

Issue 15: 24th May 2024

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Families

At the time of writing, we are finalising arrangements for the Celebration Morning for our Year 11 students which will take place on Friday - their final day before formal study leave starts. Ms Mallord has spent a long time organising the event and we are really looking forward to celebrating the achievements and successes of our students who have worked so hard and are sustaining such high levels of commitment and positivity throughout this exam period.

As you know, we are accessing support from the MNSP to move forward our school improvement priorities and we have been delighted to welcome colleagues from across the Trust into school to work with our Heads of Department and the wider staff. As well as helping us to develop our reading provision, Trust colleagues will be sharing their expertise in relation to the development of our KS3 curriculum and assessment systems.

Finally, at the end of this half term, we say goodbye to Mr Oats who joined Ansford in September 2022 bringing with him years of experience in education and as a DT teacher. I am sure that you will join me in wishing Mr Oats well in his next adventures.

I hope that you have a lovely Bank Holiday weekend and a restful break over half term, if you are able to do so.

Rachel Purnell
Headteacher

Academy Calendar: Key Upcoming Events

Week	Date in May	Event Details	Location/Timing	Staff Contact
2	Friday 24th	Year 11 Last Full Time Day - details to follow		Mr Musson Ms Mallord



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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
1	Friday 21st	MUFTI - details to follow		Mr Mitchell
2	Thursday 27th	The Autism in Schools Project Workshop	5pm-6.30pm	Mrs Wood
2	Thursday 27th	Year 8 End of Year Reports issued		Mrs Dyal
2	Friday 28th	INSET Day - School Closed to Students		

Assembly Rota		
3rd - 7th June	Effective Learning Behaviours - Determination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is determination and why is it required in school? • Understanding the difference between talent and repetition. • Sharing successful alumni stories of former Ansford students. 	RM
World Environment Day (5th June)		
10th - 14th June	Mindfulness and Positive Self Esteem <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the importance of maintaining / looking after our mental health. • Understanding common triggers that cause a person to have low self esteem. • Exploration of growth mindset thinking. 	Heads of Year



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Notices

From The Safeguarding Team

A focus on: Water Safety

During the summer months it is likely that many students will be visiting the beach or swimming pools. We have also heard from many students that they are spending warmer days near local rivers and weirs. It is essential that children are taught how to stay safe in and near water. It would be really helpful to talk through with your child how they can do this. Below we have summarised some advice and provided links to a student friendly internet site (CBBC) and video:

A. **Stop and think - spot the dangers**

It can be very cold

There may be hidden currents

It can be difficult to get out (steep slippery banks)

It can be deep

There may be hidden rubbish, e.g. shopping trolleys, broken glass

There may be no lifeguards there

It is difficult to estimate depth

It may be polluted and could make you ill.

B. **Stay together**

It is always better to go to the water with a friend or family member

Children should always go near water with an adult

C. **Float**

If you fall into the water unexpectedly – float until you can control your breathing. Then call for help or swim to safety. Call 999

You may be able to help yourself and others if you know what to do in an emergency. If you see someone in difficulty, tell somebody, preferably a Lifeguard if there is one nearby, or go to the nearest telephone, dial 999, ask for the Fire Service at inland water sites and the Coastguard at the beach. The following site may also be of use:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/57902315>



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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 final session is on Thursday 27th June, 5.00pm - 6.30pm in PA2. If you intend on coming then please email rebecca.wood@ansford.net (SENDCO) in advance.

SEND Enhanced Transition

In order to support the transition of some of our students with SEND who will be joining us in September, we will be running 4 enhanced transition sessions on the following dates:

Thursday 6th June

Thursday 13th June

Thursday 20th June

Thursday 26th June

These lead into the full transition day on Wednesday 3rd July, for all students who will be joining us in September.

