

# Bulletin for Ansford Families

Issue 11: 15th March 2024

## Message from the Headteacher

Dear Families

This week we have, as a priority, completed further training for our staff and students in relation to the school's lockdown procedures and have planned a 'lockdown practice' for later next week. We are continuing our internal incident review and will use the planned practice to further inform our actions. We have been really grateful for your support and proud of the way that our students have conducted themselves.

We have seen some great successes and achievements since our last edition of the Family Bulletin. Once again, our 'Ansford originals' Team have beat the competition to make it through to the next round of the Youth Speaks competition which takes place later this month in Cardiff. This is a brilliant achievement which Mrs Hardy Stewart writes about in more detail below. In addition, we have seen some great sporting success from our Year 8 and Year 10 Netball teams which Mrs Grove reports on below. Mrs Withers was really proud of our Year 10 students who competed in the Millfield Maths Challenge and performed well, coming ahead of other local comprehensive schools. Well done to all!

This week almost 50 KS3 students travelled to London to watch Romeo and Juliet at Shakespeare's Globe. Whilst this was a late night for all, students have clearly gained a lot from watching the performance and have had plenty to say about it! Mrs Rice and the English team also delivered a series of activities to celebrate World Book Day which were enjoyed by students. Thank you to the staff for creating these enrichment opportunities for our young people.

I hope that you have a lovely weekend.

Rachel Purnell  
 Headteacher

## Academy Calendar: Key Upcoming Events

Week	Date in March	Event	Location/Timing	Staff Contact
1	Monday 18th	Year 11 In-class English Mocks (11A - P3, 11B - P4)	Periods 3/4	Mrs Rice

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)

## Academy Calendar: Key Upcoming Events

Week	Date in March	Event	Location/Timing	Staff Contact
1	Tuesday 19th	Year 11 (Group 3) Food Preparation and Nutrition Practical Exam	DT1, Periods 1-4	Miss Voit
1	Tuesday 19th	Opera Workshop - details below	10.00am-11.20am	Mrs Marshfield
1	Wednesday 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
Week of Monday 25th to Friday 29th - Rewards and Recognition Week				Mr Mitchell
2	Monday 25th	Year 11 Drama Component 3 Exam - 9.20am-1.45pm	Periods 1-4	Mr Newbury
2	Monday 25th	Year 11 In-class English Mocks (11A - P3, 11B - P4)	Period 3/4	Mrs Rice
2	Tuesday 26th	Opera Workshop and Performance	Details below	Mrs Marshfield
2	Tuesday 26th	Spring Interform	Details to follow	Mrs Grove
2	Wednesday 27th	Year 11 Art and Design (Art and Photography) Practical Exams - Day 2	All Day	Mrs Swallow Mrs Reddick
2	Thursday 28th	Last Day of Term - finish at 1pm		
<b>Friday 29th March to Friday 12th April - Easter Holidays</b>				
Week	Date in April	Event Details	Location/Timing	Staff Contact
1	Monday 15th	School Opens for Summer Term		

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## Assembly Rota

18th - 22nd March	Safeguarding - Child on Child abuse <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● An introduction to what CoC is</li><li>● Understanding the impact of bullying</li><li>● Understanding personal responsibility to report</li><li>● Understanding the support systems provided</li></ul>	Mrs King
25th - 28th March	ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY 4 <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

## Notices

### From The Safeguarding Team

#### MHST Webinars

MHST are running a series of parent/carer webinars over the April-June period on the following topics:

- [Supporting your child's big feelings](#)
- [Supporting Exam wellbeing](#)
- [Supporting change and \(school\) transitions](#)

Parents can sign up via the link on the posters, accessible via the links above.

#### Somerset Drugs & Alcohol Services - Vaping and Cannabis/THC Vapes

We have received a number of enquiries from parents/carers asking for information with regards to concerns surrounding the long term effects of vaping and the substances which may be associated with it. In response to this please find a link to information shared with us by SDAS (Somerset Drug and Alcohol Service).

[Harm Reduction Leaflet](#)

[Talking to a Young Person Leaflet](#)

#### REMINDER: 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

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SWEDA Offices, Shepton Mallet BA4 5BS

How do I book?

The event is FREE but please email [support@swedauk.org](mailto:support@swedauk.org) to book your place.

