

Issue 1: 9 September 2022

Message from Ms Purnell, Headteacher

Dear Families

I hope that you have all had a good summer break and enjoyed the fabulous sunshine. I am sure that is already feeling like a distant memory as we embrace the change in weather this week.

Return to School

We have had a great first week back at school and have been so proud of our students for the way that they have managed the transition from the summer holiday. Students have returned with positivity and maturity and we have been pleased to see them wearing their uniform with pride and engaging in their learning. The week has ended with the sad news of the death of HRH Queen Elizabeth II and we have marked her passing in tutor sessions this morning by sharing some key events of her reign and observing a minute's silence.

Welcome to New Staff

We welcome a number of new staff joining us for the start of this academic year and have been fortunate to recruit staff with a wide range of experience. We are confident that our new team members will play a key role in supporting us as we continue in our improvement journey. We have our school photographer in school next week so, once we have some photographs of our new staff, we will share these in a future *Family Bulletin*.

Mr Antoine: Teacher of Humanities and Maths

Mr Mitchell: Assistant Headteacher (Community and Conduct)

Mr Oats: Head of Design Technology

Ms Perkins: SENDCo

Mrs Summerbell: Teaching Assistant

Mrs Switzer: Teacher of Geography

Ms Walsh: Head of Year 7 and Year 8

Mrs Withers: 2nd in Maths (KS3 Lead)

Summer Events

Whilst a new school year is very much about looking forward and preparing for the future, it is also important that we celebrate some of the key events that took place during the summer holidays. Our new Year 7 students had a fantastic experience in **Summer School** which has really supported their transition to Ansford. We were delighted that over 100 students were able to join us during the 3 days and are really grateful to all of the staff who gave up their time to support the planning of summer school or to lead events in school during the three days.

The group of students who participated in the **Camps International** travel experience to Kenya had a fabulous adventure, engaging in sustainable, environmental project work as well as gaining their PADI Open water Scuba Certificate. Thanks go to Mr Wills for accompanying the students for this wonderful experience. Camps International will be back in school during September to launch the next adventure in summer 2024 so look out for more information about that.

Finally, our outgoing Year 11 students had a nerve wracking time waiting for their **GCSE examination results** in August. We were really pleased to see so many personal successes and triumphs with many students reaching their goals. The students have so much to be proud of as they have successfully navigated the most difficult period in education in recent history. We wish all of our outgoing Year 11 students the very best as they embark on their next steps.

Report a student absence by phone: 01963 350 895 or by email attendanceofficer@ansford.net

Contact the Academy by phone: 01963 350 895 or by email mailbox@ansford.net

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.

Sometimes, especially when you are new to the school, it can be hard to know who to contact. 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.

I hope that you have a lovely weekend.

Rachel Purnell
Headteacher

The poster features a background image of two young boys in school uniforms looking at a computer monitor. The text is overlaid on this image. At the top, the Ansford Academy logo is on the left and right. The main title 'Ansford Academy Open Evening and Open Mornings' is in a large, dark red font. Below this, a line of text invites Year 6 and Year 5 families to attend. The 'OPEN EVENING' section lists the date as Thursday 29th September from 5.00pm to 7.30pm, with presentations at 5.45pm and 6.30pm. The 'OPEN MORNINGS (School Tours 9.25am until 10.15am)' section lists dates from Wednesday 5th to Friday 14th October. A call to action asks to book places in advance via the website. At the bottom, it provides the website URL, booking availability from Tuesday 13th September 2022, and contact details for the academy.

