

Issue 4: 20th October 2023

## Message from the Headteacher

Dear Families

We have had a really busy couple of weeks in school with a number of events taking place to widen experiences and opportunities for our young people. These have included the Careers Fair at Yeovil College for Year 10 students, an author visit for KS3 students who were fortunate to spend time with local author Jacky King, an in-school event for our Year 11 Geographers whose field visit was cancelled due to poor weather (which even included ice creams at the end!), our regular inter-form Sports competition for students in all year groups as well as strong team performances in matches against other local schools, support from our KS4 Sports Leaders with the Year 2 Primary Sports Festival and ongoing rehearsals for this year's production of Beauty and the Beast - phew! We are really grateful to the staff who lead and organise these events for our young people to enrich their experiences beyond the classroom.

In the last fortnight we have also hosted our Open Morning Events and welcomed over 100 visitors to Ansford to see the school in action during the usual school day. The feedback from families at the end of their visits has been so lovely to hear; they have commented on the calm and purposeful learning atmosphere, the confidence and pride of the students who have toured them around as well as the friendly family feel of the school.

This half term finishes with our students giving something back to the community as our MUFTI day raised **£352** for CaryCares, a local charity which was chosen by Student Council, to benefit from the funds raised from our non-uniform day. Thank you to families for the generous donations of dried food items which we collected today and which will be delivered after half term.

Have a lovely half term break.

Rachel Purnell  
Headteacher

## Academy Calendar: Key Upcoming Events

Week	Date in October	Event	Location Timing	Staff Contact
2	Monday 30th	Start of Term		
Week	Date in November	Event	Location Timing	Staff Contact
1	Wednesday 8th	Year 11 Strode College Taster Day		Ms Mallord
1	Thursday 9th	Year 11 Parents' Evening	4.15pm-7.00pm	Mr Musson
2	Monday 13th	Flu Vaccinations	During the school day, PA2	Ms Fulton

Report a student absence by phone: 01963 350 895 or by email [attendanceofficer@ansford.net](mailto:attendanceofficer@ansford.net)

Contact the Academy by phone: 01963 350 895 or by email [mailbox@ansford.net](mailto:mailbox@ansford.net)

2	Tuesday 14th	Year 11 Interview Workshops	2.30pm-3.30pm	Mrs Watson
2	Wednesday 15th	Year 11 Mock Interviews	9.20am - 11.20am	Mrs Watson
2	Friday 17th	MUFTI Day		Mr Mitchell

Assembly Rota		
30th October-3rd November	<b>Mental Health Awareness</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An introduction to mental health</li> <li>● Exploring what anxiety looks and feels like</li> <li>● Identifying methods of self help</li> <li>● Knowing who to seek help from</li> </ul>	Mrs King
<a href="#">International Day for the Eradication of Poverty</a> (17 October)		
6th - 10th November	<b>Success</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Goal setting</li> <li>● The importance of always working to and above potential</li> <li>● Understanding the importance of behaviour for learning</li> <li>● For KS4, GCSE progress/expectations/raising achievement</li> </ul>	Mr Musson
<a href="#">World Science Day</a> (10 November)		

## Notices

From the Safeguarding Team
<p><b>Key Tips: Child Safety through the Winter Months</b></p> <p>As the clocks go back and the nights draw in, it is an overnight adjustment for all of us keeping children safe in the dark. The darker evenings can have a big impact on our usual routines of picking children up from friends, after-school clubs, or cycling home from school. They can be very different experiences in the dark! The following simple steps can be taken to help avoid additional risks of accidents that the dark evenings can bring.</p> <p><u>Visibility is key</u></p> <p>Children need to be seen, not just by other motorists and cyclists but by other pedestrians. It is vital to teach your children good road safety basics from an early age. Think about what your child is wearing. Some school uniforms are dark. They are safe if they are visible - you can easily add high-visibility strips on their clothing, school bags or bike helmets.</p> <p><u>What about teens?</u></p> <p>As children grow up and become more independent, there are more risks that they may encounter as they start walking to school by themselves. Peak times for the number of fatalities or seriously injured are the 'school-run' periods between 8-9am and 3-4pm.</p> <p><u>Be aware</u></p>

Report a student absence by phone: 01963 350 895 or by email [attendanceofficer@ansford.net](mailto:attendanceofficer@ansford.net)  
 Contact the Academy by phone: 01963 350 895 or by email [mailbox@ansford.net](mailto:mailbox@ansford.net)

As any parent knows it can be very difficult to get a teenager to part from their mobile phone. Whether they are talking to friends or listening to music on their mobile, they can be distracted. As a result, they are less aware of dangers in their surroundings such as other people or traffic.

