

# Bulletin for Ansford Families



Issue 6: 29th November 2024

## Message from the Headteacher Mr Powell

Dear Families

So Christmas is very much in the air at the academy - as is the sound of the Matilda rehearsals. I love the play but now have the songs swimming around my head non-stop. The performers have put in a huge amount of time and effort and, if you haven't already done so, please make sure you join us for one of the shows. Tickets are selling fast and we will soon have no seats left, so don't be disappointed.

This week saw our Year 11 mock interviews and I want to personally thank all the local employers and members of the Ansford community who joined us to support the event. The feedback from visitors was overwhelmingly positive, commenting on the high levels of maturity and commitment to the morning from our students.

Feedback from the students was equally positive, who (despite initial nerves) all really valued the experience and saw it as an important step towards future interview confidence and success. Year 11 were told to wear interview appropriate clothing and they all looked amazing. There were some very sharp suits and a few students discovered it is very hard to walk for any period of time in high heels. Another life skill to learn it seems.

My assembly this week was on one of our core values at Ansford - **Respect**. I shared with the students some of the role models in my life who I most respected, including the story of my grandfather who fought in WW2 and with whom I lived growing up. I asked the students to consider their own role models and the reasons they respected them - challenging them to look for such qualities as perseverance, courage, honesty and kindness, rather than just being brash or aggressively confident as we often see with some of the influences our children see online. Respect in all aspects of our school life is the bedrock of a happy and successful experience at Ansford and it has been wonderful to see our students actively embrace making this a calm and respectful environment in which all our students can feel safe and thrive.

And talking of good influences and supporting us to be our best, this week saw the return charity match game with the staff vs students charity netball match. Staff were ever hopeful after their thrashing at football but alas the score now stands at 2-0 with another resounding victory to the students. Many thanks to the staff for supporting



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and commiserations for the stiff joints felt the next day. Youth and energy again proved to be too much of an advantage.

We end the week with our Movember ritual shaving of moustaches and many thanks to Mr Mitchell, Wilson and Sandy for being such great sports. We are convinced that Mrs Wilson needs to keep his rather impressive attempt but he is very clear that it needs to go and support the Movember mental health awareness work our students have set up. This will be supported by an assembly next week, where students will be sharing their plans as well as raising awareness for the charity. Students will have seen the ALEC posters around the schools which directly link to our mission to be a talking school where we share our issues and concerns.

Can I do a final plug for my 'Meet the Headteacher' this week. This is an opportunity for me to briefly explain our recent changes but, more importantly, to listen to your own aspirations for the school. This event will take place on the 4th December between 4.30 and 5.30 and I will be joined by Mr Musson our Deputy Headteacher for Curriculum. I intended this meeting to be forward looking and to focus on the next stages for the academy. All are welcome and I'll even see if we can rustle up some biscuits.

So enough from me. There's a whole bulletin to read. Many thanks to you all for your ongoing support of the school and for helping us make Ansford a highly successful and engaging experience for every child.

Have a great week.

### **Our Thanks - Vale of Camelot Growers**

We extend our sincere thanks to the Vale of Camelot Growers, of Sparkford, for donating our Christmas Tree this year! It is a beauty and the students are delighted.



## Message from the Headteacher Mr Powell



## Assembly Rota

2nd - 6th December	Lockdown Assemblies	Ms Hirst
<a href="#">Human Rights Day</a> (10 December)		
9th - 13th December	Human Rights/Protected Characteristics	Mr Powell



