

# Bulletin for Ansford Families

Issue 9: 31st January 2025

## Message from the Head of School Mr Musson

Dear Families

The dark nights and mornings of January have finally come to an end - hooray! I must say though, despite the dark mornings (and evenings) I have thoroughly enjoyed the past month. It has been a real pleasure to lead our school in its continued improvement journey.

Last week 60 of our Year 8 students went on a trip to Shepton Mallet prison for the morning (and they all came back!). The visit was enjoyed by all and the experiences shared in the classroom will really benefit our students in studying their current English Crime and Non Fiction Unit.

On Friday, we held an Inset Day where we focused training on assessment and structured learning. As part of our drive for improvement, we are really excited to be introducing a structured learning cycle that is used in lessons to ensure consistent approaches of delivery - and so supporting students in having the same learning routines in every lesson.

Next Friday (7th February) is the big quiz night to help raise funds for the Year 11 prom. I'm very much looking forward to the evening, it should be a fun night. I've been told to make sure that I have a student on my team as last year's winning team did - not that I'm competitive at all!

We have recently invested in purchasing a Laser Cutter for DT. We are really fortunate in receiving a very kind donation by a member of the Ansford Community (who has asked not to be named) which significantly helped towards the cost. The machine looks pretty impressive and will really enhance our students' experiences within the DT department.

There are now only 10 full weeks of teaching time before the GCSE summer exams start. As a parent who has taken two daughters through GCSEs, I know how quickly this time will pass. I also know how stressful this time can be so please do not hesitate to contact Mr Newbury if you have any concerns or worries. Preparation is one way of helping avoid stress points. Mr Mitchell and I delivered an assembly to Year 11 this week focusing on the psychology of students' honesty towards the amount of revision they are completing and the excuses that are used to avoid it. We must be honest in acknowledging that revision is hard (and boring!) but the benefits are huge. Year 11 have their second round of Mock exams starting on the 24th February and structured revision every evening is the key to success.



**Report a student absence by phone: 01963 350 895 or by email [attendanceofficer@ansford.net](mailto:attendanceofficer@ansford.net)**

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## Message from the Head of School Mr Musson

Mr Powell and I visited a number of lessons yesterday and we were both so impressed with the purposeful learning taking place in lessons. It's been a joy to see students engaging and filling their minds with new ideas. There was a very clear message in the air that school is a place of work.

At the beginning of the month, I spoke to students about the importance of being prepared in lessons for learning by bringing the correct equipment including a reading book (equipment list below). Please support your child by replenishing any missing items so your child is ready to do the best they can in lessons

Thank you for your continued efforts in making our students wear their uniform with pride. Please can I remind you that students must only wear one stud in each ear lobe.

Have a lovely weekend, Karl Musson



<b>Assembly Rota</b>		
<a href="#">LGBT+ History Month</a> (begins 1st February)		
<a href="#">Children's Mental Health Week</a> (begins 4th February)		
3rd - 7th February	Children's Mental Health Awareness Week 3-9th Feb 2025	Ms Hirst
10th - 14th February	ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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		
<a href="#">Shrove Tuesday</a> (21st February)		

<b>Academy Calendar: Key Upcoming Events</b>			
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 Photo - details below	Mrs White
2		Faraday IET Challenge day at King Arthur's School - details below	Mr Hill
2	Thursday 6th	Year 11 Parents Evening	Mrs Macey
2	Friday 7th	Year 11 Prom Fundraising Quiz Night	Mrs Martin
1	Tuesday 11th	Spring 1 - Colour Matches - details to follow	Mrs Grove



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1	Friday 14th	Last Day of Half Term	
Half Term - School Closed Monday 17th to Friday 21st			
2	Monday 24th	School opens to all students	
2	Monday 24th	Year 11 Mock Exam Fortnight begins	Mrs Dyal
Week	Date in March	Event Details	Staff Contact
1	Wednesday 5th	Hockey Tournament - details to follow	Mrs Grove
1	Thursday 6th	Year 8 Parents Evening - details to follow	Miss Macey

## Notices

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

#### Safer Streets

Year 9 and 10 had an assembly on Friday 31st January from an organization called 'Safer Streets'. They talk to students about how to manage and de-escalate conflict, how to remove themselves from risky situations, who they can report violence to, and how to do it safely.

A workshop session involved students writing and making podcasts designed to spread these important messages to other young people.

#### Online Safety

Once again, we have the need to write to parents about online safety and particularly about fake accounts that may be used to send unpleasant messages to others. We talk to students about this regularly and encourage them to inform us should they ever be subject to this type of online harassment.

