

Bulletin for Ansford Families

Issue 9: 2nd February 2024

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Families

We have had another few weeks of busy activity at Ansford with multiple trips, visits and events taking place.

I was really thrilled to watch our two teams compete in the *Youth Speaks Competition* which was held at St Dunstan's last week. It really was a joy to see them perform with such confidence; they were a real credit to the school. Mrs Hardy Stewart has written more about that a bit later in the Bulletin and also about the performance of our team in the *English Speaking Union Competition* where we reached the Second Round. Many thanks to Mrs Hardy Stewart for preparing our teams for these events and working so hard to develop opportunities for our young people in this area.

In addition, Mrs Rice and members of the English Team accompanied KS4 students to the *Poetry Live Trip* in Bath last week - this is excellent preparation for the English Literature examination and also a real treat to see poetry performed live on stage. We have also welcomed children from our local primary schools for the Year 4 Primary Sports Festival and will be joined by Year 3 children next week. Many thanks to Mrs Grove for leading and organising these events. At the end of last week, our Year 11 students collected their trial exam results as we recreated the experience they will have in the summer so that they are well prepared for it. Students are performing well at this stage of their courses and now need to keep the momentum as they approach their final exams.

Finally, we welcome a new permanent member of staff to our this term. This week, we welcome Ms Bibi who has joined us as a full time Maths teacher. Ms Bibi worked with us a couple of years ago on a temporary basis and was keen to return to Ansford for a permanent position.

I hope that you have a lovely weekend.

Rachel Purnell
Headteacher

Academy Calendar: Key Upcoming Events

Week	Date in February	Event	Location/Timing	Staff Contact
2	Tuesday 6th	Year 11 Photographs	Details below	Mrs Dyal
2	Tuesday 6th	Year 3 Primary Sports Festival		Mrs Grove
2	Wednesday 7th	Interform 3	Details below	Mrs Grove
2	Thursday 8th	Year 11 Parents' Evening	Details below	Mr Musson
2	Friday 9th	Year 7 Interim Reports		Mrs Dyal
	Monday 12th- Friday 16th	Half Term		
1	Tuesday 20th - Thursday 22nd	I Can and I Am Bus	Details below	Ms Hirst
2	Wednesday 28th	Parent Support Meetings for Students with Autistic Spectrum Condition	5pm-6:30pm PA2	Mrs Wood
2	Wednesday 28th	OperaPlus Workshop	Details below	Mrs Marshfield
Week	Date in March	Event	Location/Timing	Staff Contact
2	Friday 1st	Year 10 Interim Reports		Mrs Dyal

Assembly Rota

5th - 9th February	ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Subject/Tutor Group winners ● Top 5 girls/boys ● Tutor group winners ● Individual accolades/achievements 	Heads of Year
HALF TERM		
19th - 23rd February	Effective Learning Behaviours - Social Time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Social awareness [quiet zones/activity spaces] ● Turn taking and patience ● Respecting the environment ● Expected conduct 	Mr Musson
Children's Mental Health Week (begins 4 February)		

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Notices

From The Safeguarding Team

Emotion Coaching Workshop - Tuesday 6th February - postponed

Mel Young, Mental Health practitioner, has had to postpone the workshop planned for next week. As soon as I hear from her, I will let you know of the rearranged date. I apologise for this, it was planned to be during Children's Mental Health Week as part of the focus on mental health at school.

Children's Mental Health Week 5th – 9th February

Please find below a link to a Parent and Carer Wellbeing Toolkit which provides lots of links and practical advice for parents and carers to support children's mental health and wellbeing. It has links to lots of useful books and online webinars etc but also gives advice on lots of other aspects that affect young people and teenagers such as sleep, anxiety, worry, social media etc as well as a section on parent and carer wellbeing too. [Somerset MHST Padlet](#)

The image shows a screenshot of a Padlet board titled "Parent & Carer Wellbeing Toolkit" by SomersetMHST. The board is set against a green and blue background with a sun icon. It features several resource cards:

- Helpful links:** "Online offer for Parents, carers & grandparents" with a blue star icon and the URL inourplace.heiapply.com.
- Helpful books for you:** "Book: When the adults change, everything changes: Paul Dix" with an Amazon.co.uk link and a 2,400-star rating.
- Helpful books for your child:** "Let's go surfing: A child's guide to coping with the ocean of emotions" with an Amazon.co.uk link and a "503 - Service Unavailable Error" message.
- Emotion Coaching:** "MHST Emotion Coaching toolkit" with a Padlet link to "angiewilson4" and a "Private padlet" label.
- Read:** "All emotions are okay" with an Amazon.co.uk link and a "503 - Service Unavailable Error" message.

