

Issue 18: 12th July 2024

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Families

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 for further visits to engage in handover work and support a smooth transition for September. I know that they are both looking forward to meeting you when they start formally after the summer break.

The school calendar is always a busy one in the summer term and we have been delighted to offer a wide range of experiences 'beyond the classroom' for our young people; these are the events that really help them to live out our school values and 'learn how to be the best that they can be' in their time with us.

Having engaged in a College Experience Day last week, our Year 10 students have remained focused on their next steps as they step into the world of work for their Work Experience this week (you can read more details about both events later in the Bulletin). Once again, we are delighted to report that ALL of our young people were able, with the support of Wendy Watson (our independent Careers Adviser), to secure work experience placements. This is an amazing achievement as it is quite unusual to secure a 100% engagement rate and even more so to do this for two years running. Year 8 have also engaged in thinking about their futures beyond school as they experienced a valuable college visit as part of our Careers programme and we are pleased to share some further details about that event below.

We had a fantastic day last week with our new Year 7 students as they visited Ansford for their Transition Day and then we welcomed them back with their families in the evening. We were so impressed with how quickly they settled in on their first day here and were delighted to welcome many of them back to Ansford this week for our Year 6 Primary Sports Day: what great events to help support transition.

Finally, I am really grateful to all the staff who have played a part in planning, organising, promoting and attending the Year 11 Prom which took place last night. It was a really lovely event - the students looked amazing and were a pleasure to spend time with. A big THANK YOU to Helen Martin for all that she has done to bring the Prom to life, supporting our fabulous Prom Committee to make the event so memorable for all.

We have a number of key events before the end of term and will share more information with you about these events in our final Family Bulletin which will be published in the final week of term.

I hope that you have a lovely weekend.

Rachel Purnell
Headteacher



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Academy Calendar: Key Upcoming Events

Week	Date in July	Event Details	Location/Timing	Staff Contact
1	Monday 15th	Sports Day 1		Mrs Grove
1	Tuesday 16th	Sports Day 2		Mrs Grove
1	Friday 19th	Rewards Trips		Mrs Martin, Mr Mitchell
2	Tuesday 23rd	Awards Evening (more details below)		Mrs Dyal, Mr Mitchell
2	Wednesday 24th	End of Term School finishes for students at 1.00pm		All

Assembly Rota

15th - 19th July	ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject / Tutor Group winners • Top 5 girls / boys • Individual accolades / achievements 	Heads of Year
Frida Kahlo's birthday (6 July)		
24th July	Whole School Assembly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebration of the year • Academic and Enrichment Successes 	Ms Purnell



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Notices

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

Summer Self Care

It's nearly the summer holidays and the end of another school year. For lots of us, this is a joyous time. We now have weeks of endless daytime ahead to spend in the sunshine (if it ever arrives!) either at home or abroad. Many of us will take the time to recharge our batteries, but as our school gates close, some of us may feel a bit lost. Some of us may get bored, many of us may miss school, seeing our friends and colleagues and the welcome routines of the day.

Do not worry! There is help at hand. A number of organizations have been looking at this issue and have produced resources that may help. One of these is the Anna Freud organisation, aimed at delivering mentally healthy schools. They have developed a self-care summer toolkit. If interested in looking at their resources, and those from other organisations please click [here](#).

Calling all Parents and Carers!

The MHST (Mental Health Support Team) are offering a series of free helpful webinars over the Summer and Autumn.

- Supporting your child's mental health & wellbeing
- Supporting your child with change & transitions (moving schools)
- Supporting your child's big feelings
- Understanding & supporting anxiety & low mood

Find out more information and to register, click [here](#)

From Ms Hardy-Stewart, Head of PSHCE

Year 10 Yeovil College Experience Day

What an amazing day! I had not been to Yeovil College for a very long time and it really does have superb facilities and lots of on-site staff ready to help out with the Ansford staff and students' questions and needs. Students had decided beforehand what they wanted to do two taster sessions in. Some went to A- Level sessions such as Law and Politics and some to vocational sessions such as Hospitality and Catering or Media make-up.

After the first session, all the students and staff from all the schools (at least 4) gathered on the lawn for a lunch break. The atmosphere at lunch was rather like a University campus Open Day for prospective students: pop music, blow up footballs and Frisbees, ice cream vans and masses of inflatable activities- plenty of chances to relax and mingle. Then the students went to their exciting second sessions which gave them plenty to talk about on the coaches on the way home.