**REMINDER: 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**

**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](mailto:rebecca.wood@ansford.net). Later events will be held on:

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

**From Mr Mitchell, Assistant Headteacher: Community and Conduct**

**Sporting Success**

A huge congratulations to our fantastic Y8 and Y10 Netball teams who continue to conquer teams from across Somerset, many of which are much larger schools than ours who can rotate squads. We are exceptionally proud of the girls who continue to show what hard work can achieve on and off the court.

**World Book Day**

A huge thank you to Mrs Rice and our Literacy Leaders for organising a number of brilliant events in school last week to celebrate reading and the wide range of reading books which are available here at Ansford. On Thursday, a huge number of students across several year groups took part in a book hunt all across the site, solving clues and puzzles along the way.

We are currently developing our school wide reading strategy even further and will be able to update families on new initiatives and projects in the near future which are designed to increase access to reading opportunities, to promote reading for pleasure and to develop key reading skills for all students.

**Mobile Phones**

I'd like to say a personal thank you to all students and families who continue to appreciate the need for mobile phones to be OFF and AWAY between 08:30 - 15:30. Mobiles, and the popular apps used by students, are of course designed to be highly addictive and it is vital that students are able to 'switch off' from these during the school day and prioritise high quality learning and social activities. We will continue to enforce high standards and confiscation routines throughout the year.

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### **Ready to Learn: Equipment**

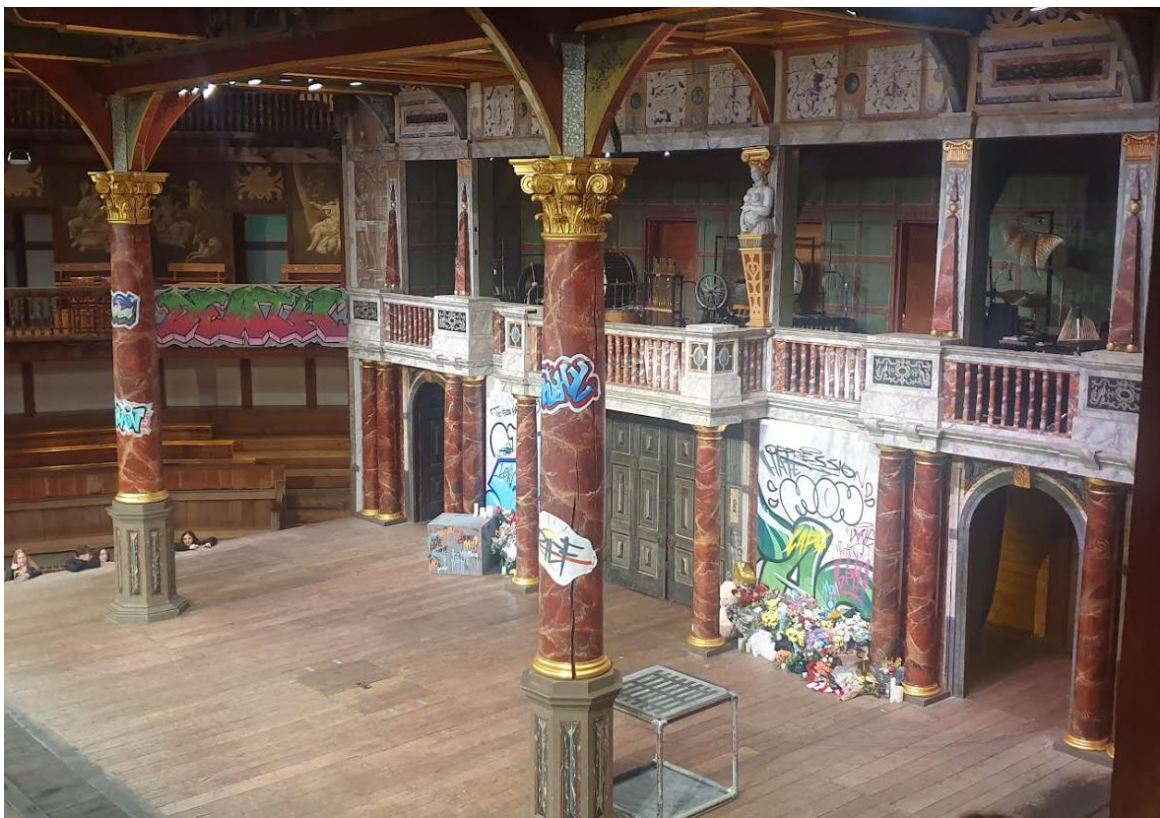
During a recent learning walk, I noticed that a number of students did not have the essential stationery equipment required to learn. Each time students have to ask for a loan, the flow of the lessons are disrupted. I would be extremely grateful if you could check your child's personal equipment and replace items if needed. It's worth noting that students can spend their reward points on Class Charts to purchase all items that are required.

