

Bulletin for Ansford Families



Issue 17: 1st July 2024

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Families

Thank you so much to the many families who have completed our annual Parent and Carer Survey. Due to the INSET day on Friday, we are extending the completion deadline until 4.00pm on Tuesday 2nd July so if you have not yet had a chance to complete the survey, we would be really grateful if you can do so using the link [here](#). We are not far from reaching our highest completion rate ever so we would love it if you can help us to do that before tomorrow morning!

Once again, life at Ansford has been full of varied experiences for our young people. Year 10 students have now completed their end of year exams and have really benefited from the experience of sitting those in a formal setting. We were really impressed with how the students conducted themselves and Mrs Dyal, our Exams Officer, comments on that in more detail below. Year 9 have had a jam packed couple of weeks as they have been involved in two events to develop their skills and experiences beyond the classroom: 'Talk the Talk' Oracy experience and a STEM event. Our Year 9 students really impressed with their conduct at both events with one of the organisers commenting that our students were "a credit to the school" and that they found Ansford to be "the friendliest, warmest school they have ever worked in".

Staff engaged in a really important training day on Friday where we spent time exploring our KS3 curriculum and assessment process as well as further promoting the importance of developing our reading provision for September. We are really grateful for the support of our colleagues from the MNSP who are continuing to work with us to move forward our school improvement priorities.

Since the last Family Bulletin, we have welcomed Mr Powell (*Acting Headteacher from September*) and Mr Murphy (*Assistant Headteacher: Community and Conduct from September*) into school to engage in handover work and support a smooth transition for September. They both have several more visits planned which will give them both the best possible start in September. Whilst Mr Murphy will be taking up the post that Mr Mitchell currently holds, the rumours that Mr Mitchell is leaving Ansford are not true! Instead, Mr Mitchell is moving into a parallel role as *Assistant Headteacher: Teaching and Learning* which will help us to progress work in this area more rapidly.

I hope that you have a great week!

Rachel Purnell
Headteacher



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Academy Calendar: Key Upcoming Events

Week	Date in July	Event Details	Location/Timing	Staff Contact
1	Wednesday 3rd	Year 6 Transition Day		Ms Hirst
		Year 10 Taster Day, Yeovil College		Ms Mallord
		Years 8 and 9 - Vaccination Mop Up Sessions		Ms Fulton
1	Thursday 4th	Year 8 My Futures Day - Details to follow		Ms Walsh
2	Monday 8th	Year 10 - Work Experience Week		JM & WW
2	Thursday 11th	Year 11 - Prom		JM & HM
		Year 6 Primary Sports Festival		DG
1	Monday 15th	Sports Day - All Years		DG
1	Tuesday 16th	Sports Day - All Years		DG
1	Friday 19th	Rewards Trips		RM & HM
2	Tuesday 23rd	Awards Evening		JD
2	Wednesday 24th	End of Term - School finches at 1pm		All

Assembly Rota

8th - 12th July	Effective Learning Behaviours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding the role and value of kindness Explore scenarios where kindness was a cure How can we show kindness within a school setting The power of random acts of kindness 	Mr Mitchell
15th - 19th July	ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject / Tutor Group winners Top 5 girls / boys Tutor group winners Individual accolades / achievements 	Heads of Year



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Assembly Rota		
Frida Kahlo's birthday (6 July)		
24th July	Whole School Assembly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebration of the year • Academic successes • Enrichment successes 	Ms Purnell

Notices

From Eleanor King Deputy Headteacher (Welfare and Inclusion, DSL)
<p>Uniform</p> <p>We would like to take this opportunity to remind all families of our uniform policy which can be found on the Academy website and is linked here for your convenience: Uniform Policy</p> <p>Over the last week Ms Hirst and Mr Mitchell have been presenting assemblies to all year groups. These have been focussed on upholding academy expectations and also preparing for September and the new school term. One aspect of this is with regards to student uniform.</p> <p>For the rest of this academic year, the pastoral team will be ensuring that all students wear the correct uniform and will be seeking to support those students so that they wear their uniform appropriately. Please note that non uniform items will be confiscated on the Academy gates or during the school day if seen by staff. Spare uniform will be offered to those students who are not wearing appropriate uniform. As previously, those students who refuse to wear the provided uniform will be held in retracking until parents can bring in the correct uniform items or the issue has been resolved. We would ask you to reiterate these messages at home.</p> <p>If you do require any support with regards to sourcing uniform items please do not hesitate to get in contact with us as we have a considerable stock of good quality, second hand items in a variety of sizes.</p>