Although we didn't need the first aid kits at any point on the trip, Ruya's fake wound produced in Media Make-up, was so convincing that she gave the first aider on the reception team and Ms Purnell a fright when she came



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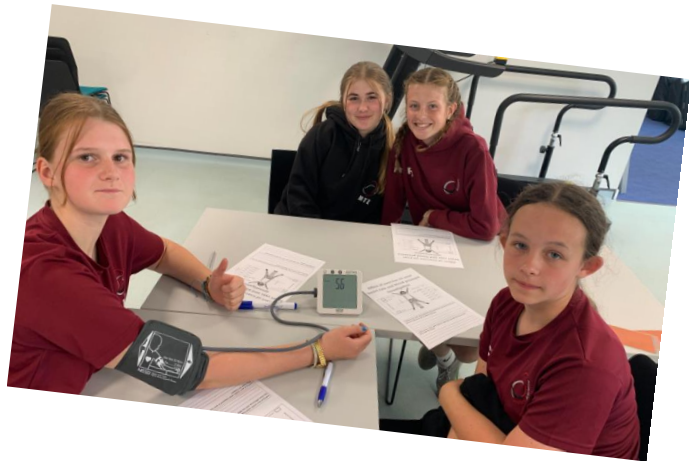
back to Ansford!

A huge congratulations to all involved.

From Miss Walsh, Head of Year 7 and Year 8

Year 8 My Futures

Year 8 had a fantastic afternoon at Yeovil College. They were able to take part in workshops ranging from cooking to brick laying to hairdressing. Staff from the College commented on what a delightful year group they were and how happy they would be to welcome them back at any point. Since being back at school there has been a real buzz about the event and many conversations regarding just what Year 8 Futures may look like.



From Rob Mitchell, Assistant Headteacher

Reward Trips: Friday 19th July

Staff and students across the Academy are gearing up for a day of fun. Approximately 350 students will be heading out on a range of reward activities including Thorpe Park, Air Hop, Paintballing and Splashdown. A huge thank you to all families who have ensured payments were submitted on time allowing us to reserve tickets in advance.

Students will have a pre-trip meeting on Thursday 18th July during Lesson 5. Trip leaders and accompanying staff will provide briefings ensuring all students know the timings, plans for lunch and any other equipment they may require.



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From Rob Mitchell, Assistant Headteacher

For students staying in school, we've put together a carousel of brilliant activities which students will pick from in advance. Activities include: Inflatable assault course, archery tag, orienteering, a practical DT project, mosaic construction, cinema club and sports.

Mr Mitchell will meet students on Wednesday 17th July during Lesson 5 to ask students to select which events they would like to take part in [including reserves as places on each are limited].

Awards Evening

During Half Term 6, staff have been working hard to shortlist and nominate awards for our students in all year groups. If your child has been nominated for an award, you will shortly receive an invitation to join our Awards Evening on Tuesday 23rd July. We would love to see you there to help celebrate the many successes of our students. Further details will be provided in the invitation.

From our Admin Team

REMINDER: School Uniform Donations

We are very thankful for all 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.



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From Miss Walsh, Head of Year 7 and 8

Year 7 Students Filmed for NHS Transition Video

Year 7 students were filmed by the NHS and Tellmi organisation making a film that will be sent to all schools across the country. They are talking about what it is like to start at secondary school, what Y6s might worry about, what it is really like and how much they enjoy it. They had to imagine that they were talking to themselves a year ago. They did fantastically well, and we can't wait to see the finished result!



From Mr Newbury, Teacher of Drama

Some of our talented Drama students from Year 8 and Year 9 had the opportunity to take part in a Drama and Music workshop led by Goodson (AKA Azalaza) who has travelled all the way from Zambia for 2 weeks to share his experience of the Performing Arts. The students explored African rhythms, were told a traditional story used in his country to teach morals to children as well as discussed, the cultural significance of performance and what it means to us as people. As always, our Ansford students were wonderful and provided the energy, enthusiasm and passion required to take full advantage of this experience!



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From Wendy Watson, Careers Advisor

Work Experience Update July 2024

Many congratulations to all of Year 10 who are completing work experience this week. 100% turnout for the second year in a row. This year, placements have ranged from Conservation to Crystal Companies and Farming to First Aid Response with students engaging in new skills and activities and developing an understanding of the workplace as well as having fun and meeting new people. Feedback from students has included top tips on how to approach the world of work and jobs in the future:



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From Wendy Watson, Careers Advisor

- Be nice. First impressions count!
- Choose something you're interested in and it's good to approach employers in person, if you can. Maybe at Somerset Careers Fair in the Autumn term
- Don't be afraid to have a go!
- Focus and listen to what you're told, and you will feel more confident

Feedback from staff going out to visit students is positive and employers were equally impressed with the politeness, positivity and willingness to engage that Year 10 students are displaying. Many students were praised as being a credit to themselves and to Ansford. Well done Year 10s!

