

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Families

We are really pleased to see that students have settled back into school routines really well and it has been lovely to see students in all year groups focused on their learning in lessons and displaying positive behaviours both in and out of the classroom.

Although we have only just reached the end of our second full week of the autumn term, we have already hosted a number of events. We were pleased to welcome the families of our new Year 7 students back into school to meet their tutors and to have another opportunity to get to know Ansford a little better. Our KS4 students and their families have also returned to school in the evening for key events: Year 10 for their 'Information Evening' and Year 11 for their 'Moving On' event where they were able to connect with a range of Post 16 providers. It has been really lovely to see so many families in school and speaking positively about their experiences at Ansford.

Rehearsals are already well underway for this year's production of Beauty and Beast and we are really grateful to Mrs Di Pinnions for organising the 'Ansford Academy in Bloom' flower arranging event to raise money to support the production - a magnificent £250 was raised which is just brilliant.

Strong communication is a priority for us as it helps to strengthen the sense of belonging within our community. We have developed different ways of doing this in response to your feedback. For example, the Family Bulletin was introduced to help streamline communication and reduce the number of emails received from the school; ClassCharts has been introduced to enable you to access more information about your child's behaviour and learning whilst at school and we have introduced a new website to help you access the information you need more easily. We are aware that one challenge faced by families is knowing where to go with a query or concern so this week you should have received an email from your child's tutor with their contact details and the contact details for your child's Head of Year. If you haven't received the email, please contact us via mailbox@ansford.net so that we can update our details.

I hope that you have a lovely weekend.

Rachel Purnell
Headteacher

Academy Calendar: Key Upcoming Events

Week	Date in September	Event	Location Timing	Staff Contact
2	Tuesday 26th	Student Council Training Day		Mr Mitchell
2	Thursday 28th	Open Evening	5.00pm - 7.30pm	Mrs Bevan
2	Friday 29th	INSET Day	School closed to students	

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Week	Date in October	Event	Location Timing	Staff Contact
1	Friday 6th	Year 11 Art Trip		

Assembly Rota		
25th-29th Sept	Ansford Ethos - Aspiration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● An introduction to the 'we ARE Ansford' core values ● Understanding our shared expectations and systems ● Understanding what behaviour for learning looks like ● Student council updates/half termly focus 	RM
International Day of Peace (21 September) European Day of Languages (26 September)		
2nd-6th October	Student Leadership and participation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● An introduction to student leadership opportunities ● Role model conduct ● Certificates (making an excellent start) ● Exploring a role model who inspired you ● The value of aspiring to a greater/long term goal ● Encouraging all pupils to reflect on Post 16/18 plans 	HoY
Black History Month (begins 1 October)		

Notices

From the Safeguarding Team
<p>Keeping Safe Reminders</p> <p>Throughout the week, the Safeguarding Team have been delivering assemblies to all year groups about where to go if they need help or support whilst at school. We have also been providing reminders about what to do if the fire alarm and/or lockdown alarm sounds.</p> <p>What is a security lockdown and when would it happen?</p> <p>A security lockdown procedure is a standard health and safety procedure, similar to a fire drill. Our security lockdown procedure would be used when there is a threat to the safety of our students, staff and others in the school, and when it's safer for everyone to remain in school rather than evacuate. The aim is to keep people safe by confining them to a secure place of safety.</p> <p>Situations where our security lockdown procedure may be used include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A potentially dangerous person or animal on the school site ● A disturbance or dangerous situation in the local community that could affect the school ● A nearby chemical incident or other risk of air pollution

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- An incident related to terrorism

In our assemblies, we have taken the time to talk to all of our students about security lockdown procedures and to explain why they're important. We have reassured them that they are safe, and have explained that practising procedures like this will make sure that the school remains a safe place to learn.

Childline also has guidance for young people if they are worried about the world around them
<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/your-feelings/anxiety-stress-panic/worries-about-the-world/>

Safeguarding Concerns: Who to Contact?