Ansford Academy
Open Evening and Open Mornings

Year 6 and Year 5 families are warmly invited to attend our open events; bookings in advance

OPEN EVENING
Thursday 29th September: 5.00pm until 7.30pm
Presentations will take place in PA2 at: 5.45pm and 6.30pm

OPEN MORNINGS (School Tours 9.25am until 10.15am)
• *Wednesday 5th October, Thursday 6th October and Friday 7th October*
Wednesday 12th October, Thursday 13th October and Friday 14th October

Book your places in advance via our website

Please visit the Ansford Academy website to book your slot: www.ansford.org.uk

Bookings available from Tuesday 13th September 2022

Ansford Academy, Maggs Lane, Castle Cary, Somerset BA77 7JJ - 01963 350 895 - admissions@ansford.net

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Academy Calendar: Key Upcoming Events			
Week	Date	Event	Staff Contact
1	Monday 12th September	Year 7 - 10 School Photographs	Mrs Lowe
2	Tuesday 13th September	Year 10 Goal Setting Meetings	Mr Musson
2	Wednesday 14th September	Year 11 'Moving On ' Event	Mr Musson / Mrs Watson
1	Tuesday 20th September	Year 7 Goal Setting Meetings	Mr Musson
1	Tuesday 20th September	Year 10 information Evening	Mr Musson
2	Tuesday 27th September	Camps International 2024 Parent and Carers Launch Meeting 6.00 - 6.30pm	
2	Thursday 9th September	Open Evening for Y5/Y6 Families 5.00-7.30pm	Mrs Lowe
2	Friday 30th September	INSET Day (No students in school)	

Notices

From Mr Cue, Assistant Headteacher (Teaching and Learning)
<p>Class Charts</p> <p>We have started this academic year with the launch of <i>ClassCharts</i>. This is an online system which will be used by staff to set homework, award positive and negative behaviour points and create seating plans. It will help us to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ monitor all aspects of learning and community behaviours more effectively; ➤ take responsive action where negative patterns of behaviour become apparent; ➤ recognise and reward positive learning and community behaviours; ➤ enable more effective monitoring of homework setting and completion. <p>We are taking a staged approach to the roll out of this system so that we can embed it successfully. This means that we will gradually introduce different features that will enhance what we do at Ansford and enable more effective home-school communication about these different aspects of school life. After our initial launch with staff, we are currently launching with students. Once we have done this successfully, we will be launching with parents and carers.</p> <p>Student Accounts in ClassCharts</p> <p>Students have been issued with a unique code that enables them to log in to <i>ClassCharts</i> to see their homework and reward points. If your child is struggling to log onto <i>ClassCharts</i> please ask them to speak to their tutor in the first instance. The next stage of roll out will be to introduce login codes for parents and carers but, in the meantime, you can view ClassCharts via your child's login.</p> <p>Viewing Homework</p> <p>All students in Key Stage 3 and 4 will be set homework/independent tasks on a regular basis. One of the functions of <i>ClassCharts</i> is to enable these tasks to be shared with the student, and in time parents and carers, electronically. An example of this is illustrated in the visuals below.</p>

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PREVIOUS NEXT TODAY

September 5 - 11 2022

Monday 5 Sep	Tuesday 6 Sep	Wednesday 7 Sep	Thursday 8 Sep	Friday 9 Sep	Saturday 10 Sep	Sunday 11 Sep
				11A/Ct1 Citizenship Mr B Willson 08a/En1 English Mr J Noott 09b/Ma1 Maths Mrs T Piper		10A/Sp1 Spanish Mrs C Kenchington 11B/Sp1 Spanish Mrs C Kenchington 11B/Sp1 Spanish Mrs C Kenchington 08b/Sp1 Spanish Mrs C Kenchington 08a/Sp1 Spanish Mrs C Kenchington

Custom - showing 38 days
Due date: 01/09/2022 - 08/10/2022

- Show by issue date
- Show by due date

0 tasks due this week

0 tasks submitted/completed

0 tasks remaining this week

Requires submission?

