

Bulletin for Ansford Families

Issue 5: 25th November 2022

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Families

As always, life at Ansford continues to be very busy and we are really pleased to see students engaging in a wide range of activities beyond the classroom. Since our last edition, there have been lots of events and experiences on offer. You may have seen Mrs Reddick and a group of students at the local Carnival. We entered in the School Category and won 3rd place - Mrs Reddick shares a bit more information about that below. Mr Musson accompanied two of our Head Students for the Remembrance Event to represent Ansford at this really important occasion. We were really appreciative to receive feedback about how well this was received with one email commenting that: "Several people were touched with the presence of students there to represent the school. Many people attending the ceremony themselves at one time or another would have attended the school. They were extremely appreciative of the school's presence and a real sense of support for the community it gave."

Year 11 have been participating in a wide range of events to support their futures as they prepare for their next steps after Ansford. They have participated in Careers Interviews with a wide range of local employers and also attended the Taster Day at Strode College. A special thanks to Wendy Watson, our fabulous Careers Adviser, who makes these events happen, supporting our young people to develop a sense of ambition about their futures and where that may lead.

Our Year 11 Geographers have also been out on their second field trip, this time to Bristol, one group being very unlucky with the pouring rain! It was also a real pleasure to welcome our Year 11 families back into school for our first face to face Parents' Evening since before the pandemic. We are seeking the views of all families about the way we conduct our future Parents' Evenings this year - Mr Musson has included details of how to participate in our survey below.

Mr Newbury and the cast of Elf are in the final stages of their rehearsals for the production in December. It really is a treat hearing the fantastic singing carrying its way down the corridor on a Wednesday evening as students practise the musical numbers. Tickets are now available and already selling quickly so make sure to get yours!

In staffing news, I would like to say farewell to Mrs Ansell who left Ansford last week. Having been here as a student herself, Mrs Ansell has worked with us as a Teaching Assistant for 12 years and has provided exceptional support to very many students in that time. She will be missed by us all and I am sure that you will join me in wishing her well in her new ventures. Both Miss Harries and Mrs King have each safely delivered a new baby girl into the world and mothers and babies are doing very well. We wish many congratulations to each of them and their families.

I hope that you have a lovely weekend.

Rachel Purnell
Headteacher

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.

Academy Calendar: Key Upcoming Events

Week	Date in November	Event	Location Timing	Staff Contact
2	Tuesday 29th	Year 2 Primary Festival. A multi sport festival for Year 2 students	The Sports Hall 1:45pm - 3:30pm	Mrs Wood
Week	Date in December	Event	Location Timing	Staff Contact
1	Monday 5th - Friday 9th	Year 11 Trial Exam Week 1	Please find here the information from the exams officer.	Mr Musson Mrs Dyal
1	Thursday 8th	Year 10 Parents' Evening	Further details to be provided shortly.	Mr Musson
1	Wednesday 7th & Friday 9th	ELF Jr. School Production	School Dining Hall	Mr Newbury
2	Monday 12th - Friday 16th	Year 11 Trial Exam Week 2	Please find here the information from the exams officer.	Mr Musson Mrs Dyal

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Regular Notices

**From Mrs Comyns
Business Manager**

Safest Location for pick up by families at the end of the school day

Families are asked to park and wait for students at the end of the day in the car park at Caryford Hall. This is the hall opposite the school site and not the sports centre. Students meeting parents will therefore exit via the gate near the car park and this keeps them away from the traffic on the front drive and also within the staff car park. Parents are asked not to use the staff car park to wait or to block Maggs Lane.