## **From Mrs Rice, Head of English**

### **'Romeo and Juliet' Trip to The Globe Theatre London**

On Tuesday 12th March, we took 49 Year 9 students to see 'Romeo and Juliet' at Shakespeare's Globe. Our coach driver was good enough to take the 'scenic route' along the Thames and show us the sights before dropping us off at the theatre. The production was modern and dynamic, with BMX stunt bikers adding an element of danger between the rival gangs of Montagues and Capulets, producing gasps from the audience, and an exuberant 'dream sequence' stealing the show! Emerging from the theatre onto the Southbank to see St Paul's and the London skyline lit up was just as magical. A good time was had by all, and the students were outstanding. It was well worth the (very) late night.

Many thanks are in order: to Mrs Martin for organising the trip and making it all possible; to Mrs Holloway, Mr Newbury, Mrs Ishmael and Mrs Hardy-Stewart for accompanying; to parents and carers for their patience with our late return; and finally to the students for their excellent conduct and for making it such an enjoyable evening out.



### **World Book Day**

We enjoyed celebrating World Book Day as a school last Thursday 7th March. Staff displayed what they're currently reading on their classroom or office doors; it's been very interesting to walk around the school and pick up book recommendations! At lunchtime, members of the Page-Turners club ran The Great Ansford Book Quest

from the library. Students from all year groups were invited to pick up a quest sheet which sent them to ten different subject areas around the school to find clues, concealed within book titles. Once they had collected all of the letters they needed, students unscrambled them to complete a phrase about reading and claim their prize. There was even a secret code to find, guarded by the goats! In total, 78 students took part and completed the quest. Well done to the stellar team of helpers and to all students and staff who took part.

### **From Mrs Martin, Finance Manager**

#### **Mufti Day: Comic Relief Fundraising**

Today we have held a Mufti day to raise funds for Comic Relief. As we go to print, the total raised so far is £408 with money still coming in. The payment window will stay open on School Gateway over the weekend for any last minute donations. Thank you to all families for your support.

### **From Mrs Withers, Head of Maths**

#### **Millfield Maths Challenge - 13th March**

On Wednesday afternoon, Maxi, Kai, Chloe and Jack attended Millfield Maths Challenge at Millfield School. It was 3 hours of maths, (lunch provided) competing against other schools and there were 12 teams. The schools we were up against were: Millfield x 2 teams, Norton Hill, Sherborne Girls, King Edwards, Wells Cathedral, Blundells x 2 teams, Preston x 2 teams and Sexeys. We were up against some extremely strong teams.

At the start of the afternoon, we started with sandwiches and cakes and then everyone was given the instructions for the afternoon. Our team were looking quite worried at the prospect, a quick reassurance and then I was removed from our team and assigned to another school. We kept exchanging thumbs up. After round 1, the results were being entered onto the screen, which was projected for all to see. We were in 3rd place and it was so nice to see the relief come over the four faces and smiles with pride in their achievement.

At the end of the 2nd round, we were in joint 6th place. We started to drop slightly from here in the next few rounds. Our overall result was 10th place. I am so proud of our students' resilience with some very challenging maths tasks; at no point did they give up. It was a fantastic afternoon and Jack's parting words were: "We will do even better next year, Miss!" Well done Maxi, Kai, Chloe and Jack!!

### **From Mrs Hardy-Stewart, Teacher of English and Oracy Lead**

#### **Youth Speaks - the Story Continues!**

The three intrepid orators Noah, Tom and Liam and their families braved snowy slush to arrive at the Kings of Wessex Academy in Cheddar last Saturday morning. The auditorium was structured so they had to look up at their audience which was quite daunting. They had three teams to beat who spoke on subjects such as the ethics of human cloning, animal testing and age limits on video games. Once again our Ansford Originals spoke about the reasons for and against home education, sharing their experiences (especially Tom) and their views. Liam's diplomatic chairing was picked up again by the judges. And somehow Liam managed to draw the 'speak last card' (the best position) even though he courteously allowed all the other team chair-people to choose first!

