

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Families

Since our last family Bulletin, we have been working through a series of planned actions in relation to the school's lockdown procedures which have included a whole school lockdown practice last week. Our students were fantastic during the practice and we could not have been more impressed with the way that they conducted themselves. Students generated some really thoughtful questions in the reflection and review following the planned practice which Mrs King has been answering in the Student Bulletin. We have also gathered feedback from staff to help inform further actions so that we can continue to improve our provision in this area.

This week you will have received a letter about a really positive development for Ansford. As you know, a significant amount of school improvement work has been undertaken in recent years and we are proud of how far the school has progressed in that time. However, we recognise that to improve further, and more rapidly, our school, our students and our staff will benefit from closer collaboration with a larger partner. As a result, the letter notifies you of our intention to join the Midsomer Norton Schools' Partnership which is a multi academy trust operating in the South West. The letter outlines some of the key benefits for Ansford and provides information about the next steps in the consultation process. I would be really grateful if you could take time to read the letter and note the date of the consultation meeting for parents and carers.

As always, it has been really busy in school in the run up to the Easter break. Our Year 11 students have been busy with practical exams in some subject areas as well as additional mock exam practice in English. They are also preparing for additional time in school over Easter as part of our additional support programme as the exams move ever closer. Within the wider school, we have experienced reward activities, Inter-form, STEM challenge, Opera Workshop and performance, another round of Youth Speaks Competition and much more. We will finish the term with our regular year group Celebration Assemblies which is a great opportunity for our community to celebrate the successes and achievements of so many of our young people who do the right thing, every day.

As is often the case at the end of a term, we say farewell to some of our staff. First of all, a temporary farewell to Mrs Marshfield who leaves us to head off on maternity leave. We wish her well in the final few weeks of pregnancy and for the safe arrival of a new member of the family. We also say farewell to Mrs Piper who has been teaching Maths at Ansford for just over 3 years. Mrs Piper leaves us to take up a new post teaching Maths at a school in Dorset. We wish her well in her next steps.

I hope that you can look forward to a restful and relaxing break over Easter.

Rachel Purnell
Headteacher



Academy Calendar: Key Upcoming Events

Week	Date in April	Event Details	Location/Timing	Staff Contact
1	Monday 15th	School Opens for Summer Term		
2	Tuesday 23rd	Year 11 GCSE PE Moderation	Details to follow	Mrs Grove
2	Wednesday 24th	Year 11 Spanish Speaking Exams (Group 1)	Bungalow, 12:45-15:30	Miss Frost
2	Wednesday 24th	Year 3 Primary Sports Festival	Details to follow	Mrs Grove
2	Thursday 25th	Year 11 Spanish Speaking Exams (Group 2)	Bungalow, 9:00-15:30	Miss Frost
2	Friday 26th	Bronze DfE Training	Details below	Miss Worthy-Jarvis
1	Tuesday 30th	Year 9 Men ACWY/DTP Vaccinations		Miss Fulton

Assembly Rota

15th - 19th April	Headteacher's address <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome back/celebration of last term • Challenging yourself to excel in the classroom • How to reflect on personal gains/failures • Key expectations/re-sharing the vision 	Ms Purnell
22nd - 26th April	Ansford Ethos - Pride in Ansford <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why Ansford is a school to be proud of • Exploring opportunities/industry within the local area • Sharing examples of alumni success • Student leadership success stories/applications 	Mr Mitchell
St George's Day (23 April)		



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Notices

From The Safeguarding Team

Mental Health and Wellbeing Help for Young People and Families and Knife Angel Information

Many staff, students and parents will be looking forward to the upcoming Easter break after a busy term. Please find below links to health and wellbeing services which you may find of use during this time.

