

Bulletin for Ansford Families

Issue 3: 11th October 2024

Message from the Headteacher Mr Powell

Dear Families

Another busy week at the Academy Academy and it was one full of so many enjoyable engagements and interaction with our students and parents/carers.

Our KS3 Information evening on Wednesday was well attended and a valuable opportunity to share the changes to curriculum and assessment going on. Our new Trust model raises challenges and expectations at all levels and we know will support strong progress in all our subject areas. Secondary education is a five year journey, not a rush to the finish in Year 11, and hard work and commitment early on pays back so much later in a student's educational journey.

We had a full house of students and parents/carers attending our Costa Rica Scuba diving trip this evening and as an avid scuba diver myself I am very jealous of what would be an amazing trip. The photos from previous expeditions looked amazing and it will clearly be a magical, life-changing experience for those lucky enough to go.

Closer to home, our KS4 students visited the theatre for a production of Macbeth on Thursday and by all accounts it was an engaging and enriching performance which will fully help them in their GCSE Literature exams. As an English teacher I love to read Shakespeare but there is no substitute for seeing it performed live - especially with the gruesome battle and murder scenes.

On Thursday I also held a genuinely enjoyable meeting with the keen Year 11 Prom committee. It was wonderful to see such a committed group of Year 11 students dedicated to the event and the range and imagination of fundraising ideas they came up with was fantastic. Ansford can look forward to staff/student sports fixtures (I've told them I'm a rugby man and have two left feet when it comes to football); cake and hot-dog sales across the year; Year 7 discos and, of course, the famous Ansford has Talent which was won by our highly talented Year 8 pianist Noah last year. They will also be organising an Ansford family 'pub' quiz and we expect you all to come and show us your trivia knowledge. I'm good at history and film and looking for a complimenting team.

This week also saw the start of our ReadingWise intervention programme with its focus on catching up students who may be struggling a little with their reading. This programme works on the 'little and often' model and has shown



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great success in rapid improvements in reading ages. As you know, reading is a major focus for us this year and I want to thank parents/carers for the time and dedication they have shown to support our 20 mins a day rule.

Uniform continues to look great and many thanks again to all parents for your continued support - especially in jewellery which was the only real area of contention for some students.

My assembly next week is on Respect. An important theme and one of our core values. Ansford is a lovely place to be, but I want to support all our children in making the best choices and engaging with each other in a way that models their maturity and respect - for themselves and our community. I am a big one for 'self-development', making sure that at each stage of our lives we strive to become the best version of ourselves we can be. My mission (my passion in fact) at Ansford is to help every student achieve that version of themselves and help create the future leaders of their generation.

Many thanks to all our parents/carers who support us in that by modelling and expecting high standards of politeness and interaction with all adults at all times. It makes a massive difference when they bring those standards of respect into our school.

Have a great week all.

Important Parking Notice - Please read

Can we politely remind parents/carers of the parking procedures at Ansford at the start and end of the day:

- Parents should not park or drive on the driveway outside the school building between 8.30 - 9.00 and 3.15 - 4.00. This is in line with our school risk assessment for ensuring that students are safe at the start and end of the day when buses collect
- Toy Box Nursery is not on Ansford Academy property and should not be used for parking while waiting to collect a child. The nursery has asked us to pass on that message.

Parents are very welcome and encouraged to park in the car park outside the Sports Centre or in the car park at Caryford Community Hall.



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Academy Calendar: Key Upcoming Events

Week	Date in October	Event Details	Location/Timing	Staff Contact
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		
Half Term				
Week	Date in November	Event Details	Location/Timing	Staff Contact
1	Monday 4th	First Day of Term - School Re-opens		
2	Thursday 7th	Year 11 Parents Evening	Details below	Mr Musson
2	Friday 8th	School Nurses Pop-up Stand	Dining Hall, lunchtime	Miss Fulton
1	Monday 11th	Year 11 Mock Exam Fortnight Commences		Mrs Dyal
1	Tuesday 12th	STEM Engineering Challenge Day	Details to follow	Mr Hill
1	Wednesday 13th	Year 11 Strode College Taster Day	Details to follow	Mr Musson

Assembly Rota

14th - 18th October	Inclusion (equity & equality) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The difference between equity and equality ● Equity and equality in learning ● Equity & equality at Ansford ● Link to Learning Bridge reset & interventions 	Mrs Wood
21st - 25th October	ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY 1 <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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Notices

From Mr Karl Musson, Deputy Headteacher

Year 11 Mock Exam Fortnight

Year 11 are already being prepared across all of their subjects for the upcoming Mock Exams in November. These will be taking place over the fortnight of 11th November to 22nd November.

The timetables are being prepared and will be issued to the students early next week.