If your teenager insists on wearing their headphones, encourage them to use ear bud types and ideally only use one side. Often teenagers walk in groups and are chatting or simply not paying attention. Sadly, it is often on these occasions that accidents can occur. The resources below will help you to remind your children, especially teenagers, about road safety and safe cycling.

Teaching Road Safety: A Guide for Parents

<https://www.rospa.com/media/documents/road-safety/teaching-roadsafety-a-guide-for-parents.pdf>

Safety First – Cycling at Night

<https://www.cycletraining.co.uk/cycle-training-and-cycle-safety/safety-first-cyclingat-night/>

### **Fireworks**

Firework season is upon us and the availability of fireworks can bring anti-social behaviour as well as dangerous behaviour. Please speak with your children about the dangers of mis-using fireworks: you could be prosecuted!!

#### What is firework misuse?

- Possessing CAT F1 fireworks whilst aged 15 or under
- Possessing CAT F2 or CAT F3 fireworks whilst aged 17 or under
- Letting off fireworks between 11pm and 7am (midnight on Bonfire Night)
- Throwing or setting off fireworks in a public place

### **From Mrs Grove, Head of PE**

#### **Hockey Match Report**

Year 9 and Year 10 hockey played Sexeys on Tuesday. Despite playing on new terrain, they attacked early and were unlucky to find the goal. The first half ended 1-0 to Sexeys despite the defensive wall that was Eliza K and goalie Hollie C who cleared the ball on several occasions. A restructured Ansford team played the ball around the Sexeys team and there was great passing around the centre mids Emily C and Violet M leading Esther B to a shot on goal. The Ansford team fought hard in the last 10 minutes but unfortunately Sexeys secured a couple of short corners which led to the final score of 4-0. Player of the match was Eliza K, voted for by Sexeys, Ansford girls are looking forward to their next match v Gryphon after half term. Please praise any of the girls who represented Ansford brilliantly and showed brilliant resilience.

**Report a student absence by phone: 01963 350 895 or by email [attendanceofficer@ansford.net](mailto:attendanceofficer@ansford.net)**

**Contact the Academy by phone: 01963 350 895 or by email [mailbox@ansford.net](mailto:mailbox@ansford.net)**



**From Mrs Comyns, Business Manager**

**Holiday Club**

Happy Health Holidays Somerset provides funded holiday club places for children on benefits-related free school meals. The programme will run over 4 days from Monday 18th December – Thursday 21st December. Bookings for the Winter programme open on Wednesday 22nd November and for further information please visit [www.sasp.co.uk/happy-healthy-holidays](http://www.sasp.co.uk/happy-healthy-holidays)

**From Mrs Hardy-Stewart, English Teacher**

**Punk Rock, Potential and Public Speaking at Ansford**

Students in Year 9 are busy preparing for two different Public Speaking competitions this year. After a few years off, Ansford are again entering a team for the annual English Speaking Union Competition. The first round of this takes place on December 4th online. If our team gets through this round, the next round will be after Christmas and they will actually meet their opponents off line!

The subject the team has chosen is: success is what you want it to be. This topic choice has led to Tegan S interviewing staff around the school for their definitions of success alongside researching the views of famous successful people. Joining Tegan as the team's questioner will be Will R, and Noah C will try out the new role of Chairperson for this team.



There are also two teams entering the Rotary Club's Youth Speaks Competition. The seasoned speakers Noah C, Tom G and Liam H will strive to repeat last year's success story, turning their attention to the rise of home schooling whilst new recruits Maddie J and Alfie K will be joined by Will R to put together their two speeches on whether punk rock is good or bad for young people. This competition takes place in January at St Dunstan's School in Glastonbury.

These students are to be congratulated for giving their spare time to these events. Watch this space for how well they do. As far as I am concerned, one of the best definitions of success is fulfilling your potential and these students are already doing that!