[Young People and Families poster.](#)

If you are looking for things to do over the holiday the Knife Angel visits Somerset in April; and although it is sited in Taunton it is part of a county wide initiative that you may wish to experience. Some facts about the Knife Angel can be found below:

- The Knife Angel is a sculpture which aims to raise awareness of the negative effects of violence and aggression will be in Somerset as part of a nationwide tour.
- The Knife Angel will be placed outside the Market House in Taunton from 3 - 30 April.
- The Knife Angel stands at 27 ft tall, weighs 3.5 tonnes, and was designed by artist Alfie Bradley at the British Ironwork Centre using 100,000 knives and blades retrieved from amnesty bins from across all 43 UK police forces.

Although Somerset remains a safe place to live with relatively low levels of knife crime, it is still really important for us to recognise the aims of the sculpture and condemn all forms of violence. If you do manage to visit the sculpture please feel free to send in a photograph to safeguarding@ansford.net or encourage your child to speak to the Safeguarding Team on their return to the Academy.

Learn more [here](#).

REMINDER: 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.

REMINDER: 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](#)



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From Mrs Sweetlove, Pastoral Support Leader: Attendance Intervention and Support

Are you Eligible to Claim for Free School Meals?

Children eligible for free school meals will be provided with a meal at lunchtime which is paid for by the school. It is the responsibility of the parents or carers to register their entitlement and request free school meals for their children. Parents and carers who receive any of the following are entitled to free school meals:

- Income Support (IS)
- Employment and Support Allowance (Income Related)
- Universal Credit with an annual household income of less than £7400 after tax
- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance (IBJSA)
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit, with an annual taxable income (as assessed by HMRC) of less than £16,190
-

Only the benefits listed above qualify for free school meals. If you have recently become unemployed, but are still receiving Working Tax Credits, you may be entitled to free school meals. See the [Somerset County Council Website Free School Meals Pages](#) for more information and to apply.

From Mrs Martin, Finance Manager

Prom Fundraising: Football Match: Y11s vs Teachers - The Rematch!!

Our final fundraising event will be taking place on Friday 19th April at lunchtime when the Year 11 boys seek to pull back a win against the teachers!! They are busy organising the team, which is open to both boys and girls, and designing the poster which will be up for students to see after the Easter Holidays. Students are welcome to come along and support the event - kick off will be at 2pm, entry will be £1 and sweets will be on sale for 50p. Good luck Year 11 and teachers!!

Year 11 Prom: Thursday 11th July

Prom Tickets are now on sale. The date is Thursday 11th July 2024 and the venue is Holbrook Manor Hotel. The ticket cost includes a two course meal, photo booth, sweet stall and disco. Please make a £5 deposit payment via School Gateway to reserve your child's ticket.

From Mrs Rice, Head of English

Third Edition of G.O.A.T Tales

Our student editorial team has been working hard on the third edition of G.O.A.T. Tales: a completely student-led magazine celebrating creative writing and reading. Well done to all the contributors (a record number this term!). You can read the magazine [here](#).



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From Mrs Dyal, Communication and Operations Manager

Year 11 Summer Examinations Timetable

The timetable for Year 11 written examinations is on our website [here](#).

Year 11 Individual Summer Examination Timetables

Students have been provided with their individual examination timetables today, along with accompanying information. Examination timetables should be checked carefully to ensure all examinations are listed that students are expecting to sit. Please contact the Examinations Office (exams@ansford.net), or ask students to come to the Office in the case of any queries.

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

Cardiff Cluster Finals - the Youth Speaks Story

Last weekend, Tom, Noah and Liam travelled with their families to the next heat of the competition in Cardiff. As Mrs King said, they got to go to another country! They all competed better than they ever had. Three personal bests on the day and one for me too as I had never taken a team that far in the competition before. They were loud and clear, they were passionate; they were entertaining! However, the judges chose a girls trio from Bristol (whose speeches were as smooth as silk) to go forward to the Nationals.

So our six month long quest has come to an end for this year but it's been such a long journey that the chance to put together a new set of speeches and have another go is only six months away! Tom, Noah and Liam will now become Senior Youth Speakers, along with some of their Year 9 Oracy comrades from this year. This means that I have spaces for one or two teams to enter the Intermediate competition 2024-5. If there are any students in Year 7 or Year 8 now and would like a go at Youth Speaks, please drop in to see me in EN2 and give me your names. Be assured you will get plenty of encouragement and support from our seasoned competitors.