KS3 Information Evening - Slides

It was wonderful to see so many families joining us for our KS3 Information Evening on Wednesday.

If you were unable to attend the event, or would like to re-cap on any of the information provided; we have published a copy of the slides from the evening on our website in the 'Letters Home' area, accessible [here](#).

Year 11 Parents Evening

We will run our upcoming Year 11 Parents Evening as we have done in previous years - this will be a hybrid of both virtual and face-to-face sessions, running from 4:15pm to 7:30pm.

You will be contacted shortly with information that the Parents Evening System is open and ready for bookings.

We look forward to seeing as many of our Year 11 families as possible.

From Ms Hirst, Deputy Headteacher: Welfare and Inclusion

Supporting Your Child's BIG Feelings Workshop

When? Thursday 24th October, 6pm-7pm

Where? Ansford Academy

This session will be run by the Mental Health Support Team and will lead to an understanding of how to support young people's mental wellbeing using Emotion Coaching.

See the poster [here](#).



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From Ms Hirst, Deputy Headteacher: Welfare and Inclusion

REMINDER: MHST (Mental Health Support Team) - Autumn Webinars

Calling all Parents & Carers!

The MHST (Mental Health Support Team) are offering a series of free helpful webinars this Autumn. The webinars aim to help:

- support your child's mental health and wellbeing
- supporting your child's big feelings
- Understanding and supporting anxiety and low mood

Find out more and register [here](#).



From Mrs Wood, SENDCo

REMINDER: ReadingWise Intervention

ReadingWise interventions are in full flow.. 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 Tuesday. They will need these every morning.

Thank you for your support.

From Mrs Sweetlove, Pastoral Support Leader

Moments Matter, Attendance Counts - Information for Families on Attendance

Please see information [here](#) providing information about attendance and guidance surrounding if school absence is appropriate.

From Mrs Dyal, Communication & Operations Manager

Student Achievements for Family Bulletins

We know that so many of our students are making personal achievements outside of school that we often do not hear about - please tell us about any personal success of your child - we love to hear about them and if they are happy, we love to tell our community via our Family Bulletin.

Let's celebrate!!

From Mr Darby, PE Teacher

REMINDER: 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 6th Nov- Year 8 Festival 7th Nov- Year 9 Festival	Rugby Festivals @ Bucklers Mead 12th 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!!



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From Ms Evans, Teacher of Horticulture and Camps International Costa Rica Expedition Leader

Ansford Academy Costa Rica Scuba Expedition 2026

COMING SOON - AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUR CHILD

We are very excited to announce that we are partnering with Camps International again to offer students the opportunity to go on a life-changing, 4-week expedition to Costa Rica, during the summer of 2026. Students will work on a variety of meaningful and sustainable projects as well as undertaking the personal adventure challenge of a PADI Open Water Scuba Diving Course.

We have had our parents' presentation providing all the information about the expedition and fundraising, as well as how to join the team. If you require the information shared, please do let us know.

In the meantime, to get an insight into the expedition, you can see photos from previous teams on the Camps Instagram page: <https://www.instagram.com/campsint/>.

As students are encouraged to raise the funds for this expedition themselves, why not get started straight away with some helpful tips and advice: <https://www.campsinternational.com/fundraising-for-your-expedition/>.

We look forward to letting you know more about the expedition soon.



From Miss Fulton, First aid Lead

Somerset Somerset School Aged Immunisation Team (Somerset SAINT)

Somerset SAINT have provided us with a QR Code linking to their Facebook page for you - they update this regularly with information regarding their vaccinations and clinics.



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From Miss Fulton, First aid Lead



School Aged Immunisation Team (SAINT)

Tel: 0032 323 0032 | Email: somersetsaint@somersetft.nhs.uk

<https://somersetft.nhs.uk/> | Twitter: [@SomersetFT](https://twitter.com/SomersetFT) | Facebook: [/somersetft](https://www.facebook.com/somersetft)

Lower Bracken House, Chard Hospital, Chard, TA20 1YA



From Mrs Grove, Head of PE

Year 7-9 Students - Kit Requirements

KS3 students will now require a gum shield and football boots for their PE lessons.

Gum shields can be purchased from the PE Office at a cost of £3.

Year 2 Sports Festival - 15th October

Our first Festival of the year is next week!

Our Year 2 Festival will be running on 15th October. It is a multi-skills festival where Year 2 students from a number of primary schools will be enjoying a range of sports, supported by our Year 9 leaders running the sessions.

The students will be in the Sports Hall area from 1-3pm and parents/carers will be asked to collect from the main Sports Hall entrance.

