
Armed Forces Day (26th June)			
3rd-7th July	Safeguarding - Criminal Exploitation <ul style="list-style-type: none">● An introduction to the risks vulnerable young people can face● Understanding why young people can be coerced/influenced to commit crime● Keeping safe in the holidays and where/how to access help if needed	Ms Hirst	
Frida Kahlo's birthday (6 July)			
10th-14th July	Achievement Assembly <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Subject/Tutor group winners● Top 5 girls/boys● Tutor group winners● Individual accolades/achievements	HoY	
Emmeline Pankhurst's birthday (15 July)			

From the Safeguarding Team

Online Self Harm Awareness Workshop

My thanks to a Year 7 parent who has made school aware of an online workshop that is free for parents and family members in the summer holidays. It is not limited to families that have first hand experience of this issue but is designed to raise awareness. Click the link below to register for a ticket.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/free-somerset-cyp-self-harm-awareness-training-for-parents-carers-tickets-439505030377?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

Somerset Council are working with Harmless to offer free online training support via MS Teams for parents, carers and family members.

Date and time: Wed, 16 Aug 2023 09:30 - 11:00, the course lasts for 1 hour 30 minutes.

Harmless is a user informed self harm and suicide prevention service that offers an all-ages support service. Their aim is to promote hope and recovery for those in distress, their families, friends and colleagues. It is grounded on

the ethos that with the right support life can and does get better.

Somerset Council is working with Harmless to offer a fully funded, 90-minute workshop to parents, carers and family members of children and young people who may be at risk of self harm. This session will cover the following:

- Understand self harm and who it can affect
- Identify reasons that can lead a young person to self-harm
- Recognise the stigma surrounding self-harm and the impact this can have
- Understand the wider impact self-harm has on friends and family, with a focus on parents/carers
- Raise confidence in responding to/supporting young people who self-harm
- Establish how to maintain your own self-care and wellbeing
- Identify a range of local and national resources/services/information to support young people who self-harm
- Understand the importance of recovery

From Mr Mitchell, Assistant Headteacher: Community and Conduct

Year 10 Exams

We are very proud of how well our Year 10 students have conducted themselves this week. Overseen by our Exams Officer and invigilators, the formality of the process gives our students a realistic experience of what to expect in Year 11. Please do spend time with your child discussing how these went and topics which will require additional revision over the summer.

Year 10 Work Experience

We would like to congratulate the vast majority of the year group who have managed to secure fantastic placements. Our students will be working across South Somerset, some as far as Bristol and Dartmouth. Please consider travel arrangements ahead of time to make a great impression on day 1 - traffic is likely to be heavier on Monday 26th with the mass exodus of Glastonbury Festival.

Year 10 Yeovil College Experience Day

Despite the planned strike action by NEU members, Yeovil College has confirmed that they will continue to run the planned Further Education [FE] experience day on Friday 7th July. All Year 10 students will attend, giving them a crucial insight into a Post 16 setting, the pathways available, courses and expectations of life at a large college. Further details will be shared in due course.

Summer Term Reward Events

From Monday 10th July, we are hosting a number of fun events within school which students can opt into by spending their Class Charts points. Events range from sporting academies, jewellery making, outdoor cooking, climbing, movie screening and many more. These will be uploaded to the Class Charts reward shop on Friday [23rd] evening. Places are limited so book quickly to avoid disappointment. The traditional items are also still available for purchase if your child does not have enough points or would simply prefer these gifts.

Year 6 Transition Events

Please note that we have a number of transition events taking place in coming weeks which will involve a number of staff, most notably Ms Walsh [Head of Y7 and Y8] and Ms Hirst [Deputy Headteacher] who leads on Year 6-7 Transition. Whilst we aim to maintain responses to communication within 48 hours, this may not be possible on selected days. With this in mind, please do continue to contact your child's tutor [a message can be left via reception] for most enquiries.

From Miss Frost, Head of MFL**Year 8 Language Choices**

All Year 8 parents have been sent a form to complete to indicate their child's preference for language next year. Please could this be filled in as soon as possible.

From Miss Fulton, Senior First Aider**Catch-up Vaccinations Thursday 13th July**

If your Year 8 or Year 9 child has missed an HPV/Men ACWY/DTP vaccination for any reason the Somerset Saints team will be in touch. If you have previously given consent for this vaccination, you won't need to do it again.

From Mrs Comyns, Business Manager**Summer Holiday Programme of Activities for Free School Meal students**

Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership run a summer holiday programme with activities and food provided for young people aged 5 - 16 years old. Activities run from Monday 24th July to Thursday 31st August across Somerset. Children can access 12 days of activities throughout the 6 week programme. For further information and to book go to <https://www.sasp.co.uk/happy-healthy-holidays>. To book, you will require a booking code provided by the Academy that confirms your child's eligibility. This can be gained by calling reception on 01963 350895 or emailing mailbox@ansford.net Bookings open on Wednesday 28th June.

