# **Bulletin for Ansford Families**



Issue 8: 17th January 2025

## Message from the Head of School Mr Musson

#### Dear Families

As we end our second week back after the Christmas break it has been a delight to have had lots of conversations with students about the learning they have experienced in recent days. I had a lovely conversation with a student who told me they had just started to learn about Oceans and how inspired they had been as they were not aware of the vast array of wildlife that lives at the depth of our hidden world.

On Monday 6th January, our teaching staff were invited to join a collaborative Inset Day with the MNSP trust as part of our transition into joining the trust. The focus was subject development work including targeted training led by the Trust Subject Leads. In addition to this, our senior leaders attended a leadership conference looking at various aspects of leadership. It was a great day all round providing excellent staff training along with the opportunity to meet other colleagues in the schools within the Trust.

Last night we hosted a key event for our Year 9 students and parents - Options Evening. Our Year 9 students are now embarking on the process of choosing their options. The evening provided our students, parents and carers information about the process and the opportunity to speak to our teachers about the courses we run. Making informed decisions about subject choices is vital to ensure our students' study an ambitious and appropriate curriculum. If you still have any emerging questions please do not hesitate to contact Mr Mitchell who will of course be very happy to help (rob.mitchell@ansford.net).

Lastly, the uniform continues to look great and I would like to thank you for your support with this - especially with the jewellery.

Have a lovely weekend Karl Musson



20th - 24th January	Years 7-10 Olympian interview	Ms Mitchell/Mrs Radford-James/M Hirst
	Year 11 - Post mocks - closing the gap (feedback/responses) / evaluation. Next steps, structured learning in and out of school	Mr Mitchell
Holocaust Memoria	al Day (27th January)	
27th - 31st January	<ul> <li>Ansford Ethos - Metacognition</li> <li>How we learn</li> <li>Cognitive overload</li> <li>Structured learning</li> <li>Revision strategies</li> </ul>	Mr Mitchell
	Year 11 - NEA deadlines/meeting & exceeding targets. 2nd Mock prep. Employability ready/CV - competitive markets/above & beyond	Mr Mitchell
	<u>th</u> (begins 1st February) <del>Jealth Week</del> (begins 4th February)	
3rd - 7th February	Children's Mental Health Awareness Week 3-9th Feb 2025	Ms Hirst
10th - 14th February	<ul> <li>ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY 3</li> <li>Subject/Tutor Group winners</li> <li>Top 5 girls/boys</li> <li>Tutor group winners</li> <li>Individual accolades/achievements</li> </ul>	Heads of Year
	Half Term	1



Academy Calendar: Key Upcoming Events				
Week	Date in January	Event Details	Staff Contact	
2	Monday 20th	Year 11 Hospitality & Catering Practical Exams - Group 2 - details below	Miss Voit	
2	Tuesday 21st	Year 8 Trip to Shepton Mallet - details below	Miss Wilson	
2	Wednesday 22nd	Tag Rugby Tournament - details to follow	Mrs Grove	
2	Thursday 23rd	Year 9 Parents Evening - details below	Miss Macey	
2	Friday 24th Inset Day - School Closed to Students			
1	Monday 27th	Year 11 Hospitality & Catering Practical Exams - Group 3 - details below	Miss Voit	
1		Ski Trip Meeting - 5:45pm	Mr Darby	
1		Year 4 Team Building Festival - details to follow	Mrs Grove	
1	Tuesday 28th	ESU - Churchill Public Speaking Competition - details to follow	Mrs Hardy- Stewart	
Week	Date in February	Event Details	Staff Contact	
2	Monday 3rd to Friday 7th	I Can, I Am Bus in School (Year 10) - details to follow	Ms Hirst	
2	Tuesday 4th	Year 11 Group and Individual Photos - details to follow	Mrs White	
2	Wednesday 5th	Provisional - Year 11 Trip to Poetry Live	Mrs Rice	
2	Thursday 6th	Year 11 Parents Evening - details to follow	Mrs Macey	



2	Friday 7th	Provisional - Year 11 Prom Fundraising Quiz Night	Mrs Martin
1	Tuesday 11th	Spring 1 - Colour Matches - details to follow	Mrs Grove
Half Term - School Closed Monday 17th to Friday 21st			
2	2 Monday 24th School opens to all students		
2	Monday 24th	Year 11 Mock Exam Fortnight begins	Mrs Dyal



## Notices

## From Mr Rob Mitchell, Assistant Headteacher - Teaching and Learning

#### **REMINDER: Start the New Term with Full School Equipment**

We ask families to ensure that students start the new term with fully replenished equipment upon returning to school in January. We know that being equipped enables students to feel successful, prepared, and ready to learn. It is also part of our home Academy Agreement that students come to lessons with the correct equipment.