REMINDER: Extra-curricular Sports Activities



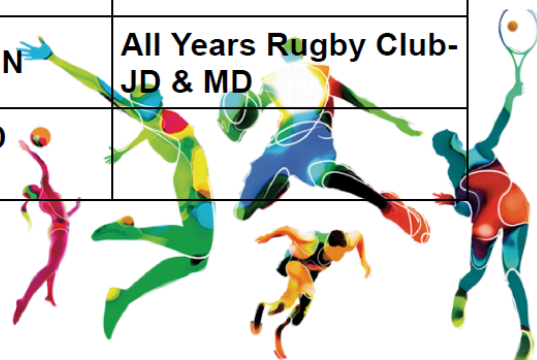
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From Mrs Grove, Head of PE



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 Mrs Hardy-Stewart, Teacher of English and Oracy Co-ordinator

An Inspector Calls on Open Evening

If you're thinking of an Ofsted Inspector, think again.

In EN1, Year 11 and one late arrival Year 7 performed all but the first three pages of JB Priestley's An Inspector Calls, one of our GCSE texts. This happened between 5.15 and 7.30 while parents and Year 6 children looked around the school. EN1 became the posh dining room of the Birlings in 1912, complete with champagne glasses, table cloth and a silver candelabra. Lochie O-S was a sardonic and unsmiling moral judge and held the room with his brilliant deliveries of the Inspector's lines; the climactic speech about social responsibility sent chills down the spine. Put alongside this the extraordinary portrayal of Gerald as suave and yet at moments sensitive by Harley W, the anger and determination of Sheila, played for the second year running by Maddy J, the fury and snobbery of Mrs Birling read with great conviction by Ruya A, Kai S-B performing with so much confidence as the patriarchal and patronising Mr Birling and then Rhys reading Eric with such a strong sense of his regret and loneliness. What a cast! There is a maid called Edna in the play and as she only has a few lines, we did not ask a Year 11 to play her. Towards



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From Mrs Hardy-Stewart, Teacher of English and Oracy Co-ordinator

the end of the play, a Year 7 tour guide stopped by and didn't leave as he was so captivated by the play. He found Edna's lines in the text and asked to play her at the end.

Watch out Ansford - Alex P loves acting!

Thank you to all the actors who kept going showing all the endurance and commitment required of real actors. You were magnificent!

From Mr Kershaw, Head of Science

Year 11 Science Revision

Science revision for the Mock exams should now be well under way.

To help parents/carers to be able to support their child I recently wrote a letter outlining the resources that we have put in place.

The letter and associated support documents can be found via the links below or on the google classroom [here](#).

- [Letter](#)
- [Revision calendar](#) - saying what should be done each day so that all topics are covered by the exams
- DRIP sheets ([Combined Biology](#), [Combined Chemistry](#), [Combined Physics](#), [Separate Biology](#), [Separate Chemistry](#), [Separate Physics](#)) - a list of questions and answers that parents/carers can use to test their child. You do not need to know the science yourself - but help your child remember the key ideas by repeating the questions until they can recall the correct answer. These have also been printed and given to students.
- Science revision tracker - an interactive checklist of everything that could be in the exam. Work through each topic and use the links to help videos and practice questions to master each idea.

We are also starting after school revision on Wednesdays from 3:45 to 4:45pm. We are really lucky to have Mr Davis the MNSP Trust lead who will help support these sessions. Please support your child to attend.

Thank you in advance for your support to help your child to manage their revision over time and not to leave it to the last minute so that they attain their very best in the mocks.

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

REMINDER: 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 Mrs Martin, Teacher of English Science and STEM Coordinator

Bedrock Superstars!!

The following amazing Bedrock Stars will be getting certificates for September! Well done Bedrock Superstars!

The graphic features the Bedrock Learning logo at the top right. Below it, the words "SUPER STARS" are written in large, bold, blue letters, with two yellow stars above the 'S' and 'S'. Underneath, "September 2024" is written in a smaller blue font. At the bottom, there is a cluster of colorful, rounded rectangular labels containing various words with their parts of speech in parentheses: Explore (v.), Theory (n.), Flutter (v.), Marvel (n.), Integral (adj.), Awestruck (adj.), Beacon (n.), Ingenious (adj.), Value (n.), Epic (adj.), Wilderness (n.), Identity (n.), Conductive (adj.), Vibrant (adj.), Conquer (v.), Flabbergast (v.), Evolve (v.), and Grace (n.).

8b1 Top Performing class

Harry P most points

Maxi L most progress

On average students made 17% improvement overall

8b1 made 21% improvement

From Reception

REMINDER: 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 Swallow, Head of Design Technology

Year 7 Homework - Sock Puppets!

Some brilliant Year 7 sock puppet homework has been created by textiles students - one of my favourite homework's! Well done Year 7!



From Mrs Watson, Careers Advisor

Amazing Work Experience Opportunity at Leonardo

We would like to invite your Year 11 students to apply for this amazing Work Experience Opportunity!