The police take these incidents very seriously and recommend that these sorts of crimes are reported using the online form or through calling 101.



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

### 'I Can, I Am' Bus

The 'I Can, I Am' bus visits schools around the South West, it's purpose is to work with students on providing valuable tools to help improve self-esteem and maintain good mental health.

It is due to visit Ansford next week with all Year 9 and Year 10 students having the opportunity to spend a lesson on the bus looking at mental health and making pizza.

Here is a link to a video that explains what the bus is all about, click [here](#).

Year 11 took part in the venture last year and we had really good feedback from them. Years 7 and 8 get their turn as they move up the school.



*We are Cognitive*

WWW.WEARECOGNITIVE.COM

### Emotional Literacy

The National College have shared some advice for parents on helping children to develop their emotional literacy: 10 top tips for parents in Supporting Children to Develop Emotional Literacy

See the poster [here](#).

### REMINDER: Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

We would like to signpost families to <https://www.ripplesuicideprevention.com/>, 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.



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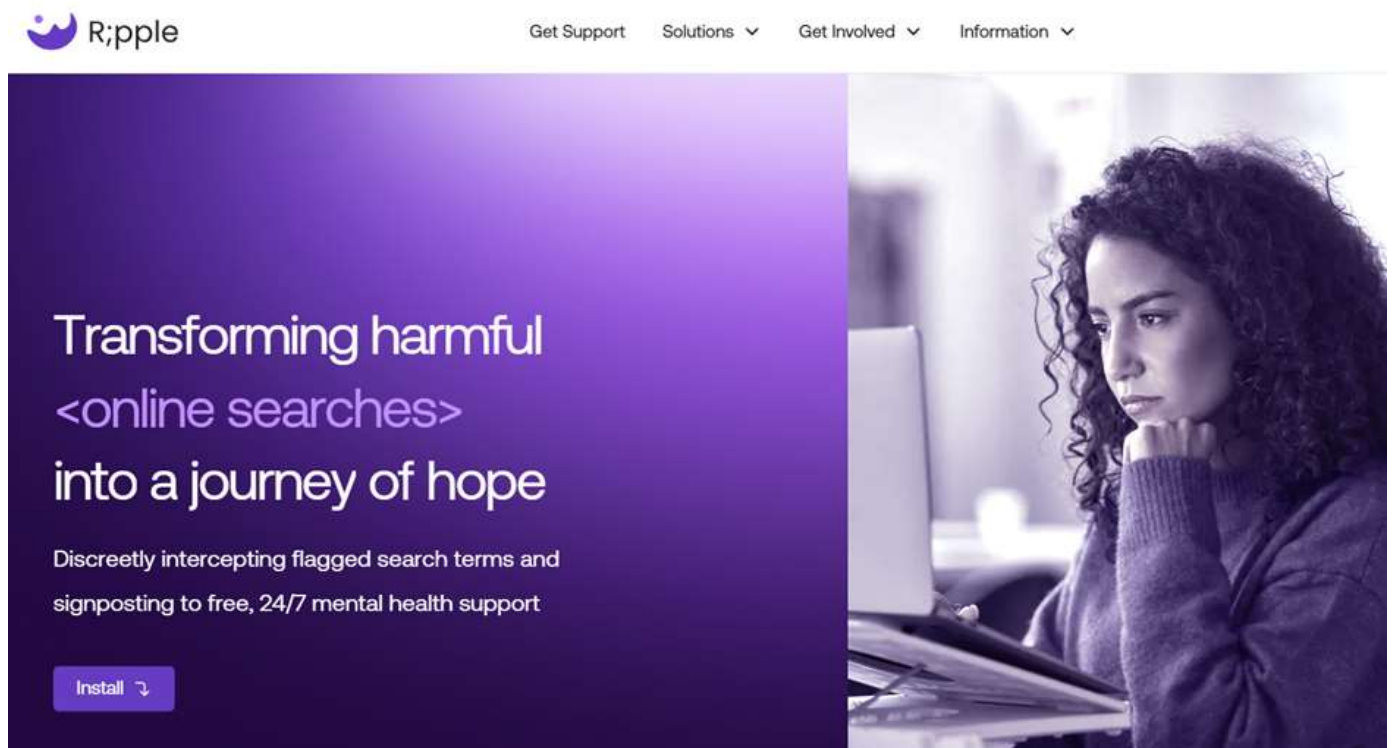
Contact the Academy by phone: 01963 350 895 or by email [mailbox@ansford.net](mailto:mailbox@ansford.net)

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

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).