From Mrs Grove, Head of PE

Year 7 and Year 8 Netball Finals

Congratulations to both the Year 7 and Year 8 Netball teams who earned their place in the Yeovil Leagues Final at Westfield. Both teams won their first games with Year 7 beating Preston convincingly and Year 8 showing some great fluidity in their attack to beat Gryphon. Both teams came across a strong Westfield team, who would not look out of place in a ladies Netball league!

The girls fought triumphantly and showed great determination and resilience and both teams displayed excellent defence skills intercepting balls and making Westfield work hard for their goals. Well done both teams for becoming runners up of the Yeovil Schools Netball League.

Players of the matches go to Alice A, Kitty C and Karina K.

Spring Interform

This Term saw tutor groups battle out in basketball, capture the flag and girls football. Well done to all the students for taking part and giving it maximum effort. The results are as follows:



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- Year 7 - DSG
- Year 8 - PLW
- Year 9 - CH
- Year 10 - KM
- Year 11 - HK

REMINDER: 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.

REMINDER: 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 Mr Darby, Teacher of PE

Football

There have been 20 football games over the last term with over 70 different boys playing across the fixtures, so well done to all involved! There are still a couple games to be played that will be arranged for after the Easter Break. Also congratulations to Mikey, Dougie, Tom and Archie who have all been representing the Area District Football Team for their age groups in recent weeks, playing fixtures against other counties and areas in the region. This is an amazing opportunity to play highly competitive football at some world class facilities. Well done!

From Mr Musson, Deputy Headteacher: Curriculum and Standards

Year 11 Easter Revision Conference

Dates: Thursday 4th April, Friday 5th April and Monday 8th April

Students identified as someone who would benefit from additional support during the Easter holidays have been invited to sessions on the dates above. Students are only allowed to attend the sessions they have been invited to.

- These are not generic sessions but will be focused on content and/or exam skills needed for each individual to reach their target grade. These sessions do not replace the revision that students should be completing at home.
- Students should bring their course notes and other equipment they need.
- Students need to bring lunch/snacks and a drink with them as the canteen will not be open.
- Students will have a 15 minute lunch break where they will have to eat their lunch in a classroom.
- Students will not be allowed to walk around the site due to maintenance work taking place.
- Students do not need to wear school uniform.



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- Students will need to make travel arrangements to get to and from school. If they are only attending the morning session then they will need to leave the school at 12:15 as there is no provision for additional supervision.
- Breaks will be part of each session to enable students to access toilets and have some movement time.

Letters have been issued to students, and reply slips should have been returned. Reminder of timings for drop-off and collection:

- The morning session is 9.30am - 12.15pm
- The afternoon session is 12.30pm - 3.15pm

REMINDER - Year 11 Revision Timetable

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

From Miss Worthy-Jarvis, Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator

Bronze Training Weekend 26th, 27th, 28th April - Ansford/Burrington Combe

Students will attend school on Friday as usual and permission has been given for them to wear outdoor clothing so they will not need to be in school uniform. Period 5 will be off timetable to start the training. Students will be required to be collected from school on Saturday evening and are able to return home, and then on Sunday morning they will need to be transported to Burrington Combe where Ansford staff will meet them. Students will need to bring all equipment needed for an overnight stay with them to school on Friday morning (or alternatively parents may drop it off later in the day if this is more convenient).

Itinerary

Friday 26th April

- Meeting at **2:30 pm** in **IT1**
- Kit check
- Meal planning
- Plan meals for the Friday evening, Saturday breakfast and Saturday lunch, plus snacks
- Purchase food for weekend at supermarket (Wincanton)
- Set up camp in the vicinity of Ansford Academy (campcraft training)
- Cook dinner on Trangia stoves (expedition food and stove training)
- Orienteering games (navigation training implementation)
- Camping overnight on school grounds

Saturday 27th April

- Breakfast and packing kit away
- First aid training
- Emergency procedures training
- Route planning (practice walk & final expedition)
- Students to be collected at **5:00 pm** from the **Maths block playground**