So what happened?

We won it!

AND..... Noah won the best speaker of the day award.

The team are now on their way to Cardiff for the Cluster finals against teams from Wales and the whole of the South West. This competition is on March 23rd. I am incredibly proud and overjoyed as in all my time looking after Youth Speaks at Ansford, this is the first time we have got this far.

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## From Mrs Watson, Careers Advisor

### Year 11 College and Post 16 Applications

Time is moving on for application to Colleges and post-16 opportunities and if you have yet to apply, please do so as soon as possible in order to secure your place; you can apply online and then will receive an invitation to interview. Please be assured that you are not committed to this first choice and can change your mind if you need.

If you are still not sure about your options then please contact me for support [wendy.watson@ansford.net](mailto:wendy.watson@ansford.net). I am currently working remotely but can arrange a video call. I will be contacting all students for whom I have no record of application.

### Year 10 Work Experience Update

We are fortunately able to extend the initial work experience deadline until after the Easter holidays, so if you:

- have secured a placement but not completed any consent paperwork, please email me to advise. Ansford are unable to authorise placements without appropriate forms being completed
- are still unsure or have not found an employer, please email me for support and we can arrange a meeting.

Please note I am currently working remotely but can arrange a Google call. I will be contacting all students for whom I have no record of a placement

## From Mrs Morgan, Data and Examinations Assistant

### Exam Packs

Exam pencil cases are now available to buy via the SchoolGateway for Year 11 students (we will open this up to Year 10 students in time for their summer exams). Once purchased, students will be able to collect their Pack from Reception during break and lunchtimes.



# Exam Packs

*now available for Year 11 students*

**Exam packs: £1.50**

The pack is a clear pencil case containing:  
pencils; black pens; ruler; rubber; compass;  
full 360° protractor and pencil sharpener

**Calculators: £14.00**

Full scientific calculator

The packs are available to purchase via the Gateway and can be collected by students from Reception at break time.



## From Mrs Grove, Head of PE

### Netball Teams' Achievement

Year 8 and Year 10 Netball teams played against Huish on Wednesday 6th March. Year 8 attacked from the start creating a big lead in the first two quarters. The third quarter saw Huish come back and defend out goals leaving a non scoring quarter. However the Ansford shooters quickly got back on track winning 13-3 with player of the match going to Alice A.

Year 10 also went out strong and took the first quarter 5-1, Huish came back in the second quarter closing the gap. However, our Year 10s dug deep and returned to the dominant form in the last quarter winning 15-12. Player of the match went to Violet M.





### **GCSE PE Handball Moderation**

Our Year 11 GCSE group travelled to Westfield in Yeovil for some handball coaching and competitive games. The boys showed strong athletic performance, especially in the shooting from Tom, Albert and Finn. Toby showed some great goalkeeping skills and Finn, Ralph and Walter held the middle strong to create a strong lead. However, Westfield came back at Ansford. Locking Tom well and bringing the closing game to a draw. Well done, boys!

### **Girls' Football Opportunities with YTFC Women's Football Club**

We have been sent a flyer, accessible [here](#), advertising girls' football opportunities with YTFC Women's Football Club. They are running development sessions for players aged 6-16 with a focus on technical skills, fitness, confidence, and, most importantly, fun. There is one session a week at Huish Park, this is a fantastic opportunity and very easy for the Girls to register. Just scan the code in the flyer, go to the website, and complete the 'new players registration' form. You can contact Chris if you have any questions on [chris@ytfcyouth.co.uk](mailto:chris@ytfcyouth.co.uk).

### **Easter Tennis Camps at Yeovil and Somerton Tennis Clubs**

We have been sent a flyer, accessible [here](#), from LA Tennis advertising their Easter Tennis Camps at Yeovil and Somerton Tennis Clubs, please feel free to join them!

