

Bulletin for Ansford Families

Issue 8: 20th January 2023

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Families

Since our last Family Bulletin, we have been delighted to welcome our Year 9 Families into school for two important events as students in this year group prepare to make important decisions about their KS4 option choices: Parents' Evening and Options Evening. Options Evening last night was a really busy event with extremely high numbers of families present to gather information to inform next steps. Year 9 Parents' Evening was the first since our consultation with you in the autumn term. Having listened to your feedback, this event was the first of our 'hybrid' events so we were able to offer both virtual and in-person appointments. This worked really well as it enabled parents and carers to adopt their preferred approach. We will be continuing with the hybrid model moving forwards so if you do have any feedback about how we can improve the event ahead of the next parents' evening, please do let us know.

January has seen students participating in trips and visits that have taken them beyond Somerset. Many thanks to Mrs Withers for leading and organising the Year 7 Maths Circles Trip to Exeter. Students involved were a real credit to the school, working well with students from other schools in the South West in different groups and showing great engagement in Maths discussions. They will continue this project on a weekly basis online until their next visit to Exeter in July. In addition, our Year 10 and Year 11 Art and Design and Photography students enjoyed a day in London visiting the Saatchi Gallery and The Tate Britain. Students had a fantastic day getting the chance to experience art work first hand as well as broadening their creative knowledge and understanding. Many thanks to Mrs Reddick and Mrs Swallow for creating this opportunity for our young people.

As you may be aware from recent news reports, it has now been confirmed that teachers who are members of the NEU Union will be holding four days of strike action. The action is the result of a dispute between the NEU and the Government and does not involve individual schools. The first of the four days of strike action will take place on **Wednesday 1st February 2023**. The strike action is likely to cause disruption at Ansford due to the numbers of our teaching staff who are members of the NEU. We are currently assessing the impact on our provision. We will write to you in due course to confirm the arrangements.

Finally, I would like to welcome Miss Hayley Liu who is joining our administration team at Ansford. She will initially be working as part of our reception team so you may well speak to her if you call into reception or telephone our main phone line.

I hope that you have a lovely weekend.

Rachel Purnell
Headteacher

Introduction from our new Chair of Governors

Dear Families

Having recently been elected to the post of Chair of Governors at Ansford Academy, I am writing to introduce myself so that we are able to start to get to know each other. Firstly, I would like to thank Chris Culpin and Darrell Chainey for steering the governing body until the point I took up post. Chris and Darrell - your commitment to the role has been admirable; we are all extremely grateful.



My name is Jennie White and, until very recently, I worked in the education sector. I started my teaching career working with adult male prisoners and young offenders and have also held a number of roles including Director of Education for an alternative provision, Headteacher and CEO of a Multi Academy Trust. I am now the CEO of Level Trust, a charity that works to support children and families living in poverty to access a range of educational opportunities and resources.

I feel very privileged to have spent my whole career working with children and young people- they have taught me so much and made my working life extremely happy and fulfilling. I hope to put my previous experience to good use in my work at Ansford to provide both support and challenge so that all children receive an outstanding education.

I have been married to John for 24 years and we have four children (26, 23, 17 & 14). In my spare time, I enjoy walking with our four dogs in the countryside, reading, watching our children play sports and Strictly Come Dancing.

As a mother, I know that you will want your children to be happy, to be safe and to be reaching their potential when they come to school. I promise you that in my role as Chair of Governors, I will always think of my children when making decisions. Quite simply, if it isn't good enough for my children, it is not good enough for your children.

At Ansford, you are extremely fortunate to have a diverse governing body who bring a great deal of experience and expertise from across a wide range of sectors. You also have a dedicated and caring staff body led with enthusiasm and determination by a talented senior leadership team with Ms Purnell at the helm. When I first visited Ansford, I was struck by its friendly and welcoming atmosphere and the consideration and love that staff show your children. I am excited to work with the entire staff body to support them in fulfilling their aims and ambitions for the school.

I very much hope to meet you at a school event or one of my termly coffee and chat sessions. Please do come along and say hello. It is important that you know the governing body at your child's school and that you feel able to be honest with us about what is going well and what we can do to improve. I look forward to chatting with you and I am happy to help you in any way I am able.

