

Issue 2: 27th September 2024

Message from the Headteacher Mr Powell

Dear Families

I have now completed my fourth full week at our school and my experience just keeps getting better. I am beginning to learn most of the students' names and it has been an absolute pleasure to be their Headteacher. I spend every day organising the lunch queue and they are always keen to tell me about their day and have a chat about their lessons and learning. It is also a great opportunity to capture how they feel about the school and their own ambitions for its future. They are all very optimistic but I have been very careful to listen and take on board their suggestions.

One of these is in fact the lunch queue itself and as of Monday I have reorganised it so that they will queue inside. A simple change for us but for them it means they can wait in the dry and warm as we start into the winter season.

The big event of the week was our Open Evening on Thursday night. Everybody agrees that it was a triumph with a record number of attendees and hugely positive feedback from all. They could really see and feel the huge effort we have all put into our school this year and the message of sky high expectations and challenge, alongside the support of a true community school was very well understood.

I was delighted to see how well staff met the occasion and the huge range of exciting activities and challenges set by our departments. The Guess the Murderer game in the drama was my favourite but close contenders were Sandpit-English and the Apple Tart Competition. I couldn't eat another one!

Mostly I was delighted to see how many of our students gave up their time to be guides and generally to help out. They are the best asset and ambassadors for our school and they absolutely made us proud. Many thanks to them and to all students who helped support in department areas. They were full of energy and enthusiasm all night and I suspect went home very tired.

For me the highlight was the student speeches and I would very much like to personally thank Ella, Sophie, Sophie, Maiya, Ronnie, Eliza and Laila for how beautiful and personally they spoke. They absolutely captured the evening and everyone I spoke with could not speak highly enough of their confidence and enthusiasm for the school. I couldn't have asked for a better set of speakers. I would also



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like to thank Noah in Year 8 for his piano recital at the start. He told me he could play anything I wanted then very much proved it. A huge talent and, being in Year 8, a talent certainly to watch.

We actually had trouble getting parents to leave at the end - they were so engaged in the evening. With record numbers set to join next year and such positivity from parents, we know that the future direction of our school is assured.

Despite our energies going into Open Evening we had another event this week that was 'out of this world' and I would very much like to thank the science team for bringing in Mr Lynch from the National Space Academy. The students were fully engaged in the really exciting range of workshops around our relationship with space. Highlights were mostly definitely holding a piece of asteroid and a mars rock.

Junior summed it up nicely when he said it was 'Ace!'

With the visit of strode college last week, this week our Year 10 will travel to Yeovilton Fleet Air Arm Museum for their careers fair - always a very exciting time of the year. Many thanks to all involved in that and starting them on the journey to choose ambitious and exciting careers.

We are hoping for some better weather next week and especially for our Open Morning on Thursday when we will again get another chance to show off our school to prospective parents.

I was so proud to show off our school this week that I can't wait to do so again. Let's just hope the rain stays off.

Have a great week.

Uniform is looking so much better and a huge thank you to parents for your support. The students look smart and I would like to think they feel prouder and more professional in how they look.

Can I just do a final reminder about nail extensions? We have passed our final deadline and now they need to be off. Many thanks to all parents for supporting this.



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Academy Calendar: Key Upcoming Events

Week	Date in October	Event Details	Location/Timing	Staff Contact
1	Tuesday 1st	Year 9 School Photos	Period 4	Mrs White
1	Wednesday 2nd	Year 10 Careers Fair - details below		Mr Musson and Mrs Watson
1	Thursday 3rd	Open Morning - details below		
2	Wednesday 9th	Key Stage 3 Information Evening - details below		Mr Mitchell
2		Basketball Tournament - details below		Mrs Grove
2	Thursday 10th	Year 11 Drama Exam - Devising Performance - details below		Mr Newbury
2		Year 11 Macbeth Trip - details below		Mrs Rice
1	Tuesday 15th	Year 2 Multi-Sports Festival - details below		Mrs Grove
2	Wednesday 23rd	Autumn 1 Colour Run - details to follow		Mrs Grove
2	Thursday 24th	MHST Parent Workshop - details to follow		Mrs Wood
2	Friday 25th	Last Day of Half Term - School re-opens Monday 4th Nov		