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<b>Academy Calendar: Key Upcoming Events</b>				
<b>Week</b>	<b>Date in December</b>	<b>Event Details</b>	<b>Location/ Timing</b>	<b>Staff Contact</b>
1	Wednesday 4th	Whole School Immunisations - Flu		Miss Fulton
1		Cross Country Tournament - details to follow		Mrs Grove
1		Meet the Headteacher - details below		Mrs White
1	Thursday 5th	Matilda Rehearsals - All day		Mr Newbury
1	Sunday 8th	Matilda Rehearsals - details to follow		Mr Newbury
2	Tuesday 10th	Year 11 Mock Exam Results - details below		Mrs Dyal
2	Wednesday 11th to Friday 13th	Matilda Production - Tickets on Sale Now!		Mr Newbury
2	Friday 13th	Prom Fundraiser - Hotdog Sale - details below		Mrs Martin
1	Monday 16th	Year 11 Christmas Carol Trip - details to follow		Mr Newbury
1	Monday 16th	Year 7 Jack and the Beanstalk Trip - details to follow		Mr Davis
1	Wednesday 18th	Autumn Colour Match 2 - Santa Run - details to follow		Mrs Grove
1		Student Christmas Dinner - details to follow		Mrs Martin
1		Christmas Jumper Day - details to follow		Mrs Martin
1	Friday 20th	Last Day of Term - School Closes 1pm		
<b>Week</b>	<b>Date in January</b>	<b>Event Details</b>	<b>Location/ Timing</b>	<b>Staff Contact</b>
2	Monday 6th	School Opens to All Students		



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## Notices

### From Mr Karl Musson, Deputy Headteacher

#### REMINDER: Year 11 Revision Timetable

The full programme of revision for this term is [here](#).

### From Ms Hirst, Deputy Headteacher: Welfare and Inclusion

#### Household Support Fund

You may be eligible for support from Somerset Council and the Household Support fund, see details [here](#).



#### Koothtalks Webinars

From KoothTalks; We're pleased to invite you to our upcoming KoothTalks webinars for professionals and families on Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA) and emotionally supporting young people with SEND/ASN and Neurodiversity scheduled for December 2024.

See full details [here](#).



#### Kooth - Online Mental Health and Wellbeing Support for young People

Please find below a letter from Senior Engagement Lead from Kooth:

Over the coming weeks your child may mention they have been made aware by school or a professional of a service called Kooth. It provides a safe, secure means of accessing online emotional health support from a

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## From Ms Hirst, Deputy Headteacher: Welfare and Inclusion

professional team of qualified counsellors and emotional wellbeing practitioners for ages 11-18+ (up to 25 if care leaver/SEND).

Kooth offers wellbeing support 365 days a year via a range of self-help materials and peer to peer support which young people are able to contribute to. Kooth also has an online wellbeing team from 12pm- 10pm on weekdays and 6pm- 10pm on weekends offering 1:1 text- based online counselling via live chat or messaging.

Kooth is free to access via any internet- enabled device. Your child simply needs to visit [www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com) and click 'Join Kooth'. Everything is pre-moderated and age appropriate, in order to safeguard our users, so you know that what your child is accessing is safe.

Kooth will be working with all schools and professionals across 93% of the UK and growing to support students' mental health and wellbeing, both in and out of school. Alongside this, Kooth provides parent sessions, so keep in touch with the school or agencies to find out when the next ones are. I have pre recorded 2 sessions for you to watch. The 5 minute overview can be found [here](#) and a more in-depth 15 minute recording can be found [here](#).

I have also included a selection of parent/Carer resources that can be accessed using this link: [Parents/Carers resources](#).

If you have any questions or would like to discuss what Kooth.com can offer, please address them to the school. If you would prefer to contact Kooth directly, simply email [parents@kooth.com](mailto:parents@kooth.com).

Kind Regards  
Lauren Finn  
Senior Engagement Lead



### Important Information - Online Safety

Please find [here](#) a letter relating to fake online accounts and online safety.

### REMINDER: Students and medication

Please could we remind you that no student should have any sort of medication in school, e.g. paracetamol etc. If children have any medication that they need to bring into school then this needs to be handed in at reception and taken at the prescribed time during the day.



