

Issue 14: 10th May 2024

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Families

We have been so impressed with our students this term as they have sustained great focus and excellent conduct both in and outside of lessons. Since returning from Easter, we have seen our best conduct scores on ClassCharts since we first started using the recording system two years ago. A special mention goes out to our Year 11 students who have started their GCSE written exams this week and have made a brilliant start to what will feel like a long period of examinations. We hope that their hard work pays off - good luck, Year 11.

I would like to thank the parents who attended the Parent and Carer Consultation Meeting to hear more about our plans to join the Midsomer Norton Schools' Partnership and for asking so many relevant and interesting questions. If you would like to receive the written notes of the meeting, please contact Mrs White, Headteacher's PA by email at: zoe.white@ansford.net

As usual, the Academy has been busy with a number of key events. Mrs Worthy Jarvis was supported by a number of staff to ensure the success of the DofE Training Event. As well as giving up the time on the weekend itself, there is an enormous amount of preparation and logistical work to do to coordinate an event like this so I am really grateful to Mrs Worthy Jarvis and her team for enabling this event to run and with the largest group of students we have ever had involved. It's such a great opportunity for our young people to develop skills for life. We were also delighted to host the Parent Information Evening for the families of our young people who are off adventuring in Kenya over the summer with Camps International and are grateful to the staff who are supporting them with this - especially to Mrs Kasereka for leading this.

Since the last Family Bulletin, we have welcomed Mrs Radford-James who has joined us as Deputy SENDCo who, as well as teaching Child Development and KS3 Music lessons, will be taking on some key responsibilities in the SEND Team to strengthen our provision in this area. We are also pleased to announce the safe arrival of Tobias, the new addition to Mrs Marshfield's family. Congratulations!

Have a lovely weekend.

Rachel Purnell
Headteacher



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Academy Calendar: Key Upcoming Events

Week	Date in May	Event Details	Location/Timing	Staff Contact
1	w.c. 13th	Year 7 Exams Week	Details below	Mr Musson
1	Wednesday 15th	Parent support meeting for students with Autistic Spectrum Condition	Details below	Mrs Wood
2	w.c. 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
Half Term				
Week	Date in June	Event Details	Location/Timing	Staff Contact
1	w.c. 3rd	Year 9 Exams Week - details to follow		Mr Musson
1	Tuesday 4th	Year 1 Indoor Athletics Festival		Mrs Grove
2	w.c. 10th and 17th	Year 10 Exams Fortnight - details to follow		Mr Musson
2	Friday 21st	MUFTI - details to follow		Mr Mitchell



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Assembly Rota

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
20th - 24th May	ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Subject/Tutor Group winners● Top 5 girls/boys● Tutor group winners● Individual accolades/achievements	Heads of Year

Notices

From The Safeguarding Team

Seeking Advice and Guidance

It can be difficult to know where to go for advice and guidance. Below we have signposted a number of places which may be of use to you.

- *The Somerset Parent Carer Forum* has a wealth of information for parents including resources, advice about how to make referrals and events that are taking place. It is a parent led organisation, with all the people leading their having a child or young person between birth to 25 years with additional needs and/or disabilities. Their core purpose is to ensure parent carers in Somerset have a voice and help to make sure that services reflect the needs of local families. They are independent from the NHS, Local Authority and other education, health and care services, so parent carers can talk to us confidently and freely about their views and experiences. The link to their website can be found [here](#).
- *Parent Zone - Cyber Security Resources for Young People* - Issues around cyber security have grown over the past few years. Use of the internet and social media is now commonplace and we must ensure we are able to protect children, whilst preparing them for their future lives. It is vital that we begin teaching children and young people the do's and don'ts of online safety. Parent Zone, an organisation that deals with the digital aspect of young people's lives, have produced child oriented resources to this end. To find out more about these resources, please follow this [link](#).



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From Mr Mitchell, Assistant Headteacher: Community and Conduct

End of Year Reward Trips

We are really excited to announce that our external reward trips are back! These will happen on Friday 19th July. Last week, our students registered their interest to help our team determine how many coaches to allocate to each one and to secure bookings at the very best prices. Once these are confirmed, we will contact families again to explain how to book your child onto a trip and complete any payments. We will be running some free in house events too.

