

Issue 13: 26th April 2024

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Families

Earlier this week, you will have received notification from the Governing Body of my decision to leave my post as Headteacher at Ansford Academy at the end of the academic year. This will mark the completion of 30 years working in education and, whilst it has been a much loved profession, it is now the right time for me to take the opportunity of early retirement so that I can explore new adventures outside of school leadership.

It has been a real privilege to lead Ansford Academy during its period of recovery following the pandemic. At the time I joined the school, it was in great need of repair and I am grateful for the support of staff, students and families as we have worked together to lay firm foundations so that the Academy is well-placed for further rapid progress and a secure future.

Ansford really is a special place and I will be very sad to leave at the end of the school year. However, I will do so knowing that the school is well positioned to develop and grow under the leadership of a new Headteacher. Until then, life at Ansford will go on as usual; we will continue to support our young people to achieve their best and to deliver the current school improvement priorities.

In other news, I would like to thank the teachers who gave up their time during the holidays to support our Year 11 students during the Easter Revision Conference - students who attended were really grateful for the opportunity. Finally, I am sure that you would like to join me in welcoming Mrs Zoe White to our community; Mrs White has taken up the position of Headteacher's PA and Clerk to Governors and brings with her a wealth of experience from beyond the education sector.

Have a lovely weekend

Rachel Purnell
Headteacher



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Academy Calendar: Key Upcoming Events

Week	Date in April	Event Details	Location/Timing	Staff Contact
1	Tuesday 30th	Year 9 Men ACWY/DTP Vaccinations		Miss Fulton
Week	Date in May	Event Details	Location/Timing	Staff Contact
1	Wednesday 1st	Summer Interform - details below		Mrs Grove
1	Wednesday 1st	MNSP Parent Consultation Meeting, 5.30pm		Ms Purnell
2	Monday 6th	Bank Holiday - School Closed		
2	Thursday 9th	Start of Written GCSE Examinations		Mrs Dyal
1	Week commencing 13th	Year 7 Exams Week - details to follow		Mr Musson
1	Wednesday 15th	Parent support meetings for students with Autistic Spectrum Condition	Details below	Mrs Wood
2	Week commencing 20th	Year 8 Exams Week - details to follow		Mr Musson
2	Friday 24th	Year 11 Last Full Time Day - details to follow		Mr Musson/Ms Mallord



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Assembly Rota		
6th - 10th May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective Learning Behaviours - Kindness 	Mr Musson
13th - 17th May	Safeguarding - Extremism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An introduction to the 5 fundamental British values: Democracy, Rule of Law, Respect and Tolerance, Individual Liberty. Understanding the role these play within modern Britain. An introduction to the types of extremism challenges faced in the UK and signs of a person becoming drawn in or radicalised. 	Mrs King

Notices

From Mrs Wood, SENDCo
<p>REMINDER: The Autism in Schools Project (run in partnership with the Autism Education Trust (AET) and the Somerset Parent Carer Forum)</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wednesday 15th May 9.30am - 11.00am Thursday 27th June 5.00pm - 6.30pm in PA2

From Mrs Dyal, Communication and Operations Manager
<p>MNSP Parent Consultation Meeting - Bookings</p> <p>You can book your place at the meeting by completing the form here.</p>
<p>REMINDER: Year 11 Summer Examinations Timetable</p> <p>The timetable for Year 11 written examinations is on our website here.</p>
<p>REMINDER: Year 11 Individual Summer Examination Timetables</p> <p>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</p>



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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 Miss Frost, Head of Languages

Year 9 FCSE Exams

Further to my correspondence this week, during Key Stage 3 (KS3) students attending language lessons have been working towards a Foundation Certificate in Secondary Education in either French or Spanish. This Certificate is worth half of a GCSE, and is a wonderful way to recognise their efforts in languages during KS3, particularly if they do not go onto complete a full GCSE in languages at KS4.

For French students; their final FCSE Speaking Assessments will be on 2nd May, for Spanish students; their final FCSE Speaking Assessments will be on 1st May with Miss Frost or 3rd May with Ms Kasareka. Spanish Listening Assessments will be on 30th April for Miss Frost's class and 25th April for Ms Kasareka's class.

Any students absent will take their assessments during a catch up session soon after the original date.

From Mrs Watson, Careers Advisor

Sexey's - an Introduction to 6th Form Event

Sexey's are hosting an Introduction to 6th Form Event for Year 10 Families on Thursday 2nd May 400pm - 5.30pm. To attend and for more details, please register [here](#). If you have any questions, please contact Wendy Watson, Careers Advisor: wendy.watson@ansford.net


Yeovil College Campus Tours

Yeovil College would love to invite you to see their brand-new learning spaces, facilities, inspirational workshops, and the opening of brand-new buildings and are offering bespoke Campus tours; the tours will be taking place the first Wednesday of every month. The first available tour will be Wednesday 1st May between 4pm till 5pm. If you wish to book a place for their latest tour, please follow the link [here](#).



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Yeovil College
University
Centre

Yeovil
College

YEovil COLLEGE CAMPUS TOURS | 4.00PM - 5.00PM

FIRST WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH

www.yeovil.ac.uk     #ChangingLives

From Mrs Grove, Head of PE

Year 11 students - PE kit donations
 If Year 11 students have any PE kit that is no longer needed following their last day, please could we ask that you donate it to the PE department - any donations will be gratefully received.

Year 3 Body Control Festival
 On Wednesday 24th April thirty Year 9s led our Year 3 Body Control Festival. This involved an assault course, trumpets, vaulting, fundamental balance skills, and some games. The Year 9 students were amazing and led the sessions with confidence and enthusiasm. Our Primary school teachers were very impressed with their leadership skills and questioned what year they were in! Well done to all those who helped.