Best wishes

Jennie White

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	Monday 23rd	Higher Education Evening	6.00pm - 7.45pm for Years 9-11	Mrs Watson
2	Wednesday 25th	Youth Speaks Competition	5pm, PA2	Mrs Hardy Stewart
Week	Date in February	Event	Location Timing	Staff Contact
2	Monday 6th	Year 11 photos	9am, PA2	Mrs Bevan
2	Tuesday 7th	Year 3 Sports Festival	Ansford	Mrs Wood
2	Thursday 9th	Year 11 Parents' Evening	4.15pm - 7.00pm Virtual or Face to Face - information to follow	Mr Musson Mrs Dyal
Monday 13th - Friday 17th February HALF TERM				

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

Assembly Themes	
16th-21st January Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Day (16 January)	Ethos - what does success look like? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Exploration of how success can be measured ● What does success look like by age milestones ● How to maximise success ● Learning how to deal with setbacks/failure
23rd - 27th January	International Education Week <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● History of education in Britain ● Exploring how/where/why millions of children are deprived of an education globally ● Making the most of your own education ● Reflecting on the highlights of your education to date

Regular Notices

From Mrs Bevan, PA to the Headteacher
<p>Taunton Town Football Club</p> <p>You may be aware that at the end of last season Taunton Town FC was promoted to the National League South - the highest league position that the club has ever held in its illustrious 75 year history. This success is brilliant news for Taunton and Somerset, and also helps create a springboard from which the club hopes to interact even more with its local community and, in particular, schools. Please click this link to watch a short video created by the media team at TTFC.</p>
<p>Date for your Diary: Year 11 Families</p> <p>Tempest Photography will be coming into school on Monday 6th February to take individual and year group photos of all our Year 11 students. Please could all Year 11 parents complete the permissions form which was sent via schoolcomms. If you haven't received this, please email mailbox@ansford.net to request one.</p>

From SEND Department
<p>Homework Support Club</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>SEND News</p> <p>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.</p> <p>https://beta.somerset.gov.uk/education-and-families/the-local-offer/</p>

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

From The Safeguarding Team

Online Safety

We have had concerns about the interactions some of our students are having through the game Roblox. Here are six tips to help keep your child safe on Roblox.

1. *Sign up with the correct age*

Make sure your child creates an account using the correct age. On Roblox, certain safety settings and parental controls are enabled by default for children under 13. However, you should still review the settings to ensure they've been set up correctly.

2. *Build a list of age-appropriate games*

Not all games on Roblox will be appropriate for your child. The platform has a setting that lets parents and carers limit what their child can play by allowing them to build lists of age-appropriate games. You can also switch off in-app spending or set monthly limits.

3. *Explore communication settings*

You can manage who your child can speak to by disabling chat completely or limiting it to friends only. You can also switch off their inbox to stop them receiving direct messages.

4. *Explore the platform together*

Ask your child to give you a demonstration of the platform to help you understand how they use it and explore some of the parental controls together. You could even consider setting up your own account and playing the games yourself.

5. *Have regular conversations about gaming*

Continue to [have regular conversations](#) with them about what they are doing online. Ask your child open questions like "what games have you been playing on Roblox recently?" or "What platforms have you been using to play games?"

6. *Use the Online Safety Hub*

If you need more information on setting up parental controls on Roblox, visit [their Parent Guide](#)

The NSPCC have some excellent safety advice to help keep your child safe online. Please see the link below:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

Assemblies for the week beginning the 13th March will include looking at child-on-child abuse but will also seek to address the issues surrounding the publicity regarding Andrew Tate and the misogynistic rhetoric he encourages.

From Ms Fulton, Lead First Aid and Medical Coordinator

Scarlet Fever

Dr Sarah Bridges in Somerset offers words of advice and guidance on knowing the signs of Scarlet Fever and Group A Strep, and what to do if you are worried. Find out how to spot the signs of Scarlet Fever here:

<https://nhssomerset.nhs.uk/know-the-signs-scarlet-fever/>

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

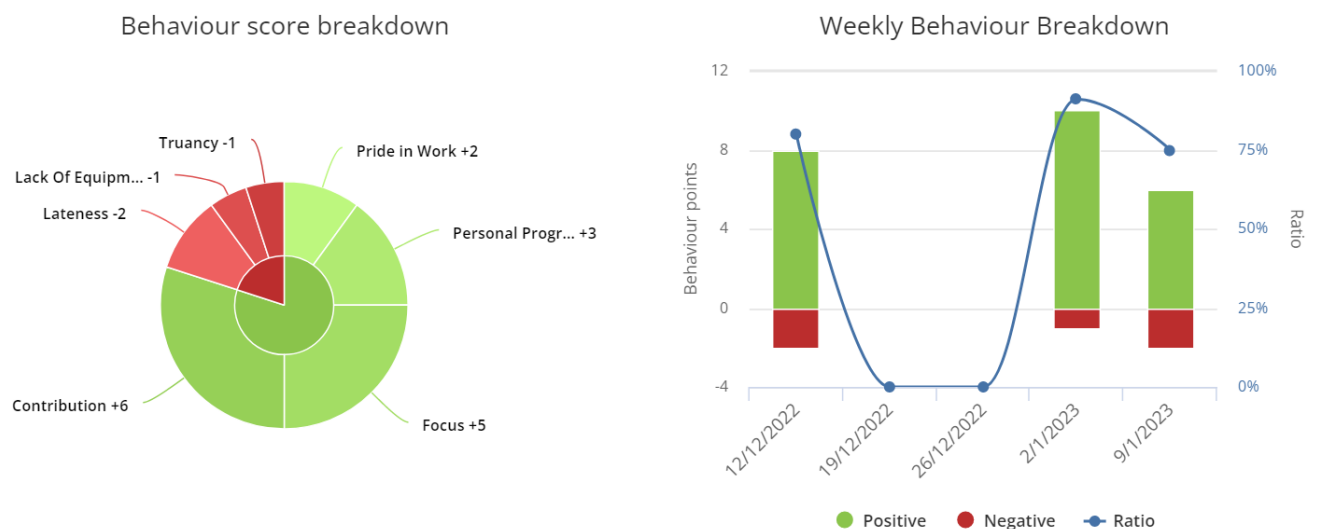
From Mr Cue, Assistant Headteacher: Teaching and Learning

