

Bulletin for Ansford Families

Issue 18: 7th July 2023

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Families

The school calendar is always a busy one in the summer term and we have been delighted to offer a wide range of experiences 'beyond the classroom' for our young people. Year 9s have been involved in a STEM event organised by Mr Hill and also an Oracy event organised by Mrs Hardy Stewart who shares some highlights with you later on in this edition. Having completed their week of work experience last week, Year 10 have also engaged in a College Experience Day this week so they have been well focused on their next steps as they get ready for Year 11. We were delighted to secure work experience placements for all of our Year 10 students and grateful to the work of Wendy Watson in working so hard to make that happen - you can read a bit more about that later too. Yeovil College has also hosted Year 8 for their 'My Futures' event which was a really valuable day.

We are hoping for good weather at the weekend for the students who are participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Silver expedition and look forward to welcoming back students and staff who have been out on the French trip. We will share more news about those events in due course.

Sadly, we say farewell to two members of Ansford staff at the end of this week. Firstly, to Mrs Lynda Chainey who has made a significant contribution to the SEND Team during her 9 years at Ansford and she will be greatly missed by staff and students alike. Lynda is moving on to new ventures outside of the world of education and we wish her every success. We also say goodbye to Mr Andy Mitchell who has only worked with us for a short time in the PE department but has made a real impact on the students he teaches during that time. Thank you both for all that you have done for our community - we wish you well in your next steps.

Have a lovely weekend

Rachel Purnell
Headteacher

Academy Calendar: Key Upcoming Events

Week	Date in	Event	Location Timing	Staff Contact
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

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		
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	Heads of Year
Emmeline Pankhurst's birthday (15 July)		
17th-21st July	Whole school assembly <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Held on the final day in the Sports Hall● Headteacher's address● Head student's speeches● Thanks to staff leaving	Ms Purnell
Mandela Day (18 July)		

From the Safeguarding Team
<p>Online Self Harm Awareness Workshop</p> <p>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.</p> <p>https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/free-somerset-cyp-self-harm-awareness-training-for-parents-carers-tickets-439505030377?aff=ebdsoporgprofile</p> <p>Somerset Council are working with Harmless to offer free online training support via MS Teams for parents, carers and family members.</p> <p>Date and time: Wed, 16 Aug 2023 09:30 - 11:00, the course lasts for 1 hour 30 minutes.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 Ms Watson, Careers Adviser

Year 10 Work Experience Week: Monday 26th June to Friday 30th June 2023

Many congratulations to every single one of our Year 10s who all took part in work experience last week as part of their Careers Education programme, learning about the world of work. As well as Somerset, students chose placements from Bristol to London in industries ranging from Science and Technology research, Aerospace Engineering and Architecture to Law, Healthcare, Animal Care and Hospitality.

Feedback from students recognised that a full working day can be very exhausting and learning to get up that bit earlier can certainly be a challenge! Many students enjoyed the change of pace and environment and the majority agreed that it had been a real boost to their confidence meeting and speaking to different people including staff and members of the public; as well as learning the skills of their chosen trades and professions.

Employer feedback has been very positive – identifying students as enthusiastic and willing to learn, to ask questions and engage in the tasks set for them. Some have been offered summer and part time jobs and others are being considered for Apprenticeships in the future. Well done to all year 10s – as one employer put it; you are a credit to the school!

Ansford would like to extend a huge thank you to all employers who supported work experience this year and acknowledge appreciation for their time and commitment in supporting the students in placements – without this the programme wouldn't be possible. Thanks also to all the parents who supported the process. Thank you all very much!



Cakes for sale baked by one of our students on placement!

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 Hardy-Stewart, English Teacher

Courage, kindness, progress and star quality on Year 9's Oracy day.

What an extraordinary day we had last Thursday when two Talk the Talk trainers came in to work with the Year 9s! I saw many students go from reluctant to speak to getting up and presenting a group speech without notes. On being instructed to stride to show confidence, some boys developed their own inimitable version of the stride. There was a boy band style 'back to the audience at first' presentation which the trainer said she had never seen done before. Some of the best moments were watching students encourage their less confident peers and giving kind feedback for their speeches. One brave student spoke for both her friends at the start, standing alone at the front to do so and another student revealed fantastic Oracy skills, holding the class captive as he ranted about school chairs and Vladimir Putin. I now know about the Year 9 rap band, who prefer dogs to cats and what gets on some students' nerves. One of the trainers said her two watchwords for life were kindness and courage. We certainly saw plenty of both in the tutor group workshops. A huge congratulations to all the students who stepped out of their comfort zones to grow their Oracy muscle!