From Mr Mitchell, Assistant Headteacher: Community and Conduct

End of Year Reward Trips

This week I sent a letter to parents of students in Years 7 - 10 outlining the details for our end of year reward trips. We have secured a number of fantastic venues including Thorpe Park, Air Hop and Paintballing sites. The purpose of the letter is to allow families time to consider the best option having viewed the costs and other factors including later return times.

After 1/2 term, our students will again be asked to record which trip they would like to go on, this will help us to organise coaches and then we will update again to explain how to book, pay deposits and final balances for trips which incur a cost.

Student Council

This year, our Student Council team has been instrumental in helping to shape change and represent student voice in all year groups. I'd like to pay personal thanks to our Year 11 members who have led the team, trained the new chairs and set an exceptional example for younger members.

During Half Term 5, members have conducted department reviews, providing valuable feedback on student experiences and validation for new schemes of learning and systems introduced. It's always such a pleasure to hear how our ongoing developments are recognised and enjoyed by our learners. Other sub teams have created assembly presentations, organised fundraising events and have helped to shape the end of year reward events.

Uniform

As we enter the warmer season we would like to remind all students and families that blazers are still expected to be worn. Students can remove these during lessons but should arrive at school with this item. Jumpers are to be removed, not worn as a substitute for the blazer. If your child has lost their tie, or it has become damaged, replacements can be purchased at our reception. Please contact or pop in should you require a replacement or support.



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From Mr Mitchell, Assistant Headteacher: Community and Conduct

Numeracy Ninjas

During Half Term 5, we piloted a new tutorial activity in Years 7 and 10. Numeracy Ninjas is a fun mental maths weekly challenge which encourages students to revisit the day to day skills required. Students in both year groups have really enjoyed this weekly addition, noting how it feels purposeful and has a competitive element. Weekly scores are recorded by tutors to enable us to identify groups who will benefit from maths interventions, and groups who excel, these students will train to become peer mentors. We will launch the activity with Years 8 and 9 following the Half Term.

From Mr Newbury

Ansford Academy Proudly Presents

Audition date: 6th and 7th June 2024

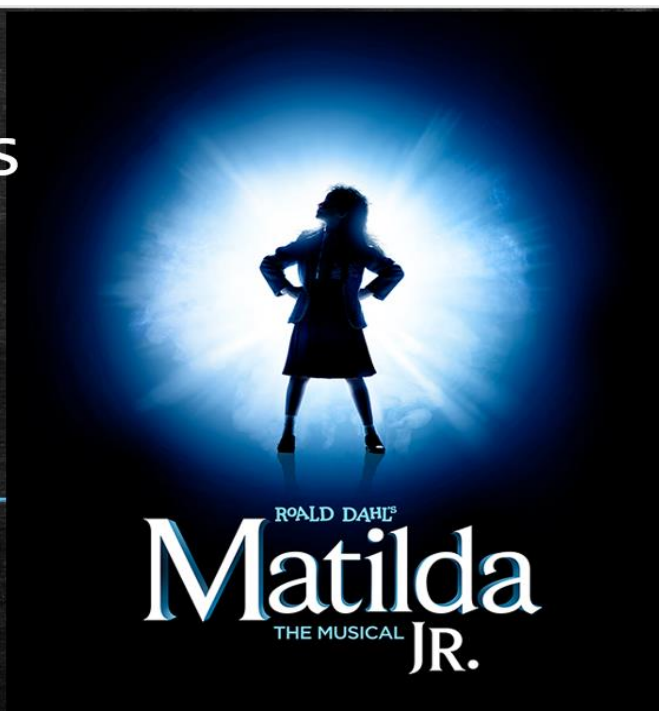
Time: 2pm

Song: Revolting Children

Location: Drama studio

Key information: All who want to be involved are welcome. All students involved will take part in the singing audition on the 6th with specific students invited back on the 7th to read for certain roles. Song sheets can be collected from the Drama studio pre audition. Please speak to Mr Newbury if you have any questions.

Good Luck!!!!



