# **Bulletin for Ansford Families**



Issue 4: 25th October 2024

# Message from the Headteacher Mr Powell

**Dear Families** 

So we have now completed our first Term and, at 8 weeks, it was the longest of the academic year.

Students have worked right up to the end this week and (while they are obviously ready for a break) we haven't had any lapse in commitment or motivation. I was never one for films or games for the last day of term (they can do that next week if they want) and teachers and students have fully followed that commitment to hard work in every lesson they are in school. You only get one chance at an education and it is important to not waste it.

That was very much the theme of my assembly last week where I invited students to consider the value of their education. I gave them some rough figures about how much it had cost to educate each year group up to 16 (it's a lot) and got them to consider it as an investment in our society as well as them. Education is expensive, and at this point in their lives I challenged them to use every opportunity they are given and every minute they get to spend with their teachers. It is an opportunity they won't get again.

This week also saw our MHST meeting providing valuable training to parents on mental health issues and it was well attended. These are important issues and the school is keen to support parents in any way we can. Many thanks to all who attend and for MHST for putting on the event.

Year 11 Parents Evening will be on our first week back and this is a vital opportunity for parents to discuss their child's progress and their commitment to their learning at a crucial juncture in the year. Year 11 mock exams start mid-November and we would expect Year 11s to be geared up to show us exactly what they can achieve. Mocks are the first step in preparing for exams and success there gives students the confidence to know they can take on the real exams without fear next summer.

In fact, we have had a full focus this term on updating all our assessments across each year group. We have aligned our format and set very clear benchmark boundaries so that students are confident they have accurate marks and, more importantly, are clear about what they have to do to improve. Assessments are not about just checking where students are - they are about providing valuable information on how to get better so that every student can



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improve on their confidence and knowledge in every subject. Great job to my teachers for all the work they have put into those assessments and well done to all the students who have sat them with ambition and enthusiasm, ready to show us what they can do.

My assembly for the first week back is grandly titled 'The First 100 days'. I'm taking a bit of a liberty with the timings but (modelling the American presidential tradition) I will be sharing with the students how far we have already come since September and our next steps in the coming weeks and months.

For me the big wins have been the curriculum assessment changes as well as our far more structured and ambitious reading programme. But we have also made major leaps in managing the site and the school feels like a calm and focused environment for learning.

I look forward to the next 100 days and our next stage of changes.

So the weather next week is looking 'changeable' but I have a wonderful and wet week in Wales planned with me and the dog walking on the beach. Whatever you're doing, I hope you all have a fantastic week and for the students a well-deserved break.

We can officially start talking about Christmas when we get back.

### **Class Charts**

So from discussion with parents, it seems that some of you are not using our Class Charts App. This is an important tool in sharing pastoral updates and rewards (of which there are hundreds awarded every day) as well as informing parents of any detentions that are issued. It is also a great way of monitoring and getting ahead of any issues that may be happening in school and informing your own discussions and (in some cases) rewards and restrictions at home. For example, I know many of our parents run a system of 'grounding' a child or restricting IT access for two detentions or family treats for a certain number of positive logs.

Please can I ask that if you are not using, or unable to log-on to Class Charts to please contact Liz Morgan <u>elizabeth.morgan@ansford.net</u>. Liz will send you out your own login details and instructions on how to use the system.

### **REMINDER: 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/carers should not park nor 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.



# Message from the Headteacher Mr Powell

• 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.