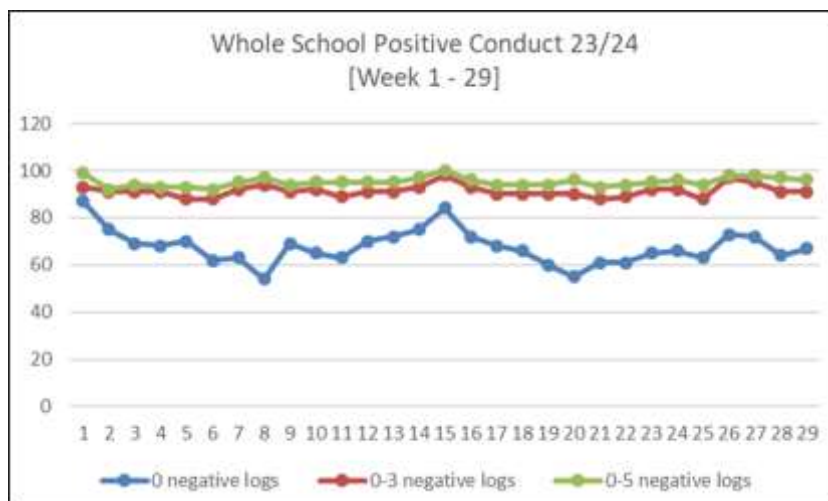
At the start of the year, our student council agreed that students should not have to save up points all year long to spend on reward trips. Instead, students were motivated by the idea that qualification would be dependent on maintaining a positive conduct score of at least 85%. We're thrilled to say that the majority of our students have met this target. For those who have not, they are currently enrolled in a project led by Mr Mitchell, which is designed to boost their chances over the next 4 weeks.

Ready to Learn

Can all families please ensure their child attends school each day with the essential equipment required for lessons. During a recent learning walk, I noted a number of students without the basics including pens. Minor interruptions of this nature can disrupt the flow of lessons. A full list of required items can be located on our website.

Positive Behaviour for Learning

We have been delighted to hear recent visitors to the school comment on the positive ethos and culture at Ansford, which is reflected in the graph below that shows how the vast majority of our students maintain excellent personal conduct every week at school. We have all enjoyed the improvements in our behaviour and rewards systems and the results are clear to see. The vast majority of our school community, in all year groups, manage to maintain perfect, or near perfect conduct scores every week:



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From Mrs Wood, SENDCo

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

The next session is on Wednesday 15th May (9.30am - 11.00am) and is the third of these sessions run by the Somerset Parent Carer Forum for parents of students with Autism or who are on the pathway for assessment for Autism. If you intend on coming then please email rebecca.wood@ansford.net (SENDCO) in advance. The final session of the year will be on Thursday 27th June 5.00pm - 6.30pm in PA2.

From Miss Worthy-Jarvis, Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator

Bronze Duke of Edinburgh



On the weekend of the 26th April, thirty Year 9 students completed their main training in preparation for the expedition section of the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. The weekend was packed full of activities and the students were exemplary in their conduct.

Friday afternoon involved planning meals for the weekend in expedition groups. Each group then sent two designated members to go grocery shopping, keeping to a strict budget whilst buying all the ingredients needed for tasty and nutritious meals. Students set up camp in the idyllic surroundings of the amphitheatre, working out how to set up their tents - the first time for many of them - and positioning their camps to minimise the effects of any inclement weather. Next, was learning how to use the Trangia stoves safely and cooking dinner. Highlights of the evening meals included spaghetti bolognese with (literal) flaming garlic bread, 1/2 pounder burgers with all the extras, and lots of pesto pasta. The evening was finished off by cooking s'mores over the campfire, a rather strange ritual involving an onion, and staff and students playing games of hide and seek, manhunt and stick in the mud before heading off to bed, worn out and ready to crawl into their sleeping bags!

Saturday morning was very cold, as the temperatures had dropped to around 3 degrees, with a fair amount of wind and rain overnight. The groups persevered, starting off their day with cooked breakfasts and lots of hot chocolate and tea. We moved inside for most of the day's activities, which included first aid training, emergency procedures and route planning. The route planning is often one of the most difficult elements of the training weekend as not only must students plot out their chosen routes for the practice walk and expedition, they must

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From Miss Worthy-Jarvis, Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator

also calculate the distance they will be walking, how long they expect each leg of the route to take, and factor in times for stops and group goals. Students were focused and a slight competitive edge appeared to see which group would complete their routes first. The day concluded at 5:00pm, and everyone was able to return home to prepare for the walk the next day.