### **An Inspector Calls on the Open Evening**

Parents and prospective students were delighted by a group of Year 11 and Year 9 students re-enacting JB Priestley's 'An Inspector Calls' in an English Classroom on our Open Evening. This play is a GCSE text here at Ansford. The scene was set with table cloths, a candelabra, bow ties for the male characters and jewelled necklaces for the two female characters, except for the maid of course which was beautifully played by Ms Mallord. Outstanding effort, stamina and dramatic flair was shown by: Saba G, Nick H, Jude H, Toby L, Maddie J and Ellen S.

Who knows? Maybe there will be a production of An Inspector Calls here at Ansford one of these days.

### **From Mr Newbury**

Ansford Academy  
proudly presents...



Message from Mr Newbury  
I would like to say a massive thank you to everyone involved for the amazing support and hard work.  
Tickets will be available soon!

#### **Rehearsals – Key dates**

**Every Wednesday 3.30pm – 5.30pm**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November- 10.00am – 4.30pm**

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December - 10.00am – 4.30pm**

### **From Ms Perkins, SENDCo**

#### **Year 11 Geography 'Mock' Field Trip.**

Last Friday, we had to cancel our planned trip to Lyme Regis due to the poor weather conditions. Instead we created a 'mock' field trip over 3 lessons. This included beach profiles on the amphitheatre, pebble analysis on the

**Report a student absence by phone: 01963 350 895 or by email [attendanceofficer@ansford.net](mailto:attendanceofficer@ansford.net)**

**Contact the Academy by phone: 01963 350 895 or by email [mailbox@ansford.net](mailto:mailbox@ansford.net)**

quads and some very realistic role play by staff members pretending to be visiting Lyme Regis. The students were even treated to an ice cream at the end of the day.

### From Mrs Dyal, Exams Officer

#### 1. Year 11 Trial Examinations

Year 11 Students have been provided with their Trial Examination timetables and associated examination information to bring home. All of the documents are accessible on our website on the examination pages and collated in the letters home page [here](#). PLEASE NOTE that a revised version of the timetable was issued to students today due to a last minute update to Maths papers.

#### 2. Year 11 Interim Reports

Please accept my apology that we have been unable to issue Year 11 Interim Reports as planned this week. The upgrade of our SIMS database has led to some technical difficulties in generating reports. The fault is being investigated and we will issue the reports as soon as we are able.

#### 3. Year 9 Timetables

The timetabling of Year 9 includes a carousel process, where the DT groups are rotated on a half termly basis. This means that the current groups will rotate after half term. New timetables will be given to students on the first day back with the updates.

#### 4. Year 7 Timetables

Year 7 are currently taught in Tutor Groups for their Maths lessons. Now that baseline testing has taken place, the students will be allocated to classes more adequately suited to their ability. This means that the current groups will change after half term. New timetables will be given to students on the first day back with the updates.

#### 5. Year 11 Parents' Evening

Year 11 Parents' Evening, taking place on Thursday 9th November, is open for bookings. Don't forget to make your appointments with your child's teachers.

## 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.

#### Teacher of PE and Science

[Teacher of PE and Science \(Full Time\) | Ansford Academy](#)

#### Parent and Family Support Advisor (part time)

[Parent and Family Support Advisor \(Part Time\) | Ansford Academy](#)

#### Teaching Assistant (part time or full time)

[Teaching Assistant \(Part time or Full time applicants welcomed\) | Ansford Academy](#)

#### Exam invigilators (casual)

[Exam Invigilators \(Casual\) | Ansford Academy](#)

Report a student absence by phone: 01963 350 895 or by email [attendanceofficer@ansford.net](mailto:attendanceofficer@ansford.net)

Contact the Academy by phone: 01963 350 895 or by email [mailbox@ansford.net](mailto:mailbox@ansford.net)

## Catering Assistant

We have a vacancy in the kitchen for a catering assistant/cook 25 hours per week. 9.30am - 2.30pm. Please contact Ruth Donovan at [caterlink@ansford.net](mailto:caterlink@ansford.net) for more information.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:mailbox@ansford.net)

Report a student absence by phone: 01963 350 895 or by email [attendanceofficer@ansford.net](mailto:attendanceofficer@ansford.net)

Contact the Academy by phone: 01963 350 895 or by email [mailbox@ansford.net](mailto:mailbox@ansford.net)

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

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