Summer Interform - Wed 1st May
 The next round of interform is on Wednesday and we will see tutor groups complete in Tennis, Rounders and Cricket. Remember everyone takes part and to bring your PE kit even if you don't have PE that day! You may also like to bring some sunscreen and plenty of water and the sun is hopefully making an appearance. The schedule of the day is as follows:

- Lesson 1 - Year 7
- Lesson 3 - Year 9
- Lesson 4 - Year 10
- Lunch - Year 11 Tennis
- Lesson 5 - Year 8

Year 7 & 8 Girls Football Vs Wadham
 In the last week of term our girls football team played their first fixture against Wadham. The girls showed a strong



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performance with almost everyone scoring a goal. Well done to everyone who played and even helped out the opposition to create a great atmosphere and performance. Player of the match went to Alice A. Special thank you goes to Archie A for his spectacular refereeing performance.

From Mr Hill, Science Teacher and STEM Coordinator

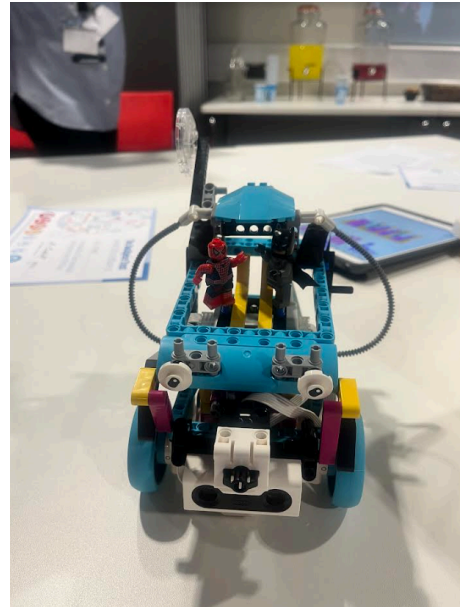
UPDATE: STEM Challenge Day - 28th March

On the last Thursday of the term, a group of six Year 9 students took part in an Underwater STEM challenge at the Underwater Composites Centre in Bristol.

The team was tasked to design, make and sell an underwater rover that had to complete various tasks. The team were given a selection of Lego components and a digital controller to programme their remote rovers.

The students were an absolute credit to the school and I was so proud of the way that the team worked together. Although we did not win the overall challenge, the team scored amongst the highest on the day for their teamwork and problem solving skills. It was fantastic to receive such positive feedback from a number of the industry partners about how well they worked together.

The organisers of the event are looking to invite some of the teams to present their ideas to some of the industry leaders to showcase what our young people are capable of.



From Mrs Kasereka, Teacher of Languages and Kenya Trip Leader

Ansford's Got Talent! Kenya Trip Fund-raising

We are busy fund-raising for this year's Camps International Kenya Trip. The rehearsals for Ansford got Talent are in full swing!! Students are attending rehearsals on Wednesdays after school in the Dining Hall; we have 15 acts so far covering singing, dancing and comedy. The show will take place at lunchtime on a date to be confirmed - the acts will be judged by the Kenya Committee.

Students and staff in school on this date will be invited to attend in exchange for an entrance fee. There will be a raffle, so if any families have any prizes they'd be happy to donate, they would be greatly received!! We look forward to updating you about all of Ansford's Talent we see performing!

From Mrs Martin, Finance Manager

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

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A huge thank you to all the students who played a part in Friday's football match fundraiser. The final score was 5-1 to the Year 11 Students!!! It really was a great atmosphere and we raised £322 which is amazing. The Prom Team this year have been fabulous and we have raised in total £1470 which is fabulous - Well done Prom Committee!!

UPDATE: Year 11 Prom: Thursday 11th July

Prom Tickets are now on sale until 30th April. 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 Our Student Community

Burnham Writing Festival - we have a shortlisted writer!

Following the advertising of the Burnham Book Festival writing competition in previous bulletins, we are proud to announce that one of our students in Year 7, Mia S is a shortlisted writer!!! Mia's poem will be published in an anthology, which will be available at the festival. Well done Mia!!

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

REMINDER: 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 Rice, Head of English

REMINDER: 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



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magazine celebrating creative writing and reading. Well done to all the contributors (a record number this term!). You can read the magazine [here](#).

From Mr Musson, Deputy Headteacher: Curriculum and Standards

REMINDER - Year 11 Revision Timetable

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

From Miss Worthy-Jarvis, Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator

REMINDER: 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 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)



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REMINDER: 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 Withers, Head of Maths

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 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.



 **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: £13.00
Full scientific calculator

Revision Cards: 80p

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



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From Miss Fulton, Medical Coordinator

REMINDER: 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.

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 Mrs Pinnions, Cleaner and Lunchtime Supervisor

REMINDER: Family Bingo - Wednesday 8th May

Family Bingo - Wednesday 8th May in the Academy Dining Hall in aid of Ansford Drama Productions. Doors open 6:30pm, eyes-down 7:30pm Any prize donations would be gratefully received by next Friday!

From Our Community

Wincanton Youth FC

Wincanton Youth FC Tigers are looking for more players for their mixed team, ready for next season. They will have members from 4 to 15 years old next season, plus U12, U13 and U14 girls only teams, the rest are mixed.



WINCANTON YOUTH FC – TIGERS
Require new players for next season, in the
Yeovil and District MIXED
Football League.
If you are presently, in school years 6 and 7,
and would like to join us,
no matter what your ability.
Please call Sean on 07586349372

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.

Headteacher

[Headteacher I Ansford Academy](#)

Governor

[Governor I Ansford Academy](#)

www.ansford.net

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

[Ansford Academy Staff Vacancies](#)



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