R;pple

Get Support Solutions Get Involved Information

Transforming harmful  
<online searches>  
into a journey of hope

Discreetly intercepting flagged search terms and  
signposting to free, 24/7 mental health support

Install ↗

**REMINDER: Free Parent and Carer Webinars hosted by Somerset's Mental Health Support Team (MHST)**



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



Find out more details and the full programme of webinars [here](#).

## From Mrs Wood, SENDCO

### Somerset Parent Carer Forum C.I.C

Workshops for Information, Support and Education (WISE).

Being a parent carer of a child or young person with additional needs can bring extra situations which are challenging to know how to handle. To help support parent carers navigate these we have created a range of workshops based on the subjects you have told us would be helpful.

Alongside this we will also have a range of information workshops both face to face and online. We are grateful to NHS Somerset for funding the program and to the organisations who are supporting the delivery.

See details on the Wise Up Workshops page [here](#).

### REMINDER: 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.



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## From Mrs Wood, SENDCO



## From Mrs White, PA to the Head of School

### Year 11 Group Photograph - Tuesday 4th February

Please ensure all Year 11 students come dressed with full uniform on Tuesday, when we will be having the Year 11 Group photograph taken by Tempest photography.

## From Mrs Grove, Head of PE

### Year 4 Team Building Festival - Tuesday 28th January

Well done to the Year 9 Sports Leaders who confidently led our Primary Festival on Tuesday. The sports leaders led the students through a series of challenges including an assault course, drain pipe challenge, ski walking, puzzle relay, magic carpet and blindfold maze.

It was a great success!

### Our U13 Girls Cricket Team

Our U13 girls cricket team are through to the semi finals of the county cricket competition!! They played brilliantly against Wadham and Holyrood on Tuesday 29th January, losing by 5 runs against Wadham and beating Holyrood by over 30 runs.

Great first performance and I believe they have a lot more to come!

Well done to Leonie for excellent captaincy skills.



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## From Mrs Grove, Head of PE



### **REMINDER: 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.

### **REMINDER: Extra-curricular Sports Activities**

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 [here](#).



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## From Mrs Grove, Head of PE



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 Club
FRIDAY	KS4 BASKETBALL - MD TABLE TENNIS CLUB	

## From Mrs Withers, Head of Maths

### Year 11 Maths Information and Revision Schedule

The following information was sent to Families this week;

As we are approaching the end of the GCSE course, I'm writing to share some information about revision, support and assessment for Mathematics.

#### Revision sessions

Year 11 Maths revision will take place every Thursday from 3.30-4.30pm, both Foundation and Higher sessions. These sessions are open to all Year 11 students. Please find attached a revision schedule showing the topics being covered each week and the examination dates.

#### Maths Lunchtime revision



## From Mrs Withers, Head of Maths

In addition to the after school revision sessions, I'll be offering Maths revision on a Tuesday lunchtime in MA1. Topics covered at these sessions are also listed on the revision schedule. Students are welcome to bring their lunch.

### Year 11 Mock Exams

The second set of Year 11 mock exams will take place directly after the half term break, in the fortnight beginning Monday 24th February. Details of the three exam papers are below:

#### **Mathematics Paper 1**

Non- Calculator (1 hour 30 mins)

#### **Mathematics Paper 2**

Calculator (1 hour 30 mins)

#### **Mathematics Paper 1**

Calculator (1 hour 30 mins)

### Revision for mocks

Year 11 google classroom is where all revision lists are posted to support students' with their revision. Please encourage your child to access this classroom as part of their revision. Link below:

<https://classroom.google.com/c/MzY4MDYxMjY5NDAz>.

### General maths revision

GCSE Maths Revision google classroom has resources and past papers on all the Mathematics topics, and could also be useful when students are absent from a lesson and need to work independently. All year students should be accessing this during their weekly homeworks. Please encourage your child to access this classroom as part of their revision. Link below: <https://classroom.google.com/c/Mzc2NTgzNDA2NjJa>.

### And finally...

I hope that the information above is helpful in navigating the waters of GCSE Mathematics. In addition to the above, there are various different interventions taking place; you will be contacted separately about these if your child is selected to take part.

However, there are also things that you can do at home to support your child, such as talking to them about their EBIs ('Even Better Ifs' - from their previous mocks and recent assessments, these will be on feedback sheets that your child would have been given after each assessment), and encouraging them to revise these topics, using a range of resources: [MET website](#), [Maths Genie](#), [Corbett Maths](#) and [Mathswatch](#) (students have their own logins to this site), if there are any issues logging in, please ask your child to speak to their class teacher.

The Maths Revision Schedule is [here](#).



