

Issue 5: 17th November 2023

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Families

As always, it has been a busy few weeks at Ansford and a lot has happened since our last Family Bulletin. You will be aware that we started this half term with a two day graded Ofsted Inspection. We were really proud of the way that our students conducted themselves and the inspection team made a particular point of acknowledging how warm, confident and polite the students were. It takes a few weeks to receive the final report and, once we do, we will share that with you. As you might expect, there were definitely areas to celebrate as well as further areas to develop.

We have had a number of Year 11 events, ranging from the taster day at Strode College to Interview Workshop sessions with employers and members of the local community. We were also delighted to meet with families for our Year 11 Parents' Evening and had the highest recorded turn out for this event for a number of years - working together in this way really helps us to support our young people. Year 11 are now looking ahead to their Trial Exams and we wish them well in their preparations.

As well as events in school, two of our Student Leaders, Walter and Lilly, represented the Academy at Castle Cary Remembrance Sunday service, taking part in the procession through the town and laying a wreath at the War Memorial. We thank them for taking part and to Mr Musson for accompanying them.

Finally, we are sad to say farewell to two members of staff who leave the Academy this week: Mrs Carolyn Bevan who has been in role as both Office Manager and Headteacher's PA and Miss Becky Harrison who has been working with us as a Teaching Assistant. We are very sorry to lose them both as they have made a valuable contribution to the Academy in the short time that they have been with us. I am sure that you will join me in wishing them well in their next steps.

Have a lovely weekend

Rachel Purnell
Headteacher

Academy Calendar: Key Upcoming Events

Week	Date in November	Event	Location Timing	Staff Contact
1	23rd November	Year 11 Drama Trip	9am-3.30pm, Poole	Mr Newbury
2	28th November	Year 5 Primary Sports Festival	Sports Centre	Mrs Grove
2	30th November	Year 10 Parents' Evening	Virtual/PA2, 4.15pm-7pm	Mrs Dyal

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Week	Date in December	Event	Location Timing	Staff Contact
1	4th December	Start of Year 11 Trial Exams		Mrs Dyal
1	6th December	Beauty and the Beast Production		Mr Newbury
1	7th December	Beauty and the Beast Production		Mr Newbury
1	8th December	Beauty and the Beast Production		Mr Newbury
2	11th December	Year 11 trial Exams Continue		Mrs Dyal

Assembly Rota		
20th-24th November	My future self <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding the importance of planning for the future An introduction to the 3 main post 16 routes The importance of participation in enrichment to develop a strong CV Being able to identify your own skills/talents 	HoY
Disability History Month (begins 22 November)		

Notices

From Mrs Rice, Head of English
G.O.A.T. Tales An enthusiastic team of students is putting together the aptly named 'G.O.A.T. Tales' - a new student magazine to showcase creative writing and celebrate reading. Watch this space for their first edition, to be published at Christmas time.

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

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From Mrs Wood, SENDCO

Free Courses

Here is a link to a list of courses that are available to parents and carers of SEND students through the Somerset Parent Carer Forum. Parents can sign up themselves, instructions are on the web link.

<https://somerseparentcarerforum.org.uk/home/wise-up-workshops/>

From Mrs Grove, Head of PE

Ansford Hockey

As we come to the end of the hockey season, our teams have played triumphantly with much success and a great improvement in their Hockey playing ability. All teams have demonstrated excellent sportsmanship and resilience during the games and have represented Ansford brilliantly. Well done! The Year 7s have made their way into the Yeovil Leagues Final and we wish them luck in their fixture next week.



Year 2 Multi Sport Festival

Ansford welcomed over 100 Year 2 Primary School students for an afternoon of sport. Students were given the opportunity to perform in 6 different sports including Bell Ball, Badminton, Tag Rugby, Netball, Caterpillar Cricket and Danish Longball. Year 9 Ansford students led the sessions and did a brilliant job coaching and officiating. We look forward to our next Festival at the end of the month where Year 5 students will develop their Dance skills.

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Football Success

Congratulations to Archie A, Tom R, Dougie R and Mikey M who have all been selected to represent the Yeovil and District Football Teams this year. They have been selected after attending several trials with all of the schools in the area, with some trials hosting over 60 attendees. They will now represent the area against other counties in regional and national competitions. Well done!