As a parent or carer you want to make sure that your children are safe, happy and well looked after, helping them to grow into confident young people. As professionals we are doing everything we should be to protect your child whilst in our care. The Ansford Safeguarding team have been trained to an advanced level on all aspects of safeguarding. The team is available to any student, parent or staff member to discuss or report any safeguarding concerns. If you do wish to speak to a member of our safeguarding team, their contact details are below.

Mrs Eleanor King eleanor.king@ansford.net

Deputy Headteacher: Welfare and Inclusion, Designated Safeguarding Lead

Ms Frances Hirst frances.hirst@ansford.net

Deputy Headteacher: Welfare and Inclusion, Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs Leanne Sweetlove leanne.sweetlove@ansford.net

Pastoral Lead Attendance: Intervention and Support, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mr Jake Higgins jake.higgins@ansford.net

Pastoral Lead Behaviour: Intervention and Support, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Students are also encouraged to speak to the team whenever they need help or guidance and over the next few weeks there will be assemblies explaining how they can do this and where they can go for support. We also have a dedicated email address where students can report a concern or ask for help if they feel this is easier than approaching a member of staff in the first instance. This is tellme@ansford.net

From Mr Mitchell, Assistant Headteacher: Community and Conduct

A Fantastic September

We are immensely proud of how our students have returned and settled into their routines this month. The Class Charts data shows that the vast majority of students are earning multiple reward points during the day for their ongoing efforts and fantastic conduct in and out of lessons, come rain or shine.

Last week, we conducted our first fire and evacuation training. Our Year 7 students performed perfectly and our Key Stage 4 students set a fantastic example for others to follow.

We've also enjoyed seeing many of our students reconnect with sport and enrichment during lunchtimes. By way of reminder, students who take part in PE activities are permitted to stay in their PE kit during P5 - they will be given a ticket at the end of the session to show to their teacher.

Class Charts - Detentions

Whilst we hope that your child does not receive a detention for negative conduct or disruptive behaviour, we would like to share with all families how detentions are communicated to families.

All detentions are booked on Class Charts. Families will receive an email (using the email address entered by users when signing into the app) to notify them of the detention type, date, time, venue, teacher, length of time and

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any notes added by the teacher.

Please note, ordinarily, staff will not follow up by telephone.

If a student fails to attend a detention, our internal 'upscaling' system will escalate the detention to the next stage. For example, not attending a teacher's break or lunchtime detention, especially when the student was informed of the details, they will be upscaled to an after school detention.

Uniform Update

Please ensure your child arrives at school with their blazer. Students are expected to wear their blazers at all times; teachers will give permission for these to be removed during lessons when necessary.

Jumpers can be worn underneath but should not be a sweatshirt style or contain branded logos. Students will be asked to remove these and they may be confiscated if they repeatedly wear these.

Finally, hoodies are not permitted as a form of coat or jumper. As above, these will be confiscated for the duration of the day.

Wet Weather

This week we noticed a number of students arriving at school without coats. We kindly ask that you encourage them to pack one, even if it stays in their bag. A number were caught out during the sudden downpours this week. Many of our tutors open up their rooms during break and lunchtime for students to relax in. When the weather is particularly poor, our canteen (dining hall area) is reserved for Years 7, 8 and 9 to sit, socialise and eat. PA2 is open for Years 10 and 11.

Late Buses

We would like to offer our apologies for the lateness of some of our buses arriving at bus stops in the morning and after school. Please be assured that we are keeping accurate records of these and are liaising with Somerset County Transport Services who manage the contracts with our providers. Our students typically respond brilliantly - we do appreciate that the lateness may be having an impact on family plans or routines.

From Mrs Withers, Head of Maths

Year 7 Baseline Tests

The tests will take place on Monday 9th October during their normal maths lessons, a calculator is allowed for this test, so please make sure students have theirs with them.

Year 7 Maths Assessments

A reminder that Year 7 students have GL Maths assessments on the following dates and will need headphones.

