

Bulletin for Ansford Families

Issue 10: 14th February 2025

Message from the Head of School Mr Musson

Dear Families

Well the past 6 weeks have flown by! I cannot believe it is the end of term already and we will only have one more week of school when we return and then it is March! As a school both students and staff have worked so hard this term and I would like to personally thank our staff for all the hard work they have done in enabling our students to learn all the new knowledge and skills as planned in our new curriculums. I have been so proud of all the amazing work our students have produced this term - just brilliant, well done.

Quiz Night for Year 11 Prom

A big thank you to the parents and staff who helped organise and run the fantastic Quiz Night last Friday. What a fun night. It was a lovely evening (although taken very seriously!) with staff, parents and students all taking part. The event raised an amazing £705, which will contribute towards the expense of the Year 11 Prom and therefore help make the Prom a really enjoyable and memorable event for our Year 11's.

Faraday challenge

Mr Hunter who took two teams of Year 8 students to the Stem Faraday Challenge Day. Mr Hunter commented on the outstanding behaviour and enthusiasm the students demonstrated on the day and one team came back with a trophy! - a great achievement by all.

Bath Uni Trip

On Monday, a group of Year 10 students visited Bath University as part of our raising aspirations programme. The focus of the visit was for our students to get an insight of the courses available in studying Sports at degree level. This was a really valuable experience for them all to help broaden their understanding of the opportunities that are available to them.

Year 11

We held our second Year 11 parents evening last Thursday. This was the final calendared face-to-face opportunity for Year 11 parents to discuss the key strategies that are required to enable their child to be the most successful in their



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upcoming mocks and final exams. Although this is our last calendared contact with parents please can I encourage you to continue to be in contact with our teachers if you require any further advice or guidance on how to support your child at home with their examination preparation.

We have been developing a 'revision hub' area on our website for Year 11 to use to help support them with their upcoming examinations. Please use this [link](#) and encourage your child to use it. There will be regular updates to this site so please visit regularly.

Today is St Valentine's Day - a time to send messages of love and affections to partners, family and friends. Have a lovely day and half term - hopefully the sun will shine so we can all enjoy seeing the early signs of Spring.

Karl Musson

Assembly Rota

Half Term

24th - 28th
February

- No assemblies due to Mocks

[World Book Day](#) (2nd March)

[Shrove Tuesday](#) (4th March)

3rd - 7th March

- No assemblies due to Mocks

[International Women's Day](#) (8th March)

10th March - 14th
March

Human Rights/ Protected Characteristics
Year 11 - Final countdown, week by week requirements, NEA deadlines,
revision strategies, Easter Conference

Ms Hirst

Mr Musson & Mr
Mitchell

[Mother's Day](#) (19th March)



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Assembly Rota		
17th - 21st March	British Values - Democracy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● An introduction to the ideals of democracy ● Understanding the UK election systems [local / national] ● Exploring the roles of the H. of Parliament / Lords. ● The role of the Monarch in our constitution. Year 10 Yeovil College Guest speaker 20th March	Mr Cue/Heads of Year
Ramadan begins (23 March)		
24th - 28th March	Safeguarding - Child on Child abuse KNIFE CRIME <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● An introduction to what CoC is ● Understanding the impact of bullying ● Understanding personal responsibility to report ● Understanding the support systems provided 	Ms Hirst

Academy Calendar: Key Upcoming Events			
Week	Date in February	Event Details	Staff Contact
Half Term - School Closed Monday 17th to Friday 21st			
2	Monday 24th	School opens to all students	
2		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



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2	Tuesday 11th	Exeter Maths Circles (Foxtrot) - Year 8 - details to follow	Mrs Withers
2		KS5 Maths Inspiration Event - Year 10 - details to follow	Mrs Withers
2	Wednesday 12th	Millfield Maths Challenge - details to follow	Mrs Withers
2	Friday 14th	Ansford's Got Talent (provisional) - details to follow	Mrs Martin
1	Monday 17th	AMSP Maths Fest - Year 10 - details to follow	Mrs Withers
1	Thursday 20th	Year 7 Parents Evening	Miss Macey
2	Tuesday 25th	STEM Competition, Bristol - details to follow	Mr Hill
2	Wednesday 26th	Vaccine Catch-ups - Years 8-11 - details to follow	Miss Fulton
2		Year 11 GCSE Drama Exam - Presenting and Performing - details to follow	Mr Newbury
2		Netball Tournament - details to follow	Mrs Grove
2	Thursday 27th	Year 11 French Speaking Exams - details to follow	Mrs Kasereka
2	Friday 28th	Year 11 French Speaking Exams - details to follow	Miss Frost

