

Bulletin for Ansford Families

Issue 10: 24th February 2023

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Families

I would like to thank families for their support and kind words following the unexpected death of Mr Glenn Tracey who has been our IT Manager at Ansford for many years. An unexpected loss of this nature hits a community hard and it is the kind support of others that really helps. We will be finding our own ways to remember Mr Tracey and all that he has done for our community here at Ansford over the coming months and will share these with you in due course.

As you will be aware from previous communications, the second day of strike action for the NEU (largest teaching union) will be taking place on Thursday 2nd March. A separate letter will be sent to families detailing the arrangements for the day so please look out for that in your inbox.

Whilst it was a pleasure to see so many parents attending the second Year 11 Parents' Evening (either virtually or in person) this academic year, it was also a time of sadness as it was 'the last' parents' evening for some families. This time of the academic year can feel a very strange one for Year 11 students and their families as the countdown to the GCSE examinations begin and the end of 11-16 education approaches. Amongst other things, it can feel a time of pressure, a time of excitement or a time of worry about the future - all feelings that are completely normal but can be challenging to manage. Our Year 11 students remain a priority for us as we support them to manage the challenges of their last few months at Ansford successfully.

Our GCSE Drama students had a great time in London when they went to see a performance of a Woman in Black which is one of their set texts - many thanks to Mr Newbury and the accompanying staff for providing this experience. It has also been lovely to welcome our Year 3 visitors from the local primary schools when they attended for the recent Sports' Festival - many thanks to Mrs Wood and her team for their work in creating those opportunities.

Many of you will be aware of our school's pivotal role in creating the longstanding link between the communities of Castle Cary and Mufulira, which started in 1994. Some of you may also have been directly involved on one of the many exchange visits. If so, the Cary-Mufulira Community Partnership Trust (CMCPT) would like to hear from you, as they would like to bring together all exchange participants in a 'Virtual World', to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the link. Details of how to get involved can be found in the final section of this Bulletin.

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Marshfield back from her maternity leave this week. Mrs Marshfield is returning to her role as Head of Creative Arts after a year away and has already commented on the positive changes that she is seeing at Ansford, particularly in terms of student behaviour and attitudes.

We have also received similar feedback from an external consultant who has been working with us this week to provide support as we continue to develop the provision at Ansford. Verbal feedback from the visit has been really positive with many areas of improvement noted since the last visit at the end of last academic year.

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 February	Event	Location Timing	Staff Contact
1	Thursday 23rd	GCSE Sports Science Mock Practical	Sports Centre	Mrs Wood
1	Thursday 23rd	HPV vaccinations for Year 8 and Year 9	PA2, timings tbc	Ms Fulton
Week	Date in March	Event	Location Timing	Staff Contact
2	Thursday 2nd	Strike Action for Teachers in NEU	Further information sent by letter	
1	Thursday 9th	Year 8 Parents' Evening	4.15pm - 7.00pm Virtual or Face to Face - information to follow	Mrs Dyal Mr Musson

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Regular Notices

From Assembly Themes		
27th Feb - 3rd Mar	World Book Day <ul style="list-style-type: none">● An introduction to the international event● The importance of reading for pleasure● How to identify fake news and the dangers of it● The importance of comprehension and imagination	PHS
World Book Day (2 March)		
6th - 10th Mar	International Women's Day <ul style="list-style-type: none">● An introduction to the international event● A historical chronology of female empowerment in the UK● Examples of how women lack equal rights/empowerment around the world● Challenging gender stereotypes within careers	HoY
International Women's Day (8 March)		

From the Safeguarding Team
<p>Mobile Phone Apps</p> <p>We have been made aware of two mobile phone apps that we are concerned about and wanted to make you aware of. Both of these apps are designed to put children in contact with each other to make friends, however this has been exploited by those who are wishing to send inappropriate messages and images.</p> <div data-bbox="549 1153 1043 1570" data-label="Image"></div> <p>There are no parental controls available on Wizz. This and the very nature of random connection and digital communication combine to provide easy, and seemingly innocent, direct access to children. Whilst it is not impossible to meet a great friend online, apps that require no authenticity or verification from its users are not the likely source of quality friendships.</p> <p>Digital communication of this kind allows for quick words and impulsive requests that lack respect and dignity. Even if you don't allow your son or daughter to have an app like Wizz, it remains imperative to teach (and re-teach) appropriate and respectful communication.</p>

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Likee is a short video creation platform where users can be creative, share videos, add music, and use filters. Users can search different hashtags and explore content posted by others worldwide, with the option to filter by location. You don't need an account to watch the most popular videos, but users do need to be logged in to access video content posted by nearby users. Accounts can be created using a phone number, Facebook, or Instagram account. Date of birth is also required – but this information is **not shown publicly**.

Likee uses levels to encourage users to earn more XP (experience points) which are earned by opening Likee every day, watching/posting videos, fan growth and sending/receiving gifts. It features in app purchases, whereby users can buy 'diamonds' and gift these as 'beans', which can be cashed out of the app for real currency. Users can click the top right corner to 'reward' another user.

The risks of Likee:

- There are **no** age restrictions when signing up to the app.
- The app can feature inappropriate content, including suggestive language & violence.
- You **CANNOT** make an account private.
- In the safety settings '**Hide Location**' & '**Hide my Videos in Nearby**' are automatically set to public by default.
- Likee has substandard reporting functions – Users can report videos but there is no function to report a live stream or another user.
- There's scope for grooming, coercion and abuse through its gifting feature.
- As per other live streaming/video platforms, viewers can manipulate the actions of users by gifting.
- In app parental controls are ineffective.

