

# Bulletin for Ansford Families

Issue 6: 1st December 2023

## Message from the Headteacher

Dear Families

It's hard to believe that it is already December; this half term seems to have flown by at Ansford and we have managed to squeeze lots of activities and events into the school calendar. These have included:

- a theatre visit for our GCSE Drama students to see a performance of A Woman in Black
- a KS3 STEM event, joining other schools at Fleet Air Arm Museum
- Year 5 Primary Sports Festival
- U12 Hockey Yeovil League Tournament (see Mrs Groves entry below about our WINNING team!)

We have also welcomed back our Year 11 Leavers from last academic year to collect their GCSE Certificates and it was lovely to hear all about their next steps. Our current Year 11 students have been completing practical exams this week and will start their written trial exams next week - we wish them the best of luck for these important exams.

Since our last Family Bulletin, we have welcomed two new members of staff to our SEND Team: Miss Chelsea Molcher and Miss Sarah Femandel join us as Teaching Assistants. You will also be pleased to hear that Mr Mitchell and his wife now have a new addition to their family - a baby daughter Evelyn who weighed in at 7lbs 3oz.

We hope to see you in school next week for one of the performances of Beauty and the Beast. There is a lot of excitement as the costumes have now arrived. The cast have been working very hard with Mr Newbury and a wide range of other staff to ensure they are as prepared as they can be - it promises to be a great event. The tickets are selling out so use the link below to book yours if you haven't already done so!

Have a lovely weekend

Rachel Purnell  
Headteacher

## Academy Calendar: Key Upcoming Events

Week	Date in December	Event	Location/Timing	Staff Contact
1	4th December	Year 11 Written Trial Exams Start	As per Examinations Timetable	Mrs Dyal
1	6th - 8th December	Beauty and the Beast Production	See poster below	Mr Newbury
1	8th December	Year 9 Interim Reports Issued		Mrs Dyal
2	11th December	Year 11 Trial Exams Continue	As per Examinations Timetable	Mrs Dyal
2	11th December	Recognition and Rewards Week		Mr Mitchell
2	13th December	Christmas Jumper Day		Mrs Martin
2	13th December	Cross Country (Santa Run)	Details to follow	Mrs Grove
2	13th December	Student Christmas Lunch	Details to follow	Mrs Martin
2	15th December	Last Day of Term	Early Finish (1pm)	
Week	Date in January	Event	Location/Timing	Staff Contact
1	2nd and 3rd January	INSET Days		
1	4th January	All students return to school		

## Assembly Rota

4th-8th December	<p>Ansford Ethos - Respect</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● How we show respect</li> <li>● Respecting members of staff/adults</li> <li>● Respecting peers</li> <li>● Respecting our environment, property and resources</li> </ul>	Mr Mitchell
11th-15th December	<p>ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Subject/Tutor Group winners</li> <li>● Top 5 girls/boys</li> <li>● Tutor group winners</li> <li>● Individual accolades/achievements</li> </ul>	Heads of Year

[Human Rights Day](#) (10th December)

## Notices

### From The Children's Commissioner for England



The Children's Commissioner for England has recently launched 'The Big Ambition' to hear directly from children, young people and parents across the country.

We want to hear from all children, in every part of the country and in every setting.

This is your chance to tell key policymakers what is important to you ahead of the general election. Take part now and ensure your needs are reflected in the decisions that will affect you in years to come.



#### The Big Ambition

The Big Ambition is a national survey to gather the voices of children across the UK. It is a survey for all children aged 0-18 and provides a great opportunity for the children of England to tell political decision makers what is important to them.

We will be promoting the survey in school with our students but you may also want to look at this together at home. You can complete the survey here: [www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition)

### From The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

#### Thanks for Fundraising

The Royal British Legion thanks our community for our support in helping them raise £6,800.09 selling poppies. Funds raised within the Academy contributed £53.60 to the amount, making a real difference to those in the Armed Forces community. Well done all!

### From Reception

#### RSPB Badges Available in Reception

We reported in the last bulletin that 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. At the end of November 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!

