

# Bulletin for Ansford Families



Issue 1: 13th September 2024

## Message from the Headteacher Mr Powell

Dear Families

I hope that you have all had a wonderful break and am delighted to welcome you all back to a new academic year and the start of what I know will be an exciting and highly successful 2025.

I have now had my first full week at the school and it has been a wonderful experience. I have met so many welcoming students keen to start their year with enthusiasm and the ambition to succeed and it has fully cemented my belief that Ansford is going to be a special place to work and be.

Our new Year 7 students have made a fantastic start and we have loved welcoming them.

We were delighted that over 100 students were able to join us for summer school and very grateful to all of the staff who gave up their time to support the event. They (and we) had a fantastic experience over the two days, which clearly helped their transition to 'big' school and made their first day a little less scary.

They arrived last Thursday morning keen and focused (albeit a little shell-shocked and in blazers they would 'grow into') and every Year 7 I spoke with told me how great a week they have been having. I was particularly delighted to see so many older students helping them find their way around; asking them how they were settling in; and generally making them feel welcome. It is always a pleasure to see students show such maturity and kindness and in particular, I want to thank the Year 11s for looking after the Year 7s so well. That sense of community is absolutely at the heart of Ansford and I very much look forward to seeing what other strong values the students have to show.

While we always seem to focus on the Year 7s as new students and Year 11s as 'the most vital years in your education', we know that every year at school is an important one. I look forward to the Year 8s taking on more responsibility and confidence; the year 9s starting the process of choosing their options this year and beginning to take more ownership of their education and life's pathway; and, of course, to the Year 10s to beginning their GCSEs and setting into the hard work and focus now that will make Year 11 a much less pressured and (dare I say it) pleasant experience.

In fact, all our students have returned with positivity and maturity. It has been a pleasure to see them engaging in their learning so well and, in particular their conduct around the school. I was very clear with students on setting out



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my expectations for high standards of conduct from the start and they have all fully understood and met those expectations. In particular, we will be focusing on full and properly worn uniform for every student to show the pride they have in the school and themselves.

I would like to also thank parents for their support over clearer uniform expectations. I have received so many thank you emails from parents delighted that we are setting a high standard that is consistently applied to every child. I believe that if the students look professional, they feel professional and will value themselves and their education more.

Another key focus for us this year will be on developing our curriculum models and ensuring that our students are provided with a highly structured and challenging education. I know very well, from my leadership in many highly successful schools, that students will meet the challenge that we set for them and they will always reward our sky-high expectations with energy, ambition – and of course fantastic GCSE outcomes that give them many more choices about their lives.

Finally just a reminder of how important your role as parents plays in your child's education. The relationship between school and home is a vital one and a successful partnership between us will massively support your child's learning, progress and happiness at school. Thank you all for supporting the school's expectations and policies and for making sure you read our communications and bulletins. I tend to write a lot as it is important to me that parents are fully involved and know our plans. I am very excited about the next stage of Ansford's journey and the success I want to achieve for our students and our community can only be managed through a strong working partnership.

Have a great weekend everyone.

### Uniform Update

A huge thank you to all parents for your support in delivering a high standard of uniform for our students. Walking around our school it is delightful to see everyone in exemplary uniform, worn with pride at all times. They look amazing.

I am particularly pleased to have seen full compliance with our 'sock' policy as well as students wearing their ties neatly and with their top button done up.

We now just have a couple of final issues we need to close off where there has been a little confusion. We have been understanding and given reminders but by Monday we expect to see:

- Nails without any gels/ extensions or any coloured varnish - clear is fine
- No hoop earrings or hoop nose rings, however small- these are a clear health and safety risk and cannot be allowed

We have been clearly reminding students that these now need to be removed and replaced with studs, and have given them this weekend to get that done.



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Many thanks for your support and also for the many emails of support we have received over a clear and consistently applied policy for uniform. The students have responded incredibly well and clearly understand the importance and pride to be had in a smart uniform.

