

Bulletin for Ansford Families

Issue 10: 23rd February 2024

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Families

We have seen some great successes and achievements since our last edition of the Family Bulletin which include sporting victories in netball - detailed by Mrs Grove below - as well as high levels of participation and achievement in our regular InterForm Competition. In addition, we are really proud to report that, having made it through to the next round of the Youth Speaks Competition, our team won the round and are onto the next stage. This is a great achievement which Mrs Hardy Stewart reports on below. Well done to all involved!

This week, our KS4 students have been very fortunate to access support from the 'I can, I am' well-being bus which has been parked up on the Maths Playground for the week. The bus is a resource that has been made available to secondary schools across Somerset exploring well-being and how to maintain self-belief during the teenage years. We have received really positive feedback from students during the course of the week so please do ask them about it at home.

We have had a successful 're-set' of our mobile phone policy this week, investing time with staff and students in re-visiting our key expectations. Mr Mitchell reports on this in further detail below, also providing a reminder for parents and carers of our key expectations.

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	Wednesday 28th	Parent Support Meetings for Students with Autistic Spectrum Condition	5.00pm-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
1	Monday 5th	Year 11 (Group 1) Food Preparation & Nutrition Practical Exam	DT1, Periods 1-4	Miss Voit

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Academy Calendar: Key Upcoming Events

1	Thursday 7th	Year 8 Parents' Evening	In School or Online: 4:15pm-7:30pm	Mrs Morgan
1	Friday 8th	Bath Netball Trip	Details below	Mrs Grove
2	Monday 11th	INSET Day: School Closed to Students		
1	Monday 19th	Year 11 (Group 2) Food Preparation and Nutrition Practical Exam	DT1, Periods 1-4	Miss Voit
1	Tuesday 20th	Year 11 Art and Design (Art) Practical Exam - Day 1	All Day	Mrs Swallow
1	Thursday 21st	Year 7 Parents' Evening	In School or Online: 4:15pm-7:30pm	Mrs Morgan
1	Friday 22nd	Year 11 Art and Design (Photography) Practical Exam - Day 1	All Day	Mrs Reddick

Assembly Rota

26th February - 1st March	Head Students' Assembly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each student to present on their school journey, enrichment and Post 16 plans School council - 'you said - we did' Student wellbeing 	Head students Heads of Year
LGBT+ History Month (begins 1st February)		
4th March - 8th March	World Book Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An introduction to the international event The importance of reading for pleasure How to identify fake news and the dangers of it The importance of comprehension and imagination 	Mrs Rice
World Book Day (2nd March)		

Notices

From The Safeguarding Team

SWEDA (Somerset and Wessex Eating Disorders Association) Information Evening

SWEDA (Somerset and Wessex Eating Disorders Association) are holding a free parent/carer information evening which they have asked us to share with you. SWEDA's information poster can be found [here](#).

Who is it for?

Parents or carers who are concerned about their child's eating/body image and would like to know how best to help

What will the session cover?

Information about eating disorders; information about food/nutrition; tips on how to support your child

When and where will it be?

Wednesday, 20th March, 6pm-7.30pm
SWEDA Offices, Shepton Mallet BA4 5BS

How do I book?

The event is FREE but please email support@swedauk.org to book your place.

The Dangers of Derelict Buildings

Somerset County Council have asked schools across Somerset to raise awareness with parents and carers regarding the dangers of entering abandoned buildings in response to recent reports of children entering derelict buildings where there is high risk and asbestos concerns. Please find a link to this letter for your information [here](#).

From Mrs Wood, SENDCo

Supporting Young People with SEND and EHCPs Event at Yeovil College

On Tuesday 5 March, Yeovil College will be running a parent and guardian focused event – Supporting Young People with SEND and EHCPs. Throughout this event, parents and guardians will hear from the new Yeovil College SENDCo and Foundation Learning teams as they support parents and guardians to support their young person in the transition up to Further Education.

They will also have a series of support stands in place, including SEND, Project Search (Supported Internships), Careers and Employability and GCSE English and Maths, to name just a few. Please note, this event is open to everyone, not just those who have applied to Yeovil College. To book a space, please follow the link [here](#).

REMINDER: Free WiseUp 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/>.