The equipment listed in our 'Equipment Checklist' is the minimum standard requirement for all students. We recognise that some families may require some support with this, if this is the case please get in touch.



Reminder following our letter last term that a fiction reading book is an essential item of equipment that students should bring to school each day. See the letter issued to families <u>here</u>.



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

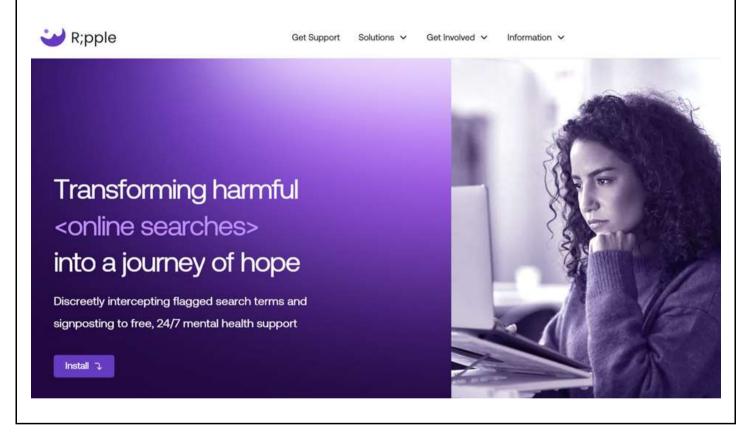
#### **Mental Health and Suicide Prevention**

We would like to signpost families to <u>https://www.ripplesuicideprevention.com/</u>, this is an organization set up by the sister of a young man who took his own life. She accessed his online activity and found he had made over 90 suicide related searches in the months before he died.

By downloading R;pple onto home devices, phones etc. all searches that may include possible suicide related materials are blocked and a screen directs you to mental health services.

The charity that set it up estimates that they have saved 31 lives in the short time that they have been operating.

The software is completely free; please have a look at the website (link above).









## From Mr Cue, Assistant Headteacher

#### **Guest speaker from Ask Apprenticeships**

The presentation focused on Apprenticeships - what they are, what job options there are for them and how you can search for them using online tools. The guest speaker also covered T Levels as a post 16 option - what they are, what vocational subjects are offered and progression value post 18.

Below are some useful links your child might find beneficial:

- Find an Apprenticeship (gov.uk) Find an apprenticeship GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
- The Institute for Apprenticeships (to read about the course content, NOT vacancies) <u>Apprenticeship search /</u> <u>Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education</u>
- Amazing Apprenticeships resources and information <u>Amazing Apprenticeships</u>
- Apprenticeships (<u>gov.uk</u>) resources and information Apprenticeships
- UCAS apprenticeship information and vacancies (levels 2-7) UCAS Apprenticeships
- Skill Up Somerset, free and impartial advice for individuals and businesses on apprenticeships and skills <u>Skill Up</u> <u>Somerset</u>
- National Careers Service, careers advice, skills tools and job profiles <u>National Careers Service</u>.



## From Mrs Wood, SENDCO

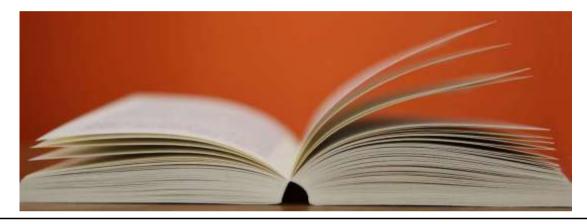
#### Whole School Literacy

As part of our ongoing work to develop student's literacy skills across the curriculum, the second round of NGRT testing will be happening over the next couple of weeks.