Notices

From Ms Hirst, Deputy Headteacher: Welfare and Inclusion

REMINDER: 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



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From Ms Hirst, Deputy Headteacher: Welfare and Inclusion

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.

'I Can, I Am' Bus

Our Year 9 and 10 students had a wonderful time last week on board the 'I Can, I Am' bus, which visits schools around the South West - its purpose is to work with students on providing valuable tools to help improve self-esteem and maintain good mental health. Students were given 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](#).



REMINDER: 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](#).



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From Mrs Wood, SENDCO

REMINDER: 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](#).

From Mrs Dyal, Communication & Operations Manager

SHARE THE WINS! We are keen to hear about our students' achievements and successes!!

Please share news, achievements or success about your child so that we can celebrate them in our Student, Staff and Family Bulletins.

We love to hear about what they are doing in their time outside of school, and are keen to celebrate their achievements.

Please email your items to mailbox@ansford.net.



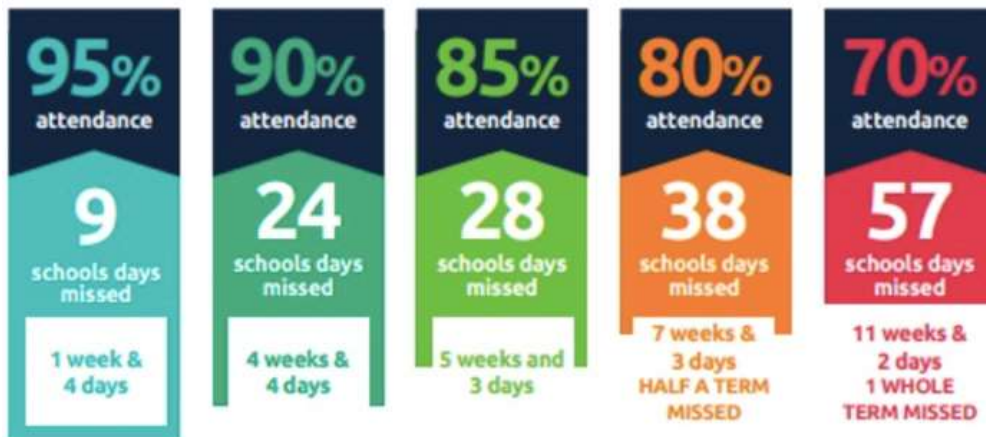
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Every Day in School Counts.....

Our School Attendance Target is 95% - We Need Your Help!

Every day in school counts...



and every minute counts...



Your child's future is built each day they are in school; support them in fulfilling their full potential by ensuring regular attendance to school.

Next term there will be a real focus on promoting the importance of high attendance and the link between attendance and attainment. Having a good education is an important factor in opening more opportunities in adult life.



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

Did you know that:

- a child who is absent a day of school per week misses an equivalent of two years of their school life
- 90% of young people with attendance rates below 85% fail to achieve five or more good grades of GCSE and around one third achieve no GCSEs at all
- poor examination results limit young people's options and poor attendance suggests to colleges and employers that these students are unreliable
- 7.5 million school days are missed each year through unauthorised absence

GCSEs may be near or may seem a long way off for you and your child but all absence at any stage leads to gaps in your child's learning.

This in turn can:

- mean that they fall behind in work
- affect their motivation
- affect their enjoyment of learning
- lead to poor behaviour
- affect their desire to attend school regularly affect their confidence in school
- mean they miss out on the social life of school and extra-curricular opportunities and experiences
- affect their ability to have or keep friendships.

Last week we saw the roll out of the 'Attendance Passport, this is an initiative that will support students in tracking their attendance and will open further lines of communication between tutors and tutees surrounding improving and declining attendance. Where there are persistent concerns, parents will be contacted by the tutor or pastoral team to discuss any presenting barriers to regular attendance to school.