I Can, I Am Bus

The bus is a resource that has been made available to secondary schools across Somerset. Year 10 and Year 11 students will all be visiting the 'I can, I am' wellbeing bus between 20th and 24th February. Four one hour sessions take place per day. Students get involved with making pizza on the converted ground floor followed by wellbeing workshops on the top deck focusing on how to maintain self-belief during the teenage years. Feedback from other schools has been really good; they have worked with over 12,000 pupils and have had a very positive response from every school they visit.

From Mrs Wood, SENDCo

Free Courses - Reminder

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/>.

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The Autism in Schools Project (run in partnership with the Autism Education Trust (AET) and the Somerset Parent Carer Forum) - Reminder

As a school, we are participating in the Autism in Schools project run in partnership with the Autism Education Trust (AET) and the Somerset Parent Carer Forum (SPCF). As part of this project a member of SPCF will be running parent groups throughout the school year (please see the dates and times below; these are also on the school calendar).

The initial meeting will be an opportunity for parents of students with Autism to meet together, offer support to each other and discuss topics or issues which are affecting them. The topics which are covered can be led by the preferences of the parents who attend and this will be discussed at the first meeting in January. There is no obligation to come to all the dates, parents are able to attend those sessions they are able to and they feel are most relevant to them:

- Wednesday 28th February 5.00pm - 6.30pm in PA2
- Wednesday 15th May 9.30am - 11.00am
- Thursday 27th June 5.00pm - 6.30pm in PA2

If you are interested in attending any of these events then please complete the google form (link [here](#)) to express your interest.

From Mr Musson, Deputy Headteacher: Curriculum and Standards

Year 11 Revision Timetable - Reminder

Please find the full timetable [here](#).

From Mrs Withers, Head of Maths

Year 11 Maths Revision Session Countdown Plan 2023-24 - Reminder

Find the full timetable [here](#).

From Mr Kershaw, Head of Science

Reminder - 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 these [useful tips for families to support with revision](#).

[Year 11 Science Revision Support Timetable](#).

From Mrs Dyal, Communications and Operations Manager

Year 11 Summer 2024 Examination Entries - Reminder

We will shortly be preparing to enter Year 11 students for their GCSE/Vocational/Cambridge National courses. Students will be provided with a Statement of Entry during the last week of February. It is highly important that Statements of Entry are checked carefully to ensure that students are entered for the courses they are expecting. Any queries or concerns with entries should be directed to the Examinations Office as a matter of urgency. Any queries or concerns relating to tiers (for Maths, Science or Languages) should be directed to class teachers.

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Year 11 Group and Individual Photographs - Reminder

Year 11 photographs will be taking place on the morning of Tuesday 6th February. The full year group photograph will be taken followed by individuals. Please ensure students arrive in full correct uniform.

Year 11 Parents' Evening - Reminder

Parents and carers are welcomed to meet subject teachers during Year 11 Parents' Evening on Thursday 8th February. We will continue to deliver the evening via our hybrid model providing an opportunity for families to choose to speak with teachers in personal or video virtual video appointments. Bookings are now open.

From Our Student Community

Second edition of G.O.A.T. Tales

G.O.A.T. Tales is a completely student-led magazine celebrating creative writing and reading at Ansford. Click [here](#) for their second edition.

Mia S in Year 7 Running for Red January

You may remember from our previous Family Bulletin we told you about Mia in Year 7 running every day of January to raise money for Sarcoma UK. Well, a huge congratulations to Mia as she has now raised over £10,000! Mia featured on the BBC News on Wednesday night - the article below states £8,000 but it's now over £10,000.



Somerset girl running in memory of friend who died of cancer

An 11-year-old girl is running a mile every morning before school in memory of a family friend who died from cancer.

Mia, from Queen Camel near Yeovil, Somerset, has already run the equivalent of two marathons and raised £8,000 for Sarcoma UK.

It comes after Lolly Gilmour died at the age of 42 from an uncommon cancer called Periosteal Osteosarcoma.

Mia said she is "proud" of her achievement.

Well done Mia!