All students in Years 7-11 will complete this online testing and the data produced will be used to target students who may benefit from further reading support. If this applies to your child then you will be notified of the support offered to them.

#### **Reading Books**

Can I also please remind all parents that every student should have a reading book in school (in their bag) so that we can make the most of every reading opportunity within school.





## From Mrs Grove, Head of PE

#### U13 boys cricket

The boys went off to Wells Blue to play a triangular against the Blue and Somervale. A strong Wells team showed off their cricket skills and took the win from Ansford. Our second game against Somervale showed off our cricket bowling and excellent batting giving us the win.

Congratulations to all involved. It's the turn of the U15 boys next week - good luck lads.

#### PE kit

Please ensure students are wearing appropriate PE kit for the weather, most lessons are inside this term but students still need to bring their hoodies or rugby tops.

Any spare donations of old PE kit would be gratefully received, including football boots.

#### Extra-curricular Sports Activities this Term!

Please ensure students sign up to clubs using the google form. Without this they will not be allowed to attend, remember to let us know if your child is unable to make an after school club.

If your child is, or would like to attend an afterschool club, please complete the google form link <u>here</u>.



DAY	LUNCHTIME 1.45pm - 2.30pm	AFTER SCHOOL 3.30-4.30pm
MONDAY	KS4 NETBALL - DG	
TUESDAY	X-COUNTRY CLUB - JD KS3 BASKETBALL- MD	KS3 Netball Club - DG KS3 Football - MD & JD
WEDNESDAY	HANDBALL - DG YEAR 7 MULTI-SPORTS JUST DANCE-KS3	Badminton Club
THURSDAY	KS3 Dodgeball GCSE Table Tennis (invitation only)	Cricket - CC Cricket
FRIDAY	KS4 BASKETBALL - MD TABLE TENNIS CLUB	12





#### Swindon Dance Open Days

Swindon Dance's Centre for Advanced Training (CAT) delivers world-class dance training to young talents aged 11-19. Our programmes cater to dedicated dancers with a passion for their art. Comprising the Exeter Contemporary, Exeter Street Dance, Swindon Contemporary, Swindon Ballet and Swindon Street Dance programmes, we are one of nine National CATs across the UK. Talented young dancers join us from the Southwest to embark on this transformative journey.





## YOUR STUDENTS WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS

Sign up for Free Open Days <u>here</u>.

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

#### Youth Speaks Senior Competition January 2025

On Wednesday evening, Ansford Academy hosted the first round of the Senor Youth Speaks Competition. There were two teams competing: a Year 11 team from Wells Blue School speaking on whether Social Media has hindered society's ability to debate and the Year 10 To Be or Not to Be Ansford team consisting of Tegan S, Will R and Maddie J speaking about whether Euthanasia should be legalized.

Due to a last minute illness, the Ansford Originals lost one of their speakers, Tom G, so decided to withdraw. Noah C and Liam H from this team still attended to help with refreshments and hosting showing admirable team spirit.

All six speakers on the evening were very impressive. In the end, the judges chose the Wells Blue team to go through to the next round but they were very clear that it was only by a very narrow points margin.

One judge also said that the speakers' answers to questions from the floor were the best he had ever seen.

A hearty well done to To Be or Not to Be who quoted Hamlet three times! All the senior Youth Speakers should be



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

proud of all their hard work for this event. Get well soon Tom!

## From Miss Wilson, Teacher of English

#### Year 8 Shepton Mallet Prison Trip - Tuesday 21st January

On Tuesday, sixty Year 8s will enjoy the Shepton Mallet Prison Experience. This is an excellent opportunity for them to complement their learning on their current Unit Topic: Crime & Non-Fiction Writing.

- Students register in tutor room at 9am then make their way to the canteen.
- Depart Ansford: 9.15am
- Prison Tour and Education: 10am 1pm
- Depart Prison: 1.15pm
- Arrive back to Ansford for Lunch and Period 5.

We look forward to providing an update and some photos in the next bulletin!