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

### ESU Competition - Second Round - Tuesday 28th January

On Tuesday afternoon, The ESU Ansford team consisting of Tegan S, Ronnie B and Noah C left the familiar launch pad of Ansford to board a craft that would take us to the distant planet of Bristol and the beautiful space station of Badminton School. A new member of the crew was the magnificent Mrs Dyal who navigated and steered all the way there and all the way back.

But what happened in between? There were six teams and Noah, our main speaker, was teamed with a chairperson and questioner from Preston School whilst Tegan (chair) and Ronnie (questioner) were teamed with the main speaker from Preston.

Noah spoke on the subject of: The reason aliens have not contacted us is because they think we are weird (Rude!). His funny (yet in places hard-hitting) speech covered conspiracy theories, aliens in hiding and why we humans are indeed weird and wonderful.

A panel of "esteemed judges decided that two schools would go through to the regional final. They were...drum roll please...Bristol Free School and...Ansford Academy!!!

The returning craft with its extra loud sat nav was filled with all 5 of us singing 'We are the Champions'!

This team will boldly go into the Regionals in late March.

Our Oracy flag is still flying this year!

Our students with both the ESU judges and the other winning team:



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

### **IET Faraday STEM Challenge Day - 4th February**

We have been fortunate enough to be invited to a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) challenge day at King Arthur's School in Wincanton on Tuesday 4th February. The IET Faraday STEM challenges are a nationally run series of events that aim to promote and inspire students about the world of STEM, and the exciting career opportunities that can be found in this area.

In our local area, there are many companies, working at the cutting edge of engineering, who will be looking for the next creative and aspirational young people to work in their industry. These challenge days are a fantastic way to find out more about the exciting and lucrative world of Engineering. The day will consist of team activities that are designed to promote teamwork and problem solving.

The group of students will leave school during the morning registration period and will return before the end of the school day and be back in time for the buses home. Students will need a packed lunch.

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

## **From Miss Wilson, Teacher of English**

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

Sixty Year 8 students had the fantastic opportunity to go on an educational visit to Shepton Mallet Prison last week. This was planned to complement the current Year 8 Crime and Punishment Unit which explores the relationship between crime and its reporting in the media. The unit also encourages students' engagement with the moral questions that underpin crime reporting and the effectiveness and appropriateness of punishment along with the relationship between the criminal and the society that produces them.

Students are now planning their final written assessment of a non-fiction editorial, opinion piece: the opportunity to explore the oldest prison in the UK excited the students and proved to be an excellent hands-on experience to help them choose their area of interest to write about. They enjoyed exploring the cells and hearing the vivid history of the prison and its occupants over the centuries.



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## From Miss Worthy-Jarvis, Head of Business and Computing

### Year 7 Music Students Enjoying Practical Time!

Year 7 music classes have been having fun exploring the different instrument families, so far we have experienced strings, percussion and this week, woodwind. The verdict is that flutes and violins are the hardest instruments to play, with saxophone and bass guitar being the easiest!



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## From Miss Worthy-Jarvis, Head of Business and Computing



## From Reception

### Return of Borrowed Uniform

We are now at a critical low of uniform (particularly blazers and ties) to loan out. Please may we ask that all borrowed items are returned so our stocks can be replenished.

We 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.



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## From Mrs Martin, Finance Manager

### Prom Fundraising - Quiz Night

To continue our fundraising for Prom this year, we are holding a Quiz Night on Friday 7th February - back by popular demand from last year.

Teams are between 4 - 6 people, our question-master, Mr Antoine, sets a broad range of questions and the ticket price of £10 per head also includes a meal during the interval, a choice of chicken or vegetable curry.

Doors open at 6.00pm with the quiz starting at 6.30pm.

We will be selling teas, coffees, soft drinks and sweets on the night plus holding a raffle with some fabulous prizes.

Raffle Prizes include Tickets to The Newt and A Boeing 737 Flying Simulator Experience!!!

Please note we are a **CASH ONLY** event so please ensure you bring cash with you to make payment for your tickets and for additional purchases.

You can book your team's place [here](#) - spaces are limited so please gather your team together and book in as soon as possible!




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From Mrs Martin, Finance Manager

BOOKING ESSENTIAL CASH ONLY



# QUIZ NIGHT

RECOMMENDED AGE: 11+

FRIDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2025

DOORS OPEN @ 6PM


QUIZ STARTS @ 6:30PM

ANSFORD ACADEMY

RAFFLE

REFRESHMENTS

BOOK HERE: £10 PER PERSON  
INCLUDES CURRY



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## From Mrs Morgan, Data & Examinations Assistant

### Year 11 Parents Evening - 6th February

There are still both face-to-face and virtual appointments available for Year 11 Parents' Evening on Thursday 6th February.