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From Miss Fulton, Medical Coordinator

Vaccines this Term: Advanced Notice

- 13th March - Year 9 HPV and Year 8 HPV catch up
- 30th April - Year 9 Men ACWY/DTP vaccine
- 3rd July - Year 8 and Year 9 all vaccine catch up

Correspondence will be sent via SAINTS (Somerset School Aged Immunisation Nursing Team)

From Mrs Hardy-Stewart, English Teacher and Oracy Lead

Youth Speaks First Round 2024

On Wednesday evening, six Ansford students arrived at St Dunstan's School in Glastonbury to do an Oracy battle with three teams from St Dunstan's. The first old-timer team known as The Ansford Originals comprised of Tom G, Liam H and Noah C. They spoke about the controversial subject of home education. The second team of first-timers christened themselves Yung Speaks with a deliberate misspelling of "young" as they were speaking about punk music and whether it is beneficial to young people. This team was Maddie J, Will R and Alfie K. Other subjects chosen by teams ranged from the benefits of the Internet, whether cats are better than dogs (obviously not!) and should nurses be paid as much as footballers.

It was a brilliant evening with a good deal of exceptional speaking and chairing and debate when members of the audience quizzed the speakers. The outcome was that the Ansford Originals were runners up and went through to Round 2 and Will R of Yung Speaks was chosen as the best speaker of the whole evening for his debonaire chairing of his team. A hearty congratulations to all six competitors for their hard work, team work and continuing progress as public speakers.

English Speaking Union Competition Second Round

On Tuesday afternoon, the freshly cleaned silver minibus left Ansford driven by Gary Farrant, our caretaker. I want to start by thanking Gary for volunteering and giving up his evening to support us. In the bus were three year 9s: Tegan S (Main Speaker), Noah C (Chairperson) and Will R (Questioner) and Mrs Hardy-Stewart (Oracy Coach). The second round of the event was taking place in Devon at Colyton Grammar School about an hour and 15 minutes away.

On arrival, we realised that we were the youngest team as the event is for Years 9 to 11 and the other teams were in Years 10 and 11. This did not daunt our trio. Noah and Will were paired with a marvellous speaker from Torquay and were up first. They acquitted themselves admirably with genial chairing and clear, perceptive questions and they also showcased the opposition speaker really well too (in the spirit of this competition). The debate subjects of the evening were political and mature as were the questions from competitors and audience. At the end of the evening, Tegan spoke about what Success truly is. She dismissed power, fame and wealth and quoted teachers, receptionists and (unwittingly at the time) Marcus Aurelius. One of her definitions of success was fulfilling her potential and as she loved being the speaker and answering questions where she had to think on her feet, I think she has discovered a new potential pathway! As two Year 11 teams won, we did not get through to the regional round but the feedback from the judge was hugely complimentary and encouraging. Keep going, he said and he must have said it ten times. I hope they will!

From Miss Voit, Food Teacher

Request for Magazines

If any families have any magazines, particularly home and food ones that they no longer require, we would be pleased to take them for students to use in their collage work. Students can bring them to DT1 or DT3 for me.

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From Mrs Grove, Head of PE

Year 4 Team Building Festival

On Tuesday the 30th January, Ansford hosted a year 4 Primary school festival. Year 8 leaders from Ansford ran the sessions leading each school through 6 different team building challenges. The challenges required a range of skills for them to explore and develop during the afternoon, including cooperation, listening, teamwork and problem solving. Well done to all students involved.

Interform 3

On Wednesday 7th February, we will be holding our third interform, which will be across the sports of Netball, Dodgeball and Table Tennis. Year groups will participate during the following lessons:

- Lesson 1 - Year 7
- Lesson 2 - Year 8
- Lesson 3 - Year 10
- Lesson 4 - Year 9
- Year 11 will complete their interform during PE lessons
-

All students are to bring their PE kit and participate unless there is a medical reason for which they cannot participate. Any students unable to participate on these grounds are requested to advise their PE teacher in advance.

From Mrs Kasereka, Teacher of MFL

MFL Club

We wanted to share some of the outstanding work from the students of the MFL club. The themes were:

- Theme 1 Design a tote bag promoting another country/ culture
- Theme 2 Personalised a keyring

Well done to Year 7: Austin, Sofia, Enya, Morgan, Karina, Indie, Maya, Freya and Analisa. Below are just a few examples of the amazing work:



From Mrs Marshfield, Head of Creative Arts

OperaPlus Workshop

We have been contacted by the Director of the Singing Strategy for Somerset Schools who works closely with Somerset Music delivering multiple projects for the music hub across the county. One of these projects is the award winning OperaPLUS project (best classical music education initiative 2016) which we have been offered the opportunity to host at Ansford Academy. A number of students have been invited to take part.