Attendance reward points will be routinely issued to those students whose attendance is above the school target of 95% on a monthly and termly basis. Attendance success will also be acknowledged in our end of term award assemblies and those students who exceed the school target of 95% will be entered into a raffle with a chance to win a £20 amazon voucher – 5 to give away.

Winners this term are:

Year 7 - Reuben M

Year 8 - Kitty L

Year 9 - Corben W

Year 10 - Carley B

Year 11 – Noah J



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

There are often good reasons why children become reluctant to attend school. If there are concerns preventing your child from attending school regularly then we urge you to contact the school at your earliest convenience, we are here to help.

From Reception

REMINDER: 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 Grove, Head of PE

A Day of Workshops - Boys Inspiration Day at Swindon Dance

SWINDON
DANCE



A DAY OF WORKSHOPS
BOYS INSPIRATION DAY

FOR MALE IDENTIFYING 7-16 YR OLDS

Dear ,

Our **Boys Inspiration Day** is just around the corner and we don't want your students to miss out! This wonderful event takes place on **Saturday 22nd February, 10-3pm** at Swindon Dance and is completely **free**.

BOYS INSPIRATION DAY

Date: Saturday 22nd February, 10am - 3pm

Venue: Swindon Dance

Age: 7-16 years

Price: Free

Book online: swindondance.org.uk/event/boys-inspiration-day-25

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From Mrs Withers, Head of Maths

REMINDER: 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

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>.



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From Mrs Withers, Head of Maths

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](#).



From Mr Hill, Science Teacher and STEM Co-ordinator

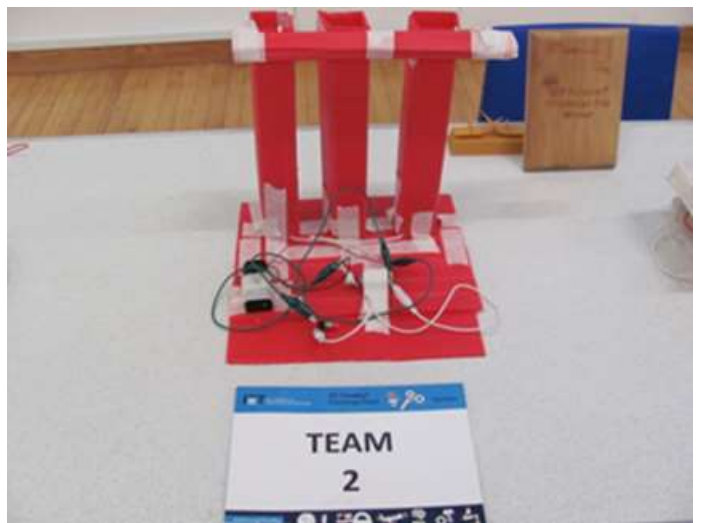
IET Faraday STEM Challenge Day - 4th February

On Tuesday 4th February, two teams of Year 8 students visited King Arthurs School with Mr Hunter for a IET Faraday Challenge Day. Both teams were a credit to the school and worked well in their teams.

They had to invent and make a prototype of something that could support someone with a disability, help a child learn that is between 2-5 or be used within sport.

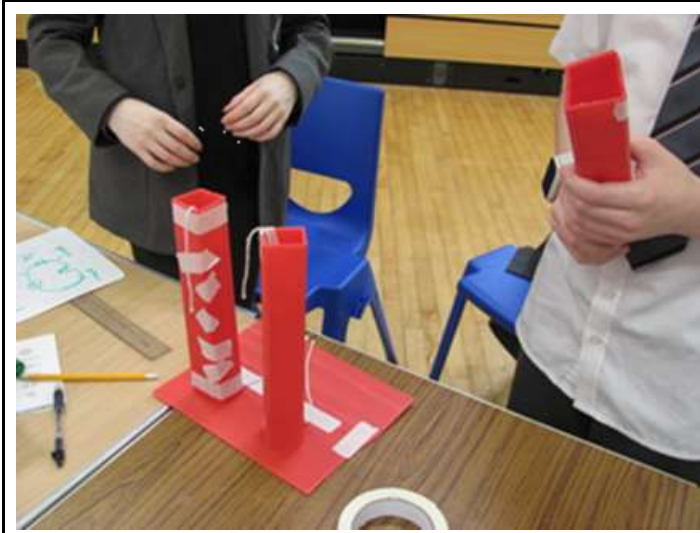
Both Ansford teams chose the sports route one going for a headrest with fans and the other going for wickets that at the switch of a button the bails would go back on.

