

Bulletin for Ansford Families



Issue 19: 24th July 2024

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Families

End of Year Message

So, here we are! We have reached the end of another academic year with all of the change, growth and development that comes with the passing of time. On a personal level, I am finally having to face the fact that the end of this academic year is a bit more final than usual as it brings with it the end of my last year at Ansford and, after 30 years of service, my last year in education.

It has been a real privilege to lead Ansford Academy during its period of recovery following the pandemic, laying firm foundations in all aspects of school life so that the Academy is well-placed for further significant, rapid progress and a secure future. I am really proud of how much we have achieved at Ansford in the last 3 years by working together - the school is in a much stronger place as a result and we are all collectively proud of that.

Ansford is a very special school. It is a school where individuals matter. I was first attracted to it as an inclusive school where the whole child is valued and positive relationships are at the heart of the school's work with young people: those values have strengthened over the last 3 years and are lived out in our daily work. As we all know, it is when these firm foundations are well established that academic success follows.

There is so much that I could say about my memories of my time here, of all the progress that the school has made, of all the improvements the school has seen, of all that we have achieved together. However, in the end, what we all remember when looking back are the people we have spent time with, the relationships we have formed, how they have made us feel and the difference that we can make for our young people - who are, after all, at the centre of it all and the reason that we are all here.

Looking Ahead to September

It is important that students return prepared and ready for the new academic year - particularly in relation to uniform, equipment and understanding the importance of starting well in September. All key messages have been communicated to students as part of our July 'Re-sets' so everyone should be ready to start the new academic year with a great sense of readiness.



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Message from the Headteacher

We have not made any changes to our uniform requirements this year. Having shared them with you recently, we ask that you follow these when buying new uniform items, particularly if you have been contacted by your child's Head of Year as part of our 'Uniform Re-set' to do so. [This document](#) details more clearly our expectations. Please do take the time to check this before purchasing new uniform items during the summer holidays.

Key Events in September

You will notice on the calendar in the next section of the Bulletin that there are a number of dates for your diary in the first half term of the new academic year. Not only are these important events for you and your children but they also provide an opportunity for you to meet Mr Powell, Ansford's Acting Headteacher. Please make a note of the following after school or evening events:

| Date | Event |
|--------------------------|---|
| Wednesday 11th September | Year 10 Information Evening |
| Thursday 12th September | Year 7 Family Tours (<i>after school/early evening</i>) |
| Wednesday 18th September | Year 11 Moving On Evening |
| Wednesday 9th October | KS3 Curriculum and Assessment Information Evening |

Farewell to Staff Leaving Ansford

As is usual at the end of every academic year, we must sadly say farewell to a number of staff who are leaving Ansford ready to embark on new challenges in the new academic year:

- Miss Thomas who has worked with us this academic year as both a PE Technician and a Teaching Assistant and has fully involved herself in the life of the school in that short time;
- Mr Connolly who has been with us as a much valued Teaching Assistant since 2019 and has been a core part of the TA team and will be missed by many staff and students alike;
- Mrs King who joined Ansford in 2011 as a Head of Years 9 - 11 but who has taken on many different senior leadership team roles in her 13 years here including writing the timetable and developing the curriculum. Most recently, in her role as Deputy Headteacher: Welfare and Inclusion, Mrs King ensures that all of our students are safe, well supported and have the opportunity to achieve the best outcomes possible, whatever their starting point. As a school, we are so grateful for all that Mrs King has done for this community and we wish her well on her next adventures.
- Finally, to Ms Mallord who joined the school in 1991 and has spent 33 years at Ansford. It is a remarkable achievement to have spent your whole working life in education but to spend almost all of



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Message from the Headteacher

It in one school is something very special. Ms Mallord has given years of dedicated service to the school not just in her teaching, which is outstanding and has inspired generations of Ansford students, but also in many different roles such as Head of Faculty or working as the school's co-ordinator for teacher trainees. Most recently, you will know Ms Mallord for her role as Head of Years 10 and 11 - and that is a role where she has given so much to so many students and their families. Words cannot really capture the depth of gratitude that we all owe to Ms Mallord.