What parents can do:

- Have open and honest conversations with children and young people in your care about not sharing personal information online.
- Check that young people know how to turn off location settings, and configure safety settings on the Apps they use.
- Check that they only engage with other people they know online.
- Check that they understand what they should do if they see something online that upsets or worries them.
- If you are concerned about an App your child is using, download it and use it yourself- or use it together to get a feel for it.

If your child has been approached inappropriately by an adult online, you should contact the police immediately.

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From Mr Mitchell, Assistant Headteacher: Community and Conduct

Celebrating Success

We are always excited to hear about the fantastic things our students achieve outside of school, so please do contact us if you would like us to publicly or privately celebrate the achievements of your children.

After School Detentions

A new Senior Leadership Team after school detention will be introduced, following the February half term, for poor conduct or behaviour, which will be held on Wednesday and Friday afternoons. These will begin at 3:30pm [at the end of the school day] with students booked in for 45 minutes or 90 minutes depending on the incident leading to the detention. We are not currently offering a transport service, therefore we request your ongoing support to ensure your child's conduct does not have too great an impact on your own schedules.

From Ms Watson, Careers Adviser

Year 10 Work Experience

The deadline for submission of placement details is now **Monday 24th April 2023**. If you have secured a place but are yet to notify us, please do this as soon as possible so the place can be booked, checked and paperwork completed. If you are unsure of your options and would like support, please email Wendy who will arrange to see you after half term.

From Mrs Switzer, Teacher of Geography

Year 11 Leavers' Hoodies

Leavers' hoodies are available to order online via www.fizz-hoodies.co.uk/

Our School Unique ID is: 24686YR11

The deadline for orders is 05/03/2023

All details have been sent out on a letter via School Comms, the consent form must be filled in and returned to school to give consent for students' names to feature on the hoodie. If there are any queries please contact Helen Martin or myself.

Prom Committee Fundraising

The Prom Committee are holding a hot dog sale on Wednesday 1st March to raise money to support their prom. Hot dogs will be sold outside DT1 at lunchtime for £1.50 each and only cash can be accepted so please bring money in if you are hoping to buy a hot dog. The price includes a delicious hot dog freshly cooked, served with optional extras of onions, mustard and ketchup!

We will also be hosting an Easter Bingo evening as a fundraising event for the Year 11 Prom. We would like to ask for donations towards a **raffle** that we will be hosting that evening. If anyone has a prize they could source or donate please could you contact Mrs Switzer at katie.switzer@ansford.net More details will follow in due course about the Easter Bingo event.

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From Mrs Kenchington, Head of World Studies

GCSEpod for Year 10 and 11

GCSE students have been using GCSEpod to help with their learning and revision. All Year 10 and 11 students have set up an account with this provider. Unfortunately, parents are unable to have their own account but if you would like some guidance on how to support your child with this tool or just want a better understanding of GCSEpod then you can sign up to a parent webinar using the following link: <https://www.gcsepod.com/webinars-on-demand>

From Mrs Swallow, Art and Design Technology Teacher

Prom Committee

The Year 11 Prom Committee played Cupid at the end of last half term and delivered anonymous roses to valentines across the school to raise money for their Year 11 prom in the summer! Watch out for more of their fundraising events including cake sales, teacher leg waxing and a bingo night!



Textiles

Lots of exciting work being finished in textiles last half term. Our Year 8s made device covers. Some brilliant work! Well done!

Look out for more creative updates on our new twitter page: The Creative Arts & DT facilities @creavieansford



From the Caterlink Team

Top up Balances

Please could parents check that their child's account balance has been topped up. The team tries hard to make sure every child has something to eat but there are currently quite a few accounts with a negative balance on their food accounts.

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From Mrs Marshfield, Head of Creative Arts

The Ansford Academy Choir



Come and join the new
Ansford Academy Choir, bring
your lunch for a weekly
singing sesh!

When:
Wednesday lunchtime
(1:45-2:20)

Where: PA1

Who: Mrs Marshfield

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 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/>

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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



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	

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:	Maths:

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	In DT2 with Mr Oats	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	

Community News

Cary-Mufulira Community Partnership Trust (CMCPT)

Zambia Exchange 30th Anniversary

Many of you will be aware of our school's pivotal role in creating the longstanding link between the communities of Castle Cary and Mufulira, which started in 1994. Some of you may also have been directly involved as pupils or staff on one of the many exchange visits and if so, the Cary-Mufulira Community Partnership Trust (CMCPT) would like to hear from you, as they would like to bring together all exchange participants in a 'Virtual World', to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the link.

Leading this project is CMCPT founding Chairman, Steve Curtis, who is already in contact with the Mufulira Secondary School Alumni and if you were once an exchange pupil or teacher and would like to re-connect with partners, friends and staff, ***please email Steve at: - steve.curtis@avonreflections.co.uk***

Steve will then give you joining instructions for the CMCPT Virtual World.

Castle Cary Community

Parenting Course

The Castle Cary Methodist Church is hosting a free 'parenting teens' course beginning on the 23rd of February 2023. If you would like more information do have a look at [this poster](#) which also has contact details.

Bruton Community

Bruton Spring Clean

On Saturday 11th March there will be a 'Bruton Spring Clean', with volunteers litter picking in and around Bruton. If you would like to get involved or need more information please click [here](#)

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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, Wincanton Lane, Easton Cary, Somerset, BA7 7B
Tel: 01963 350895
Email: mail@ansford.net

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

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

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