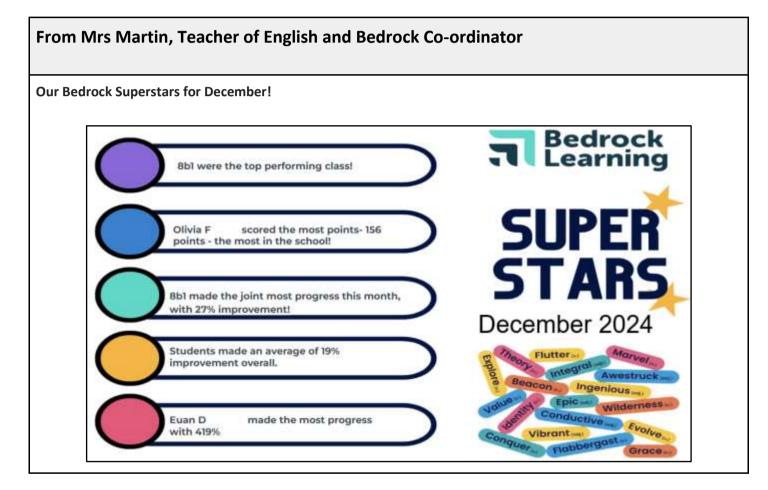


## **From Reception**

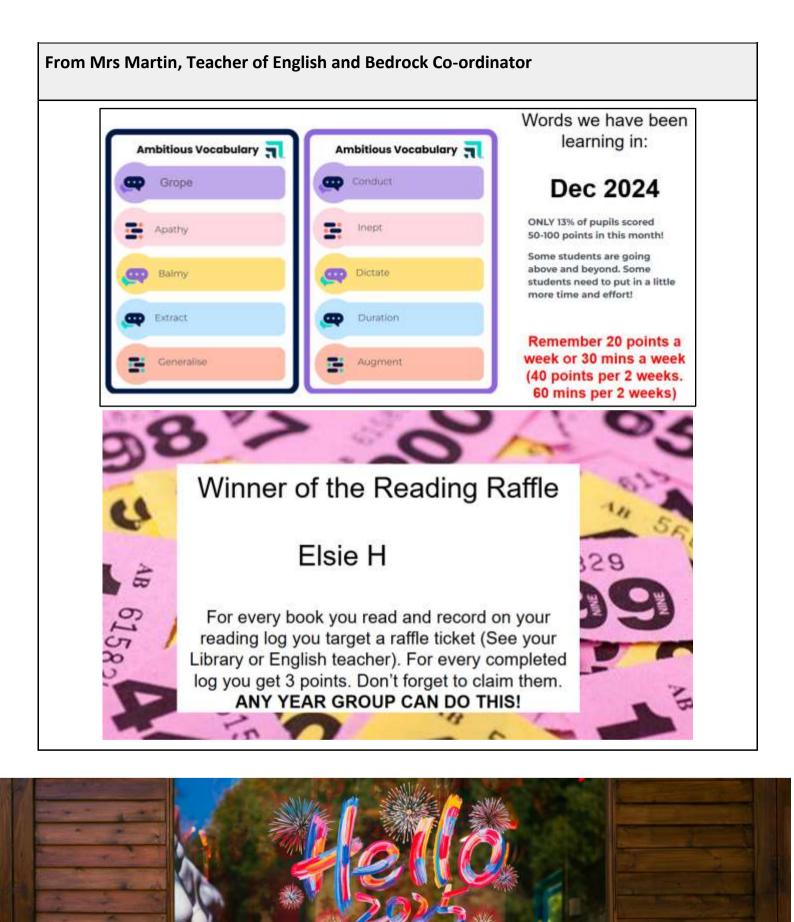
#### **REMINDER: Return of Borrowed Uniform**

Over the course of the autumn term, we have loaned lots of uniform in the form of ties, blazers, skirts. We are now at a critical low of uniform (particularly blazers and ties) to loan out. Please may we ask that all borrowed items be returned so our stocks can be replenished.

We will now keep a log of borrowed uniform - if borrowed uniform is not returned we will charge the cost of the item from our Second-hand Uniform Shop.







## From Mrs Rice, Head of English

#### REMINDER: Goat Tales - Edition 6 - December 2024

A new editorial team has been working on the latest edition of G.O.A.T. Tales. It's hot off the press and you can read it here.