Students can purchase the pin badges from Reception during break and lunchtimes to help Flora raise money for the RSPB; the suggested donation is £2 per badge.

### 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/>.

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 Mr Newbury, Drama teacher**

**Ansford Academy**  
Proudly Presents

**Disney's BEAUTY AND THE BEAST JR.**

Music by Alan Menken  
Lyrics by Howard Ashman and Tim Rice  
Book by Linda Woolverton

**Show Dates:**  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December- 7pm  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December- 7pm  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December – 7pm  
Doors open at 6.30pm each night  
£5.50 per ticket

Tickets now available  
Use this link  
[Buy tickets for Ansford Academy \(tickettailor.com\)](http://www.tickettailor.com)  
or this address  
<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/ansfordacademy>

Disney's Beauty and the Beast JR. is presented through special arrangement with  
all authorized materials are supplied by Music Theatre International.  
421 West 56<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10019

**From Mrs Dyal, Communications and Operations Manager**

### Interim Reports for Year 9

Year 9 students will bring home their Interim Reports next week. Any students who are absent, will be able to obtain their reports the following day from their Tutors. Any students absent following that will have their reports sent by postal services.

Report a student absence by phone: 01963 350 895 or by email [attendanceofficer@ansford.net](mailto:attendanceofficer@ansford.net)  
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### **From Mrs Rice, Head of English**

#### **Fundraising Success**

Last Saturday, Joe W in Year 11 held a raffle at a Murder Mystery evening held at a local village hall. Joe collected a whopping £240 to help fund his scuba diving expedition in Kenya next summer. The guests were incredibly generous, asking Joe lots of questions and seemed very interested in his trip. Local businesses donated some prizes and Joe's family provided the rest. This money raised will go towards Joe's injections, visa and passport renewal. Congratulations to Joe - what a great effort!

#### **Christmas Writing Competition!**

Brought to you by the G.O.A.T. Tales student magazine team. All students are invited to write a Christmas-themed story of up to 500 words. It must include one of the given writing prompts:

“Well done, you’ve just ruined Christmas!”

Or

“The Goat of Christmas Past? Wasn’t it supposed to be the ghost?”

Or

“Come on then, who set the tree on fire?”

Entries can be submitted via email to [goatales@ansford.net](mailto:goatales@ansford.net) or on paper to Mrs Rice. Our favourite 3 will be published in the next G.O.A.T Tales (with the writer's permission) and there will be one winner of a grand prize!

### **From Miss Voit, Food Teacher**

#### **Sweet Tubs!**

If anyone gets selection tubs of sweets over the festive period, please could they be donated to school. They are perfect for students to use if they forget containers to take home their cooking practicals. Students can bring them into DT1 or drop them into Reception.

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**From Mrs Grove, Head of PE**

**Year 7 U12 Hockey Yeovil League champions!!**

The Year 7 Hockey team are the U12 Hockey Yeovil League champions. After an exhausting day of Hockey the Year 7s beat Wadham 7-0 to get them a place in the final against Buckler's Mead. Ansford went up 1-0 after a tense first 10 minutes. Buckler's then came back with another two goals, and despite 3 short corners Ansford struggled to find the goal, but just managed to sneak a goal in the last few minutes. Extra time and golden goal gave Ansford the chance to get the title with a well worked goal from the team. All girls played their socks off and despite being exhausted kept the intensity high proving them worthy winners of the title. Year 7 Hockey team were GK Gracie P, Eliza R, Chloe N, Karina K, Morgan W, Leonie R, Elsie H, Mia S, Pippa K and Bella P-J. Well done girls!!