We wish all of these leavers the very best with their pastures new, whether that be retirement, promotion or an adventurous change in direction and a new career. All of their work, however long their service to Ansford, is really valued - without a great team of staff a school is only ever just a building - it is the people who create our community and make it into a place with a beating heart and every person plays a part in that.

I am pleased to let you know that we are fully staffed for September and have already introduced our two new joiners, Mr Murphy who will be joining Ansford in the role of Assistant Headteacher: Community and Conduct and teaching Maths and Mr Powell who will be joining us as the Interim Headteacher. Both Mr Murphy and Mr Powell have spent a number of days at Ansford this half term and are looking forward to meeting you in person in September.

Finally...

For now, it just remains for me to wish you a very happy summer break. If you are planning to get away, I hope that your plans run smoothly and that those of you unable to take a break can enjoy some sunshine and some family time. Thank you for all of the support you have shown us over this year and we very much look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Rachel Purnell
Headteacher

Academy Calendar: Key Upcoming Events

| Week | Date in September | Event Details |
|------|-------------------|--|
| 1 | Tuesday 3rd | INSET Day: School closed to students |
| 1 | Wednesday 4th | INSET Day: School closed to students |
| 1 | Thursday 5th | Students in Years 7 and Year 11 ONLY return to school Biometric scanning for Canteen Cashless Payment |



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| 1 | Friday 6th | All students return to school Biometric scanning for Canteen Cashless Payment | | |
|------|-------------------|--|-------------------|---------------|
| Week | Date in September | Event Details | Location/Timing | Staff Contact |
| 2 | Tuesday 10th | School Photos for Year 7 and Year 9 | During school day | Mrs White |
| 2 | Wednesday 11th | Year 10 Information Evening: Details below | PA2 | Mr Musson |
| 2 | Thursday 12th | Year 7 Family Tours: Details below | | Ms Hirst |
| 1 | Wednesday 18th | Year 11 Moving On Evening: Details below | PA2 | Mr Musson |
| 2 | Wednesday 25th | National Space Academy: Year 10 and Year 11 | | |
| 2 | Thursday 26th | Open Evening | | |
| 2 | Friday 27th | INSET Day: School closed to students | | |

Assembly Rota

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| 5th - 6th September | Headteacher's Assembly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome back • Key expectations/sharing the vision • Understanding the role of safeguarding at Ansford • How to report and access support within and outside of school • STOP bullying acronym | Mr Powell Ms Hirst Mr Murphy |
| International Literacy Day (8 September) | | |
| 9th - 13th September | Curriculum: New systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A broad, balanced curriculum • An introduction to Flightpaths, Unit Overview Sheets and Knowledge Organisers | Mr Musson |



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Notices

From Mrs King and Ms Hirst, Deputy Headteachers: Welfare and Inclusion

Year 7 Family Tours

Year 7 Family Tours will be taking place on 12th September. This is an opportunity to visit school with your child as your tour guide who can show you all the classrooms where they have their lessons. It is also a chance to meet your child's tutor and have a cup of tea with key members of school staff. More details to be sent out in the new academic year.

Places Where Kids Eat Free (or for £1)

Take advantage of the many places where kids can eat for free during the Summer Holidays



PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) DURING THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS 2024
moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free

LAS IGUANAS
Join 'My Las Iguanas' via the App & Niños eat free with every adult main

ASDA
Kids eat for £1 All Day, Every Day at Asda cafes, with no adult spend required.

SAINSBURYS CAFES
Kids eat for £1 with the purchase of an adult hot main. From 11:30am every day.

PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM
Kids get 1 mini main, 2 snacks & a drink FREE with every £4 spend after 3pm

THE REAL GREEK
Kids under 12 eat FREE every Sunday for every £10 spent by an adult

TGI FRIDAYS
Kids Eat Free When 'Stripes Rewards Members' purchase an adult's main meal (App needed)

PUREZZA
Children under the age of 10 get free pizza at Purezza with every adult meal purchased

TRAVELODGE & PREMIER INN
Buy 1 Adult Breakfast from just £8.99 & up to two kids eat breakfast for free

IKEA
Kids get a meal from 95p daily from Tiam

SIZZLING PUBS
Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm, kids' mains are £1 with every adult meal.

BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE
Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

PRETO
Kids up to age 10 eat free all day, every day with paying adults at Preto in Half Terms

MORRISONS
Spend £4.49 and get one free kids meal all day, every day.

TESCO CAFES
1 Free Kids meal with every 80p Spend. Available from July 1st Scotland and NI - from July 22nd England & Wales

GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS
Kids under 8 eat FREE all day, every day at selected Gordon Ramsay restaurants

YO! SUSHI
From Monday 1st July - Friday 30th August 2024, kids eat free all day Mondays to Fridays at YO! Sushi (min adult spend £10)

WHITBREAD INNS
Two kids under 16 eat for FREE with every adult breakfast purchased

BELLA ITALIA
Children eat for £1 with any adult main. The offer is valid 4-6pm Mon to Thurs.

COCONUT TREE
One child (aged 10 and under) eats free per paying adult. Valid Daily, 12pm - 6pm from Monday 22nd July to Friday 6th Sept 2024.

DOBBIES GARDEN CENTRES
At Dobbies, for every adult breakfast or lunch purchase, kids eat for FREE. Every Day!

TABLE TABLE
Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

HUNGRY HORSE
Kids eat for £1 on Mondays

FUTURE INNS
Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal.



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From Mrs King and Ms Hirst, Deputy Headteachers: Welfare and Inclusion

Family Pride: The Balsam Centre, Wincanton

Take pride in your family! A fun day of activities in celebration and support of diversity, and the uniqueness in all our families on Saturday 3 August, 10:30 to 14:30. Free entry! Join us for:

- pizza-making
- glitter hair bar
- friendship bracelet -making and other cool craft activities
- face painting
- a collaborative community art piece

Full details on The Balsam Centre website [here](#).

REMINDER: 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 organisations 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](#).

REMINDER: 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 Mrs Grove, Head of PE

Sports Day 2024

This year's Sports Day saw a new schedule of events, with a full day of sport for our Ansford students. The students competed in Football, Dodgeball, Benchball, Rounders, Table Tennis, Capture the Flag, Team building



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alongside the traditional Athletics track events. The day then finished with a colour run. The students were absolutely fantastic and embraced the new format. Results are shown below:

COLOUR RESULTS

| | |
|--------|---|
| Green | 1 |
| Yellow | 2 |
| Blue | 3 |
| Red | 4 |

INTERFORM RESULTS

| Year | Athletics Winners | Overall |
|------|-------------------|---------|
| 7 | DG | OTA |
| 8 | PLW | MD |
| 9 | CH | CH |
| 10 | AH | AH |



Tigers Basketball Summer Camp

Richard Huish College still has spaces available for their Tigers Basketball Summer Camp. Their camp is aimed at players aged 8-13 (if the baller has just turned 14 but would like to do the camp please don't hesitate to book on).



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The camp runs for 5 days starting Monday 29th July, 9:00am-4:00pm each day. All players will receive a camp t-shirt, players who sign up for the entire week will also receive a basketball. To book on players need to click [Richard Huish College Online Store](#).

SASP Summer Holiday Inclusive Activities

SASP still has places for sessions taking place in Bridgewater and Taunton as part of their *Get Active Together* programme during the summer holidays! They are really keen for young people with disabilities and additional needs to access. Posters for their [multi-sports](#), [outdoor activity](#) and [roller skating](#) sessions can be found via the links below. These are being run separately to the Happy Healthy Holidays programme, with a cost of £5.00 per young person attached to each activity.