From Mrs Watson, Careers Advisor

Year 11 Mock Interviews Event: November 2023

Congratulations to the whole of Year 11 for their performance in Mock interviews with employers and members of the local community this week. Students had a briefing lesson on communication and presentation skills and how to prepare for interviews with Nikki Blackwell from ASK Apprenticeships, and then each student undertook an individual mock interview. For most this was the first, formal encounter with a professional where they were required to talk about themselves, their strengths, qualities, achievements and ambitions. They were assessed and given feedback on their presentation and communication skills.

Although nerve wracking, students had the opportunity to shine – representing both themselves and the Academy. Students found it to be a real confidence booster: “I wasn’t sure what it would be like and I was worried I wouldn’t know what to say, but it was really good and the interviewer I had was really nice and put me at ease. I think I’m prepared for another one!”

Employers were very impressed with the attitude, qualities and ambitions of the students, some saying the standard of interviews was higher than it had ever been: “I was really taken by how focussed and self-aware the students were. They were confident to talk about themselves and all had a clear sense of their goals for the future. They are a credit to Ansford and I would employ them now!”

A huge thank you to all employers, training providers and members of the local community for offering their time and expertise to support the event.



From Mrs Swallow, Head of DT

Fundraising Superstar

Over the Summer, Flora in Year 7 became the youngest RSPB representative selling their pin badges. She has the responsibility to 'mind' the boxes, keep a count of the stock and bank the money. This week she reached over £300 in sales and has been recognised by the RSPB for her efforts! Flora has a real passion for nature and loves bird watching. Selling the pins for one of her favourite charities is something to be proud of!

From Mrs Martin, Finance Manager

Year 11 Prom Fundraising

Our Year 11 Students vs Teachers football match was a great success! We managed to pick a fair-weather day, Mr Willson, Mr Newbury, Mr Darby and Mr Antoine were bolstered by some Year 10 boys and it proved to be an exciting match. The Year 11 boys, Finn, Cameron, Toby, Howie, Archie, Jake and Liam played brilliantly and a huge well done to Theo for refereeing. The final score was 1-0 to the teachers, but there were lots of great shots on goal and fantastic saves. Our event attracted a fantastic number of supporters and we raised a total of £308 towards our Prom so many thanks to all who took part.



More fundraising plans are in hand so watch this space for our next event.

From Mrs Dyal, Communications and Operations Manager

Settling in Reports

Year 7 students brought home their Settling In Reports this week. Any students who were absent, will have their reports sent by postal services and should be received shortly.

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From Mr Newbury, Drama teacher



Ansford Academy proudly presents...

Disney's **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST**

JRC

TICKETS NOW ON SALE

Please *be our guest* and support the wonderful students at Ansford Academy as they put on this *tales that's as old as time*.

Use this link
[Buy tickets for Ansford Academy \(tickettailor.com\)](https://www.tickettailor.com/events/ansfordacademy)

or this address
<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/ansfordacademy>

Upcoming Rehearsals

WHEN

15/11/23- periods 4 and 5 (all cast off timetable)
24/11/23- All day rehearsal (all cast off timetable)
30/11/23- Primary School workshops- selected students from the cast will lead groups of primary school children in dancing, singing and acting workshops.
30/11/23- period 4 and 5- (all cast off timetable)

Sunday 26th Nov and 3rd Dec- 10am-4.30pm

From Mr Kershaw, Head of Science

How can parents and carers help with Science Revision?

It is **not enough to revise hard** – students have to **revise SMART** to maximise exam success. Please have a read through the useful tips for families to support with revision below.

1. Revision does not have to be hours sitting in a room. Whilst this has a place, short regular reminders can be **very effective** as well if started early. **Parents and Carers:** Long continuous periods of time revising is unlikely to be focussed. 15/20 min sessions with a short break between them has been proven to be the most effective. Encourage the productive use of small gaps of time in the day – such as the 15 mins before you are about to go out – to have a quick look though some revision cards or complete a single Seneca task.
2. Distraction is very damaging to securing ideas into memory for the future. Doing revision tasks whilst your phone is next to you on the table can be almost as distracting as using it and it draws your attention away to the **possibility** of receiving a message. **Parents and Carers:** Make sure mobile phone/tablet/laptop is not in the same room when revision is happening – unless of course it is needed for that particular task.
3. For Science, we are using Seneca Learning to help students review whole topics independently. It covers all the ideas in a clear, step by step way. Science teachers will set homework tasks to complete certain topics, but this system can be used independently and is especially good if a student is not confident about a topic. It is not expected that students get 100% but 75% should be considered a minimum on

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average. **Parents and Carers:** ensure that homework set using Seneca is completed by the deadline. This is best done as several short sessions rather than a single long one.