## **From Ms Mitchell, Head of Humanities**

### **History Mentoring Programme**

We are running a Mentoring programme with Year 11 History students, who are working with a range of external partners. Twenty students are involved in the programme, but on this occasion, three Year 7 Humanities Ambassadors also joined us for a discussion with Dr Camilla Stokholm, GP, philanthropist and Instagram influencer:

On Monday 26th February it was my great pleasure to host an online mentoring talk by Dr Camilla Stokholm: GP, philanthropist and Instagram influencer. Camilla took time out of her increasingly busy schedule to speak to a group of GCSE History students and Year 7 Humanities ambassadors. We were joined by several parents. Camilla shared her deeply moving experience of working on Covid wards during the pandemic. I completely concur with one parent who kindly shared her reflections after the talk: "Camilla is such a positive force, and her story almost brought me to tears, her love and care for the Covid patients and staff was just beautiful - completely inspirational. Finding light within such a dark time is a gift!"

I would also echo another parent's summary of Camilla's message to the students as "ensuring that you find time to make memories and live your life through kindness".

In the words of one of our students:

"I felt that Camilla was very inspiring and I learnt so much from her. It was important to me when she said kindness is not only good for other people's mental health, but yours as well. Camilla said what we eat in the morning affects our mood for the day. I liked how she put others before herself during the pandemic when she bought whiskey for the patients and workers at Christmas - she did not stop until everyone was happy in the hospital and managed to raise £30,000! With some of that money she built a Covid memorial garden with forget me nots in it. I thought she was caring for others' health and happiness and has managed to put a smile on every face she sees. Even mine!"

Camilla shares this philosophy with her patients through her Instagram account: What your doctor eats. As a philanthropist, Camilla dedicated some of the £30,000 raised during the pandemic to the creation of a Covid memorial garden in the grounds of the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital. The garden also serves as a tranquil area for dementia patients.



If you would like to support the upkeep of the garden, please follow [this link](#), quoting the fund number 0026. Camilla's talk forms part of an ongoing mentoring programme for our Year 11 History students. In the coming weeks we will welcome the highly experienced educator, Zilla Brown, Secretary of the Sturminster Newton Heritage Trust.

### 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 Comyns, Business Manager

#### **REMINDER - 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 Miss Wilson, Teacher of English

#### **Nature Writing Competition**

Here's your chance to get published in the Guardian! Once again, the Young Country Diary series is open for submissions! Every three months, as the UK enters a new season, we ask you to send us a piece written by a child aged 8-14. The article needs to be about a recent encounter they've had with nature – whether it's a woodland walk, some nesting birds or a thriving rockpool. Crucially, it doesn't matter if the child is a nature expert or has never picked up a pair of binoculars. We are especially keen to reach teachers who might like to get their class outside and noticing nature. Please note the deadline for entry is noon on Monday 1 April. Details on how to apply

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are on the Guardian website [here](#).



### **From Miss Worthy-Jarvis, Head of Business and Computing**

#### **REMINDER: 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.

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**

For the students participating in the OperaPLUS project, we will have our final performance on Tuesday 26th March. The cast (from OperaPlus) will arrive to rehearse from 3pm in PA2 with Ansford and Castle Cary students joining them to rehearse from 4-5pm. The performance will take place from 5.30-7pm and it is suggested that students bring a snack and drink with them for the time between the rehearsal and performance.

### **From Mrs Pinnions, Cleaner and Lunchtime Supervisor**

#### **Advance Notice: Family Bingo - Wednesday 8th May**

Family Bingo - Wednesday 8th May, to be held in Academy Dining Hall in aid of Ansford Drama Productions. Further details to follow. We would welcome donations for prizes, please do bring any donations into the Academy via Reception.

## From Miss Fulton, Medical Coordinator

### REMINDER: Vaccines this Term: - Advanced Notice

- 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 Watson, Careers Advisor

### Y11 College and Post 16 Applications

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## From Mrs Withers, Head of Maths

### REMINDER: 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 Swallow, Head of Design Technology

### REMINDER - 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.



Can be given to Mrs Swallow or Mr Oats.

## 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](#)

### SENDCo

[SENDCo | Ansford Academy](#)

### Teacher of English

[Teacher of English | Ansford Academy](#)

### Exam invigilators (casual)

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

### Governor

[Governor | Ansford Academy](#)

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

[Ansford Academy Staff Vacancies](#)

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