## From Ms Hirst, Deputy Headteacher: Welfare and Inclusion

### Resources Available through Somerset Council

We are often provided with information that the county council make available to families to participate in, please find here the most recent offerings for the 8th December:



**Summerhouse Services**  
'Supporting Brighter Futures'



**Supportive Training For Adult Family & Friends**


# 'GENERIC'S'

Gentle Empathic Neutral Effective Resilient  
Insightful Compassionate Safe

**Common Approaches, Tips & Tools, To Promote The Mental Health & Resilience Of  
The Children & Young People You Live With & Love**

**Max 2 People Per Family.**  
We train in small groups  
for all services, therefore  
**FIRST COME 1ST SERVE!**

**Friday 8th December VIRTUAL**  
9.45 - 3.00  
**FREE OFFER ! - Usually £40.00**  
**You will receive the full workshop**

  
**zoom**

In this friendly, relaxed, supportive and holistic workshop, you will have the opportunity to develop empathy, insights and understanding and gain approaches and tools, to help you help the children and young people in your world, who may be experiencing a range of mental health difficulties e.g. Anxiety, stress, Low Mood, Eating Difficulties, Self Harm, Obsessive Behaviours, Problems Expressing Anger, Low Self Esteem or Confidence, Risk taking behaviours etc. 'Look beneath the surface' of these issues and enter the world of young people and thereby realise both the common experiences and uniqueness of the spectrum of mental health issues in a grass roots, real life way.

Finding 'monsters and gremlins', discovering the inner 'paradise chicken' and 'Tapping for better mental health and resilience' are a just few of the activities that you will have the opportunity to participate in ! You will 'hear from young people' what helps and what hinders them and it will then become clear, what helps them build their resilience and ability to cope with the ups and downs of life, in a safe and effective way and in doing so, address their mental health difficulties.

**Note:** We make every effort to offer a sensitive, supportive and non-biased space. Your facilitator has also had their own direct life experience of serious mental health difficulties and is a highly experienced therapist of over 20 years experience in the field of holistic and generic mental health and resilience promotion, whose field of interest lies in the area of eating difficulties and self harm. **If you have any concerns before the day, please do not hesitate to contact Penny for a chat.**

**Outcomes**

- Discuss and explore the spectrum of what constitutes a mental health issue from a Humanistic and empathic perspective.
- Develop insights to establish the link between a child and young person's mental health problem and their emotional, mental, spiritual and environmental world
- Argue the risks of making assumptions regarding children, young people with 'mental health problems' & explore the phrase '**we are all products of our environments**' in this context.
- Discover the wider meaning of resilience and its relationship to mental health promotion for children and young people.
- Acquire straightforward, safe and 'orbital' responding and support strategies to help any child or young person who may have difficulties with their mental health
- Understand the common reasons that young people struggle to ask for help and open up and how to help with this and offer alternative expression forms in the interim.
- Gain practical, tangible tools and quick tips for you and your young people to have in a holistic support toolkit, including 'Tapping' (Emotional freedom Techniques)
- Acquire relevant local and national signposting and support service awareness.

Company Number 13427929

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### Some Feedback From Recent Workshops

*"This workshop was a game changer for me ! It has shown me how to help my daughter safely and in a way that makes sense to me as a parent . It has really opened my eyes ! Thank you so much :)"*

*" Just to say I loved the course we did last year; I got what I needed from it and my daughter is radically better.....as is our relationship....You really helped me at a time when I was frightened, lost, had no answers and felt utterly ill equipped.....Keep on shining your special light. What Summerhouse does is so important."*

*"This has been a game changer for me. I now know I can stop blaming myself for everything and I have also now got lots of tips to help my son. It was a really fun day too! Thank you!"*

*"I found this day so helpful. Thank you! Penny has a unique approach that really works & no powerpoint ! A great day !"*

*"As a parent of a child that has an eating disorder, I was worried about joining this workshop. Penny put me at ease straight away with her friendly and non-judgmental attitude and I found the day very informative. I feel much more confident as to how to help him now. Thank you "*

*"It has helped me a lot to understand more about my Granddaughter's self harming. I feel reassured that on the whole I am trying to do the right thing, and have learned a lot. I now also know the things to avoid. I really enjoyed the day! Thank you."*

*"Thank you so much for this day. After just one day of training, I have now been able to help my son by changing a few things that I do and he has now come up with a plan that is sensible and doable to help him return to school. (Young person had problems with anger and was a consistent school refuser)*

