

# Bulletin for Ansford Families

Issue 7: 6th January 2023

## Message from the Headteacher

Dear Families

I hope that the Christmas break has been a peaceful and restful one and send my best wishes for a Happy New Year which I hope has started well for you.

Our INSET day on Tuesday this week focused on important training relating to SEND provision and practice at Ansford. It was a really informative day that provided many essential updates for staff. We were delighted to welcome back our students on Wednesday, especially as the majority were wearing their uniform so well and with pride. We have had a really positive first week back and students have impressed us with the way that they have adapted quickly back to life at school.

As Year 11 families will know, we said farewell to Mr Hill (Head of Year 11 and Teacher of PE) at the end of last term as he moved on to a new role. In the short time that he was with us, Mr Hill played a really important part in the lives of our Year 11 students and was a real asset to the school. I am sure that you will join me in wishing him well on his next steps. We are very fortunate that Ms Mallord, a very experienced Head of Year, will be taking on the leadership of Year 11 alongside her current work with Year 10. She will be supported by Mrs Switzer who will be taking on responsibility as Deputy Head of Year 10 and Year 11.

At the end of term, we also said goodbye to Mrs Lee Mosley who has served the school for many years as a Governor. We have been really grateful for the loyalty and commitment that Lee has offered to the school; her service to the community has been highly valued and will be greatly missed. We are pleased to welcome Mrs Jennie White as our new Chair of Governors; Jennie will introduce herself to you in the next edition of the Family Bulletin.

If you haven't been hit by ill health in the family over the Christmas period, you are likely to be in a minority as it appears that many viruses and winter illnesses were circulating at high levels. You may have seen that the UK Health Security Agency has issued some advice to parents on how they can help to ensure that their child doesn't catch and spread illness. The advice identifies three important elements for parents and carers which I share with you below:

- Emphasising the routines of handwashing
- Advising to keep your child off school if they are ill and have a temperature
- Advising to book a flu jab for your child if they are eligible (more information about eligibility can be found on NHS.UK.)

With best wishes for a relaxing weekend,

Rachel Purnell  
Headteacher

## 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 January	Event	Location Timing	Staff Contact
2	Thursday 12th January	Year 9 Parents' Evening	4.15pm - 7pm, face to face and virtual appointments will be available. Further information will be sent to parents next week.	Mr Musson
2	Friday 13th January	Year 11 Prom Fundraisers Monthly Cake Sale	Beginning on Friday 13th January, during break and lunchtime.	Mrs Martin
1	Thursday 19th January	Year 9 Options Evening	Timings to be confirmed, please see note below	Mr Musson
2	Monday 23rd January	Higher Education Evening	6.00pm - 7.45pm for Years 9-11	Mrs Watson
2	Wednesday 25th January	Youth Speaks Competition	5pm, PA2	Mrs Hardy Stewart

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## Regular Notices

### From The Safeguarding Team

#### Children and Young People Self Harm Awareness Training for Parents, Carers and Family Members in Somerset

As we know from the media, self-harm is on the rise amongst young people. If you or someone you know would like to learn more about self-harm and how to help children and young people in distress then please see the course brief and registration details below. This course is free to attend and takes place online.



#### **This 90-minute session will be delivered virtually via Zoom/MS Teams and 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
- Q & A

#### **Dates**

Wednesday 18th **January** 2023

**10:30am – 12:00pm** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/439496244097>

Monday 13th **February** 2023

**1:00 – 2:30pm** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/439497648297>

Thursday 23rd **March** 2023

**6:00pm – 7:30pm** <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/439499102647>

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## From Mr Musson, Deputy Headteacher: Curriculum and Standards

### Year 9 Parents' Evening 12th January 2023

Following the outcomes of Parents' Evening Review, Year 9 parents' evening will be held as a hybrid model with a combination of virtual and face to face appointments available for booking. The appointment slots will be organised as follows:

4.15 - 4.45pm: Virtual Appointments

4.45 - 6.45pm: Face to Face Appointments

6.45 - 7.15pm: Virtual Appointments

### Year 9 Options Evening

A reminder for parents of students in Year 9 that this will take place on the evening of Thursday 19th January 2023. This is a really important evening for families to attend as it provides details of the option process and a timeline of events. You will also have the opportunity to discuss the content and course structure of individual subjects with staff to ensure you make informed decisions when selecting your chosen subjects. Families will receive a letter outlining details of timings and the structure of the evening during next week.