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From Eleanor King Deputy Headteacher (Welfare and Inclusion, DSL)

Summer Uniform

As in previous years, there is no set date when students change into Summer Uniform as we know our British summers can be so variable. Families are therefore reminded that FULL uniform (blazers and ties) should continue to be worn to school everyday.

What if we have a really hot day?

- On these days it will be classed as a hot day and tutors will inform students of this in the morning or an email will be sent out to all parents.
- This means that for this day students will be able to remove their blazers..

What if we have a heatwave?

- As with previous years, we will inform you about any special arrangements, including more alterations to uniform, access to water stations and what other measures will be in place to support students during these times.

If we do manage to get some lovely sunshine, please remind your children to bring in their water bottles and apply sunscreen before they get to school!

From our Admin Team

School Uniform Donations

We are very thankful for all of the school uniform donations we have received over the last term. Uniforms donated to us are washed and then put into our second hand uniform shop, which can be found [here](#). Funds raised through the sales of the uniform benefit the school directly. If you have any donations please pop them in the blue bin in reception. Thank you.

From Mrs Hardy-Stewart, Head of PSHCE and Oracy Coordinator

Talk the Talk

The *Talk the Talk Oracy Workshops* took place on June 20th with each Year 9 tutor group having a half day workshop with a trainer. The objectives of the day were to raise confidence in public speaking, moving the students forward from their self-assessed level of confidence at the start of the workshop and really working on their listening skills and group teamwork skills. The workshops happen here at Ansford with the same year group annually and are a joint Oracy and PSHCE educational initiative.

The trainers said the Year group were a credit to the school and they were full of praise for the groups, especially for students who progressed from very low confidence to being able to stand up and speak by the end of the workshop. Year 9 are blessed with a very strong group of E.S.U and Youth Speakers who helped



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From Mrs Hardy-Stewart, Head of PSHCE and Oracy Coordinator

other students progress by role modelling excellent speaking skills. The two trainers chose the following students for outstanding progress or contribution on the day:

Oscar H, Oscar M, Maisy-Jane P and Isobel D from 9JMA
Carley B, Beau , Oliver V, Brooke W and Daniel B from 9CH
Kauani B, Charlie H, Emily G from JN
Izzy B, Erin H and Will R from 9TP

The two trainers also said that this was the friendliest, warmest school they have ever worked in. We will try and get them back next year!

From Miss Wilson, Deputy Head of English

Writing Competitions

Would your child like to enter a writing competitions? Follow the link [here](#) to find out what competitions are running throughout the summer.

From Caterlink

September Tariff Changes

From the 1st of September, there will be a small increase in charge for some items within the school canteen. We would like to reiterate that this will not affect the current charge for a main meal and pudding, this will remain at £2.50.

From Mrs Grove, Head of PE

Rounders Matches: Results

Due to the bad weather at the beginning of the term we have had a busy few weeks fitting in all the Rounders fixtures. The outcomes of all of our matches are detailed below:

Year 7

Our Year 7 team have grown in confidence and, after narrowly losing to Preston School, they were determined to ensure they didn't make the same mistake against Huish the same week. The girls showed great confidence and finesse in their fielding skills, preventing Huish from scoring many Rounders and getting most of their players out on second. Their batting also improved, scoring over 20 rounders to earn their place in the Area Finals. This is an impressive achievement as the Year 7 Team have secured a place in all finals this year.