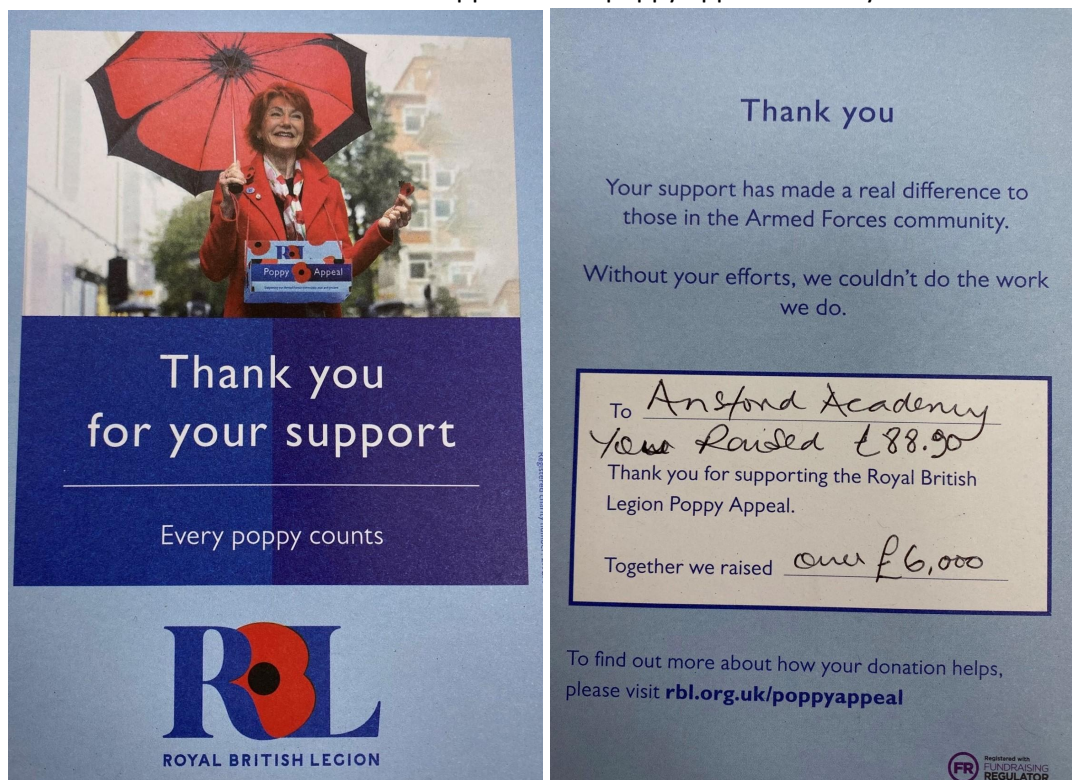
**From Mrs Lowe
PA to the Headteacher and Office Manager**

Data Collection

As you are aware the Academy is committed to ensuring that the data we hold is up to date and accurate. We are currently looking at the best way of obtaining this information from parents. Over the next few weeks you will receive a number of requests for data information and consents for students. These will either be in paper form or via a digital form. Please ensure that these forms are completed and returned to the Academy as soon as possible.

RBL Poppy Appeal

Thank you to all those students and families who supported the poppy appeal for this year.



The poster is divided into two main sections. The left section features a photograph of a woman in a red coat holding a red umbrella and a small sign that says 'Poppy Appeal'. Below the photo, the text reads 'Thank you for your support' in white on a dark blue background, followed by 'Every poppy counts' in white on a lighter blue background. At the bottom left is the RBL logo (a red poppy) and the text 'ROYAL BRITISH LEGION'. The right section has a light blue background with the text 'Thank you' in blue. Below it, it says 'Your support has made a real difference to those in the Armed Forces community.' and 'Without your efforts, we couldn't do the work we do.' A white box contains a handwritten note: 'To Ansford Academy you raised £88.90 Thank you for supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Together we raised over £6,000'. At the bottom right is the FR logo (Fundraising Regulator) with the text 'Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATORY'.

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From Mr Newbury
Drama Department

ELF - The Musical

Doors open 6:30 pm
Curtain up at 7:00 pm

Book your tickets now!

Ansford Academy
Proudly presents



Tickets now available ... Follow this link
<https://buytickets.at/ansfordacademy/785192>

Performance dates-
7th and 9th
December
2022

Please wear your Christmas jumpers to the shows to help you feel the Christmas spirit.

BOOK BY Thomas Meehan AND Bob Martin
MUSIC BY Matthew Sklar
LYRICS BY Chad Beguelin

BASED ON THE NEW LINE CINEMA FILM WRITTEN BY David Berenbaum



Elf The Musical JR is presented through special arrangement with JOSEF WEINBERGER LIMITED and all authorized materials are supplied by Music Theatre International, New York, NY (212) 541-6884. www.musictheatre.com

From The Safeguarding Department

Safeguarding News

As the weather has started to get colder and wetter, it is more important that students come to school in the right uniform and with coats so they can stay warm and dry. Excepting PE lessons, hoodies are not allowed to be worn in school so having a black, grey or burgundy v necked jumper under a blazer will be needed as we head into the winter months. Our school uniform is designed to be formal but we need to reiterate that stretchy, jersey material is not permitted for school skirts, and all skirts need to be of a suitable length. We have plenty of skirts in school that students will be given to wear if an alternative is needed.

As the cost of living crisis begins to hit families harder, can we remind you that we have lots of clean second hand uniform available for students if needed and we are very fortunate to have a supply of toiletries given to school by Cary Cares which are stored in the Heads of Year office; please let them know or ask your child to see them.

The last Families Bulletin of the term will include a section on Safeguarding, we have been asked by parents to provide some online resources on how to support children with a variety of concerns, if you have anything in particular that you would also like to be included then please do not hesitate to contact me by Friday 2nd December
frances.hirst@ansford.net

Happy Healthy Holidays

Please find here the link to happy, healthy holidays <https://www.sasp.co.uk/happy-healthy-holidays>

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From SEND News**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.

Year 10 Parents' Evening

Should parents of Year 10 students wish to speak to Ms Perkins regarding SEN matters there will be a number of slots available to book when the system goes live.