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Assembly Rota		
30th September - 4th October	Community and ambition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Addressing year group settling concerns ● Outline of year group events ● Student leadership opportunities / application processes ● Head of Year visions and core values Year 11: Mock Exams [Exam prep booklet, importance of mocks, preparation, revision time tables]. HK - Science	Heads of Year Mr Mitchell
World Mental Health Day (10 October)		
7th - 11th October	Wellbeing and Resilience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● An introduction to mental health ● Exploring what anxiety looks and feels like ● Identifying methods of self help ● Knowing who to seek help from 	Ms Hirst

Notices

From Ms Hirst, Deputy Headteacher: Welfare and Inclusion
<p>MHST (Mental Health Support Team) - Autumn Webinars Calling all Parents & Carers!</p> <p>The MHST (Mental Health Support Team) are offering a series of free helpful webinars this Autumn. The webinars aim to help:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● support your child's mental health and wellbeing ● supporting your child's big feelings ● Understanding and supporting anxiety and low mood <p>Find out more and register here.</p>



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From Ms Hirst, Deputy Headteacher: Welfare and Inclusion



From Mr Mitchell, Assistant Headteacher: Teaching and Learning

Essential equipment for learning

A huge thank you to all families who restocked their children's pencil cases over the summer holidays. Having the right equipment everyday not only minimises any disruption to learning but also teaches young people about the importance of daily organisational checks.

All students are required to have:

- Blue or black writing pens
- Pencils for illustrations
- Ruler for tables and underlining titles / dates
- Purple pen for corrections and improvements
- Scientific calculator
- Pencil sharpener
- Eraser
- Highlighter pen

Reading Reading Reading

Perhaps now more than ever, encouraging and expecting our young people to read is vitally important. Our updated Reading Strategy ensures we routinely test student's reading ages and diagnose any areas where intervention will help to develop and boost this important skill.



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From Mr Mitchell, Assistant Headteacher: Teaching and Learning

Over the summer, our Library has received a full makeover, with brand new furniture, computers and a reorganisation of our much loved books. The space has quickly become the heart of the school with many students enjoying access to the books during lunchtimes. I'd like to pay a special thanks to our incredible team of student librarians who manage the environment and promote the love of reading.

Thinking of gifting your child some new books? Take a look at this [website](#) for age group recommendations and summaries.

Preparing for Year 11 Exams

Mr Musson and I, will be leading the vast majority of Year 11 assemblies this year to ensure the year group receive direct and ongoing support, helping learners to navigate what will be a very busy year.

Students taking subjects which include Non Examined Assessments [NEAs] such as Art and DT, will receive bespoke information ensuring they are acutely aware of deadlines, moderation processes and follow up intervention to ensure all work is of a quality.

Next week, I'll be talking to Year 11 about the upcoming Mock Exams in November. Each student will be given a booklet which includes really practical advice with regards to effective revision strategies and what to expect on the day. The Mock Exams serve a vitally important role within the year, helping teaching staff to identify where intervention and planning is most needed. We expect all students to perform at their very best to ensure the outcomes provide accurate assessments for all parties.

Lesson visits and student feedback

It has been an absolute delight to visit multiple lessons each day this term.

Our clearer expectations for learning behaviours have ensured students are acutely aware of what is expected of themselves and of one another. It is always a pleasure to see our young people treat staff and their peers with respect and good manners.

During a recent student voice event, multiple students commented on issues such as:

- Enjoying seeing the leadership team frequently visit lessons to look at their learning
- Enjoying the pace and rigour of lessons, knowing that challenge and effort is the norm
- Staff having a shared approach and language to address any low level disruption quickly and effectively

From Mrs Wood, SENDCo

ReadingWise Intervention

ReadingWise interventions will start on Tuesday 1st October. This is an exciting new online reading intervention which will help to develop reading skills for a number of students. If you have received a letter to say that your son/daughter is accessing this intervention then please send them to school with a pair of 'plug in' headphones on



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From Mrs Wood, SENDCo

Tuesday. They will need these every morning.