The teams did well throughout the day, having different roles within the team and working together to try to produce a prototype that worked. Team One with their head rest fans won but what impressed me most is that both teams had already thought about further developments for their designs. The headrest being solar powered and the stumps making a noise and lighting up and also being solar powered.



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From Mrs Martin, Finance Manager

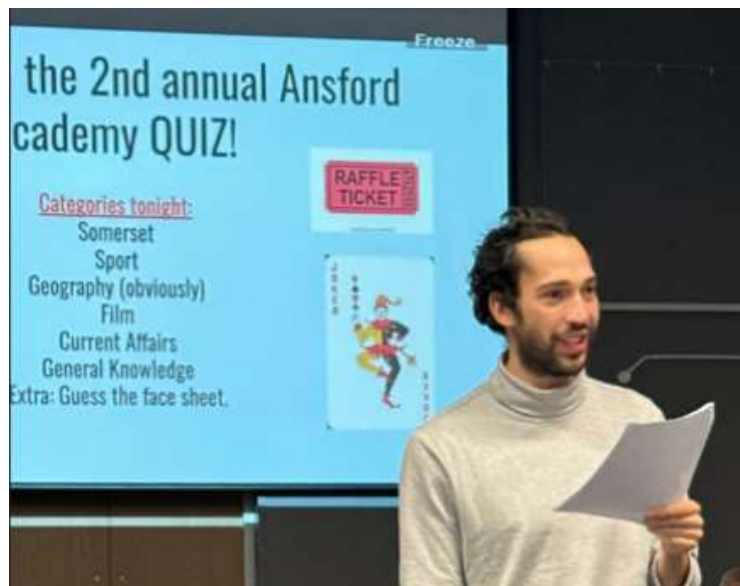
Prom Committee

We had a very successful Quiz Night last Friday, Mr Antoine was our quiz master, we had 12 teams taking part, there was a nail-biting tie breaker at the end and the winners were We Wish You A Merry Quizmas - the Baker family & friends. Well done to them and thank you to everyone who came along and supported us.

We raised £705 in total and this means our fundraising so far is £1456, which is amazing and will go towards our Year 11 Prom.

Thank you to everyone who provided raffle prizes for the event, these included:

The Newt, Superdrug, Otter Gardens, Franklyn Hair Spa, Tyre Renewals, Godminster Cheese, Rose & Lyon, Barbers Cheese plus parents, staff & friends of Ansford Academy.

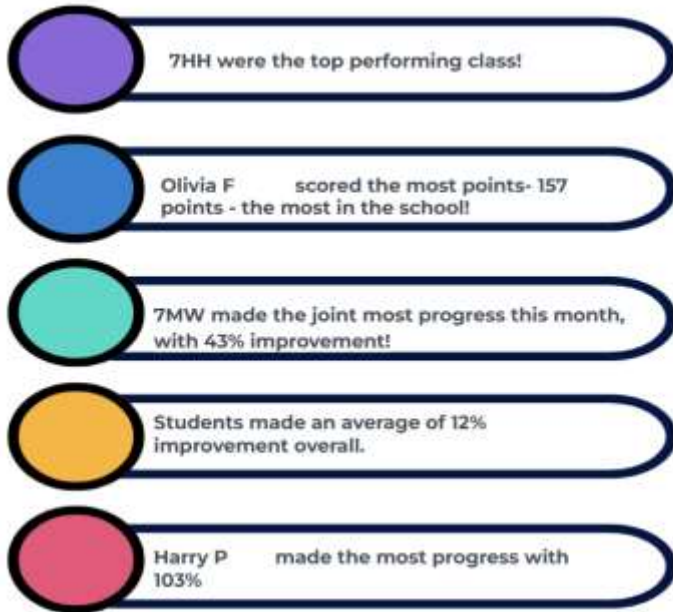


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From Mrs Martin, Bedrock Co-ordinator

This Month's Bedrock Superstars



SUPER STARS

February 2025



Words we have been learning in:

Feb 2025

ONLY 12% of pupils scored 40 + points in this month!