To do 0

Completed 0

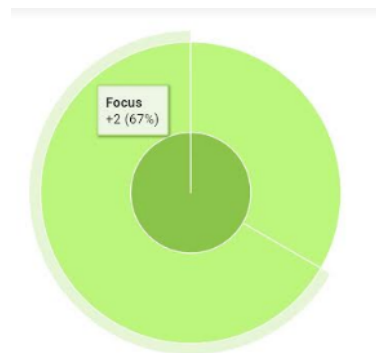
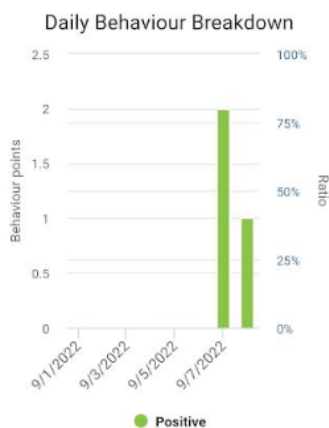
Submitted late 0

Not submitted 0

Submitted 0

Viewing Positive Behaviour (Reward) Points

Information about reward points is accessed through the behaviour tab and is presented in the form of two graphs. You can see these in the example below.



The bar graph shows how many positive reward points have been awarded on a daily basis during the time frame selected and the pie chart shows the different types of positive behaviours during the same period. Beneath the graphs, you will find an activity feed that gives more details about the positive behaviours that have been rewarded.

Due to our gradual roll out, students will only see their positive behaviour points at the moment. The absence of negative points on the graphs does not mean that your child has not received any negative behaviour points. We will be tracking and monitoring negative behaviour points and, if we are concerned about patterns of behaviour, members of our pastoral teams will contact you to discuss this. In the future, both students and parents/carers will be able to view both positive and negative points and we will let you know when we begin this next phase of roll out.

The *ClassCharts* platform does offer many additional functions which we plan to explore and introduce over time. Our current priority is to ensure that all staff and students are making good use of the elements that we have launched for term 1: the use of classroom seating plans; the setting and monitoring of homework; the issuing of reward points.

From The Safeguarding Team

Safeguarding Team

If you have a safeguarding concern about your child or another student at the Academy please contact a member of our safeguarding team using this email: safeguarding@ansford.net

If you have an urgent safeguarding concern about a student at Ansford or another young person, please contact one of the agencies below:-

Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224

Police on 101

NSPCC on 0808 800 5000



Mrs King
Deputy Headteacher
Designated Safeguarding
Lead



Ms Hirst
Deputy Headteacher
Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Barham-Wingrove
Pastoral Support Leader
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Sweetlove
Pastoral Support Leader
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

From The Attendance Office

Attendance Matters

Your child's attendance is important to us. Evidence shows that there is a positive correlation between attendance and attainment. If your child attends school regularly they are more likely to achieve their full potential. Please find below a link to our *Attendance Matters Booklet* that outlines expectations and attendance protocols. If you have any questions regarding this information then please do not hesitate to contact either:

Miss Vaughan: Attendance Officer: attendanceofficer@ansford.net

Mrs Sweetlove: Pastoral Support Leader: Attendance; DDSL: leanne.sweetlove@ansford.net

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From The 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 (2pm -2:30pm)	English: In EN5 with Mr Noott, Mrs Uffendell, Mrs Hardy-Stewart and 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 Miss Harries	

From Mrs Watson, Careers Office**Year 11 Students Only**

There is still time to sign up for our Moving on Evening that is taking place next Wednesday (14th September). If you have not already done so the form you need to complete to attend the evening can be [found here](#).

From Mrs Kenchington, Head of World Studies**French Trip**

For those students who have secured a place on the French trip a payment schedule will be with you in the next few weeks.

From Mrs Comyns, Business Manager**Student pick up by car at the end of the day**

Families are asked not to block exits or entrances or to park along Maggs Lane when collecting students at the end of the day. The Academy is formalising arrangements for an area that parents can wait in. Details will follow.

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From PE Department

Important information

1. If your child is in school but unable to participate in PE (for example due to injury), please send them in with a written note in their LogBook. Students will still need their PE kit as they will be asked to participate in PE in a non-performing role (e.g. coach, umpire, helper). Exceptions will be made where the nature of the injury prevents them from getting changed or taking part in this capacity.
2. If any students have had any piercings over the summer then please send them in with some tape to put over the earrings for PE lessons. Once students are able to remove piercings, they will be asked to do so for health and safety reasons.

