

Bulletin for Ansford Families

Issue 9: 3rd February 2023

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Families

It has been an unusual week with the first day of NEU strike action taking place across the country. We were pleased that we were able to offer on site provision for our Year 11 students and worked hard to make this as valuable and purposeful as possible. The day was focused on exam approaches in their three core subjects with 'walking talking mocks' in English, Maths and Science as well as a range of focused intervention sessions in a range of options subjects. There was a great turn out from Year 11 and we were really proud of their conduct and effort throughout the day which was excellent.

As you know, there are three further days of strike action planned and these are scheduled for:

- Thursday 2nd March 2023
- Wednesday 15th March 2023
- Thursday 16th March 2023

We will begin planning for these days in the near future and will communicate these with you nearer the time. Many thanks for your continued support.

Last week, a team of students from Ansford competed in the Rotary Youth Speaks Competition. It was a fantastic event with our students, Tom G, Noah C and Liam H performing with confidence and entertaining the audience resulting in an overall win for Ansford and a 'Best Overall Speaker' award for Noah. The boys were an absolute credit to the school and are now through to the next round of the competition. Many thanks to Mrs Hardy Stewart for all of her work in supporting the students and preparing them for the event. You can find out more in Mrs Hardy Stewart's entry later in this edition.

Finally, I would like to welcome two new staff members to the Academy: Mrs Helena Read who joins us in the Finance office and Mrs Sam Whitworth who is working with us as a Teaching Assistant.

I hope that you have a lovely 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 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 | | | | |
| 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 |

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| Assembly Themes | |
|---|---|
| <p>6th - 10th February</p> <p>Children's Mental Health Week (begins 4 February)</p> | <p>Achievement Assembly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Subject/Tutor Group winners ● Top 5 girls/boys ● Tutor Group winners ● Individual accolades/achievements |
| <p>20th - 24th February</p> <p>Shrove Tuesday (21 February)</p> | <p>Positive Role Models (Childrens' mental health)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Understanding what a role model is and why they are often a very personal choice ● Introducing personal role models - what did they achieve? ● Exploring the risks of social media influencers and misinterpreting these as role models ● What can we learn about our own ambition/conduct? |

Regular Notices

| From The Safeguarding Team |
|--|
| <p>Violence Against Women and Girls</p> <p>As part of an Avon and Somerset Police initiative, we are holding two year group assemblies for Year 9 and Year 10 along with a smaller workshop looking at violence against women and girls on Wednesday 8th February. This is within the wider context of concerns about the rise of online hate and misogyny that have been raised with us by students, teachers and parents.</p> |
| <p>Monday 6th February: Friday 10th February Children's Mental Health Week</p> <p>Please find attached some useful resources for families to use to support and improve the mental health of children. Students will receive additional resources and discussion opportunities in school each day as part of tutor time. For more information please look at this link</p> |
| <p>Somerset Health and Wellbeing Survey</p> <p>All pupils in Years 8 and Year 10 will be taking part in a county wide survey exploring health and wellbeing matters that are relevant to young people. For more information please see this letter.</p> |

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.

Rewards Week

The ClassCharts rewards shop opened on Monday 30th January and will remain open until Saturday 4th February at 12 noon. Students are able to spend their positive points on a range of rewards including: sweet treats, access to sports events/computer rooms and a huge range of stationery items. To access the rewards shop students simply need to:

- Log into their Class Charts account/app
- Click on the top right menu icon [3 lines]
- Click on Rewards

Mufti Days

The School Council will meet next week to research and select a range of local charities which Ansford Academy will proudly support this year and in the near future. Whilst we recognise the value of larger national charities, we also know that local services are facing funding cutbacks and we're here to help! Each year group will choose a charity and dates of upcoming non-uniform days will be shared shortly after the half term break.

Uniform Donations

As the cost of living crisis continues to have a big impact on personal finances, we are again asking families to consider donating any uniform that is no longer used to support others. Items can be sent in with your child or dropped into reception.

Uniform

A small number of students have begun wearing hoodies to school. Please note that these do not meet the Academy's uniform policy and will be confiscated. Please ensure that your child comes to school with an appropriate coat during these cold spells.

Break Time Detentions

To help improve punctuality to lessons in all year groups, a new detention system has been introduced in PA2 at break times. These detentions are overseen by our Senior Leadership Team who are able to use this time to interact with students to explore the reasons for lateness to lessons during the previous day. Pupil attendance and conduct during week one has been very good.

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.

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From Ms Watson, Careers Adviser

Industry Insights

During National Apprenticeship week (NAW) join employers like the NHS, Lloyd's Banking Group, PwC, MI5/Mi6/GCHQ Nestlé and many more to learn about their School Leaver Programmes and receive career advice. Access on demand from home after school (6-10th Feb) bite size, careers sessions

The following industries will be covered:

- Monday 6th Feb – Technology
- Tuesday 7th Feb – Banking & Finance
- Wednesday 8th Feb – Defence & Security
- Thursday 9th Feb – Environmental & Sustainability
- Friday 10th Feb Public Services

This event is completely FREE for students and families and very easy to join. All you need to do is register your interest here: <https://yourgameplan.co.uk/industry-insights/>

Careers Update

Students and parents in Years 9-11 attended our Higher Education Evening last week, thinking ahead to the possibilities after GCSEs and Sixth Form. Speakers talked about what University is all about and what the benefits are of going, how to fund the cost of University and the alternative route to gaining a degree through Degree Apprenticeships. Many thanks to all our speakers from the University of Reading, University of South Wales and the National Apprenticeship Service. For more information about University, visit our e-library of useful website. Log in to ansford.net, select Careers and Moving On or visit the parent pages of Career pilot:

<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/parent-zone/all-questions/what-would-university-offer-and-should-my-child-go>

Careers Cafe: RAF

Many thanks to Cpl Scott Wyatt from the RAF who came to speak to interested students over lunch about careers in the RAF. He covered the benefits, the opportunities and requirements for different job roles and also had time to answer individual questions. Watch out for more lunchtime talks after half term - they're a great opportunity to find out about different careers and ask questions in a small group.