## Join Us for our Open Events...

A promotional poster for Ansford Academy's Open Evening and Open Morning events. The background features a grey school blazer with a green shield crest and a 'MENTOR' name tag. The Ansford Academy logo is in the top corners. The text is centered and uses a mix of bold and italicized fonts.

**Ansford Academy**  
**Open Evening and Open Morning**  
*Year 6 and Year 5 families are warmly invited to attend our open events*

**OPEN EVENING**  
**Thursday 26th September: 5.00pm until 7.30pm**  
*Please join us to hear from our new Headteacher and take a tour around our school  
Presentations will take place in PA2 at: 5.15pm and 6.00pm—no need to book in advance*

**OPEN MORNING**  
**Thursday 3rd October: 9.30am until 11.00am**  
*You are invited to come and see our students in action  
School Tours will take place during the morning — no need to book in advance*

**Ansford Academy is committed to creating a great place to learn, work and grow;**  
***learning together to lead our lives***

Ansford Academy, Maggs Lane, Castle Cary, Somerset BA77 7JJ - 01963 350 895 - [admissions@ansford.net](mailto:admissions@ansford.net)—[www.ansford.org.uk](http://www.ansford.org.uk)



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<b>Academy Calendar: Key Upcoming Events</b>				
<b>Week</b>	<b>Date in September</b>	<b>Event Details</b>	<b>Location/Timing</b>	<b>Staff Contact</b>
1	Wednesday 18th	Year 11 Moving On Evening - details below	6:15pm-8:00pm	Mr Musson and Mrs Watson
1	Friday 20th	Year 11 Trip to Lyme Regis - details below	9:00am-3:30pm	Mr Antoine
2	Wednesday 25th	National Space Academy Talk - details below		Mr Hill
2	Thursday 26th	Open Evening - details below		
2	Friday 27th	Inset Day - School Closed to Students		
<b>Week</b>	<b>Date in October</b>	<b>Event Details</b>	<b>Location/Timing</b>	<b>Staff Contact</b>
1	Tuesday 1st	Year 9 School Photos	Period 4	Mrs White
1	Wednesday 2nd	Year 11 Careers Fair - details to follow		Mr Musson and Mrs Watson
1	Thursday 3rd	Open Morning - details below		
2	Wednesday 9th	Key Stage 3 Information Evening - details to follow		Mr Mitchell

<b>Assembly Rota</b>		
16th - 20th September	<p>Ansford Ethos - Aspire Respect Engage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An introduction to the 'we ARE Ansford' core values</li> <li>● Understanding our shared expectations and systems</li> <li>● Understanding what behaviour for learning looks like</li> <li>● Detention systems / monitoring</li> <li>● Rewards and recognition approach</li> </ul> <p>Year 11 - Timeline of the year ahead - pressure points and demands and</p>	<p>Mr Murphy</p> <p>Mr Musson and Mr</p>



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## From Mrs Morgan, Data and Examinations Assistant

### ClassCharts for Year 7 Students

All Year 7 students will now have received their class charts login and should be able to access their ClassCharts account. If any student hasn't received theirs or is having difficulties accessing it, they may come and see me in the Data and Examinations Officer for assistance.

Likewise, all Year 7 parents/carers will now have received their parental class charts login. If you have not received this or are having difficulties accessing ClassCharts, please let me know on [elizabeth.morgan@ansford.net](mailto:elizabeth.morgan@ansford.net), and I will be pleased to assist.

## From Mr Cue, Teacher of English, Science and Geography

### Kenya Trip

We had a wonderful four weeks in Kenya with Camps International helping local communities with a wide range of activities making a difference to the lives of the locals there.



See my Camp Kenya overview [here](#).