Fixtures

We will begin playing fixtures towards the end of September and will be choosing school teams from those students who attend clubs.

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1sELcH-NvokOQbuLmjknL69-SzSE1pTPsEQ1S8bRIWhg/edit?usp=sharing>

From Miss Wilson, English Teacher

Calling all Young Writers!

Are you a keen writer? Do you have an interest in nature? If so, The Guardian would like to hear from you! Every three months, as the UK enters a new season, The Guardian welcomes articles from children aged 8-14 that focus on an encounter with nature: anything from 'kicking leaves in the park, finding a worm in the garden or watching a big beast like a red deer.' Further details on how to get involved can be found via the link below:

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/aug/27/nature-lovers-guardian-young-country-diary-writers>

From Mrs Lowe, Headteacher's PA and Office Manager

Lockers

If students currently have use of a locker can they please let their tutor know the number of it. This will enable us to begin issuing lockers to new students.

Inset Days and Calendar Dates

As a reminder please note that the INSET Days and other key dates for next academic year have been confirmed. The governing body have approved 2 additional INSET days next academic year to support the key improvement areas identified in the Ofsted outcome letter. The dates can be found via this link: [Ansford Academy - TERM DATES 2022-2023](#)

Parent Teacher Friend Association (PTFA) Revival

We would very much like to look at reviving the fledgling PTFA group that was formed prior to Covid. If you are interested in being involved a little or a lot please email me at school on samantha.lowe@ansford.net so that we can arrange a convenient time for people to meet up and try to move the group forward again.

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From The Music Department

Music Lessons

Learning to play a musical instrument is hugely rewarding and is a skill that can last a lifetime. Not only does playing music bring joy to oneself and others, researchers have found that learning to play a musical instrument can improve memory, boost listening skills, sharpen concentration, improve social life, and can even help with depression and anxiety.

We have a team of visiting music teachers who offer one-to-one tuition on an instrument here at Ansford. Instrumental lessons currently on offer are:

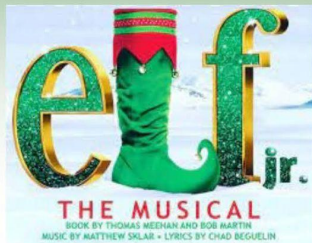
Piano
Drums
Vocals
Guitar
Violin

There is a cost for lessons and instrumental teachers will be responsible for providing invoices and collecting payment.

Please email paul.sandy@ansford.net for a form or students can collect one from Mr Sandy in PA1.

From Mr Newbury, Head of Year 9 and Drama Teacher

Ansford Academy proudly presents.....



Key Information

Rehearsals will be every Wednesday - 3:30pm until 5:30pm (starting 14/09/22)

Performance dates - Wednesday 7th, Thursday 8th and Friday 9th December 2022

Cast meeting - Tuesday 13 September at 2pm

Any Year 7 students that are interested are welcome to join.

Please speak with Mr Newbury and attend the cast meeting. Information will be provided during assembly next week (12/09/22)

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From Mathematics and Computing
Weekly timetable of extra-curricular activities

When	Tutor Time 8:55 - 9:15am	Lunchtime 13:45 - 14:30pm	After School 15:30 - 16:30pm
Monday	Numeracy Mentors Mrs Buckley MA1	Code Breaking - All Years	No clubs Staff meetings
Tuesday	Numeracy Mentors Mrs Buckley MA1	Chess Club - All Years MA1 Year 10 student	Minecraft Club IT1 Miss Worthy-Jarvis
Wednesday	Numeracy Mentors Mrs Buckley MA1	Lego Club - All Years MA5 Mr Battle	Year 11 GCSE Maths Intervention MA1, MA2, MA3 Revision, guidance & support
Thursday	Numeracy Mentors Mrs Buckley MA1		GCSE Coursework Catch up IT1 Miss Worthy-Jarvis
Friday	Numeracy Mentors Mrs Buckley MA1	Year 7 & Year 8 -Games Club MA2 Mr Cocks	

Other Notices

Current Staff Vacancies

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

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