Year 11 Applications to Post-16 (Colleges, Sixth Form and Apprenticeships)

Please be advised that Year 11 students should have applied to College and Sixth Forms of their choice by now in order to receive offers in time for September. If you have yet to do this, apply online now.

For support and information to apply and discuss options, or if you change your mind, or you're still not sure what to do, please contact our Independent Careers Adviser wendy.watson@ansford.net

Please remember that students:

- Can apply to more than one place to keep options open
- Can apply for Apprenticeships throughout next year as opportunities become available (depending on employer closing dates)
- Have the flexibility to review their offers and change these, should they wish

Year 10 Work Experience

The initial deadline for submission of placement details is **Monday 20th February 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.

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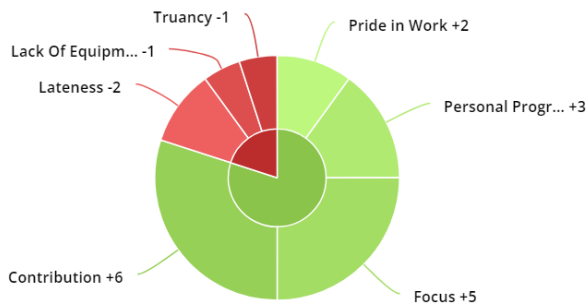
From Mr Cue, Assistant Headteacher: Teaching and Learning

ClassCharts Reminder of New Function

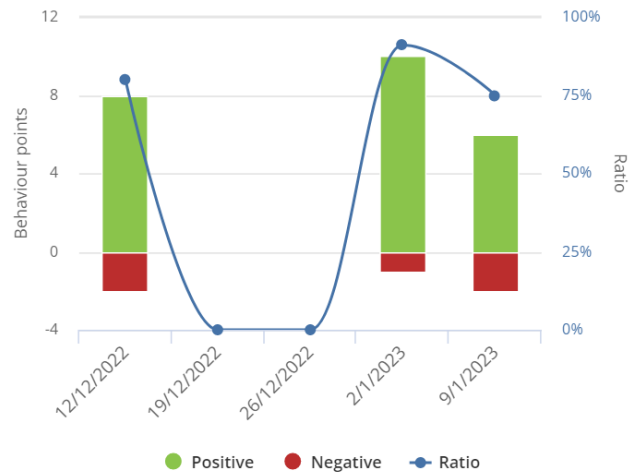
Following the full update in the last Family Bulletin, I would like to remind you that the next phase of our ClassCharts rollout begins on Monday 6th February when the negative points function will be opened to students and parents to view from their *ClassCharts* account. A really useful tool on your 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.

Behaviour score breakdown



Weekly Behaviour Breakdown



| | |
|----|--|
| -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. |

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

From Year 11 Prom Committee

Valentines Roses

The Year 11 Prom FundRaising Committee will be taking orders for Valentine's roses. 🌹❤️

Roses can be collected in person or delivered anonymously (in school) on Friday 10th February.

Orders will be taken with £1.50 cash payment per rose 🌹 on Monday 6th- Thursday 9th February in AT1 at lunchtimes. Please see Mrs Martin in finance or the prom committee for more details.

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From Mrs Hardy Stewart, English Teacher

Youth Speaks

On Wednesday 25th January, the Rotary Club's Youth Speaks Competition took place here at Ansford for the first time in three years. In this public speaking contest, teams of three take on the roles of chairperson, proposer of the motion and opposer of the motion.

Schools can choose their own motion and our three speakers, Tom G, Noah C and Liam H, drawing from their recent participation in the musical Elf, chose: *Encountering stories about elves, fairies and other mythological beings is part of a healthy childhood.* Tom and Noah battled this out with enthusiastic and entertaining speeches that delighted the judges. Liam chaired with quiet authority and charm. Other teams also brought thought-provoking subjects to the competition. The outcome was that our team won and are through to the next round in March. Noah also won the prize for the best speaker overall.

Huge congratulations to these three orators! A big thank you too to Eliza, Jess and Saba who helped with the rehearsals and the refreshments.

From Ms Swallow, Art and Design Technology Teacher

Year 9 Bucket Hats

Students in Year 9 have started to complete their bucket hats which they have been working on this year with a graffiti theme. They have been learning new skills such as flour resist, shaving foam marbling and batik, pattern cutting and fabric construction. Well done Year 9s!



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

Science Revision Guides

Parents of students in Years 10 and 11 should have received a letter via schoolcomms about GCSE Science revision guides, but the letter and form can also be found here: [Science revision guides](#)

STEM Festival

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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 breaking 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/>

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 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

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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

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](#)

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 7JH
Tel: 01963 350895
Email: mailbox@ansford.net

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

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