Through the sessions students will be inspired by the wonderful professional musicians in the team, gain insight into opera as a musical genre and skills in singing and performing as an ensemble, all of which supports the model music curriculum and is also a wonderful transition project with Castle Cary primary school students taking part alongside students from Ansford.

Students will be preparing songs for a performance of 'Stylist of Somerset' which is based around the story of the Barber of Seville but an updated version in an "X Factor or Britain's Got Talent style".

In advance of the sessions with the professional cast members we will prepare 5 songs for the performance. This can be guided during Wednesday lunchtime choir rehearsals and/or by individual practice using guide tracks, full tracks and musical scores shared via Google Classroom. We will partake in 2 workshop sessions which will take part during the school day and then a final after school rehearsal and early evening performance alongside cast members and Castle Cary primary school students.

The dates and timings of the sessions are as follows:

- Wednesday 28th February, 10 - 11.20am, Preliminary workshop for Ansford students
- Tuesday 19th March, 10 - 11.20am, Preliminary workshop for Ansford students
- Tuesday 26th March, 4 - 5pm, Full cast rehearsal
- Tuesday 26th March, 5.30 - 7pm, Performance

We look forward to updating families on their wonderful achievement in a bulletin later in the term.

Somerset Youth Singers - Reminder

Somerset Youth Singers has been helping develop not just the vocal skills of young people, but also boosting their mental health and wellbeing through singing together. We're keen to see numbers grow and see more young people in Somerset benefit from all that singing can offer. They are reaching out to schools, providing information, as they know there are lots of potential singers out there who would benefit from being part of the Somerset Youth Singers family! Please see below links to a postcard-flyer with booking form and a short video highlighting what they get up to in SYS.

[SYS Spring Term 2024 Booking form](#)

[SYS Promo Video January 2024](#)

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From Mr Newbury, Drama Teacher

Musical Workshop

Many members of the Beauty and the Beast cast had the exciting opportunity to take part in a musical workshop delivered by performers previously in the West End. The leaders of the workshop commented on the professionalism and positive attitudes of the students at Ansford and said that they were a pleasure to teach. Likewise, the students felt truly inspired by the workshop and loved every minute! It was wonderful for them (and Mr Newbury) to gain an insight into the industry and to produce work that they could feel proud of.

The students were able to learn the choreography for 'Grease lightning' as well as learning the vocals for 'Grease is the Word'. It was incredible to see the fast pace in which the students learnt these songs. The students also had the opportunity to ask questions about the Creative Arts industry in order to gain an insight into the possible routes as well as the expectations of certain positions. It was a truly wonderful day with the students of Ansford making the school proud!

From Mrs Rice, Head of English

Castle Cary Library Young Writers' Short Story Competition

Huge congratulations to Harry H and Mia S who have won first and third prize respectively in the Year 7- Year 9 category of this competition, and to Tamzen M who has won third prize in the Year 10 - Year 13 category. What a fantastic achievement! A big well done to all the students who entered. Students have been invited to attend a special event at Castle Cary Methodist Church where prizes will be presented.

GCSE Poetry Live!

On Monday 22nd January, we took almost sixty Year 11 students to watch a GCSE Poetry Live! event at The Forum in Bath. The students were treated to poetry readings by some of our great modern poets, including Imtiaz Dharker, Carol Ann Duffy and Simon Armitage. The poets answered questions from students, giving further insights into the inspiration for some of the poems that the students study, and the creative process. The chief examiner for AQA, Tony Childs, also gave useful advice on how to approach unseen poems. Well done to the students who attended, and thank you to Ms Mallord, Mr Cue and Miss Watson who accompanied them to Bath.

From Miss Worthy-Jarvis, Head of Business and Computing

Minecraft Club

Minecraft Club will be restarting after half term; the first session is Tuesday 20th February, 3:30pm to 4:30pm.

Pokemon Club

Due to multiple requests and popular demand, a Pokemon club will be starting on Friday lunchtimes in IT1. This is for both the digital and trading card elements of the game. Open to all year groups (and staff!).