Some students are going above and beyond. Some students need to put in a little more time and effort!

Remember 20 points a week or 30 mins a week (40 points per 2 weeks. 60 mins per 2 weeks)

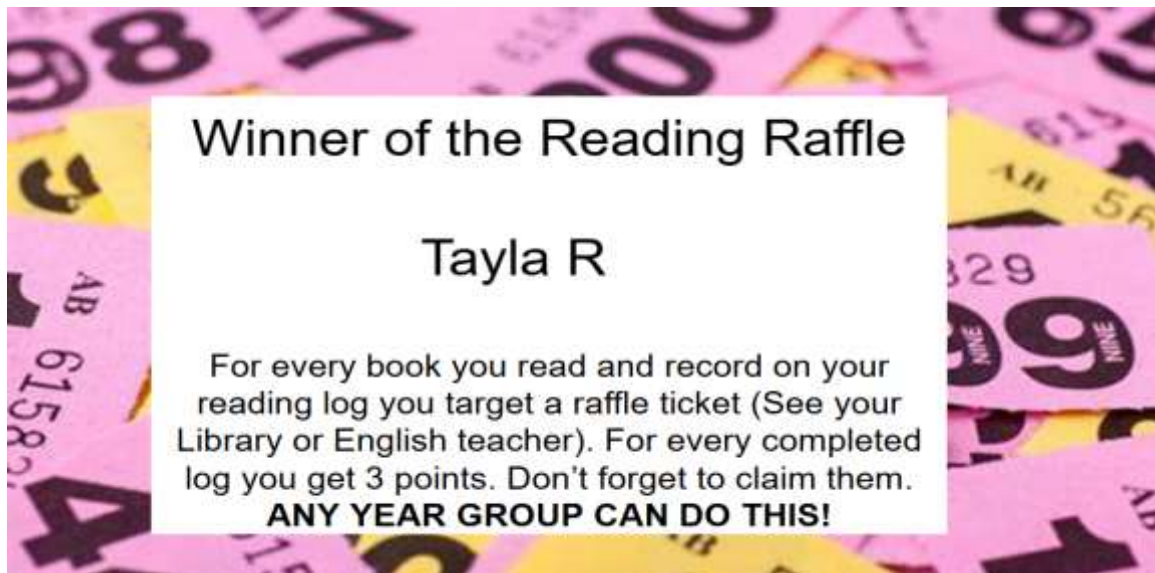
Ambitious Vocabulary

- apathy
- vilify
- partition
- Prejudice
- stance

Ambitious Vocabulary

- conduct
- allot
- doctrine
- assimilate
- contend





From Wendy Watson, Careers Advisor

Ansford's Own – Alumni News

Congratulations to Billy Barrett (Class of '21) for qualifying as an HGV Mechanic and for passing his Class 1 HGV Driving Test.

Are you interested in becoming an HGV mechanic or driver? Here are Billy's top tips:

"For anyone wanting to become a HGV mechanic be prepared to get your hands dirty, and be prepared to have to spend time away at College. I had to go to Derby to a Renault trucks college.

The toughest part of my Apprenticeship was trying to remember everything you've been taught over the 3 years for when you sit your final exams. Both in the workshop and in the classroom. You hope you get given jobs that you were taught about in the beginning to jog your memory in the lead up to your exams.

The best bit is learning new skills and having the satisfaction of fixing a truck and watching it go back out on the road. I took my class 1 HGV driving test with Yeovil driver training when I was 18, and I passed with just one minor. It means I can now drive articulated lorries. I had the best week out on the road learning, finally getting to do what I've always dreamt of doing, having grown up around my Grandad's trucks!



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From Wendy Watson, Careers Advisor

I currently work for AE George Commercials but hope to one day work for my Grandad at W Rolls Ltd driving a truck.”

Wishing you every success with your career, Billy!