We would like to say a massive thank you to all the employers for their time, care and effort in supporting our students throughout the week and to our parents for helping to make the placements possible.



Miss Voit visits Tim working at Pitcombe Rock Falconry and makes friends with Bracken the Owl.



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From Wendy Watson, Careers Advisor



George and Alfie at Camel Hill Farm

Ansford's Own: Alumni News

Ansford are really proud to celebrate the amazing news of offers to study at Oxford and Cambridge Universities from three of our past students who left in 2022: George Turner (Strode College) has an offer to study Veterinary Medicine at Emmanuel College, Cambridge; Emma White (Strode College) has an offer to study Medicine at Keble College, Oxford; George Manning (Gryphon 6th form) has an offer to study MEng in Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology at Jesus College, Cambridge. George Turner and Emma had this advice when asked about the application experience:

- Choose A level subjects that you are interested in and keep pushing yourself to reach your full potential at College or Sixth Form
- Start work experience early and gain insights into the wider world through reading and doing a range of activities that interest you
- Don't be intimidated by the Oxbridge reputation – they are interested in you and want to get the best from you in interviews
- Be resilient – that way you can keep going even if things don't always go to plan
- Enjoy your learning and enjoy what you do!

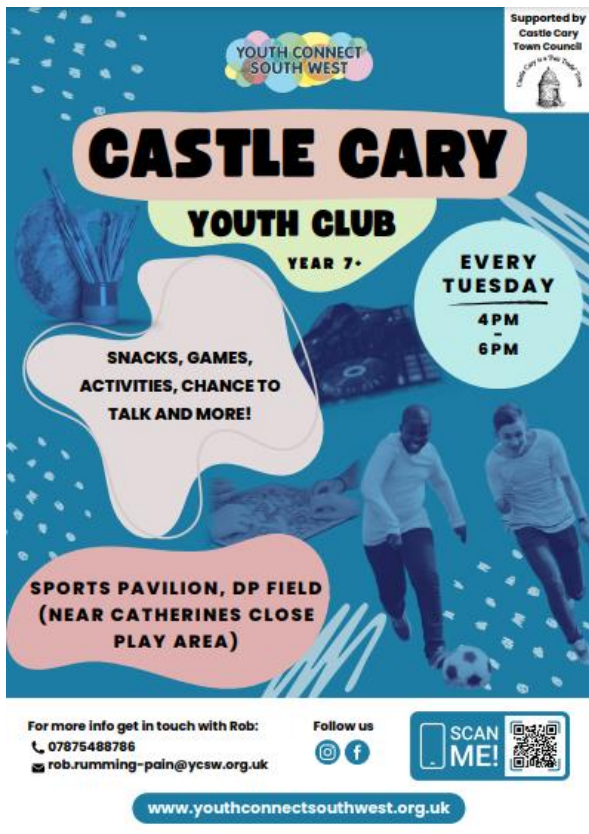
Our alumni are grateful for the encouragement and support they received during their time at Ansford and for the teachers who helped them to achieve and inspired them to enjoy their learning. Well done to all three of you!! For Emma and George's full articles follow the link to our careers pages [here](#)

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From Our Community

Youth Connect South West



Supported by
Castle Cary
Town Council

YOUTH CONNECT
SOUTH WEST

CASTLE CARY

YOUTH CLUB

YEAR 7

EVERY
TUESDAY

4 PM
-
6 PM

SNACKS, GAMES,
ACTIVITIES, CHANCE TO
TALK AND MORE!

SPORTS PAVILION, DP FIELD
(NEAR CATHERINES CLOSE
PLAY AREA)

For more info get in touch with Rob:
☎ 07875488786
✉ rob.rumming-pain@ycsw.org.uk

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Life Beat: Free Holiday Activities



LIFEbeat^{UK}
Transforming
young
people's
lives

SUNDAY 21 JULY
11:00 am - 4:00PM

CALLING ALL YOUNG
PEOPLE OF FROME...

COME GET CREATIVE WITH
LIFE BEAT & THE OLD STORES
STUDIO
MAKE A T.SHIRT,
ADD YOUR VOICE TO THE
GRAFFITI WALL
HAVE YOUR SAY

FIND US IN THE GLADE BETWEEN THE
CHEESE 'N' GRAIN AND WELSHMILL PARK

sponsored by the Somerset Community
Foundation

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 | Ansford Academy](#)

www.ansford.net

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

[Ansford Academy Staff Vacancies](#)

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