

Issue 3: 6th October 2023

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Families

It has been really lovely to welcome families into school for our Open Events so that we can share all that is great about Ansford. Our students have been fantastic ambassadors for the school - almost 200 students volunteered to act as tour guides or subject ambassadors on Open Evening, wanting to share their pride in their school with visiting families. They have been such a credit to the school and to you.

In addition, we are really proud of students from all year groups who are engaged in Student Council this year. It is such an important aspect of school life which we really value here at Ansford. Find out more in Mr Mitchell's entry below.

Last week, we spent our INSET day with Andy Vass, an external speaker who shared his expertise in relation to positive behaviour management strategies. This is our second visit from Andy Vass and staff found it really useful as they are able to build on strategies and ideas that were introduced last academic year.

I hope that you have a lovely weekend and enjoy the sunshine!

Rachel Purnell
Headteacher

Academy Calendar: Key Upcoming Events

Week	Date in October	Event	Location Timing	Staff Contact
2	Tuesday 10th	Year 10 Careers Fair	Yeovil College 9am-12.45pm All of Year 10 travelling from Ansford	Ms Mallord
2	Wednesday 11th	Open Morning	9.25am-10.15am, book online	Mrs Bevan
2	Thursday 12th	Open Morning	9.25am-10.15am, book online	Mrs Bevan
2	Friday 13th	Open Morning	9.25am-10.15am, book online	Mrs Bevan
2	Friday 13th	Year 11 Geography Trip		Ms Perkins
1	Wednesday 18th	Year 2 Primary Sports Festival		Mrs Grove
1	Friday 20th	Mufti Day	More information about the charity which we are supporting to follow	Mr Mitchell
Half Term				

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Assembly Rota		
9th-13th October	Effective Learning Behaviours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Behaviour for learning in a classroom ● Listening and turn-taking ● Active listening ● Stretch and challenge 	SP
World Mental Health Day (10 October)		
16th-20th October	Achievement Assembly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Subject/tutor group winners ● Top 5 girls/boys ● Tutor group winners ● Individual accolades/achievements 	HoY

Notices

From the Safeguarding Team
<p>Support for Families</p> <p>Did you know that 13% of children experience unhealthy parental conflict? Good relationships are not a matter of luck and it is hard work! Somerset Safeguarding Children's Partnership have therefore launched their P Pod or Partnership Podcast which aims to provide advice and guidance with regards to safeguarding children across Somerset. Available Podcasts include 'Arguing Better' which is specifically for parents who are experiencing high levels of stress and 'Getting it Right for Children' aimed at separating or separated parents experiencing high levels of conflict. More information can be found at links below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ https://theppod.somersetsafeguardingchildren.org.uk/share ★ https://www.oneplusone.org.uk/parents also provides online relationship support for parents and has a range of modules wherever you are in your parenting journey. ★ The Somerset Children and Young People Health and Wellbeing platform also has a specific parent area, which you can explore for courses and support. https://www.cypsomersethealth.org/somerset_parents_and_carers_managing_relationship_conflict
<p>Tellmi</p> <p>We wanted to remind you about the NHS Somerset app that was launched in the summer. The Tellmi App supports the mental health and emotional well-being of children and young people in Somerset, through pre-moderated peer support, where young people can safely talk about difficult issues including relationships, friends, college, anxiety, appearance, exams, break ups, Covid and learn how to help themselves by helping each other. The App gives pupils the ability to share their worries anonymously and get support from other young people, the app is easy to download and is completely FREE . More detailed information can be found on their website www.tellmi.help/about</p> <p>We also want to make you aware that The Mental Health Support Team (MHST) are running a Self-Harm</p>

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Awareness Workshop on Wednesday 8th November 9.30am -11am . This workshop is FREE and is available for all Parents, Carers and Family Members. The workshop will focus around :-

- Understanding self-harm and who it can affect
- Identifying reasons that can lead a young person to self-harm
- Recognising the stigma surrounding self-harm and the impact this can have
- Understanding the wider impact self-harm has on friends and family, with a focus on parents/carers
- Raising confidence in responding to/supporting young people who self-harm
- Establishing how to maintain your own self-care and wellbeing
- Identifying a range of local and national resources/services/information to support young people who self-harm
- Understanding the importance of recovery

To book a space on the next FREE workshop which is on **Wednesday 8th November 9.30am -11am** use this link:
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/free-somerset-self-harm-awareness-training-tickets-653757505297>

From Mr Mitchell, Assistant Headteacher: Community and Conduct

Excellent Student Conduct

We are absolutely thrilled to see the enormous number of positive behaviour logs that were awarded to our students over the last 5 weeks from staff working across our Academy. In total, 40,450 reward points were issued in the first 5 weeks of the academic year. Even more impressive is our current Positive/Negative points ratio which stands at 19:1.