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## From Mrs Wood, SENDCO

### The Children's Autism and Outreach Team (CAOT)

The Children's Autism and Outreach Team (CAOT) offer support for families of students (age 5-14 yrs) with an Autism diagnosis or who are on the pathway awaiting assessment, Please see information about their coffee mornings and activity days below:

[CAOT Info and Activity Dates](#)

[CAOT Coffee Mornings](#)

### REMINDER: Somerset EPS ADHD training

Somerset EPS are offering a free online ADHD training that is available to staff, parents and other professionals working to support children and young people with ADHD. Parents/carers of CYP who either have a diagnosis of ADHD or are on the waiting list for an assessment. The dates are as follows:

- Monday 18 November 2024, 9.30am – 12.30pm
- Wednesday 19 March 2025, 9.30am – 12.30pm
- Thursday 19 June 2025, 9.30am – 12.30pm

The Local Offer page contains more information: [ADHD Training with Educational Psychology](#).

If parents/carers would like to attend then please email me ([rebecca.wood@ansford.net](mailto:rebecca.wood@ansford.net)) with your name and email address so that I can register you.

Service delivered in partnership with



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From Mrs Sweetlove, Pastoral Support Leader - Attendance Intervention & DDSL

Attendance Information - Moments Matter, Attendance Counts

# MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

## Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance

### Per Parent, Per Child

Penalty Notice Fines will now be issued to each parent, for each child that was absent.

For example, two siblings with unauthorised absence during term time may result in each parent being issued with one penalty notice per child.

### 5 consecutive days of Term Time Leave

Penalty Notice Fines will now be issued for Term Time Leave of 5 or more consecutive days.

### 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period

Penalty Notice Fines will be considered when there has been 10 sessions (5 days) of unauthorised absence in a 10 week period.

### First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance, the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child, paid within 28 days.

Reduced to £80 per parent, per child, if paid within 21 days.

### Second Offence

(within 3 years from the date of issue of first penalty notice)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance, the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

### Third Offence

(within 3 years from the date of issue of first penalty notice)

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance, a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. Magistrates' fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child.

This is a criminal offence and a parent may end up with a criminal record.



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## From Mrs White, PA to the Headteacher

### Meet the Headteacher

Wednesday 4th December  
4:40pm - 5:30pm

See our letter containing full details via our website [here](#).

## From Mrs Dyal, Communication & Operations Manager

### Year 11 Mock Exams Results Afternoon

Tuesday 10th December  
3:15pm - 3:30pm

On Tuesday the Year 11 students will attend a 'Results Afternoon' (within the school day), where they will collect their Mock Exam results in the same way that they will collect their GCSE results in August next year.

We wish them the best of luck!!



**From Ms Evans, Teacher of Horticulture and Forest School**

**The 12 Dips of Christmas!!**

I'm going to be doing the 12 Dips of Christmas Challenge this December to help raise money for Cancer Research UK. Please show your support and help fund life-saving research by donating to my page.

[Fund-raising for Cancer Research UK.](#)



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## From Mrs Grove, Head of PE

### Year 7 Hockey Team - Yeovil League Finalists

Congratulations to the year 7 Hockey team who beat King Arthurs in the semi-finals to take their place in the Hockey Finals on Tuesday. The girls went 1-0 up in the first 5 minutes but unfortunately a lapse of concentration meant Gryphon school took 2 consecutive goals.

A half time chat from Mrs Grove was enough for the girls to come back fighting and take a second goal. Ansford also had several shots but couldn't find the back of the net. Final score 4-2. Special mention to Lola M who scored a cracking goal just off the baseline, Chloe W for her excellent passing to set up the attack and stop Gryphon from going through our defence. Player of the match Ruby S.

### Year 8 Hockey Team - Yeovil League Finalists

Congratulations to the year 8 Hockey Team who beat Westfield 4-0 in the semi-final to earn their place in the final against Sexeys. Player of the match Leonie R.