On Sunday, the practice walk took place at Burrington Combe in the Mendip hills. Each expedition group was able to walk with a member of staff so that they could receive guidance with navigation and put into practice the map reading and compass skills they had learned in previous after school training sessions. For most groups, this guidance appeared unnecessary as they proved themselves to be competent and confident navigators, completing their walks in the expected time that they had planned for. The walk around the Mendips took them over varied terrain including Beacon Batch (the highest point in the Mendip hills), an open moorland called Black Down, woodland walks through Rowberrow Warren, finding features of an Iron Age hill fort with the Burrington Camp, and of course the caves and features of the Combe itself, carved out in the Ice Age.

A big thank you goes to Mr Howard, Ms Mitchell, Mr Musson, Mr Newbury, Ms Perkins and Mrs Holloway for helping out over this weekend so that we could deliver such good training for our students. Next up for DofE is the Bronze expedition and the Silver group practice walk in the Quantock Hills on the weekend of the 18th-19th May.



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From Mrs Withers, Head of Maths

Year 11 Maths Breakfast Revision

We will be running Maths Breakfast Revision Sessions on each day of the Maths Exams, the sessions will be held in PA2. Students will need to enter PA2 via the doors off the Staff Car Park directly into PA2, as school entrances will be locked:

- Thursday 16th May - 7.30 am
- Monday 3rd June - 7.30am
- Monday 10th June - 7.30am

Remember your Maths equipment!!

Year 11 are reminded to bring all of the required equipment for your Maths exams.

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

Find the full timetable [here](#).

From Our Student Community

National County Championships - a captain in our midst!

Fin W in Year 8 has just captained the Somerset U13 Handball team to the National County Championships. Roger Petch, Somerset Handball Head Coach, has hailed him a credit to the school and a great ambassador for the county.

Well done Fin!!

From Mrs Dyal, Communication and Operations Manager

A Great Start Year 11!!

I would just like to congratulate the Year 11 students as they have done a remarkable job in the commencement of their exams this week. Their conduct in their exams has been exceptional. Well done Year 11 - keep it up!!

Year 7 Examination Timetable

Further to our previous correspondence, a copy of the Year 7 Examination Timetable and accompanying letter can be found on our website [here](#).

Good luck to Year 7!!

REMINDER: Year 11 Summer Examinations Timetable

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

REMINDER: 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.



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From Mrs Martin, Finance Manager

UPDATE: Year 11 Prom: Thursday 11th July

Our fundraising has been really successful this year and we have been able to subsidise the ticket price quite significantly. Parents have already paid a £5 deposit and a final payment of £18 is now due to secure a ticket. Please arrange to make payment via School Gateway where possible. The deadline for payment is Friday, 31st May 2024. Should you have any queries regarding payment or the event, please let me know.

Once payment has been received, your child will need to visit Reception during breaktime or lunchtime to collect their ticket, select food choice, advise of any special dietary requirements/allergies and nominate two friends they would like to sit with. The menu is below for your reference. As a reminder, the Prom is on Thursday 11th July at Holbrook Manor. Arrivals are from 6.30pm, dinner is at 7.30pm and the evening will end at 10.30pm.



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From Reception

Filling Water Bottles

Please can we remind parents and carers to send students in with refillable water bottles to school as the temperatures begin to rise. The students can replenish these during break and lunchtimes via the water fountains around school.

From Mrs Watson, Careers Advisor

REMINDER: 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. If you wish to book a place for their latest tour, please follow the link [here](#).



From Mrs Grove, Head of PE

REMINDER: 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.



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From Mrs Kasereka, Teacher of Languages and Kenya Trip Leader

REMINDER: 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 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 Mr Musson, Deputy Headteacher: Curriculum and Standards

REMINDER - Year 11 Revision Timetable

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



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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.



Anstord Academy

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.



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.