ClassCharts Spring Term 1

Hopefully, you have been keeping in touch with the progress of our implementation of ClassCharts which we launched at Ansford at the start of this academic year. The *ClassCharts* platform offers many functions and we have been rolling out different elements with staff, students and parents and carers. So far, as parents and carers, you will have been able to view your child's positive behaviour points and also the Homework Calendar. Staff have also been using the seating plans function and all aspects of the behaviour points function.

To date academy staff have awarded 93,500 reward points, an average of 162 points per student which celebrate their focus, contributions, kindness, organisation and day to day excellent conduct. In the same way as last term, students can spend their reward points in the Reward Shop on *ClassCharts*. For Spring Term 1, this opens to students on Monday 30th January. Orders must be placed by Friday 3rd February to receive rewards before half term.

Since September, we have continued to track and monitor negative behaviour points across all subject areas on a student level basis and our pastoral staff will have made contact with you if we are concerned about negative patterns of behaviour. However, during stage one of our roll out, whilst we have been establishing this new way of working for staff, the negative points have not been visible to you or your child. This will change on Monday 6th February when the negative points function will be opened to students and parents to view from their *ClassCharts* account. A really useful tool on your account is the section which shows overall behaviour patterns in the form of two graphs as shown below:



In the same way that you will have seen the positive behaviour points hold different values, you will see the same pattern with the negative behaviour points as these can carry a -1, -3 or -5 points allocation which is explained in the following table.

-1	Classroom teachers and support staff will log incidents of negative behaviour as a -1. They will liaise with their line managers if further action or support is required.
-3	Heads of Faculty and Heads of Year will log incidents of negative behaviour as a -3 as they often hold a wider contextual awareness of situations and will oversee appropriate consequences.
-5	Senior Leaders may use this option to record serious incidents which may lead to a higher level of consequence.

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

Parent Log ins were sent out last term. If you require another login, please contact Mrs E Morgan via email: elizabeth.morgan@ansford.net.

If you have experienced any problems getting started, there is a drop in session being run at the Academy on Wednesday 1st February between 4.00-5.30pm. Please email mailbox@ansford.net if you would like to make an appointment to join this session.

We hope that you will find the additional functions of ClassCharts useful.

From Mr Hill, Science Teacher

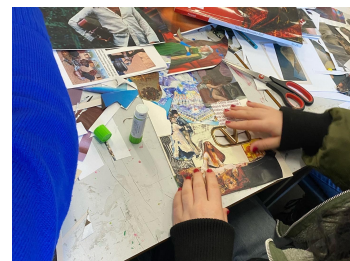
Somerscience Festival Challenge

We are keen to widen out our festival digital challenge to all young people in South Somerset regardless of whether or not their school is taking part. We now have a **direct route** for interested young people to take part in this competition which is on their doorstep and where the final will be taking place at the Festival in Castle Cary on 1st May. Please do have a look at [this link](#) for more information.

From Mrs Reddick, Acting Head of Creative Arts

Art Trip

Year 10 and 11 Art and Design and Photography students enjoyed a day in London on Friday 13th January, visiting the Saatchi Gallery finding out about the work of 15 of the most influential black photographers in driving the transformation that fashion and Art is currently undergoing. Students also attended a workshop where they engaged with collage, mixing traditional Art with a more modern day cultural representation.



Next on the agenda was the Tate Britain where students got the opportunity to admire the eclectic and powerful procession installation by artist Hew Locke, before exploring the galleries. Students had a fantastic day getting the chance to experience art work first hand as well as broadening their creative knowledge and understanding.

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 1st 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/>

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

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.

From Modern Foreign Languages Department



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

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

From Maths and Computer Department

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	

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

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 (2-2:30pm)	English: In EN5 with Mr Noott, Mrs Uffendell, Mrs Hardy-Stewart, 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	

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

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, 10000 Lane, Castle Cary, Somerset, BA7 7JL
Tel: 01963 350895
Email: mailbox@ansford.net

For further information on vacancies please click on the link below.

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

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