From Mrs Comyns, Business Manager

Donations

If anyone has any books and/or uniform they would be happy to donate to school, please drop it into reception.

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.

Catering, advanced warning

In September we will be returning to students using their fingerprints to pay for their food in the canteen. This speeds up the queue considerably giving them longer to enjoy their break times and is more secure than using cash or PIN numbers, although those options will remain. You can find further information on this at

https://www.ansford.org.uk/news_and_events/school_meals

The aim is to register students for this during the second week of the Autumn term. In order to register students for the thumb print, permission will need to be in place; we hold consent for a proportion of students and further details of how others can give consent will be sent out in September.

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 Mrs Rice, English Teacher

Creative Writing

Many of our students are keen to enter a 100 word 'mini-saga' in the crime or mystery genre for the 'Unsolved' competition. Here are three more brilliant examples by Year 7, 8 and 9 students, below. If students would like to enter, they can find more details here: <https://www.youngwriters.co.uk/competitions/KS3-5/unsolved23>

The competition is open to all year groups and Mrs Rice will accept entries up to **Tuesday 18th June**.

It all started on a cold Autumn's day. The detective of Florida, Amber Redwood, could see blue clues. Not only this made her the best detective, but it also made her have a never-ending mystery: How could she do this? Amber stared out the window into the gloom that had covered Florida. A scream came from the roof. A menacing laugh came from the vent. She looked to the ceiling and saw footsteps. Amber ran to the floor above her. Finally reaching the room above her own, she gasped in horror. Blood dripped down the door. Someone had been murdered.

Elisha H.

Charcoal

Murder - the unlawful killing of another.

Suicide - the act of taking one's own life.

As a detective it is important to know the difference between the two.

"It's suicide."

"Shut up," I said plainly. I inspected the body before me. Searching the victim, I found a note reading "*your choice*" in what I guessed was charcoal from inspecting the fingerprints on the sheet. The pill bottle in the victim's hand had the same grey-black fingerprints, and along with several other discoveries, on closer inspection, I was led to one conclusion.

I grinned as I spoke. "It isn't suicide, it's murder."

Ellen S.

Blue lights. Broken chair. Blasphemous words ring in the air. There's a body here. Its hand touches my hair. I hear shouts, and then gunshots nearby. Who won? The captor or the protector?

I cling to my fear, like a vine to a wall, because what am I without it?

There is blood everywhere, and I am so immensely scared. Let's just pretend that death isn't imminent. I know the person who did this will never be found.

I hear footsteps and then the door opens with a bang.

"Ma'am, we're here to help."

Relief.

Eliza K.

From Miss Wilson, 2nd in English Department

Writing Competitions

The National Literacy Trust in partnership with Good Housekeeping Magazine is running a writing competition for all under 16. The winner will be printed in the magazine and also receive £100 book tokens. The deadline is 31.08.23 and the theme is Christmas. All of the relevant information can be found in the following link:

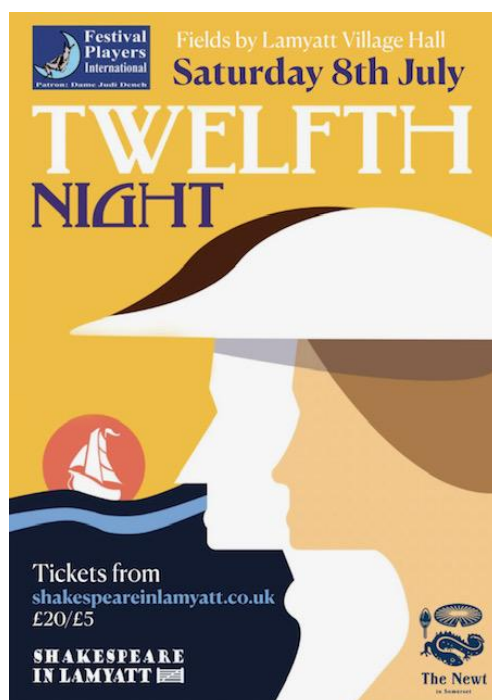
https://literacytrust.org.uk/competitions/good-housekeepings-young-writers-competition/?mc_cid=eb8f3ef708&mc_eid=97425c5904

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	

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, 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>