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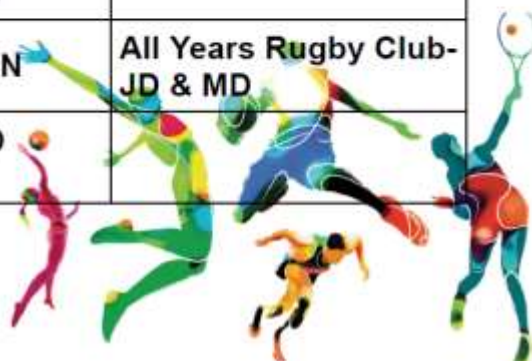
Contact the Academy by phone: 01963 350 895 or by email [mailbox@ansford.net](mailto:mailbox@ansford.net)

## From Mrs Grove, Head of PE

### Extra-curricular Sports Activities



DAY	LUNCHTIME	AFTER SCHOOL
MONDAY	KS4 Hockey Club - DG BASKETBALL - KS3 - JD & MD	
TUESDAY	X-COUNTRY CLUB - JD VOLLEYBALL - DG YEAR 7 BASKETBALL- MD	KS3 Hockey Club-DG
WEDNESDAY	HANDBALL - DG YEAR 7 MULTI-SPORTS	Badminton Club
THURSDAY	YEAR 11 FOOTBALL - JN	All Years Rugby Club- JD & MD
FRIDAY	KS4 BASKETBALL - MD TABLE TENNIS CLUB	



## From Mr Hill, Teacher of Science and STEM Co-ordinator

### National Space Academy Masterclass

On the 25th September we have a group from the National Space Academy who will be running a masterclass with our year 10 and 11 Separate Science Students.

The aim of the masterclass is to explore the human desire to learn about our universe. It traces our journey of space discovery so far, as well as the ways we use satellites and space technology to look back at and learn more about our own planet.

The themes covered in the masterclass will give students an insight into key ideas that appear in the Triple Science Course.



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## From Mr Newbury, Drama Teacher and Head of Year 11

### Matilda Production - Rehearsals

## Ansford School Production - Matilda JR.

We are very excited to welcome the cast of Matilda to start rehearsals. The rehearsal schedule is up in the Drama studio. Below are the key dates to be aware of.

#### Key information

The performance will be:

- December 11<sup>th</sup>/12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup>

Rehearsals will be:

- Every Wednesday 3.30pm to 5.30pm. Starting from the 18<sup>th</sup>.

Potential weekend rehearsals:

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November and Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December

When	Time	Who	Which scene	Where
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> September	3.30pm-5.30pm	All Cast  Mr Wormwood Mrs Wormwood Matilda Michael	School song- Vocals (1 hour)  School song- Chorography (1 hour)  Scene 1- The Wormwoods living room pg-10/11 Naughty pg- 12/13/14 Naughty continued- pg15/16	Drama studio
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> September	3.30pm-5.30pm	All Cast  Matilda Acrobat Escapologist Mrs Phelps  Mr Wormwood Mrs Wormwood Matilda Michael	School song- Vocals  School song- Chorography (1 hour)  Acrobat Story (part 1) pg 17/18/19  Scene 5- The Wormwoods house and Naughty part 2 superglue pg37-41	Drama studio
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	3.30pm-5.30pm	All Cast  Ms Honey  Matilda Acrobat Escapologist Mrs Phelps	Bruce- Vocals (1 hour)  Bruce- Chorography (1 hour)  This little girl pg47  The Library Scene 9 pg49-50	Drama studio
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	3.30pm-5.30pm	All Cast  Matilda Acrobat Escapologist Mrs Phelps	Bruce- Vocals (1 hour)  Bruce- Chorography (1 hour)  Scene 11- The Library pg60-63	Drama studio

### Our Head Students

In our last Family Bulletin, Ms Purnell was pleased to announce our new Head Students (pictured below) and I would like to personally congratulate them, and all of our new Student Leaders and wish them luck in their roles this year.