W/C 25th September

07a/Ma1 in IT1: Monday P1

07a/Ma2 in IT2: Monday P1

W/C 2nd October

07b/Ma2 in IT2: Thursday P4

07b/Ma1 in IT2: Friday P5

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From Mrs Swallow, Head of Design Technology

Bottle Tops

Please collect as many bottle tops as you can and bring to Mrs Swallow in AR2 so that we can use them to support our project.

From Mrs Rice, Head of English

Page Turners

You may remember that several of our students recently entered a Young Writers competition called *Unsolved*, producing a 'mini-saga' of no more than 100 words in the crime or mystery genre. Hopefully you read their brilliant entries here in the Family Bulletin last term.

I'm delighted to report that ten of our students' stories have been selected for publication! Their mini-sagas will be published in *Unsolved - Thrillers From The UK*. This is a fantastic achievement - well done to all the entrants.

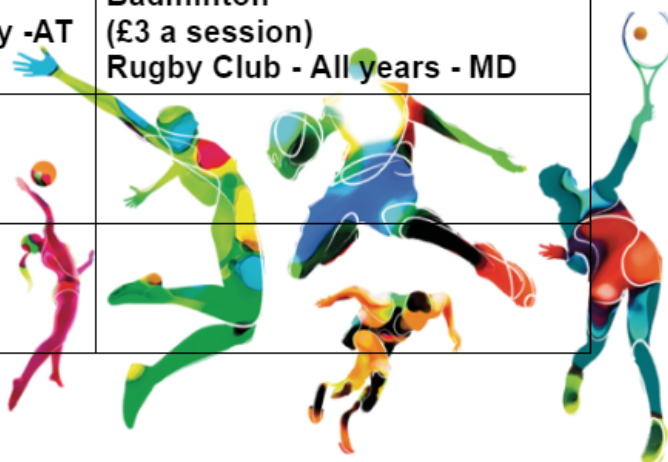
For any other budding writers at Ansford, our creative writing club, Page-Turners, meets on a Thursday lunchtime in EN4. New members from all year groups are always welcome.

From Mrs D Grove, Head of PE

Extra curricular timetable



DAY	LUNCHTIME	AFTER SCHOOL
MONDAY	Year 7 multi-skills club - DG	
TUESDAY	KS3 Badminton Club - Sports Prefects	Girls Hockey All years- DG
WEDNESDAY	Year 7&8 Indoor Hockey -AT	Badminton (£3 a session) Rugby Club - All years - MD
THURSDAY	KS4 Basketball - MD	
FRIDAY	KS3 Basketball - MD KS4 Table Tennis - DG	



From Miss Voit, Teacher of Food Technology

Practical Lessons

Please find below the dates for the practicals this term, along with a link to each year group's recipe booklet. If there are any issues please contact myself via email or give a signed and dated note to me in the lesson. Please change any ingredients for dietary requirements or allergies.

All of these details can also be found on ClassCharts.

Year 7

Fruit Salad: 22/9/2023

Coleslaw: 6/10/23

Pizza Toast: 20/10/2023

Cheesecake: 10/11/2023

Soup: 24/11/2023

Fairy Cakes: 8/12/2023

The Year 7 booklet is [here](#)

Year 8

Frittata: 20/09/2023

Curry: 27/09/2023

Mac and Cheese: 04/10/2023

Focaccia: 11/10/2023

Fish nuggets & chips: 18/20/2023

Spaghetti Bolognese: 01/11/2023

Pizza: 08/11/2023

Chilli con carne: 22/11/2023

Stir fry: 29/11/2023

Fruit crumble: 06/12/2023

Own recipe: 13/12/2023

The Year 8 booklet is [here](#)

Year 9

Quiche and pastry: 20/09/2023

Paella: 04/10/2023

Brownies/own: 18/10/2023

The Year 9 booklet is [here](#)

Community News

Current Vacancies

For more information on any of the vacancies listed below, please visit the school website and access the vacancies page or click on the links below.

Report a student absence by phone: 01963 350 895 or by email attendanceofficer@ansford.net

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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

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, Wootton Bassett Lane, Castle Cary, Somerset, BA7 7JH
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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