## From Ms Hirst, Deputy Headteacher: Welfare and Inclusion

### Uniform: Thank You and Continued Expectations

We wish to thank parents and carers for their support with regards to students returning in full uniform after the Christmas holidays. The standard of uniform across the Academy is very good and we appreciate your efforts in helping us to achieve this. We will continue with our efforts to maintain this positive return and wish to reiterate our offer of contact with your child's Head of Year should there be any uniform issues so we can seek to resolve them as quickly as possible using the stock of clean, second hand items that we have in school.

- Ms Walsh, Head of Year 7 and Year 8 [tracie.walsh@ansford.net](mailto:tracie.walsh@ansford.net)
- Mr Newbury, Head of Year 9 [josh.newbury@ansford.net](mailto:josh.newbury@ansford.net)
- Ms Mallord, Head of Year 10 and Year 11 [jane.mallord@ansford.net](mailto:jane.mallord@ansford.net)

## 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 Oats, Head of Design Technology

### Wooden Furniture

If you have any wooden furniture which is due to be taken to the tip we would be very grateful to receive it as the school is in need of a supply of both hard and soft wood. Larger items can be collected.

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## From Mr Mitchell, Assistant Headteacher: Community and Conduct

### Reward Assemblies

I would like to congratulate the vast majority of students who achieved glowing reports and conduct scores in the Autumn Term, showing determination and resilience to be successful in the classroom, in their extra curricular activities and within their communities.

The last day of term focused on celebrating the fantastic achievements of so many students with awards presented in various categories including: students who have not received a single negative behaviour log, tutor group rankings [which has sparked a lovely sense of year group competition], Tutor awards and special Head of Year awards.

The Head of Year Awards were presented to two individuals in recognition for sustained excellence, kindness and resilience. The Autumn Term awards were presented to:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Isaac R	Kris J	Mackenzie U	Tom V	Libby H
Saffron M	Maisie-Jane P	Violet M	Ceyda F	Liam J

A number of our students have achieved outstanding accolades within the clubs and services they take part in outside of school. If your child is taking part in an event or has achieved an outstanding accomplishment we'd love to hear about this and celebrate within school. You can contact us using: [mailbox@ansford.net](mailto:mailbox@ansford.net)

### Student Council

Our student council will begin a project researching local charities, exploring the work they do and the resources they require to be able to continue and expand their services within our local communities. We will proudly organise a number of non-uniform 'mufti' days throughout the Spring and Summer terms to raise funds.

### Camps International

I would also like to extend a huge well done to the many students and families who enrolled onto the Camps International expedition to Kenya. We have loved hearing about the various fundraising events and sponsorship initiatives that so many of you have organised and completed.

## From Mrs Hardy-Stewart, English Teacher

### Youth Speaks Competition

This January sees the return of the Public Speaking competition, Youth Speaks. This competition is run and judged by the Rotary Club. Before the pandemic, Ansford teams competed every year, often winning their first round and sometimes progressing to regional heats.

The competition has been on hold for two years but this year Ansford Academy helps breathe new life into the competition by hosting it and by training up a marvellous team to take part. Tom G and Noah C will speak for and against the following motion: ***“Encountering stories about elves, fairies and other mythological beings is part of a healthy childhood.”*** Liam H’s job is to chair the Ansford team entry, introducing, managing questions and concluding with panache. The speeches are full of comedy and cultural capital. All three speakers, fresh from their roles in Elf, are confident and exuberant.