Assembly Rota					
4th - 8th November	The First 100 Days  • Headteachers address	Mr Powell			
	Year 11 - Exams Officer Mocks Briefing [extended assembly]	Mrs Dyal			
World Science Day (10 November) Remembrance Day (11 November)					
11th - 15th November	Remembrance Day Tutors will deliver Remembrance	Tutors			



Academy Calendar: Key Upcoming Events						
Week	Date in October	Event Details	Location/Timing	Staff Contact		
2		Cake Sale - Prom Fundraiser	Break and Lunch	Mrs Martin		
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				
1	Tuesday 5th	Staff V Year 11 Football - Prom Fundraiser (weather dependant)	Details below	Mrs Martin		
1	Wednesday 6th	Blood Brothers Theatre Trip	Details below	Mr Newbury		
1	Thursday 7th	Year 11 Parents Evening	Details below	Mr Musson		
1	Friday 8th	School Nurses Pop-up Stand	Dining Hall, lunchtime	Miss Fulton		
2	Monday 11th	Year 11 Mock Exam Fortnight Commences	Details below	Mrs Dyal		
2	Tuesday 12th	STEM Engineering Challenge Day	Details to follow	Mr Hill		
2	Wednesday 13th	Year 11 Strode College Taster Day	Details to follow	Mr Musson		
1	Tuesday 19th	STEM Women in Engineering Challenge Day	Details to follow	Mr Hill		



# **Notices**

# From Mr Karl Musson, Deputy Headteacher

### **REMINDER: 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 have been issued to students and emailed home to parents. See link below from Mrs Dyal for a copy if you require it.

### **REMINDER: 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 have been contacted 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

### Halloween and Bonfire Night Safety, Support over Half Term

We wish all our families a very happy and safe half term. With both Halloween and Bonfire Night ahead of us, we wanted to share the advice that school received about both events.

Please see our information sheet here.

# From Mrs Sweetlove, Pastoral Support Leader

### REMINDER: Moments Matter, Attendance Counts - Information for Families on Attendance

Please see information <u>here</u> providing information about attendance and guidance surrounding if school absence is appropriate.



# From Mrs Dyal, Communication & Operations Manager

### **Year 11 Mock Exam Timetable**

We wish our Year 11 students all the very best in their Mock Exams coming up after Half Term.

Please find the timetable <u>here</u>, for your information.

Should any students have any questions or queries over this period, they may come to the Exams Office for assistance.

Do you have the time and skills to be an Examinations Invigilator?

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

Amford Academy, Maggo Lane, Castle Cary, Somerset, BA7 7JI Tel: 01963 350895 Email: mailbox@ansfort.net

### **REMINDER: 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 Mrs Comyns, Business Manager

# The Fixy Project

We have recently donated our electronics waste to The Fixy Project - see their website here.

The Fixy project promotes reuse, repair and recycling throughout Somerset using 'Fixy' the promotional van. The vehicle travels the county supporting existing repair groups, engaging new audiences and taking repair and reuse from 'niche to norm'.

Look out for them across the county.





# From Mrs Clements, PFSA

### **Tuning into Kids - Emotionally Intelligent Parenting**

I am running the first Tuning into Kids session at North Cadbury Primary School on 12th November, if you have any primary school aged children, please do come along.

We hope to be running a Tuning into Teens programme in the New Year - watch this space!!



# **Emotionally Intelligent Parenting**

A six-session parenting program for parents

Would you like to learn how to:

- . be better at talking with your child?
- · be better at understanding your child?
- help your child learn to manage their emotions?
- help to prevent behaviour problems in your child?
- · teach your child to deal with conflict?

Tuning in to Kids shows you how to help your child develop emotional intelligence. Children with higher emotional intelligence.

- have greater success with making and keeping friends
- · have better concentration at school
- are more able to calm down when upset or angry
- tend to have fewer childhood illnesses

Emotional intelligence may be a better predictor of academic and career success than IQ!

Where: North Cadbury C of E Primary School

When: starting Tuesday 12th November 9.15am

Contact: Rachel Clements Rachel clements@ansford.net



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

**REMINDER: 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: <a href="https://www.instagram.com/campsint/">https://www.instagram.com/campsint/</a>.

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

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





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

# **Upcoming STEM Events!!**

We have 2 exciting STEM events coming up after half term.

On the 12th November, there is a STEM - Engineering Challenge day aimed at Year 8 and 9 students. The following week is the Women in Engineering day.

Both of these events are taking place at the Fleet Air Arm Museum. We are fortunate to have been offered places for two teams of 6 students on both events.