Silver Duke of Edinburgh

Any Year 10 students who are interested in taking part in this year's Silver DofE award need to attend a meeting on Thursday 8th February - lunchtime at 2pm in IT1. You do not need to have previously completed your Bronze Award in order to take part.

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From Mrs Martin, Finance Manager

Quiz Night: Friday 2 February 2024

We are looking forward to seeing families and staff at our Quiz Night tonight!!! Mr Antoine is our Quiz Master for the night - can your team beat the teachers? We look forward to seeing you for a fun evening.



From Mrs Reddick, Art Teacher

Year 10 and Year 11 Art and Photography Trip

On Friday 12th January Year 10 and 11 Art and Photography students paid a visit to the Saatchi Gallery and Tate Britain. One of the exhibitions at the Tate 'Women in Revolt' students found particularly interesting looking at wide-ranging exploration of feminist art by over 100 women artists working in the UK. Students were able to discuss and engage with the ideas and art women produced in order to make an invaluable contribution to British culture during 1970 -1990. Students also looked at a range of contemporary works which got them talking about a range of inspirational avenues to investigate linking to the exam and coursework themes they are currently working on. We all had a very enjoyable day and a big thank you to Mrs Swallow and Mrs Martin for organising this event.

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From Mrs Watson, Careers Advisor

REMINDER: Year 10 Work Experience

The initial deadline for work experience is Monday 19th February 2024. If students have secured a placement already then they should contact Wendy to let her know, so all necessary paperwork can then be completed. If they are still searching then please encourage them to use the database they were given access to with their individual PINs: <https://ssp.learnaboutwork.net/log-in-student.asp>. Alternatively, they can contact employers directly to make enquiries or if they need further support or wish to discuss their options, please ask them to make an appointment to see Wendy Watson.

National Apprenticeship Week

National Apprenticeship Week starts on Monday 5th February. There are many things you can do to find out more about the Apprenticeship pathway and opportunities at 16 and beyond:

- Try [Apprenticeships Unlocked](#) - a short online course with info about the entry requirements, what you'll earn and what types of apprenticeships there are and you can do after completing
- Try the [Amazing Apprenticeships Arcade Games](#) – how good is your knowledge?
- Find out who the [Top Apprenticeship Employers](#) are (2023)
- Attend the Unifrog [Virtual Apprenticeship Fair](#) on 7th February from 16.30 – 19.00 – big name employers include BBC, Lloyds Banking Group and NHS. Register via the link
- Attend a real, live, local [Apprenticeship and Employers Fair at Yeovil College](#) on 7th February from 17.00 – 19.30. Register here
- View the [Careers Live Broadcasts](#) featuring, major, national companies and search live vacancies

Year 11 Post 16 Options

A reminder that Colleges and 6th forms are in the process of receiving course applications and arranging interviews so it's advisable to submit your applications now in order to have the best choice of courses for next year. A few tips:

- applications can be made directly to Colleges and 6th forms through their websites
- you can apply to more than one College or 6th form and keep options open at this stage

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- if you are applying for an Apprenticeship it's advisable to apply for a relevant full time course as well, so you have a back up plan
- if you have not applied and are still unsure about your options, please request a meeting with Careers Adviser, Mrs Watson: wendy.watson@ansford.net

From Miss Wilson, 2nd in English

Equipment

Reminder of the equipment that students are expected to come to school with in preparation for their day:



Burnham Book Festival Writing Contest - Reminder

Free writing competition! Full details in the poster [here](#).

From Reception

Borrowed Uniform and Lost Property - Reminder

Families are reminded that if students have borrowed any uniform, it should be returned to Reception at the earliest convenience. We are particularly keen to have any borrowed ties returned as our supplies have now been diminished.

We also have a growing amount of lost property that we are hoping can be returned to their right owners. Items include:

- water bottles
- shoes
- ear pods (odd)
- black earpods in a case
- glasses
- necklace with an 'M'

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- pencil cases (full of items)
- santa hat
- lunch boxes (one which is a Smash lunchbox)
- uniform items
- coats (one which is a red Xuehan)

Students have also been reminded in Registration to claim any items. Items not claimed by the end of next week will be allocated for re-use, recycled or disposed of.

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.

SENDCO

[SENDCO / Ansford Academy](#)

Exam invigilators (casual)

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

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

[Ansford Academy Staff Vacancies](#)