**Head Students;** Archie A (also PE Prefect), Eliza K (also Drama Prefect)

**Deputy Head Students;** Ronnie B, Laila L

**Prefects;** Nancy B, Chloe C, David F (also DT Prefect), Jess H (also French Prefect), Maxi H (also PE Prefect), Charlie H (also DT Prefect), Edward H, Harry K (also Library Prefect), Violet M (also PE Prefect), Tamzen M (also Art Prefect), Sam M (also Drama and Hospitality Prefect), Charlie S (also Computer Science Prefect), Dexter S, Malachy W (also Business Prefect), Xavier W (also DT and Science Prefect).

**Subject Prefects;** In addition to the above we have Ruya A (Drama), Esther B (PE), Rhys B (Horticulture), Emily C (PE), Hollie C (PE), Oscar C (Science), Jack G (Citizenship and Science), Oliver H (DT), Evie J (PE), Mackenzie U (PE), Millie W (Hospitality), Katherine W (PE).

**Peer Mentors;** Ruya A, Jess H, Violet M, Maddie S

**Bus Prefects;** Rhys B, Oscar C, David F, Jack G, Oliver H, Jess H, Edward H, Noah J, Harry K, Holly P, Harley W.



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**From Mrs Wood, SENDCo**

**Headphones - can you help?**

As per the last Family Bulletin; we are launching our new reading programme called Reading Wise 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.



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## From Mrs Rice, Head of English

### Reading raffle

Congratulations to Olivia F, Elsie H, Mia S and Grace P for winning prizes in the Year 7 reading raffle at the end of last term. The four students racked up a huge number of reads at home - well done girls, and keep it going in Year 8!



### Mission Catastrophe - in Print

Our Page-Turners have got off to a great start this term with more of their writing being published! Huge congratulations to Tegan S who has written a mini-saga (a story of no more than 100 words) which is now in print in a book called Mission Catastrophe. You can read her fantastic work below.

The Page-Turners are planning poetry workshops to encourage new students to get involved with creative writing. There must be many brilliant Year 7 writers just waiting to be discovered...watch this space!

### Up In Flames

*My eyes became fused to the flames; an immobilising rush of adrenaline squeezed my heart. How had this happened? When? Why? Ravenous, relentless, rampant, the merciless inferno engulfed my childhood home. Floating innocently away, ashen streams of smoke stemmed from the fire, twisting and curling. Every memory, every belonging I loved was gradually devoured by the blazing beast. It was beautifully obscene...*

*I screamed internally. I wanted desperately to look away, but couldn't. There was no hope now. None.*

*CRASH!*

*The ground swallowed what was left of the building in a flash. My eyes became fused to the rubble.*

By Tegan S, Year 10



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## From Mrs Watson, Careers Advisor

### Year 11 Moving on Evening - Wednesday 18th September, 6:15pm-8:00pm - Final Reminder - Don't Miss Out!

Year 11 students and families - now is the time to start researching next steps after GCSEs and Ansford, as applications will be expected by January 2025.

Come and listen to talks from local Colleges and Sixth forms and meet employers who have career and apprenticeship opportunities.

To book your talks and a place please use the booking form [here](#). Or for more information contact me via [wendy.watson@ansford.net](mailto:wendy.watson@ansford.net)

Confirmed attendees who will have stands in the Dining Hall available for 1-1 chats are:

- RAF
- Army
- Leonardo
- The Newt
- NHS
- Bath College
- Gillingham 6th form
- Huish 6th
- and me!

## From Caterlink

### News from the Canteen

On Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September we are having a 'Destination India' theme day in the canteen at lunch!!

Also, our Breakfast club is starting on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September where students can come in from 8.30am and have some breakfast for £1 (jam on toast/croissant/bacon roll etc). We are also offering free porridge and they can add toppers for 25p.



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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](http://www.ansford.net)

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

[Ansford Academy Staff Vacancies](#)



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