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

The next parent/carer workshop is being held on Wednesday 28 February from 5-6.30pm at Ansford. If you wish to attend please email Mrs Wood (SENDCO) so that she knows to expect you; rebecca.wood@ansford.net. Later events will be held on:

- Wednesday 15th May 9.30am - 11.00am

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- Thursday 27th June 5.00pm - 6.30pm in PA2

From Mr Mitchell, Assistant Headteacher: Community and Conduct

Mobile Phones and Connected Devices

In light of recent government guidance regarding the use of mobile phone usage within schools, we used this as an opportunity to revisit our mobile phone policy with staff and students. Our policy was updated and implemented in June 2022 and has not changed. It has been a useful exercise to remind students of why Ansford, and the vast majority of other schools, have a clear zero tolerance approach with the expectation that all mobile phones are 'OFF and AWAY' during school hours. Each year group had an additional assembly on Tuesday 20th/Wednesday 21st February in order to ensure that all students received the same information to ensure a consistent message was shared and to allow them to ask questions.

Precise details regarding mobile phones can be found on page 11 of the Academy's [Behaviour Management Policy](#)

The following key points were shared with students:

- We have not changed or amended the mobile phone policy.
- Students are responsible for ensuring their own mobile phones, including headphones or any other connected device are OFF and AWAY between 8.30am - 3.30pm.
- This applies to all areas of the school site [including break and lunch time].
- If a student is seen using their mobile phone, or connected device, the item is confiscated and held in our Retracking base until 3.30pm.
- We record these incidents using Class Charts noting if the items were handed over with compliance or further interventions were required.
- Refusal to follow these expectations will result in further consequences including: removal from lesson, retracking and in the most extreme cases, suspension.
- Students who receive 3 logs / confiscations will be issued a mobile phone ban or a contract which requires them to hand their phone to their Head of Year at the gate upon arrival to school.

We are pleased that the vast majority of our students rarely use their phones during the school day and understand the reasons why mobile devices are not permitted.

Staff can direct students to use mobile phones within lessons to support learning activities, for example, Bedrock or complete research tasks which are done under supervision. Students will have their phones confiscated if they misuse them during these activities.

Ready to Learn: Stationery

It would be extremely useful if families could check their child's essential stationery each week to avoid disruption to lessons to loan items such as: pens, pencils or calculators. Please refer to our website using this [link](#). Students are able to spend their reward points on ClassCharts to order all items which appear on our required list.

Camps International: Kenya

Over the last few weeks, I have been enormously impressed with the passion, dedication and, of course, excitement that our Kenya team have shown. 30 of our students are busy fundraising and preparing for a trip of a lifetime. Whilst many schools take part with similar initiatives, few could boast such large numbers. Keep checking upcoming bulletins for future fundraising events in school and in our local communities.

From Mr Kershaw, Head of Science

FREE Science GCSE Online Course for Key Stage 4 Students

Please find a link to a FREE online GCSE grade booster programme which is run by the Royal Veterinary College (RVC). This is a 5 week online programme designed to help you in your GCSE Science exams. This will help with both Triple and Double Award Science. Although this is run by the RVC it is not exclusively designed for students who are interested in Veterinary studies, it will benefit all....but might lead to an interest in animal sciences. You will need to be quick - the first session is on 27th February. You will need to register [here](#).

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 Martin, Finance Manager

Quiz Night: Friday 2 February 2024

Our Quiz Night was a great success! We had 14 teams competing which absolutely filled the hall. The winning team were The Quizlets, with the teachers' team coming in second - although I think their success was helped by some last minute student additions to the team!

A huge well done to the Prom team who worked to organise this and made it such a successful event, we raised a total of £500 which was fabulous. Thanks especially to Mr Antoine who was a brilliant quizmaster and to everyone who came along on the night. Thank you to all the families that made it a success; whether in the form of donating prizes, attending on the night or enabling their children to help in any way.

Watch this space for our next fundraising event!

From Mrs Dyal, Communications and Operations Manager

Year 11 Statements of Examination Entries

Year 11 students have been provided with their Statement Examination of Entry today. It is important that Statements of Entry are carefully checked, to ensure students have been entered for the qualifications they are expecting, and where applicable, at the correct tier.

Some essential dates to be aware of are the dates the awarding bodies have designated as 'Contingency Days' for examinations. The afternoons of Thursday 6 and Thursday 13 June have been allocated, as well as the day of Wednesday 26 June. Students **MUST** remain available up to and including **WEDNESDAY 26 JUNE 2024** should an awarding body need to invoke its contingency plan.