Students would join Leonardo on 29th - 31st October for three days of onsite work experience finding out firsthand what it is like to work in the Aerospace industry.

On site at their Yeovil facility, students will gain a Bronze Industrial Cadets Accreditation to show all they have achieved.

From this Work Experience your students will:



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From Mrs Watson, Careers Advisor

- Gain experience of project work, teamwork and problem solving.
- Learn from Senior Leaders, Graduates and Apprentices about their journey
- See the site, see the many things they develop on site and gain an understanding of the aerospace industry.
- Interactive workshops and activities
- Use your imagination, individuality, and creativity in the design process.
- Have the opportunity to understand some of your own strengths and areas for improvement.
- Writing and developing your CV and learning interview techniques
- Have a good chance to think about a career in engineering, or other profession, or in the aerospace industry, or in Leonardo!

The Leonardo Work Experience is for Year 11 students.

Do not delay - [APPLY NOW](#) – Limited Spaces!

From Mrs Withers, Head of Maths

REMINDER: 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

News from the Canteen

Daily Overspends

We have been advising the students but also wanted to information parents and carers;

Daily overspends on student accounts will no longer be allowed to be exceeded. If you require an increase on your child's daily spend limit in the canteen, please contact Helen Martin in the Finance Department who can change this on their account.

If you require assistance with this, please contact helen.martin@ansford.net.

Themed Menus and celebrations

On Thursday 17th October we have a South Africa themed menu at lunchtime.

The week of 14th-18th October we are celebrating Cupcake Week where we will have a variety of homemade cupcakes available at break and lunch.



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From Our Student Community

Mia S in Year 8 - Winner of the BBC Fundraiser Award!

Many of you will remember seeing news of Mia in previous bulletins - Mia is not shy of a challenge and is always on the look-out to help raise money for various causes!

Last week she won the Fundraiser Award for BBC Somerset 'Make a Difference' Awards! Well done Mia, we are very proud of you and your achievement!!



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From Our Local Community

Interested in Girls Football? Wincanton Youth Football Club Needs you!



Girls Needed
Are you interested in Football?
Would you like to play for
Wincanton Girls U13
(Honey Bees)
School years 7 and 8

Training takes place
Fridays 5:00 - 6:30 PM
at Wincanton Racecourse
With
Winter training @ Sherborne
Astro turf 6:00 - 7:00 PM
From 1st Nov 2024

Contact The Coach Chris Watson - 07463675560 or chriswatson7474@yahoo.co.uk

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Family Events at Wells Cathedral

We have lots of exciting events for families coming up very soon at Wells Cathedral.

As well as our usual family holiday activities (29th – 31st October), we have a fun community event on Saturday 12th to celebrate Wells Eco+ Week which is open to all.

EXCITING ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILIES AT WELLS CATHEDRAL

Eco+ Week at Wells Cathedral

Saturday 12 October (10am-12pm, 1-3pm) Join us on a mossy adventure to learn about this tiny but hugely important plant. Watch a short film, look at mosses under the lens and get creative with wool to help make a massive mossy carpet!

For families and individuals of all ages. (Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.)



Between 11th – 20th October, to celebrate WEN's (Wells Environmental Network) Wells Eco+ Week, you can also follow our **Earth Explorer Trail**, come to **Environmental Storytime** (5s and unders), and write a **Prayer for the Planet**. Find out more at wells cathedral.org.uk/ecoweek



Family Holiday Activities – Bishop Bubwith's Books

29th-31st October (10:30am - 4pm) Explore the Cathedral and visit our extraordinary chained library; solve puzzles and uncover fascinating stories; design medieval postcards and make your own mini chained library book to take home!

All events are drop-in only (no need to book) – and are free with adult entry. There is no charge for children. Standard adult admission tickets include re-entry for 12 months from date of purchase so you can enjoy access to many events, exhibitions and family holiday activities beyond your initial visit. NB Only assistance dogs are allowed at family activity sessions.

SASP CYP Schools Bulletin - Free resources and programmes!

Please see [here](#) the September 2024 SASP CYP School Bulletin - lots of great resources and programmes for our young people.



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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.

Governor

[Governor I Ansford Academy](#)

www.ansford.net

Do you have the time
and skills to be an
examinations
invigilator?

We are seeking to expand our team of invigilators, who work with us on a casual contract basis to support the Examinations Office in the running of internal and external examinations.

For more information and how to apply, see the vacancies page on our website:

<http://www.ansford.org.uk/vacancies>

Ansford Academy, Maggs Lane, Castle Cary, Somerset, BA7 7JJ
Tel: 01963 350895
Email: mailbox@ansford.net

Exams Invigilator

[Exams Invigilator I Ansford Academy](#)

www.ansford.net

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

[Ansford Academy Staff Vacancies](#)



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