From Mr Mitchell , Assistant Headteacher: Community and Conduct

Reward Trips: Friday 19th July

A huge thank you to all of our fantastic students and families who made our Rewards Day truly special. It was wonderful seeing our students set off in many directions to enjoy a much deserved day of fun and adventure. Despite battling through holiday motorway traffic, our trips to Thorpe Park, Air Hop, Cribbs Causeway, Splashdown, Weymouth and Paintballing were all huge successes. A huge number of staff shared how well students in all year groups mixed and treated venue staff with the utmost respect. We are excited to review these events and look to expand our enrichment offer even more as we prepare for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Awards Evening

What a wonderful evening, we had last night for this year's Awards Evening. The evening was packed full of students, staff, parents and carers celebrating the success of our students. We were treated to wonderful performances from Noah G, Noah C, Harriet W and Laila L (and the Lads!); a fabulous review of the year for all year groups from our Youth Speaks Team and all of the tales of what has been going on across the school this year. It was delightful to see so many happy faces from students and parents/carers alike. We thank all those involved to make the evening a success, noting Student Council members helping throughout the evening. We will announce all of the award winners in the new academic year.



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From Mr Musson, Deputy Headteacher

Year 10 Information Evening

Year 10 Information Evening will take place on the 11th September. This event will provide information for Year 10 students and parents/carers about KS4 and their GCSE subjects. Further details will be sent out in the new academic year.

Year 11 Moving on Evening

Year 11 Moving on Evening will take place on the 18th September, giving students and parents/carers the opportunity to gather information from Post-16 providers. There will be a number of providers in attendance who will present information and give you the opportunity to ask questions. Further details will be sent out in the new academic year.

From Mr Sandy, Teacher of Music and Miss Worthy-Jarvis, Head of Business and Computing

Summer Music Session

A huge *well done* to the students who performed in the summer concert in the quad on Thursday! Noah G gave a fabulous performance on piano before Laurie L, backed by Noah C on guitar, Harvey H on bass and Will R on drums, sang a variety of songs. The band played really well and showed great professionalism in the way they set-up, performed with conviction and packed down afterwards! The music created a great atmosphere on a beautiful summer day. Well done to everyone involved!



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From Mr Newbury, Head of Year 11 from September

Head Students 2024-2025

We conducted a rigorous recruitment process last week to prepare for the appointment of our new Head Students. This involved delivering a formal presentation and answering questions about it from Ms Mallord, Ms Purnell and I as well as a formal interview. Our candidates were very impressive which made the decision making process a very difficult one. It was really lovely to listen to our students talk with such pride about Ansford and the role that they can play in shaping its future.

When asked what makes Ansford special, students spoke about:

- the great sense of community at Ansford; that it's one big family or a 'village'; that it 'feels like we are all part of one big jigsaw that fits together perfectly';
- how important their teachers and staff at school are to them; how much they care, go the extra mile, prepare great lessons, respect them;
- the opportunities presented to them in a small school - whether sporting, drama, trips, wider experiences
- the inclusive nature of the school and how everyone is welcomed.

We are delighted to announce that we have appointed two Head Students who will be supported by two Deputy Head Students and we are really looking forward to working with them and the wider Student Leadership Team in September. Really well done to our:

Head Students: Archie Appleby and Eliza Knight

Deputy Head Students: Ronnie Baldwin and Laila Laurie

From Mrs Dyal, Communication & Operations Manager

GCSE Examination Results Day 2024: Thursday 22nd August 2024

We look forward to welcoming our Year 11 Leavers back into School on Thursday 22 August when they collect their Examination results which will be available for collection *in person* from the Academy on Thursday 22 August between **9.00am and 10:30am**, should our leavers wish to collect them. Results that are not collected during this time will be sent by postal services at noon on the same day. All the very best of luck!!