Despite a rocky start during the Westfield game, the girls picked themselves up in the final with some words from Mrs Grove and strong balls from Chloe at the back found the stick of Karina and Leonie to create some great attacks on the Sexeys goal. Unfortunately Sexeys goalkeeper made some great saves and stopped Ansford from taking the lead and we went 1-0 down. The Ansford team picked up the effort and scored a great equaliser. With the final score at 1-1 a golden goal decided the winning team and Sexeys were able to make their way past our defence to score the winning goal. Player of the match Karina.

Congratulations to both teams who represented Ansford school with excellent resilience and sportsmanship.

Good luck to the Year 9 Hockey team who are due to play a strong Holyrood team in the semi-finals on Tuesday.

### PE KIT

Now that the weather has turned colder please ensure your children are dressed appropriately for PE lessons. We are outside for most of our lessons so students need to dress appropriately. This includes the Ansford Hoodie only and black tracksuit bottoms. If they would like to wear a beanie hat or gloves then this is also ok, but coats and scarves are not permitted in PE lessons.

Can we also check that we have not gained any extra PE kit, as the PE department is running low on PE tops which were fully stocked at the beginning of the year! Please can we clearly name PE kit as it is extremely difficult to find lost kit that is not named!



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## From Mr Newbury, Head of Year 11

Get your Matilda Tickets!!

Rehearsals are in full swing:



Buy your tickets [here](#) via Ticket Tailor.



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Ansford Academy Proudly Presents



ROALD DAHL'S  
**Matilda**  
THE MUSICAL JR.

**Performance dates:**

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024

**Time:** 7pm – Doors open at 6.30pm

**Key information:** Tickets- £6.00 and can be purchased using this link

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/ansfordacademy> or the QR code above



Book by  
Dennis Kelly

Music & Lyrics by  
Tim Minchin

Roald Dahl's *Matilda The Musical JR.* is presented through special arrangement with  
and all authorized materials are supplied by  
Music Theatre International, New York, NY  
(212) 541-4884 mtishows.com



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## From Wendy Watson, Careers Advisor

### Year 11 Mock Interviews

As part of preparations for life after Ansford, Year 11 took part in mock interview practice this week. They attended a briefing workshop run by a professional consultant, learning about interview do's and don'ts; how to communicate positively; and how to dress to impress.

This was put into practice with individual mock interviews held with employers, post 16 providers and members of our local community.

Interviewers were bowled over by the quality of students' performances and said they struggled to find room for improvement. They were hugely impressed with the talents, achievements and ambitions of our Year 11 and students certainly dressed well, performed well and were a credit to themselves and to Ansford.

Well done, year 11!!



## From Mrs Martin, Finance Manager

### Prom Fundraising - Staff vs Y11 Students Netball

Luckily the weather held out for our Netball match on Wednesday. It was an exciting match and very close but the students just won 4-3.

It was a lovely event, thank you to everyone who supported us, we raised £113 on the day.

Our total Prom fundraising to date is £562.50. More events to come, watch this space.



## From Mrs Martin, Finance Manager

### The Great Ansford Shave Off!!!

The Great Ansford Shave Off has been a wonderful success with £105 raised via online donations and cash received during the event. Students and staff alike enjoyed the spectacle of Mr Sandy, Mr Mitchell and Mr Willson shaving off their moustaches!

Thank you to all families that have donated and helped us make a difference for Movember, the leading charity changing the face of men's health.

Before and after!



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**From Mrs Rice, Head of English**

**REMINDER: Latest Edition of G.O.A.T Tales**

See [here](#) for Edition 5 of G.O.A.T Tales!!



**From Mrs Clements, PFSA**

**MHST (Mental Health Support Team)**

Selfcare Advent Calendar from MHST.

**SELF CARE ADVENT CALENDAR 2024**

Print your copy [here](#). Accompanying resources [here](#).





## From Caterlink, Canteen

### Festive Menu!!

We are doing a special 12 days of Christmas Festive Snacks menu. Most of these will be run at break time alongside our usual offering, with the exception of 18th which is our Christmas Lunch day!