I have been promoting this in assemblies to introduce these opportunities to students - if your child is interested in taking part in these exciting and well run events, please ask them to collect a letter from me, Mr Hill.





# From Mrs Grove, Head of PE

### **Girls Hockey!**

Year 9 Hockey Girls v KA - draw 1-1

The girls played their first game of the season against KA. After great participation at training, the girls played as a great team and gained confidence in the second half - going 1.0 up. The KA team were determined and came back with a sneaky goal leaving the game at a 1-1 draw. Player of the match Alice A.

Year 9 Hockey Girls v Huish Episcopi - won 2-0

The girls were confident for their second match and kept possession well from Huish. The attack created lots of opportunities but we could not find the goal, however a persistent team and some great balls into the D gave us the opportunity to score 3 goals. Well done girls. Player of the match Alice A.

### Year 11 Hockey Girls v KA - draw 1-1

Thank you to Mr Darby who made his debut as a Hockey Umpire. Unfortunately, due to Violet's controversial lifted balls he was relegated to cameraman! Well done girls I hear it was a good game. Congratulations to all that played their last hockey match representing Ansford.



### **UPDATE: Year 2 Multi-Sports Festival - 15th October**

What a pleasure it was to spend the afternoon with these fantastic students. They absolutely shone this afternoon and were amazing ambassadors for the school.



Our new Year 9 student leaders led our first Primary school Festival this afternoon, leading a Year 2 Multi-Sport Festival. Congratulations to the following students who led sessions on Danish Longball, Tag Rugby, Caterpillar Cricket, Netball, Badminton and Boccia. The Primary school staff were particularly impressed by the leaders and the primary school students loved the sessions.



Well done everyone.

### **REMINDER: Year 7-9 Students - Kit Requirements**

KS3 students will now require a gum shield and football boots for their PE lessons. Gum shields are back in stock and can be purchased from the PE Office at a cost of £3.

# From Mrs Morgan, Data and Examinations Assistant

### **Year 11 Parents Evening Link**

The Year 11 Parents' Evening is on Thursday 7th November and face-to-face and online bookings are available.

There is a link to the Parents Evening system on the front page of the school website. If you are having problems accessing this or need your login pin number, please contact Liz Morgan: elizabeth.morgan@ansford.net.



# From Mrs Kasereka, Teacher of Language **MFL Club** Students are invited to our weekly MFL Clubs! MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES CLUB MFL2 LUNCH 13.50-14.20 KS3 Thursday This week it is a film. Thanks to come along and enjoy cooking, games, films, food tasting music, crafts.... Bring your lunch. Merci FRENCH CLUB IN MFL2 UNCH 13.50-14.20 French KS4 Wednesday Come along and work on your homework exams strategies and grammar. Bring your lunch. Merci



### From Mr Kershaw, Head of Science

### **REMINDER: 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 (<u>Combined Biology</u>, <u>Combined Chemistry</u>, <u>Combined Physics</u>, <u>Separate Biology</u>, <u>Separate Chemistry</u>, <u>Separate Physics</u>) 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 Mr Newbury, Teacher of Drama and Head of Year 11

### Year 11 Blood Brothers Theatre Trip – Wednesday 6th November 2024

As part of their final exam in Year 11, Drama students are required to study Blood Brothers practically and respond to exam questions as well as write a review on a different live performance, both worth a total of 40% of their GCSE.

To help them with this I have planned a trip to watch a performance of Blood Brothers at the Kings Theatre, Portsmouth. I am currently in the process of organising another trip for the Live Review and I will provide a letter for this later in the term.

The performance starts at 2.30pm, so we will leave school at 11.20am, travelling in the school minibus. Students will need to bring a packed lunch that day to be eaten on the bus whilst travelling to the theatre and are able to wear their own clothes for the day. We anticipate returning to Ansford at around 7.30pm. Students are permitted to bring money to purchase a programme and/or refreshments.

We look forward to giving you an update on our trip with some photos!