Sunday 28th April

- Parents to transport students to Burrington Combe (**OS Maps** ST 476 587, **Google Maps** Goatchurch



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- Cavern Parking, Burrington Combe, Bristol BS40 7TZ) for **9:00 am**
- Practice walk to be completed with Ansford staff in expedition groups
- Students to be collected at **3:00 pm** from starting point (walks are circular)

Bronze Expedition/Silver Training Weekend 18th, 19th May: Quantock Hills

The Bronze expedition weekend (and silver training) will be the weekend of the 18th & 19th of May - further details will be sent out when campsites have been confirmed.

From Mrs Marshfield, Head of Creative Arts

UPDATE: OperaPlus Workshop

Following two incredible workshops during February and March, we welcomed back a cast of 5 professional opera singers to work with 9 of our students from Ansford as well as those 25 Castle Cary primary school students who had been rehearsing separately and joined us to put on the final performance.

After a short rehearsal at 4pm and a decent snack and chat break, our students did an incredible job of welcoming almost 70 audience members, collecting donations and handing out programmes for the evening. The performance started at 5.30pm and all students were completely engaged with enthusiastic singing and acting during their songs and attentive watching and listening during the sections being delivered by the professionals.

This has been a wonderful opportunity for our students and the Artist Director of Jackdaws, Saffron, commented that our students had been one of the most engaged groups of students they have worked with during this project. I was so very proud of our team!



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)

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The upcoming parent/carer workshops for the Summer Term are below. If you wish to attend please email Mrs Wood (SENDCO) so that she knows to expect you; rebecca.wood@ansford.net:

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

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 Mrs Withers, Head of Maths

REMINDER: Equipment

Miss Wilson has posted our Equipment reminder in previous bulletins. 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 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 Watson, Careers Advisor

REMINDER: 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. I am



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currently working remotely but can arrange a video call. I will be contacting all students for whom I have no record of application.

REMINDER: 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

REMINDER: 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.



The advertisement features the Ansford Academy logo on the left, which consists of a stylized 'A' in red and black. To the right of the logo, the text 'Exam Packs' is written in a large, red, serif font. Below this, it says 'now available for Year 11 students' in a smaller, italicized font. The advertisement lists three items for sale: 'Exam packs: £1.50' (described as a clear pencil case containing pencils, black pens, ruler, rubber, compass, and a full 360° protractor and pencil sharpener), 'Calculators: £13.00' (a full scientific calculator), and 'Revision Cards: 80p'. On the right side, there is a photograph of the exam packs, showing a clear plastic case containing various stationery items. A small text box next to the photo states: 'The packs are available to purchase via the Gateway and can be collected by students from Reception at break time.'

From Miss Fulton, Medical Coordinator

Student Medical Conditions

It is important that all students' medical conditions are fully up-to-date with us. If you believe that your child's medical information may be out of date, or if a new medical condition has developed, please update me via email nici.fulton@ansford.net. I will update our system details and ensure the required staff members are made aware.

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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

An email with a consent form for 30th April Year 9 vaccines has been sent, so please be reminded that the form needs to be completed whether you consent OR decline to your child having the vaccine. This will have come via SAINTS (Somerset School Aged Immunisation Nursing Team).

From Miss Wilson, Teacher of English

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



From Mrs Pinnions, Cleaner and Lunchtime Supervisor

REMINDER: 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.

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From Our Community

Hidden History in Somerset

The Glade Centre in collaboration with Somerset African Caribbean Network are delighted to present an exhibition curated by Professor Lucy Bland, based on her Award Winning Book "Britain's 'Brown Babies' stories of children born to black GI's and white women in the Second World War".

This World War 2-era social history exhibition, with free entry, in a fully accessible venue will be open from:

Monday 18th March to Monday 1st April

The Market house

Castle Cary

For more information and pre-booking visit [A Place Called Home](#). Link also to the podcast [here](#).

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.

Governor

[Governor I Ansford Academy](#)

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

[Ansford Academy Staff Vacancies](#)



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