Please ensure both you and your child check the Statement of Entry carefully, and contact either the Examinations Office (exams@ansford.net), or Ms Mallord (jane.mallord@ansford.net) if you believe any entries may be incorrect.

Year 11 Individual and Group Photographs

Year 11 students have been provided with the proof copies of their individual school photographs this week. As per my email correspondence, all photographs are ordered online via the Tempest web link provided on the proof. To have this delivered for free to school, you must order them within the 14 days as specified. After this, you will order them for delivery to yourselves for a charge. If for any reason you are unable to order with Tempest online,

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please contact us, and we may be able to assist by allowing you to order via an alternative means via school.

From The Five Counties Alliance

Train to Teach Somerset Drop-in Events: 21st February and 14th March

Do you know anyone who might be interested in training to teach? Come and meet Five Counties ITT providers and find out about our training programmes. Routes into Primary and Secondary. Local school partners and placements. Friendly trainers! Information about applying and funding.

Wednesday 21st February
Drop-in 4.00-5.30pm
Broughton House,
Blackbrook Park Avenue,
Taunton, TA1 2PR
just off Junction 25 of the M5

Thursday 14th March
2.00-5.30pm (to include school experience and drop-in)
Oakfield Academy
Oakfield Road
Frome
Somerset
BA11 4JF

To register your interest for either event please email info@fivecountiesalliance.co.uk

From Mrs Comyns, Business Manager

Easter HAF programme, Happy Healthy Holidays Somerset

The Happy Healthy Holidays programme offers a range of exciting activity clubs in the school holidays for children who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals across Somerset.. Click [here](#) to view the poster. Codes can be requested from Reception for eligible students.

This information is also on display on the [SASP website](#) for families to see, with a map of Easter 24 HHH programme venues.

From Mrs Grove, Head of PE

Bath Netball Trip: Friday 8th March

Students will get changed into their non-uniform after school at the Sports Hall and we will depart Ansford at approximately 4pm. The coach will stop at Frome services where students are able to purchase food or eat a packed dinner, before heading to Bath University for an exciting game of Netball. The coach should return to Ansford at approx 10.30pm and parents will be contacted on the way home to confirm arrival time at Ansford. There will be a meeting on Wednesday 6th March at lunch in the Sports Hall for all students on the trip to finalise details and for students to ask any questions.

SPORT ENGLAND SURVEY

We have been selected by Sports England to gather data with regards to how children engage in sports. I have attached a link to the survey below which is for both parents, teachers and students. As an incentive for completing the survey the PE department will receive extra equipment for the PE department. The more surveys completed the more equipment we are entitled to. It should only take a few minutes but if you could take the time to complete it we would really appreciate it. The rewards are huge!!

[COMPLETE THE SURVEY HERE.](#)

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Interform

The last week of term saw our 3rd interform competition of the year. This time Dodgeball, Netball and Table Tennis became the competition sports. The PE department was extremely impressed with the competitive games and the atmosphere was excellent. We are particularly impressed with the participation rates which were at its highest since September. Congratulations to the following tutor groups who were overall winners. Lastly a big thank you to our Ansford year 9 and 10's who helped officiate the games.

- Year 7 DSG
- Year 8 8MD
- Year 9 9JMA
- Year 10 10KM

Netball Fixtures

Congratulations to the Year 10 Netball team who dominated their games against Stanchester and Gryphon this week. The level of Netball skill was exceptional and Ansford continued to get stronger and stronger with excellent fast paced passing through the centre of the court from Emily, Esther and Darcey. Defensively Violet and Hollie continued to stop the opposition from scoring by intercepting passes into the D. Player of the Match went to Esther. Well done, girls - you did Ansford proud!

The Year 8 Netball team faced tough opponents Preston and Westfield. After a long wait the girls got stuck straight into their first opponents Preston, showing excellent passing and interceptions. As the game continued Ansford continued to increase their lead and dominate the game, despite receiving some tough contact against them. Unfortunately a lapse in concentration and a couple of panic throws allowed a determined Preston to fight back and a controversial back line pass allowed Preston to equalise and a finishing whistle just stopped our final shot, leaving Ansford deserved winners but losing out on the overall win.