Thank you for your support.

From Mrs Comyns, Business Manager

REMINDER: Students who walk to school and road safety

Castle Cary families are asked to remind their children about the potential dangers of the A371. This is a very busy road, often with large lorries and queued traffic.

Please encourage your child to use the footpaths and the pedestrian crossing. Crossing elsewhere is not as safe - particularly when the traffic is queued.

Please also remind them to use the pavements within the school site.

From Mr Antoine, Geography and Maths Teacher

Year 11 Trip to Lyme Regis - Friday 20th September - UPDATE

The Year 11 trip to Lyme Regis was a great success after the two attempts in the last academic year were written off by weather - so we were very lucky!

Congratulations to the sixty Year 11 students who conducted themselves very well.

The aim of the day was to investigate how successful the coastal defences are in Lyme Regis, and is an important field work experience which will help students answer questions in their Paper 3 exam. All data was successfully collected before a thunderstorm, and so our aim was completed and much enjoyed.

From Mr Darby, PE Teacher

Rugby Dates for students in Years 7-9

We now have our Rugby Dates for KS3 Events. These are participation events with an emphasis on developing, while playing in friendly fixtures against other schools.

Rugby Festivals @ Bucklers Mead 8th October - Year 9 Festival 9th October - Year 7 Festival 10th October - Year 8 Festival	Rugby Festivals @ Wadham 22nd October - Year 8 Festival 23rd October - Year 9 Festival 24th October - Year 7 Festival
Rugby Festivals @ King Arthurs 5th Nov- Year 7 Festival	Rugby Festivals @ Bucklers Mead 12th Nov- Year 9 Festival



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From Mr Darby, PE Teacher

6th Nov- Year 8 Festival
7th Nov- Year 9 Festival

13th Nov- Year 7 Festival
14th Nov- Year 8 Festival

Students should come to training, Thursdays afterschool with myself and Mr Davis. We will select players to participate from there.

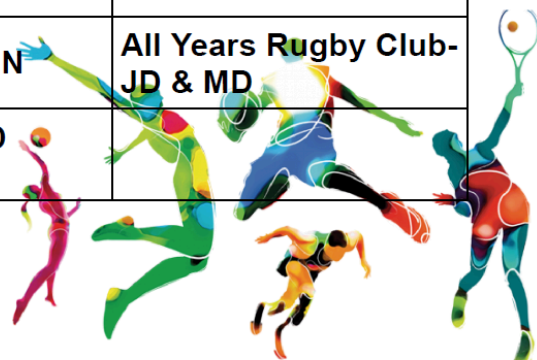
KS4 fixtures will also be announced soon!!

From Mrs Grove, Head of PE

REMINDER: 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 Coordinator

National Space Academy Masterclass - UPDATE

We have been privileged to have a member of the UK Space Academy join us in Science today (Wednesday).

Mr Lynch has been running workshop sessions with the Year 10 and Year 11 Triple Science students with the aim of addressing a number of the areas of the GCSE Physics Space curriculum. The students have been looking at how we observe space, the origins of the universe and how we can use space exploration to find out more about what is going on on Earth. The students have been building telescopes, investigating the idea of Red Shift and measuring ocean currents and temperatures on Earth.

A few of us have been lucky enough to hold a piece of Mars and Meteorite fragment that was formed when the Universe first formed!!

From Mrs Morgan, Data & Examinations Assistant

CAT Testing

All Year 7 and any students who may have joined us in-year will sit CAT4 testing starting on Monday 30th September. These are Cognitive Abilities Tests and they are designed to assess a pupil's ability in the four main areas known to make a difference to learning and achievement. This data is used to inform our teaching. Please advise your child that they can bring in headphones to wear during these assessments but they are not essential.

There are 3 tests in total and any student not in school when a test takes place, will be able to sit them soon after in arranged catch up sessions.