*"This workshop was just what I was hoping for! Everyone can benefit from this training! Thank you!"*

#### The Thoughts of Parent Lynn , Whose Young Person Uses Our Service.

*"I cannot recommend this service enough having tried many conventional lines of help and nobody really seeming to understand the issues for my 13 year old. I was put in touch with Summerhouse Services and the Drifts programme and since they started here they have learnt many things and although they still have some issues, they have learnt new skills to aid them to cope with these .....*

*The approach of Summerhouse Services is very different to anything offered mainstream and the support I have been offered as a parent too has been amazing with one to one time, courses and workshops to help me better understand what my child is going through.*

*To anybody struggling out there please reach out to Summerhouse Services; you won't be disappointed."*

#### Booking Details

For bookings or enquiries please email Penny [penny.logsdail@summerhouseservices.org](mailto:penny.logsdail@summerhouseservices.org)

**No online or phone bookings for this offer please.**

#### Summerhouse Services

T. 07869173154

E. [penny.logsdail@summerhouseservices.org](mailto:penny.logsdail@summerhouseservices.org)

U. [www.summer-house.org](http://www.summer-house.org)

F. <https://www.facebook.com/supportingbrighterfutures>

I . <https://www.instagram.com/summerhouseservices/>



Supported  
By



Company Number 13427929





# Summerhouse Services

'Supporting Brighter Futures'



## Safe Spaces For Young People's Mental Health

We are a small, Plymouth-based, holistic, not-for-profit organisation promoting mental health, resilience and free thinking for children, young people and those adults that inhabit their world. We provide a range of human-centred, outcome-led, orbital and unique training and support services.

We have in person and virtual offers for all services, for which we have a nationwide remit.

While we are only just over 2 years old as an organisation, the work and unique approach we use has been in the making and continually shaped in response to need for over 20 years in the voluntary sector by Founder and Director Penny.

Our creative, engaging, enjoyable and supportive offers are easy access, friendly and professional and never use power point, even for our virtual training ! The focus instead is on lively interaction, enjoy as you learn and participation to own level of comfort.

**ALL offers are generic and for EVERYONE and we never target audiences with specific issues, as our services are both preventative and supportive in nature and importantly, NONE of our offers are therapy or counselling, although ALL the spaces we create facilitate climates that are potentially, therapeutic (helpful), motivational and healing in nature.**

We have had a fantastic reception since starting up in May 2021 and adults that come to our training use words such as 'game changing', 'ground breaking', 'new', 'pioneering', 'straightforward' and 'value for money' and young people generally find us 'helpful' 'validating', 'relaxing', 'interesting' and 'really fun' !

To find out more, please take a look around our website and if you would like a chat about any aspect of what we do or have any queries as to how we may help, please do not hesitate to get in touch....we always like a chat !

### Contact Details

Tel: 07869173154

Email: [summerhouse.services@gmail.com](mailto:summerhouse.services@gmail.com)

[www.summer-house.org](http://www.summer-house.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/supportingbrighterfutures>

<https://www.instagram.com/summerhouseservices/>

Company Number 13427929



## 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 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.

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**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
5 December 2023	trial exams
12 December 2023	trial exams
<b>19 December 2023</b>	<b>xmas hols</b>
<b>26 December 2023</b>	<b>xmas hols</b>
<b>2 January 2024</b>	<b>INSET</b>
9 January 2024	B5
16 January 2024	C6
23 January 2024	P5
30 January 2024	P2 required practicals
6 February 2024	P2 exam questions
<b>13 February 2024</b>	<b>half term</b>
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
<b>2 April 2024</b>	<b>Easter hols</b>
<b>9 April 2024</b>	<b>Easter hols</b>
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

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28 May 2024

half term

## 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](#)

### 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)

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

## Community News

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



**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December**  
**10am – 12.30pm**  
in The Longhouse  
**£40 pp**  
Please call 01749 812307 to book  
All proceeds go to The British Heart Foundation

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