## **From Miss Voit**

#### Food Practical Dates for Years 7-10

See <u>here</u> for Food Practical Dates for Years 7-10.

#### Year 11 Hospitality & Catering Practical Exams

Year 11 Hospitality & Catering Practical Exams started this week, well done to the students in Group 1!! The next two Mondays will see the further groups complete their exams - the students have been given their group details.

#### **REMINDER: Sweet Tubs calling!**

It's that time of year again!!!!!

If any families have any sweet tubs (Hero's, Swizzels sweets etc.) and you don't need them anymore please can I have them for students to take their food home in! Do drop them into Reception.



## From Wendy Watson, Careers Advisor

#### Are you interested in the RAF or Military Careers?

Join the RAF virtual event on 29th January to find out more about the organisation and the variety of job roles they offer. It's not all about being a pilot!





## From Wendy Watson, Careers Advisor

#### Strode College Open Evening and Apprenticeships

The next Strode College Open evening will be on 13th February 2025. Register on their website to attend: <u>https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/strode-college</u>.

Strode College - Apprenticeships - joining our Strode College Online Interactive Apprenticeship Webinar



Register now to save your spot! <u>https://forms.office.com/e/PKXshqZP7s</u> - once registered, you will be provided with a link to join the webinar closer to the time.

#### **REMINDER: Post 16 Applications and Next Steps for Year 11**

All Year 11 student families have been sent a letter at the end of last term with an update on the Post 16 process; it is also on our website under the 'Letters Home' area <u>here</u>.



## From Mrs Clements, PFSA

**Free Workshops from Ruth James, Reducing Parental Conflict Coordinator, Somerset Council** FREE bite-size workshops to help separated parents successfully co parent their children.

If you are a separated/divorced parent struggling to navigate coparenting you might be interested in one of the new FREE bite-size workshops being offered by Ruth James, Reducing Parental Conflict Coordinator, Somerset Council.

Ruth has spent the last 18 months working with separated parents to help them reduce conflict in their coparenting relationship.

Date & time	Торіс	Link
Wednesday 15 January 9:30 AM- 10:30 AM your	A separated parents' guide to successful coparenting communications	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/107 3000546519?aff=oddtdtcreator
Wednesday 15 January 2 PM-3 PM	Managing handovers and transitions for separated parents	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/107 3028389799?aff=oddtdtcreator
Tuesday 21 January 2 PM-3 PM	Helping your children navigate separation and divorce	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/107 3078549829?aff=oddtdtcreator
Thursday 23 January 9:30 AM-10:30 AM	Managing handovers and transitions for separated parents	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/107 3084758399?aff=oddtdtcreator
Wednesday 29 January 7 PM-8 PM	A separated parents' guide to successful coparenting communications	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/107 3016704849?aff=oddtdtcreator
Tuesday 4 February 7 p.m8 PM	Helping your children navigate separation and divorce	https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/107 3104998939?aff=oddtdtcreator



## From Caterlink, Canteen

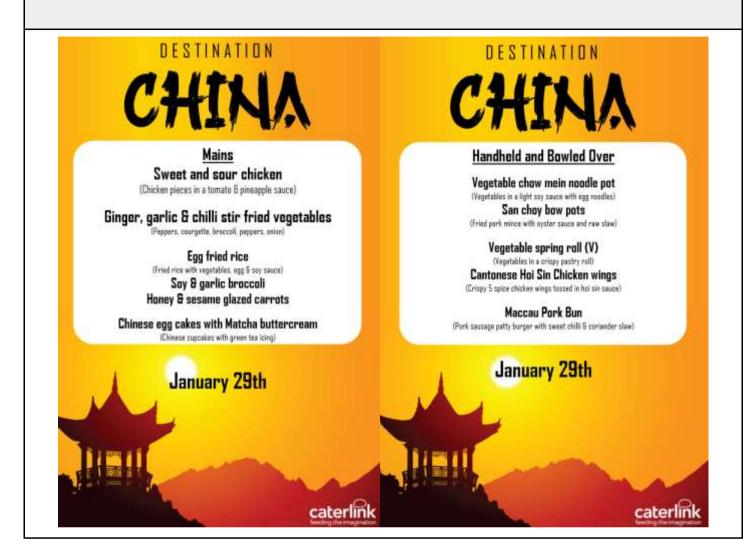
#### **Our Upcoming Theme Days!**

On Wednesday 22nd January, we have a music festival theme and on Wednesday 29th January, we celebrate Chinese New Year.