Student Council

We are thrilled to announce the formation of our 2023/24 Student Council Stronger than ever and keen to help drive forward further initiatives and ensure that students are well represented in decision making, our 42 strong team undertook a formal training event helping to shape the vision and structure of sub teams.

This week, students were asked about their understanding of Safeguarding within schools and spoke highly of the current access to support that our students enjoy, if and when needed. They also helped to identify areas and tools which exist but require ongoing promotion to ensure all students know how to use these to support their mental health or ability to anonymously report concerns.

Mufti Day Advanced Notice

Our first mufti day will take place on Friday 20th October. Our Student Council team will help to shape the day and share further information about our nominated Charity.

Uniform Reminder

A huge thank you to all families who continuously support the Academy by ensuring your children arrive at school with the correct uniform. Next week, our Pastoral Leaders will be following up more closely with students who:

- Are still wearing incorrect skirts [length/stretchy material]
- Are not wearing their blazers

Year 10 Work Experience

It's already that time of year again when we begin our search for work experience placements in the local area, countywide and for some, across the UK. Year 10 will be introduced to the programme and the processes involved. It would be extremely useful if families could begin these conversations, helping to identify industries that your children are interested in, and where possible, reaching out to enquire if they would be willing to accept a placement in July 2024.

Year 11 Post 16 events

We are delighted to be welcoming a number of colleges, sixth form and apprenticeship providers into the

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Academy over the next 2 months to present assemblies. These events are crucial for our Year 11s to ensure they are making well informed decisions about their next steps over the coming months.

From Ms Mallord, Head of Year 10 and 11

Year 10 Careers Fair

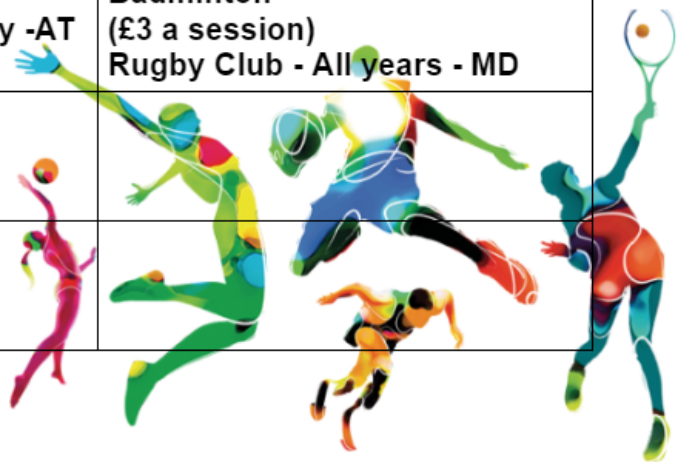
All Year 10 students will have the opportunity to visit the Somerset Careers Fair on Tuesday 10th October. This will mark the start of their Careers Education and give students a chance to see what opportunities are open to them after Ansford in terms of employment, college courses and apprenticeships.

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 Mrs Bevan, Office Manager

Data collection and Consent Forms

If you were sent a link to the data and consent form earlier this week, please make sure you have completed it by **Monday 9th October** - it's vitally important that we have accurate records of things like emergency contacts, medical conditions etc on our system. If you would prefer a paper copy, please contact reception.

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From Ms Fulton, First aid administrator

Bus Travel and Medical Conditions

If your child travels to school using school transport, please make sure any medical information is kept up to date. You can do this by following the link below:

<https://service.somerset.gov.uk/tell-us-about-medical-needs-for-school-transport>

Please note that it is parents' responsibility to inform school transport of any changes

From Mrs Swallow, Head of Design Technology

Bottle Tops

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

From Miss Thomas, PE

Match Report 5th October 2023

Our Year 7 girls played hockey against Sexey's School on Wednesday. Our team worked really well together and had great communication. They were so kind and polite to each other and their opponents. Leonie R was chosen by Sexey's as the player of the match. Morgan W was our goal scorer bringing our score to 1-0 within the first half. All the girls played amazingly throughout the game and the final score was 1-1.

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.

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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.

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