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From Mrs Grove, Head of PE

Interform Competition

Students have been taking part in this term's Interform Competition. Interform is where students take part in a range of Physical Activities in their Tutor groups. All students did exceptionally well and the results are in, the winners are.....

Year 7 - RF Tutor Group Year 8 - PLW Tutor Group Year 9 - CH Tutor Group
Year 10 - AH Tutor Group Year 11 - HK Tutor Group

REMINDER: Rounders Fixtures

4th June Year 10 v Huish (Ansford)
6th June Year 7 v Bucklers (away)
11th June Year 8 and Year 10 v Wadham (Away)
13th June Year 10 v Sexeys (Away)
17th June Years 7 and Year 8 v Preston (Home) rearranged
18th June Year 9 v Sexeys (Home)
18th June Year 7 v Holyrood (Away)
19th June Year 7 and Year 8 v Huish (Away)
20th June Year 8 v Gryphon (Away)

From Mrs Rice, Head of English

In a previous bulletin, Mrs King shared a photograph of the 'Knife Angel' - a sculpture raising awareness of the impact of knife crime, and being displayed in different locations throughout Somerset. Tegan in Year 9 has written a poem to further explore this issue.

The Knife

I am the taker of life, itself
A thief that steals souls
Slice and slash until the last breath
I am the bringer of death, itself
A killer of all
Stab and spear until pleasing strife
I am the taker of life, itself

I am the maker of pain, itself
A sadistic agony king
Like God cackling
I am the feeder of evil, itself



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A ballistic servant of hell
Like Satan's mad spell
I am the maker of pain, itself

I am the waker of dread, itself
A terror parade,
Scare and scar until sweet release
I am the faker of peace, itself
A facade manmade
Stalk and spook until they are dead
I am the waker of dread, itself

I am the breaker of hope, itself
A suspicious one
Like the cold moon blocking the Sun
I am the writer of fate, itself
A malicious loon
Like an author of poor fortune
I am the breaker of hope, itself.

From Mrs White, PA to Headteacher

Ofsted - The Big Listen –They want to hear your views!

The National Centre for Social Research is carrying out a short survey on behalf of Ofsted. They want to hear from parents/carers of children who are under 18 years old. The survey should only take around 10 minutes to complete. They are interested in views of, and any experiences with, Ofsted, including Ofsted's inspection, regulation and reporting practices. They really want to hear from a wide range of parents and carers, even if you don't have strong opinions about Ofsted, or haven't had any experience of Ofsted. The survey findings will be used to help Ofsted improve the way it works in the future. Please click on the following link to find out more or take part in the survey: survey.natcen.ac.uk/TheBigListen



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From Miss Fulton, Medical Coordinator

Allergies and Antihistamine

As we move to warmer weather and the risk of allergies flaring up, please can we remind parents/carers to provide students with their dosage of antihistamine before coming to school. Although we do hold some supplies in school, this is limited, and therefore we recommend students are given a dose before school to help them through the day

From Mrs Withers, Head of Maths

REMINDER: 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:

- Monday 3rd June - 7.30am
- Monday 10th June - 7.30am

REMINDER: 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 Mr Musson, Deputy Headteacher: Curriculum and Standards

REMINDER - Year 11 Revision Timetable

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



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From Our Community

Castle Cary U12 Football

A massive well done team as they finished their season unbeaten and top of the league.



Somerset Film

Somerset Film are running free activities for students to get involved with during May half-term. Use the link [here](#) to find out more about what they have coming up.

GCSE Dance

Just Dance will be starting a GCSE Dance group in Wincanton. This will be for Years 10 and 11 students.

A poster for GCSE Dance. The top part has a purple background with the text 'GCSE DANCE' in white. Below this, on a white background, is the text: 'Part time 2 year course for children starting Years 10-12 in September 2024.', 'Fees paid monthly.', 'You must continue your usual classes at your current dance school.', and 'To register your interest please email exams@just-dance-studios.co.uk'. At the bottom is the 'Just Dance' logo and a small text 'Made with PosterMyWall.com'.

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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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