## From Caterlink, Canteen





## From Our Student Community

#### Well Done to Castle Cary Cygnets Majorettes Yearly Award Winners!

The following students won awards/trophies at the recent Castle Cary Cygnets Majorettes Yearly Awards:



- Ruby P won the Carnival Effort Trophy and received a Gold Medal for her Majorettes Merits (Junior).
- Heidi G won the Display Trophy.
- Emily D won the Attendance Trophy and received a Gold Medal for her Majorettes Merits (Senior).
- Lucy H won the Senior Effort Trophy.

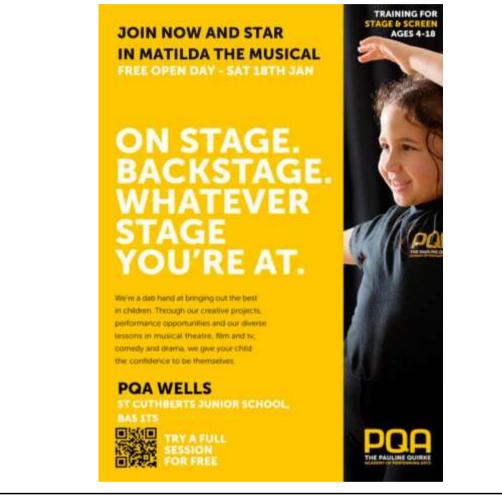
Many congratulations!



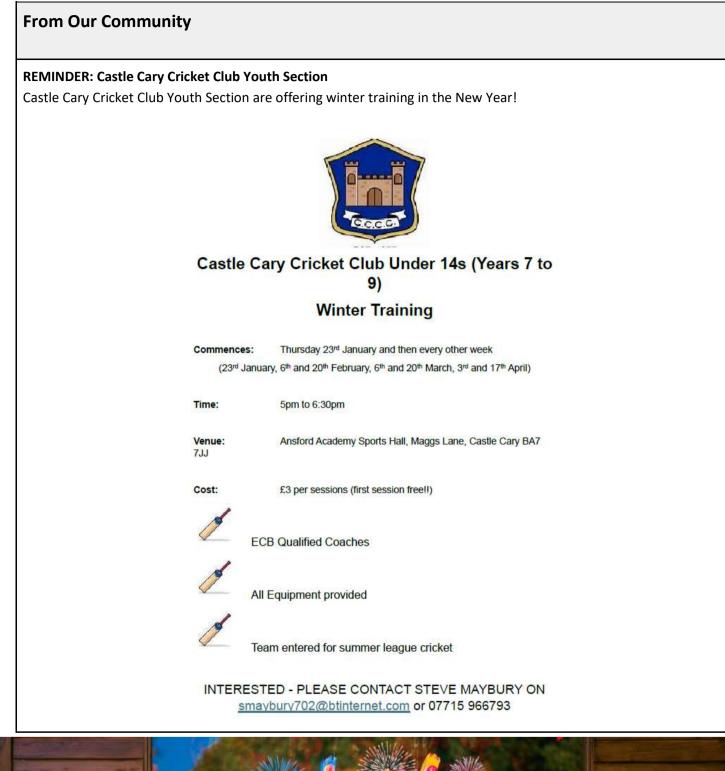
## **From Our Community**

#### Free Performing Arts Sessions at one of our Local Schools

The Pauline Quirk Academy of Performing Arts extend an invite to all of our students to attend their FREE Open Day and Taster Session, THIS SATURDAY from 9:45am - 1pm. They are based at St Cuthbert's Junior School in Wells, where they deliver a high standard of performing arts training to children aged between 4 and 18 years old. They are just about to start rehearsals for our summer musical - Matilda The Musical.









## **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

For further information on vacancies, please click on the link below. <u>Ansford Academy Staff Vacancies</u>