Advance Warning: Lockers

As we approach the end of the school year, please can you ask your child to take home any items stored in school lockers. Students must vacate their locker and remove the lock by the end of term. Any lockers occupied after this point will be emptied and possessions put into lost property.

Advance Warning: Lost Property

Any possessions left in school will be moved to lost property. If property is named, it will be held in school for collection by the end of the summer break. Any property unnamed will be disposed of or recycled.

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 Miss Thomas, PE Technician

PE Kit Donations

If any Year 11 who have just finished their exams want to donate their PE kit to school that would be greatly appreciated, especially Shorts, Skorts, Leggings and Tracksuit Bottoms. Please drop this into reception.

Primary Sports Festival

On Thursday 8th June, Year 1s from our catchment area came along to our playground festival which was run by some of our Year 8 students. Everyone had a lovely time whilst the sun was shining. It was lovely to see all our Year 8s working well to make sure everyone had a good time. They really did make Ansford Academy look amazing.



From Mrs Rice, English Teacher

Unsolved

Some members of Page-Turners, our creative writing club, have been writing some fabulous entries for a national Young Writers competition. 'Unsolved' invites students to write a mini saga (a story told in just 100 words) inspired by the crime and mystery genre. Quite a challenge! Here are some of their entries:

River of Red

Murder. The deliberate killing of a human being by another. Revenge. The hideous, putrid scene sprawls out before me.

A sea of crimson smothers the grimy ground, drowning out the midnight shadows. Inanimate, the victim lies with a blade savagely protruding from his chest; cream-coloured fragments, which I assume are bone, reside over his torso. I have seen many atrocities during my career, but none like this. Steadying myself with a deep breath, I venture a clammy hand towards the child's back and grasp the knife's hilt. Engraved into the cold metal are two initials: K.L.

It just couldn't be...

By Tegan S

I stood there like a madman, blood filled the floor. Shock shook me to my bones. I had just murdered somebody. Yawning, I struggled to my feet and scrambled out of bed. The nightmare still haunted my sleep. I walked down the street with the fear that the killer was still loose. Suddenly, a tall menacing man came from the shadows and held a knife above my head. Quick as a flash, it came down on me but I nimbly dodged out of the way and instead he

stabbed his foot and then... I killed him.

The nightmare was finally over.

Tamzen M

The Darkest of Roses

Scarlet-red droplets dispersed across the cobbled floors. Shafts of light cascaded through boarded windows.

Revenge is a beautiful thing but when a pane of glass shatters into shards it cannot be restored. This also goes for a human's heart. We mortals are so ignorant to the consequences of our actions and that mindset leads to stupidity and mistakes. But when I gazed into the reflection on the coruscating knife, I knew I wouldn't make the same mistakes as many others before me had done. The bud of the rose will wither and shrivel, and the crime won't ever be revealed.

Liss S

From Mrs Pinnions, Facilities

Ansford in Bloom

Mrs Pinnions is organising a flower arranging evening to raise funds for the Academy production of 'Beauty and the Beast'. Details are can be found [here](#)

From Maths and Computer Department

Extra-Curricular Activities: NEW Maths and Computing times for after the Easter break

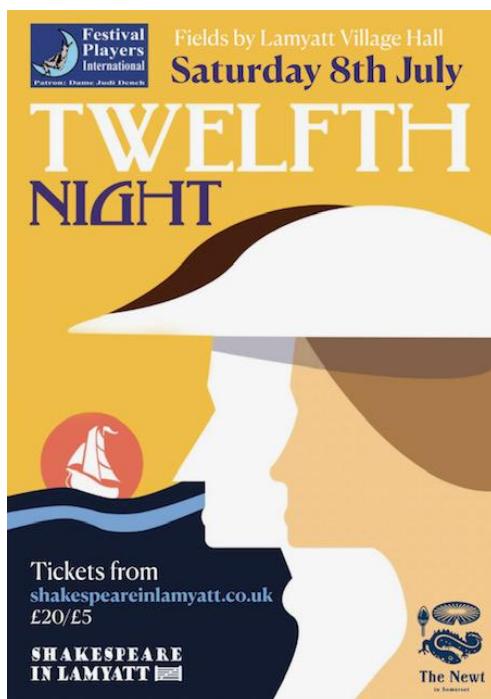
Mathematics and Computing

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		<p>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</p> <p>From Thursday 9th June this will become Year 10 GCSE Maths Intervention/Revision and Support</p>
Friday	Numeracy Mentors Ms Buckley MA2	KS3 Games and Chess Club Mr Wong in MA2	

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.

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, Maynard 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>