If you are having difficulties logging on or need your login code, please email [louise.macey@ansford.net](mailto:louise.macey@ansford.net).

You can access the parents' evening system here <https://ansford.schoolcloud.co.uk/> to book appointments or to update if you cannot attend.

## From Miss Voit

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

See [here](#) for Food Practical Dates for Years 7-10.

## From Wendy Watson, Careers Advisor

### Yeovil College Annual Apprenticeship and Careers Fair

Yeovil College are hosting their Annual **Apprenticeship and Careers Fair** on **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February, 5-7pm!**

This event will give learners the opportunity to speak with over 50 local and regional employers from a variety of sectors, with information on apprenticeship vacancies and their requirements.

Multiple universities are due to attend, opening more doors to learners.

Learners can register to attend here: <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/yeovil-coll>.

### Year 9 Careers Talks

As part of Careers support for the GCSE Options process, Year 9 have been visited by guest speakers over the last two weeks.

### T levels and Apprenticeships



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## From Wendy Watson, Careers Advisor

Last week they heard from Michelle Henderson from Bridgwater & Taunton College who gave students information on Vocational and Technical qualifications after GCSEs which included Apprenticeships and T levels.

Students said they were interested in the courses and were keen on and surprised by the amount of choice of subjects and job roles that were on offer as an alternative to A levels after Ansford.

To find out more about Apprenticeships: <https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/apprenticeships/>

To find out more about T Levels: <https://www.tlevels.gov.uk/>

To find out more about Bridgwater & Taunton College: <https://www.btc.ac.uk/>

### Employer talks

This week we were fortunate to hear from employers speaking about their work: the job they do; the people they work for; the range of jobs available in their professions; and the skills employers look for.

Did you know there are over 70 job roles in the British Army? Everything man-made first needs a designer? You can do an Apprenticeship to become a Solicitor as well as to become a Horticulturalist? Many thanks to our speakers for offering their time and expertise.

Ms Jasmine Hart – HR Assistant at Battens Solicitors: <https://www.battens.co.uk/careers/career-pathways>

Mr Austin Fewes – Architect and Lead Technical Surveyor at Aspire Defence: <https://aspiredefence.co.uk/jobs-board/>

Cpl Elliot Vernon – British Army: <https://jobs.army.mod.uk/regular-army/find-a-role/>

Mr Arthur Cole – Head of Operations at The Newt in Somerset

Mr George Owens – Graduate Horticulture Apprentice at the Newt in Somerset:

<https://thenewtinsomerset.com/careers>.

Year 9s - watch out for your Higher Education and University talk after half term!

### REMINDER: Strode College Open Evening and Apprenticeships

The next Strode College Open evening will be on 13th February 2025. Register on their website to attend:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/strode-college>.

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



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**From Wendy Watson, Careers Advisor**



The advertisement features the Strode College logo in the top left and the Apprenticeships logo in the top right. The main text reads: "Learn more about Apprenticeship Courses Interactive Webinar for 15 - 16 year olds". Below this, the date and time are listed: "Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025 6:00 - 6:45pm". A call to action says "Register now!". At the bottom, there are six circular icons representing various aspects of apprenticeships: a hand holding a lightbulb, two people shaking hands, two gears, a pair of scissors, a hard hat, and a hand holding a gear.

23rd January 2025 6:00pm – 6:45pm

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

**From Mrs Clements, PFSA**

**Tuning into Kids and Tuning into Teens Sessions This Term**



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From Mrs Clements, PFSA



## 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: Online

When: starting Tuesday 25th February 2025 7.30pm

Contact: Rachel Clements [rachel.clements@ansford.net](mailto:rachel.clements@ansford.net)



Report a student absence by phone: 01963 350 895 or by email [attendanceofficer@ansford.net](mailto:attendanceofficer@ansford.net)  
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# Tuning in to Teens



## Emotionally Intelligent Parenting

A six-session parenting programme  
for parents of adolescents aged 10-18

Would you like to learn how to:

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

**'Tuning in to Teens'** shows you how to help your teen develop *emotional intelligence*.

Adolescents with higher emotional intelligence:

- are more aware, assertive and strong in situations of peer pressure
- have greater success with making friends and are more able to manage conflict with peers
- are more able to cope when upset or angry
- have fewer mental health and substance abuse difficulties
- have more stable and satisfying relationships as adults
- have greater career success.

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

Starting 29<sup>th</sup> April 9.30am in person. Please contact

[rachel.clements@ansford.net](mailto:rachel.clements@ansford.net) to book a place.

Venue TBC (Ansford / Castle Cary area)



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

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

[Ansford Academy Staff Vacancies](#)



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