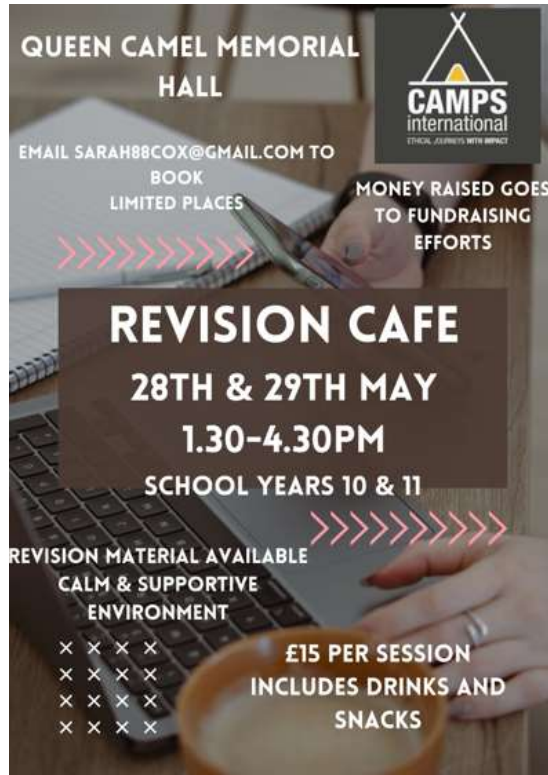
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From Our Community

Revision Cafe for Year 10 and Year 11 - Kenya Fundraising Event

As part of the Kenya fundraising efforts, a parent is running a Revision Cafe for Years 10 and 11 to provide a space for the students to come and do some work or revision in space out of the house for two afternoons in half term.



QUEEN CAMEL MEMORIAL HALL

EMAIL SARAH88COX@GMAIL.COM TO BOOK LIMITED PLACES

MONEY RAISED GOES TO FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

REVISION CAFE
28TH & 29TH MAY
1.30-4.30PM
SCHOOL YEARS 10 & 11

REVISION MATERIAL AVAILABLE
CALM & SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

£15 PER SESSION
INCLUDES DRINKS AND SNACKS

CAMPS international
ETHICAL JOURNALS WITH IMPACT

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

LOVE RUGBY - with Sherborne Rugby Club

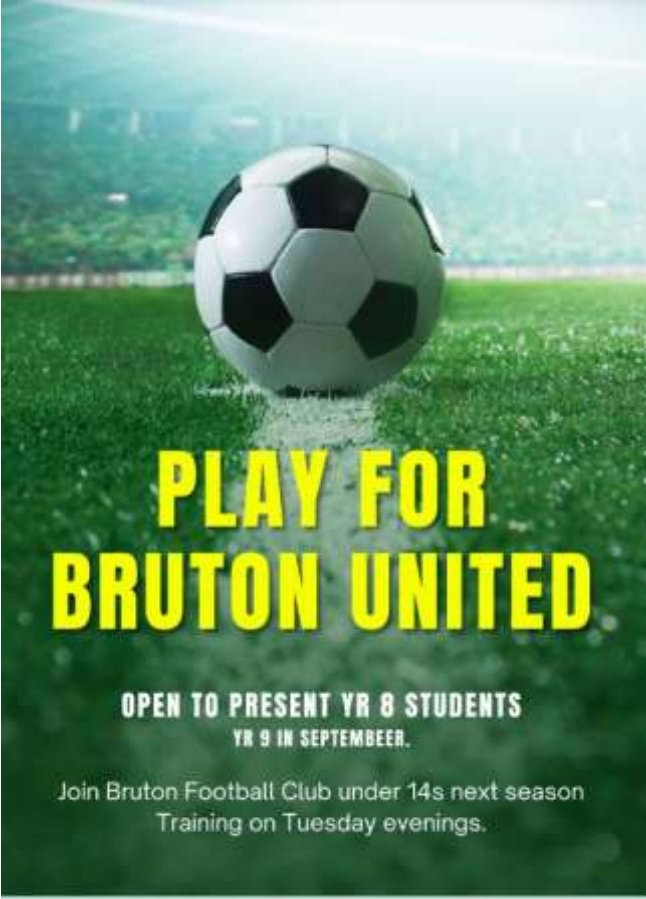
Love Rugby is a campaign to give every young female a voice and raise visibility that rugby union is a game where you belong. We want all females to have the belief and confidence that rugby is for them. Whether you are a try scoring superstar, just beginning your rugby journey or happy playing touch rugby at school with your mates. It doesn't matter, we would love to meet you!

We kick start our Love Rugby sessions:

Wednesday 15th May 2024
6-8pm
Duration 6 weeks
Sherborne Terrace, DT9 5NS
All free
For ages 9-90



Bruton United U14s are looking for players!



**PLAY FOR
BRUTON UNITED**

**OPEN TO PRESENT YR 8 STUDENTS
YR 9 IN SEPTEMBER.**

Join Bruton Football Club under 14s next season
Training on Tuesday evenings.

**Contact Ben Knight 07545926724
for more details.**



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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.

Exams Invigilator

[Exams Invigilator 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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