Want more information? <https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/job-sectors/transport/job-profile/large-goods-vehicle-driver>

Year 10 Sports GCSE - Bath University Visit

As part of our raising aspirations programme, a group of Year 10 GCSE Sports students braved a cold and drizzly day to visit Bath University campus to find out more about studying Sports at degree level. They met current students who showed them the campus and explained what University is like; and they also experienced a real lecture from one of the Sports academics who talked about Elite athletes, Sports Psychology and Mental well-being.

Year 10 found out that Bath is one of the top Unis for Academic studies as well as Sports and Performance and had the chance to see the facilities which included multiple sports pitches and courts, an Olympic sized swimming pool and a dedicated Martial Arts space. They found out that Economics is also a popular subject to study at Bath, there is a Curry Society and Mrs Grove found out (and was really impressed by) how cheap jacket potatoes were!

Many thanks to our student hosts – Computer Science student, Josh and Environmental Sciences student, Lucy. Also to our Sports lecturer, Jamie Chapman.

Interested in studying at Bath? Check out the degree subjects they offer here:

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/corporate-information/undergraduate-subjects-2025/>

Interested in finding out more about different Careers in Sports? Some job ideas are here:

<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/job-sectors/sports/job-profiles>

Year 9 Careers Talks - Resources

Just a reminder of the resources provided in the last Family Bulletin following our Year 9 students being visited by guest speakers:

T levels and Apprenticeships

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.



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From Wendy Watson, Careers Advisor

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!



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From Our Student Community

Enjoy a Curry and Quiz!!

One of our students, Maisey in Year 9, is fundraising for her Camps International Costa Rica trip.



Saturday 1st March
Keinton Mandeville Village Hall 6pm - 9pm

**CURRY
& QUIZ**



Amazing home cooked food & lots of family fun!

£15 adult/£10 child or £45 for a family of 4
Free drinks for children, licensed bar for grown ups!

Tickets to be booked in advance
Call - 07946 244948
email - tazz27@gmail.com

Raffle included. Amazing prizes to be won!

This is a fundraising event for our 13 year old daughter. For more details visit
<https://www.gofundme.com/f/zrk7d-camp-costa-rica-expedition>



All are welcome, do go along to enjoy the evening and help Maisey raise funds for this valuable experience.



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From Mrs Clements, PFSA

REMINDER: Tuning into Kids and Tuning into Teens Sessions This Term



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



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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 29th April 9.30am in person. Please contact

rachel.clements@ansford.net to book a place.

Venue TBC (Ansford / Castle Cary area)



From Our Community

Family Holiday Activities at Well Cathedral Next Week

Here at Wells Cathedral, we're excited to let you know about our newest set of family holiday activities taking place next week. These involve self-led Cathedral trails and craft activities for children of all ages along with their parents or carers.



FAMILY HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES at WELLS CATHEDRAL

MEDIEVAL MASTERPIECES

Discover highlights of Wells Cathedral and make souvenirs to take home!

Monday 17th – Wonderful Windows

Take inspiration from the beautiful Cathedral windows to make your own artwork.

Tuesday 18th – Cosmic Clock

Experience the wonders of our Astronomical Clock and make a souvenir of your visit.

Wednesday 19th – Creations in Clay

Explore the Cathedral carvings in wood and stone, then make a clay boss to take home.

FREE with adult entry. No need to book – simply drop in on the day!

*(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 a number of seasonal events, including exhibitions and Family Holiday Activities beyond your initial visit.)*

Sessions take place in the Cathedral or Education Room from 10:30am – 3:30pm.

Please note that children must be accompanied by a responsible adult and only assistance dogs are allowed at these activities.



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Current Vacancies

For more information on any of the vacancies listed below, please visit the school website and access the vacancies page or click on the links below.

Teaching Assistant/Senior Teaching Assistant

[Teaching Assistant/Senior Teaching Assistant I Ansford Academy](#)

Head of Year (Teacher)

[Head of Year \(Teacher\) I Ansford Academy](#)

Design Technology Technician

[Design Technology Technician I Ansford Academy](#)

Exams Invigilator (Casual)

[Exams Invigilator I Ansford Academy](#)

Governor

[Governor I Ansford Academy](#)

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

[Ansford Academy Staff Vacancies](#)



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