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 Musson**Parents' Evening**

On Thursday 11th November we held a face to face parents evening for our Year 11 families. Parents each had an appointment slot with individual teachers to discuss the progress of their child. It was really nice to see so many parents attend and to be able to meet in person.

Recently we have had to hold our Parents' Evenings as virtual events, due to COVID restrictions where parents had a 3 minute timed slot to discuss progress of learning. We are aware that there were mixed views from parents and teachers about individual preferences towards the two types of evenings, each set-up having their own advantages and disadvantages.

As a school we want to ensure we host parents' evenings that are most beneficial for students, parents and staff so the greatest benefit is made. We are therefore reviewing the parents' evening experience for our students throughout the time they spend at Ansford and so we would welcome your feedback to help us make an informed decision on how we host our parents' evenings in the future.

If you have the time, please can you complete the following questionnaire to help us aid our decision making.

<https://forms.gle/ujUgGSfB51FTT42C8>

**From Mrs Watson
Careers Officer****Careers Updates**

Please find [here an](#) update from Mrs Watson.

**From Mrs Switzer
Camps International**

Kenya Trip

Please can students who are going to Kenya with Camps International make sure that they are regularly checking their school email in order to keep updated with any further meetings/ fundraising notices.

From Assembly Themes

28th Nov - 2nd Dec	Safeguarding - eSafety / Sexting <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Understanding the risks associated with sexting● Understanding how to seek help / advice before or after an incident.● Understanding the risk of online grooming / exploitation● Understanding the importance of managing a professional digital footprint.	Ms Hirst
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[International Day for the Abolition of Slavery](#) (2 December)

5th - 9th December	The importance of literacy <ul style="list-style-type: none">● What is the importance of great literacy?● Links to workplace demands / expectations?● Links to greater life expectancy and why this is true● Key focus areas to address / identified by staff?● The power of reading for pleasure	Mr Noott
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[Human Rights Day](#) (10 December)

12th - 16th December	Achievement Assembly <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Subject / Tutor Group winners● Top 5 girls / boys● Tutor group winners● Individual accolades / achievements	Heads of Years
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[Hanukkah](#) (18 to 26 December)

**From Mrs Reddick
Head of Art**

Carnival

Although it seems a little while ago now, a group of students participated in the School Category at the Castle Cary Carnival and we secured 3rd place. The encouragement we received from the school community was amazing as we paraded our Day of the Dead lanterns through the town.

Please see the note that I received from the organiser of the Castle Cary Carnival.

“A small note to say a MASSIVE thank you and offer huge congratulations to you, the staff, parents/ carers and young people for your wonderful carnival entry. What you had created from paper and withies was just amazing. And it was great seeing the excitement on the students’ faces - and I also had golden boot envy! It really was a great night. The committee were delighted with the bumper, warm and enthusiastic crowds, also the great range of entries and exceptionally the high standard of the floats and walkers. We hope you all had a great time! The other good news is that we raised a wonderful £2000. Most of this will be handed out as donations to local charitable organisations. Thank you once again for helping Cary and Ansford put on such a hugely enjoyable carnival.

Caroline Sharley

General Secretary, Castle Cary and Ansford Carnival Society”

Ansford Christmas Card Competition 2022

Ansford Christmas Card Competition 2022

To enter.....
Design a card on an A4 piece of paper
(art paper, like in your sketchbooks)
Hand it to Mrs Reddick by Friday 2nd December.

It could be hand drawn, made on Photoshop, a photograph, a collage etc.

Winners

The best design will be available to purchase from the school.
2 runners up will receive a creative Christmas treat!!

Open to all



**From Mr Kershaw
Science Department**

Year 11 Science Revision

Please find [here](#) a copy of the letter that has been sent to Year 11 families.

From Mrs Swallow

Year 10 Art Trip

Just before half term, Year 10 Art students took a trip to Hauser and Wirth in Bruton to take part in the International Big Draw festival. They took on a variety of different drawing challenges taking inspiration from their surroundings and artists: Fabian Peak and Louise Bourgeois. The students were amazing and were a real credit to Ansford Academy.



From Mr Sandy

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.

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

Extra-curricular activities

Mathematics and Computing		Autumn 2022	
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 Mrs Withers MA5 (Wk 1)	NO CLUBS – STAFF MEETINGS
Tuesday	Numeracy Mentors Ms Buckley MA2	Sudoku Club Mrs Withers MA5 (Wk 2)	Minecraft Club Miss Worthy-Jarvis IT1
Wednesday	Numeracy Mentors Ms Buckley MA2	Maths Logic Challenge Mrs Piper MA4	
Thursday	Numeracy Mentors Ms Buckley MA2	Higher Paper Drop-In Session in MA3 with Ms Harris and Mr Musson	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 (please check the calendar)
Friday	Numeracy Mentors Ms Buckley MA2	KS3 Games and Chess Club Mr Wong in MA2 Drop in to The Learning Bridge with Ms Buckley	

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 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 Mrs Kenchington	

Other Notices

Current Vacancies

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, Dunscombe 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>

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