4. Use topic lists available on ClassCharts to do **'quick checks'**. These cover both combined and separate science and so combined science do not need all of the ideas (they are labelled clearly). **Parents and Carers:** Ask your child to explain **one** idea from the list to you. If they cannot – give them 5 mins to go and look it up and have another go. If they still can't get them to come and discuss with their teacher (and check they have the next day). Little and regular is very effective support for retrieval.
5. Make sure students use **brain / book / brain** to practise remembering. Science exams are initially about **memory** and so this needs to be revised and practised. Students pick a topic, write as much as they can. Then use a book to fill in any gaps. Finally using a new piece of paper to have another go to see what can now be remembered. Repeat the same topic a week later. **Parents and Carers:** ask your child to show you their first and second attempts so that you can highlight and celebrate the improvement. Don't expect perfection – just improvement.
6. Make sure students use **practice questions** to get used to the format of exams. **Don't do this as a test.** If you are stuck, find the right answer and practise writing them correctly. **Parents and Carers:** ask to see their practice questions. Check that answers are written clearly and that none are ignored – any which are missed out need to be brought to school and discussed with their teacher (and check they have the next day).
7. **Revision can be hard** on your own and so there are weekly **after school revision sessions** on a Tuesday 3.45-4.45pm. The timetable is attached. Students that cannot attend because of transport issues can access the resources on ClassCharts. **Parents and Carers:** support and encourage participation with these weekly sessions and/or the topic questions on ClassCharts to ensure that revision is spread across the year.

Science Year 11 Revision Support Tuesday 3.30-4.30 Combined Science with Mr Kershaw in Sc1 Triple Science with Mr Hill in Sc3.	
Date	Topic
31 October 2023	Bio P1 exam questions
7 November 2023	Chem P1 exam questions
14 November 2023	Phys P1 Exam questions
21 November 2023	practical P1 exam questions
28 November 2023	trial exam topics
5 December 2023	trial exams
12 December 2023	trial exams
19 December 2023	xmas hols
26 December 2023	xmas hols
2 January 2024	INSET

9 January 2024	B5
16 January 2024	C6
23 January 2024	P5
30 January 2024	P2 required practicals
6 February 2024	P2 exam questions
13 February 2024	half term
20 February 2024	B6
27 February 2024	C7 & 8
5 March 2024	P6
12 March 2024	C9/10
19 March 2024	P7
26 March 2024	B7
2 April 2024	Easter hols
9 April 2024	Easter hols
16 April 2024	Bio P1 exam questions
23 April 2024	Chem P1 exam questions
30 April 2024	Phys P1 Exam questions
7 May 2024	Bio P2 exam questions
14 May 2024	Chem P2 exam questions
21 May 2024	Phys P2 exam questions
28 May 2024	half term

From Miss Worthy-Jarvis, Head of Business and Computing

Minecraft Club

Minecraft club won't be happening now until January due to staff commitments.

Bebras Challenge

Over the past two weeks, students have been given the opportunity to take part in the UK Bebras Challenge. This is a nationwide competition focusing on computational thinking, to promote computer science and identify students who have an aptitude for logical reasoning and problem solving. The questions are in the form of engaging puzzles that start off relatively easy so that every student can have a go at them. Students have 40

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minutes to solve as many puzzles as possible. If a student places in the top 10% nationally for their age group, they are invited to the Oxford University Computing Challenge, and all students receive a certificate for taking part. We are looking forward to seeing the results in December, as over 360 students have been involved!



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Community News

**Wreath making &
coffee morning
at Mill on the Brue**



**Tuesday 12th December
10am – 12.30pm
in The Longhouse
£40 pp**

Please call 01749 812307 to book
All proceeds go to The British Heart Foundation

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](#)

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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 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

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, 10000 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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