Year 7 Finals



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From Mrs Grove, Head of PE

The girls travelled to Bucklers Mead to play their quarter final game against Westfield. Unfortunately, they lost but determined as ever came back to win against Sexeys to gain 3rd place. Well done, girls.

Year 8

The Year 8 team have shown great performances in the first Rounders match and continued this against Preston in their second match, showing excellent fielding skills and knowledge of the game. Their confidence was hit when they then played Huish Episcopi whose pitch resembled a scene from the Mad Hatters Tea Party! Despite a determined response in the second half, they were unable to redeem the Huish lead. To gain their place in the finals they would need to beat strong contenders The Gryphon School. Again, a confident team played well but Gryphon scored an extra 1.5 rounders preventing us from a finals position. Well done girls; your performance this year has been superb and I am confident this will continue next year.

Year 9 v Sexeys

Year 9 played their last game against a confident Sexeys' team. Year 9 have struggled to put out a consistent team this year but spirits have remained high and I'm particularly proud of the resilience shown from the Year 9 team.

Year 10 v Westfield

A confident Year 10 team proved their ability fielding faultlessly in the first half, amazing catches from Poppy meant Westfield struggled to get off the scoreboard. However, Westfield were not content and managed to sneak some half rounders at second post and a couple of slips in the field meant that Westfield were ahead as we went into bat in the last innings. Unfortunately, we could not hit the bowling and a strong fielding team meant we lost by 1 rounder and were prevented from securing a place in the final. Well done girls for providing an entertaining season and a great show of teamwork.

REMINDER: PE Kit: Donations Wanted!

We would be really grateful if families can donate any PE kit that their children have outgrown or that is spare at home. Our store is depleted so we would greatly appreciate all donations which can be handed in at the Main Reception.

From Ms Dyal, Communications and Operations Manager

Year 10 Exams: Well Done!

A huge well done to our Year 10 students in their first experience of the exams process under formal exam conditions. We are so impressed at how you managed to adjust to the high expectations, getting you ready for your exams in the Summer of 2025. As the Examinations Officer at Ansford, I express my congratulations to you on your conduct during the process; you should be very proud of yourselves.



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From Ms Wood, SENDCo

Parent/Carer Wise Up workshops run by the Somerset Parent Carer Forum:

As you may be aware, we have been working with the Somerset Parent Carer Forum (SPCF) this year as part of our involvement in the Autism in Schools project. SPCF offers support for parents and carers of children with special educational needs. One of the things they do is to run 'Wise Up' workshops which help to equip parents and carers with knowledge and skills to help them help their child with additional needs. Please see the link below for more information on how to register if interested click [here](#)

From Our Community

SWEDA



SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH EATING DISORDERS ACROSS THE SOUTH & WEST

Online & free: Parents & Carers Information Session

Monday 8th July
18.00 - 19.00

This 1 hour session might be helpful for you if you are a new to supporting a child or young person who is affected by an eating disorder.

We will cover information about EDs, some nutritional advice, and tips to help you to support your child.

The session will be facilitated by members of our Children & Young People team and our Nutritionist.

Please email
support@swedauk.org
to register or for more
information



Somerset Health & Wellbeing Survey 2024 -25

- Biannual countywide health and wellbeing survey for school age children
- Self-reporting of young people's perception of their feelings, thoughts and behaviours at school and in wider community
- Open to all schools (surveying years 2,4,6,8,10, post-16)
- Aligned to 'whole school approach' work
- Supported by services that engage with children and young people
- Evidence based question sets
- Completed via online portal or hard copy
- Content available in accessible versions and amended version for SEND pupils
- School's receive own results, countywide data posted on [Somerset Public Health Children and Young Peoples Website](https://www.somersetpublichealthchildrenandyoungpeopleswebsite.co.uk/)



SIGN UP- 2024 -25 Survey opens in SEPTEMBER!

schoolsurvey@somerset.gov.uk

Case Studies Wanted
Let us know
how you used your
2023 survey results

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](#)

www.ansford.net

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

[Ansford Academy Staff Vacancies](#)



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