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From Mrs Wood, SENDCo

Headphones - can you help?

We are launching a new reading programme called Reading Wise in September which requires students to have plug-in headphones. If you have any old pairs that you no longer use and would be happy to donate them, then please pop them in the box in reception.



From Mrs Kasereka, Teacher of Languages

Kenya Trip

I waved a grand farewell to the students and staff at Heathrow on Sunday; there were a lot of tears and emotions but a good laugh and drama as well - especially as Mr Cue almost didn't make it! The team have all arrived safely and we wish them all the very best on their great adventure.



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From Mrs Martin, Finance Manager

Year 11 Prom

Last Thursday we hosted our Prom for Year 11 students at Holbrook Manor. It was wonderful to see all of our students looking gorgeous in their beautiful dresses and smart suits. Luckily the sun shone so there were lots of photo opportunities in the gardens and everyone had an enjoyable evening. Many thanks to the wonderful Prom Committee for working so hard throughout the year fundraising, planning and organising this event.



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Mufti Day - Thanks from Happy Landings Animal Rescue

The many donations received and passed onto Happy Landings following our most recent Mufti Day have already been put to good use - Happy Landings sent us these thanks today:

“Thank you all for the wonderful donations, which I collected Monday. Many of the goodies went directly into the kennels and cattery for immediate use. Many happy cats and dogs!”

These, along with the £365 raised will be a great help to the charity.

From Wendy Watson, Careers Advisor

Work Experience Update July 2024

We'd like to share another photo from Work Experience Week. Here is Jack S making a toolbox at Sparkford Saw Mills SW Ltd. Great work Jack!



More News from our Alumni

Ansford are really proud to celebrate more amazing success from one of our Class of '22 leavers, Hollie-Wing, who has secured a Degree (Level 7) Accounting Apprenticeship with Saffery in Bournemouth. Here's a summary of Hollie's story:

“After GCSEs at Ansford, I went to Gryphon School to study A level subjects that interested me which were Business, Law and Spanish. I decided the Apprenticeship route would be right for me to achieve the qualifications needed for jobs that I was interested in.

The application process may seem a scary thing but employers are super helpful throughout the whole entire journey and want you to succeed and get as much out of the process as possible. I applied to three firms but



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From Wendy Watson, Careers Advisor

ultimately ended up choosing Saffery in Bournemouth after many interviews and meeting with people who had gone through the process at all three firms. I will be studying the level 7 ACA apprenticeship route through the ICAEW with Kaplan as the learning provider whilst working at the Firm.

My top tips for apprenticeships would be to choose something that you're interested in and do the research as even some of the most traditional fields and industries are offering apprenticeships, so if you are unsure about university take a look and see. Also do not fear the application process as employers are super supportive and helpful with the whole process and understand that it can be daunting so ask all the questions you want to ensure you're picking the right path for you."

Well done Hollie! Wishing you every success as you start out on your chosen Career.

From Miss Macey, Senior Administrator

Summer School

Summer School is taking place on Thursday 25th and Friday 26th this week when we look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 students for two days of enjoyment and fun. Activities include:

- Cooking
- DT
- Bouncy Assault Course
- Forest School style activities
- Art
- Trampolining
- Science activities
- Carymoor making willow bird feeders

We will provide an update in the Family Bulletin next academic year on how much fun they had!

From our Miss Hughes-Napean

Worry and Anxiety: Advice for Families

Here is some useful information from the National College on 'What Parents and Educators Need to Know About Worry and Anxiety':



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From Our Community

PlayDays Wincanton

Organised by the Octagon Theatre (Yeovil) and funded by Arts Council England - PlayDays are running across South Somerset over the summer. They are taking place in Wincanton at Cale Park on 13th August 11.00am to 3.00pm. Please see the link to the flyer [here](#).



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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](#)

www.ansford.net

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

[Ansford Academy Staff Vacancies](#)



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