# **From Reception**

### **Return of Borrowed Items**

Our stocks of loan uniform are quickly depleting!

Please can we remind families to encourage the students to bring borrowed blazers and ties back into school the following day they have been borrowed.

If we do not have sufficient stocks of uniform to loan, we will have to request that uniform be brought in by a parent or carer should a student arrive in school without it.

## From Mrs Martin, Finance Manager

## **Prom Committee and Fundraising**

I have a very large and very enthusiastic Prom Committee this year, which has been so pleasing to see! We have lots of fun events planned to raise money for Prom, the first one has taken place today in the form of a Cake Sale during break and lunchtime, we raised over £120, which is a great start to our fundraising!



# From Mrs Martin, Finance Manager

Our next event is our Students vs Teachers football match at lunchtime on Tuesday 5th November (weather permitting). Entry for students to watch will be £1.00 plus we will also be selling sweets - CASH ONLY PLEASE.

See poster below, we thank families in advance for their support, and hope the students will enjoy the events!





# From Mrs Watson, Careers Advisor

### Oxford University - Exeter College Visit, Wednesday 23rd October

A group of our Year 11 students had an exciting trip to Oxford University where we were hosted by Exeter College.

Students experienced talks about Oxford University and heard from current students about University life and what it's like to study there. We had a tour of the College and heard about underground tunnels to libraries and saw places where Harry Potter had been filmed.

After lunch in a very grand dining hall, we walked across Oxford to take part in seminars on STEM - Physics; and Humanities - Human Rights Law which were led by Oxford researchers. The researchers were really impressed with our Ansford students and how they engaged with the topics and discussions and had great things to say.

Students enjoyed the day and the experience - and the lunch!

### Eliza said:

'I didn't know that you couldn't apply to both Cambridge and Oxford. I also didn't know that you couldn't get a job during term time' and 'The best bit for me was the human rights session. I thought it was really interesting and engaging'

Interested in finding out more about Oxford? Go to www.ox.ac.uk.





### **From Caterlink**

#### **News from the Canteen**

### **REMINDER: 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.

# **From Our Local Community**

### **Yeovil Town FC Post-16 Programme Phase 1 Trials**

Yeovil Town FC are excited to inform you about the upcoming Phase 1 Trials for Yeovil Town FC's Post-16 Football Programme, an opportunity for Year 10 and Year 11 students.

### Phase 1 Details:

Date:Tuesday, 29th October

Venue: Huish Park Stadium, Yeovil Town Football Club, BA22 8YF

**Session Times:** 

Year 10 Trials: 09:00 - 12:00 Year 11 Trials: 12:30 - 15:30

Our Post-16 Programme combines high-level football training with academic education, offering a fantastic opportunity for talented players to develop both on and off the pitch. Players must register online to secure their place in the trials, as there are limited spaces available for each year group. The programme is available for both the men and women's sections of the club.

### Registration Here!





OCTOBER HALF TERM
TENNIS ACTIVITIES

JOIN US FOR SOME SPOOKY
HALLOWEEN TENNIS

AVAILABLE AT

YEOVIL TENNIS CLUB ON 31 OCT

FROM 9AM - 3PM
FOR CHILDREN AGED 5-16
£16 HALF DAY (9-12)
£29 FULL DAY (9-3)
SIBLING DISCOUNT AVAILABLE

CONTACT LUKE ANDREWS

07437 404242

✓ Latennis@hotmail.com



Visit us online: clubspark.lta.org.uk/LATennisCoaching

REMINDER: 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 Winter training @ Sherbor Astro turf 6:00 - 7:0 From 1st Nov 20: Contact The Coach Chris Watson - 07463675560 or chriswatson7474@yahoo.co.uk



### **REMINDER: 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 11<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> 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 wellscathedral.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.

### REMINDER: SASP CYP Schools Bulletin - Free resources and programmes!

Please see <a href="here">here</a> the September 2024 SASP CYP School Bulletin - lots of great resources and programmes for our young people.



# **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** 