From Miss Voit, DT Food, Hospitality & Catering and Art Teacher

Food Practical Dates for Years 7-9

Reminder for Families of food practical dates for all students. Please see the link below. Students know their group class codes, these can be found on ClassCharts.

[Food Practical Dates.](#)



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From Mr Newbury, Drama Teacher and Head of Year 11

REMINDER: 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 11th/12th/13th

Rehearsals will be:

- Every Wednesday 3.30pm to 5.30pm. Starting from the 18th.

Potential weekend rehearsals:

Sunday 24th November and Sunday 8th December

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

From Reception

Lost Property

Families are reminded to ask their child to collect lost property from Reception. We have growing amounts of lost property that goes unclaimed despite reminders in the Student Bulletin, via Tutors and having the items on show during some break and lunchtimes throughout the year.

All these items are un-named and cannot be reunited with their owner!

We will now keep any lost property for a maximum of four weeks and will then use it for the second-hand uniform shop, use it for loan supplies or send it to charity.



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From Mrs Watson, Careers Advisor

Year 11 Moving on Evening - UPDATE

A great turnout from families for our annual Year 11 post 16 Moving On evening with talks from our local colleges, 6th forms and Apprenticeship providers, as well as a mini fair with exhibitors from the Armed forces, The Newt and Leonardo as well as other Colleges and 6th forms. Feedback from speakers was very positive and it's been a good launch for our Year 11s for exploring options and making choices for their next steps after GCSEs.

Watch out for post 16 assemblies in school this term, taster days and our Mock interview event in November.

For more information on College and 6th form Open evenings and post 16 opportunities please visit our Careers pages on the website [here](#).

All Year 11 students will be invited for a Careers meeting in school but for any questions or to request a meeting please contact me via email: wendy.watson@ansford.net.

Ansford's Own - Alumni News

With many of our previous students recently leaving College and taking their next steps post 18, we are happy to celebrate the success of Class of '22 student Daniel Shettle (Yeovil College) who has recently secured a Trainee Accountant role with Max Foote Associates in Castle Cary.

Here is Daniel's story:

"After studying at Ansford I moved onto Yeovil College where I studied A levels in Business, Physics and Geography. My favourite part about the College was how helpful my lecturers were in making sure I achieved good grades and got where I wanted. Without these grades I would not have been able to achieve an Apprenticeship after College working as a Trainee Accountant where I am looking forward to expanding my knowledge in that area of business. Well done, Daniel!

Interested in Accountancy Careers? Find more information [here](#).

From Mrs Withers, Head of Maths

Equipment Reminder

Please can we remind families that all students should have calculators as part of their equipment. Lots of students are arriving to maths without basic equipment including a calculator.

Students are reminded to come to Maths fully prepared.

From Caterlink

REMINDER: News from the Canteen

Our Breakfast club has now started!! Students can come in from 8.30am and have some breakfast for £1 (jam on



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toast/croissant/bacon roll etc). We are also offering free porridge and they can add toppers for 25p.



From Our Student Community

500 Days of Duolingo Streaks!!

A little note on a personal achievement of Mackenzie U last week - he has completed day 500 (!!!!) on his Duolingo streaks (in Spanish) - he made sure that he found a signal each day he was in Kenya to keep it going.

Well done Mackenzie, keep it up!



From Our Local Community

SUEZ Recycling & Recovery UK - Competition for all Somerset Council Schools

Somerset Council collections contractor SUEZ Recycling & Recovery UK is running a competition for all Somerset council schools with pupils up to the age of 16.

The brief is to ask students to design a piece of artwork based on the theme of reuse. The winning designs will be painted onto our container at the recycling site in Bridgwater!

The container is used to store items collected from our bulky waste service that are still in working order. These items will then be passed on to one of their charity partners or community groups to be reused rather than recycled.

See full poster with details [here](#).



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Competition to win vouchers

Design a piece of artwork based on the concept of **mainly reuse and a bit of recycling** - the winners will be displayed at your local recycling depot!

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.

Governor

[Governor I Ansford Academy](#)

www.ansford.net

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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