The date for this event is **Wednesday 25th January** from 5pm onwards here at Ansford. Refreshments will be available. Please save the date and come and support our Year 8 orators.

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### From Mrs Bevan, PA to the Headteacher

#### Date for your Diary: Year 11 Families

Tempest Photography will be coming into school on **Monday 6th February** to take individual and year group photos of all our Year 11 students.

### From Assembly Themes

3rd - 6th January	Headteacher's address <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Welcome back / celebration of last term</li><li>● Setting new goals / resolutions</li><li>● How to reflect on personal gains / failures</li><li>● Key expectations / re-sharing the vision</li></ul>
9th - 13th January	Global religions <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Exploring the role of faith</li><li>● Exploration of religions around the world</li><li>● The importance of accepting and acknowledging the beliefs and values of others</li><li>● Link to the fundamental British values</li></ul>

### From Mrs Kenchington, Head of World Studies

#### Year 11 GCSE French and Spanish speaking exams

These will take place on Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th January. Pupils will have an individual exam lasting approximately 25 minutes. They will be given their times by their teachers during lessons.

### From Mr Kershaw, Head of Science

#### STEM Festival

Ansford Academy will be taking part in a very exciting STEM festival (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths). This is the first time such an event has taken place in Somerset. The Academy will be hosting a number of exhibitors, including organisations like Thales, Royal Navy, Leonardo Helicopters, along with many other companies who are involved in STEM fields. This is an amazing opportunity to find out about the high tech and groundbreaking organisations in the local area, with the hope of opening the eyes of, and inspiring the young people of Somerset to amazing career openings that exist in our part of the world.

The event is being held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023 at locations in Castle Cary, Bruton and the surrounding area. Here is the website to showcase the event which is free of charge: <https://somerscience.co.uk/>

### From Miss Thomas, PE Technician

#### PE Kit

If anyone has any spare PE kit, the PE department would be very grateful to receive it as we can use it for pupils who may have forgotten their kit or for others who are without for different reasons.

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**From Mrs Watson, Careers Officer**

**Christmas Careers Challenge between 10<sup>th</sup> Dec 2022 – 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 2023**

Find out more about all the Careers in the NHS by [signing up to the NHS Careers Christmas Challenge!](#) KS3 and KS4 pupils of all abilities can find out about diverse careers through modules and by asking questions of NHS ambassadors/mentors. Bite-sized and accessible to all pupils who are interested in careers within the NHS.

To complete the Christmas Challenge pupils complete the following:

1. Sign up to <https://hee.connectr.co.uk/hee/>
2. Complete 2 tasks
3. Send a message to a mentor/ambassador

**Higher Education and University Information Event: Monday 23rd January 2023 6.00pm - 7.45pm**

We are excited to be able to announce an additional date for the school calendar in the New Year, having secured guest speakers from the University of Reading, University of South Wales and an expert on Degree Apprenticeships. The evening will run as three 30 minute talks covering:

- Introduction to University and things to consider (University of Reading)
- Student Finance - funding your studies (University of South Wales)
- Degree Apprenticeships - gaining a degree through the workplace (ASK Apprenticeships)

Whether you are in Year 9 and considering GCSE subject choices, in Year 10 and exploring options for after Ansford or in Year 11 and want to see where you could aim for after your Post 16 studies, the evening will provide an invaluable insight to help inform your choices.

If you would like to attend please complete [this form](#) - detailing who will be attending from your family. The evening is open to students in Year 9, 10 and 11 only.

**From Year 11 Prom Fund-Raising Committee**



# CAKE SALE

Friday 13th January 2023

In the canteen at break and lunch

Prices from 50p. Please bring change!

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**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**

	<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 <b>PE/Sports Studies:</b> 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 Mallord
<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	

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### 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, Mappes Lane, Castle Cary, Somerset, BA7 7JJ  
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>