A tired team gave up a great fight against a well drilled Westfield team. Ansford continued to attack all balls and the quality of Netball improved significantly with Martha and Mollie continuing to stop Westfield from shooting, but, despite the resilience of Ansford, Westfield came away deserved winners. Player of the match was Lily-Mae.

Dance Workshop

Year 7 and 8 students were treated to a Contemporary Dance Workshop from Swindon Dance Company this week. The workshop consisted of warm-up and choreography, giving the students an introduction to Contemporary Dance. It was great to see the positive response from our students.

From Mrs Hardy Stewart, Teacher of English and Oracy Lead

Youth Speaks.. the story continues

This time it was The Assembly Rooms Frome for the second round of the Youth Speaks Competition. The Year 9 boys' trio: Liam, Noah and Tom arrived with their prompt cards and usual Tigger spirit despite Liam having a cold. They had to face the team from St Dunstan's who had beaten them in the first round and they rose to the challenge! With adept chairing, passionate and entertaining speaking and, above all, a very strong sense of camaraderie, our team won! We now go through to the next round in Cheddar on March 2nd and not to be too cheesy (see what I did there) I could not be prouder of them.

From Miss Worthy-Jarvis, Head of Business and Computing

Bronze DofE

Our Bronze DofE after school training sessions are fast approaching, due to many students having other commitments there will now only be two after school sessions: Wednesday 6th March from 3:30-5:00pm and the same timings on Wednesday 20th March.

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Students need to come in PE kit or outdoor/comfortable clothing and bring a waterproof coat, there will be orienteering training that may be muddy depending on the weather. More details will be sent out regarding the training weekend in April (26th-28th) in due course.

From Mrs Marshfield, Head of Creative Arts

UPDATE: OperaPlus Workshop

Next week we will have our first session of the award winning OperaPLUS project (best classical music education initiative 2016). For those students who are yet to return your reply slips in order to take part, please do so as soon as possible - there are just three school days until we kick off! 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.

From Our Student Community

REMINDER: 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.

From Miss Fulton, Medical Coordinator

REMINDER: 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 Mr Musson, Deputy Headteacher: Curriculum and Standards

REMINDER: Year 11 Revision Timetable

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

From Mrs Swallow, Head of Design Technology

Donations of Fizzy Drinks Cans and Metal Bottle Tops

We would welcome any donations of fizzy drinks cans (not crunched) and metal bottle tops for use in lessons. Please can we ask that you save these for us RM projects.

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Can be given to Mrs Swallow or Mr Oats.

From Mrs Withers, Head of Maths

Equipment

Miss Wilson has posted our Equipment reminder in the previous bulletin and Mr Mitchell has provided general guidance above. Please can I stress the importance of this in Maths lessons, and highlight that all students should bring a scientific calculator to all Maths lessons.

REMINDER: Year 11 Maths Revision Session Countdown Plan 2023-24

Find the full timetable [here](#).

From Mrs Watson, Careers Advisor

REMINDER: 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
- 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

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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.

Assistant Headteacher - Community and Conduct

[Assistant Headteacher - Community and Conduct | 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](#)

From Our Community

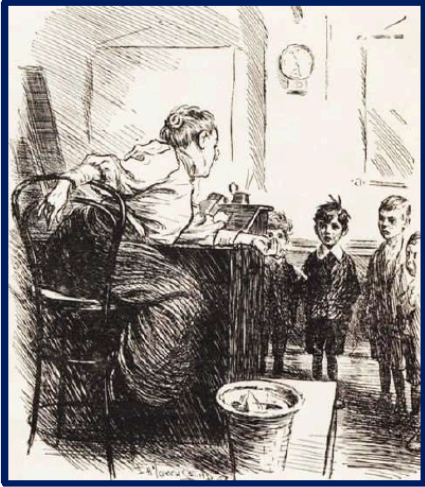
Educating Cary: Schools, Pupils and Teachers since 1740

The Cary History Society Presents:

CARY HISTORY SOCIETY PRESENTS

Educating Cary

Schools, pupils and teachers since 1740



An illustrated talk by Chris Culpin
Sunday 3 March at 4 p.m.
Caryford Hall, BA7 7JJ

Tickets £5 from Bailey Hill Bookshop & on the door if available.

Tickets for students are free upon request via Ms Mitchell.

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