**FESTIVE Snacks**

- Turkey, Brie & Cranberry Pizza - 4th December
- Pigs in Blankets Turnover- 5th December
- Christmas Dinner Sandwich - 6th December
- Turkey, Cranberry & Stuffing Wraps - 9th December
- Cranberry, Sage & Sausage Christmas Cracker - 10th December
- Quorn Roast, & Cranberry Stuffing Baguettes - 11th December
- Roast Pork, Stuffing & Apple Sauce Baps - 12th December
- Chocolate Orange Cupcakes - 13th December
- Festive Snack Pot - 16th December
- Christmas Tree Biscuits - 17th December
- Christmas Lunch - 18th December
- Hot Turkey & Stuffing Baguettes - 19th December

**caterlink**  
feeding the imagination



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## **From Caterlink, Canteen**

### **Breakfast Club**

Breakfast club is still running, available from 8.30am - includes free porridge and other breakfast items for £1 or less (e.g. Bacon roll, Tater tots, Cereal & milk)

### **Spending Limits**

If students have a daily spend limit on their account they will not be able to go over this, there are no exceptions. If you require an increase to the daily spend limit please contact Mrs Martin in Finance who can get this changed.



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## From Our Student Community

### Gold Winner for Primary Engineer MacRobert Medal Awards - Ben M in Year 7!!!

The Primary Engineer MacRobert Medal was designed to celebrate the achievements of the school pupils, students and young engineers who have all worked together to create innovative and world changing prototypes. These prototypes came from the ideas who school pupils aged 3-19 who answered the question "If you were an engineer, what would you do?" as part of Primary Engineer's Leaders Award Competition.

This is a collaboration between The MacRobert Trust and Primary Engineer to recognise the innovation and creativity of the next generation of engineers, with ongoing support from WEIR Group.

The Primary Engineer MacRobert Medal celebrated it's third year in 2024, with the Official Award Ceremony being held in Glasgow. 24 prototypes were built, 17 were shortlisted and 10 were awarded medals. The judging panel consisted of some of the most senior figures in the engineering industry, who deliberated over every applicant. Gold, Silver and Bronze medals were handed out at the award ceremony as we celebrated their amazing achievements.

From nearly 76 THOUSAND design entries to the competition, it came down to 10 medals - Bronze, Silver and Gold.

Ben was awarded..... GOLD!!! Huge congratulations to Ben



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## From Our Community

### The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

We received thanks last week from The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, thanking us for our support in selling Poppies and their Poppy related items in school - our box raised £39.55, contributing to £7,000 locally.

Thank you to all students and staff who help make a real difference to those in the Armed forces community.



### Space to Learn Project

This project is fully funded by the UK Space Agency to deliver high-quality, curriculum-focused, physics-based masterclasses to GCSE students (Years 7 to 11) and A-Level students (Years 12 & 13).

This project aims to use space contexts within physics to teach and inspire, whilst removing barriers to opportunity. The content will be delivered by one of our Space Advocates (a specifically trained outstanding science teacher) within the convenient setting of your own school.

Bookings are now open for the Autumn and Spring terms of the 2024/2025 school year, and spaces are filling up quickly.

To sign up to our project and book your schools masterclass, you will need to **fill in our online enquiry form which can be found [here](#)**.

If you would like more details on the space to learn project, you can go to:

<https://nationalspaceacademy.org/what-we-do/space-to-learn>

If you would like more information on the National Space Academy, please follow the link below:

<https://nationalspaceacademy.org/>



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## From Our Community

Once we have your details, we will confirm the dates and begin booking your school in for a masterclass. If you have any questions at all, please do let me know.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

## 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.

### **DT Technician**

[DT Technician I Ansford Academy](#)

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

### **Governor**

[Governor I Ansford Academy](#)

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

### **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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