Bulletin for Ansford Families



Issue 12: 21st March 2025

Message from the Head of School Mr Musson

Dear Families

Next week our assemblies will be covering the national issue of knife crime. While we do not have any direct experience of this issue at Ansford, we know it has been an issue in neighbouring schools and continues to grow nationally, so feel it is vital our students understand the risks and consequences that carrying a knife can lead to.

I would not normally reference a Netflix series in my headteachers message; however, I felt I should share the recent release of 'Adolescence'. There has been much discussion recently of the new release of this hard-hitting drama covering the aftermath of the stabbing of a teenage girl. The story shines a light on the corrosive impact of social media and misogynist influencers on some teenage boys. I am part way through watching this series and as a parent it made me reflect even more on how social media can impact our children and that we need to educate them (at home and in school) to manage some of the messages being targeted towards them.

Please contact Mrs Hirst (our Designated Safeguarding Lead) if you would like any support with this issue or any other issues to support the well-being of your child frances.hirst@ansford.net.

Trips

Mr Hunter accompanied three separate Maths trips in the last two weeks. The first being a trip to Bucklers Mead with some of our high achievers in Year 10 - looking at Maths Post-16 and the opportunities of studying Maths beyond A levels. The second trip was a Maths Challenge Competition at Millfield School involving four of our students. This is a very competitive and challenging competition involving schools across two counties including both state and private schools. Mr Hunter was really impressed with our students' perseverance in working on very challenging questions. The third trip involved some Year 10 students visiting Hayesfield for a 'Maths Feast'. Giving students these opportunities is a vital part of school life experiences and I thank Mr Hunter for enabling our students to have the opportunity. See more details of these from Mr Hunter below.



Message from the Head of School Mr Musson

Parents Evening

We hosted our parents evening for Year 7 last night. Again, I have heard it was a lovely evening with constructive feedback being discussed with parents/carers and students focusing on what is going well and how to further improve. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend last night due to attending a Headteacher meeting with other heads in the trust.

Year 11

We are currently finalising details about the Easter conference that we are hosting for our Year 11 students. We will be running a 3-day event covering specific subject revision and final coursework improvements for a variety of subjects. The event is an invite only and teachers are identifying which students need to attend for the additional support. I would like to say a huge thank you in advance to the members of staff who offered to run these sessions and are giving up some of their well-deserved holiday. Letters will be issued next week with further details to parents/carers of those students who are invited to attend.

Have a lovely weekend

Karl Musson

karl.musson@ansford.net



Assembly Rota		
Ramadan begins (2	23 March)	
24th - 28th March	Safeguarding - Child on Child abuse KNIFE CRIME • An introduction to what CoC is • Understanding the impact of bullying • Understanding personal responsibility to report • Understanding the support systems provided	Ms Hirst
Autism Awareness	<u>Day</u> (2 April 2025)	
31st March - 4th April	ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY 4 • Subject/Tutor Group winners • Top 5 girls/boys • Tutor group winners • Individual accolades/achievements	Heads of Year
	EASTER HOLIDAY	
St George's Day (2	23 April)	
21st - 25th April (School closed 21st and 22nd Year 8 and 9 will run on Friday 25th)	 Summer Term ready Welcome back / celebration of last term Expectations on field Sport expectations Key expectations / re-sharing the vision 	Mr Cue



Acade	my Calendar: Ke	ey Upcoming Events	
Week	Date in March	Event Details	Staff Contact
2	Monday 24th	Year 10 Trip to Bath University - details below	Mr Cue
2	Tuesday 25th	STEM Competition, Bristol - details below	Mr Hill
2		Vaccine Catch-ups - Years 8 & 11 - details to follow	Miss Fulton
2	Wednesday 26th	Year 11 GCSE Drama Exam - Presenting and Performing - details to follow	Mr Newbury
2		Netball Tournament - details below	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
1	Monday 31st	Year 9 Guest Speaker - Careers and T Levels	Mr Cue
Week	Date in April	Event Details	Lead
1	1st April	Spring 2 Colour Matches - details to follow	Mrs Grove
1	3rd April	Year 10 Guest Speaker - Women's Health	Mr Cue
1	4th April	End of Term - School Closes 1pm	
		EASTER HOLIDAY	
2	22nd April	Inset Day - School closed to students	
2	23rd April	School opens	



Notices

From Mr Powell, Executive Headteacher

REMINDER: Lateness to Lessons

We have some students for whom lateness at the start of the day and to lessons can be a problem.

Over the next two weeks we will be trialling a slightly different model for issuing detentions as a sanction for repeated lateness. This will involve moving from a daily to weekly review and issuing more significant sanctions for repeat offenders.

To allow this to happen, the school will NOT be issuing any daily late detentions for next week and will instead issue them the following week as an aggregate of combined lates. These will appear on ClassCharts as usual. We expect this system to have more impact on some repeat offenders and simplify the system for all.

As ever, many thanks to the vast majority of students who manage to get themselves into school and lessons on time and to all our parents/carers who support us in prioritising punctuality.

From Ms Hirst, Deputy Headteacher: Welfare and Inclusion

Somerset

REMINDER: Safer Streets Initiative



Violence Reduction Partnership



All Year 7, 8, 9 and Y10 students had an assembly on how to keep themselves safe in the local community and what it means to be an active bystander. Following the assemblies, a group of Y9 and Y10s took part in creating podcasts that were judged and our winning entry is online and we can now vote for it. All the local schools took part; it would be great to see Ansford win!

Below is the link to the podcast, have a listen (it is 55 seconds long) and cast your vote for us!

Click HERE.



From Ms Hirst, Deputy Headteacher: Welfare and Inclusion

REMINDER: Mental Health Support Team (MHST) Webinars for Spring



Calling all Parents & Carers!

The Mental Health Support Team is excited to launch their new series of parent/carer webinars for Spring 2025! MHST in Somerset are a partnership between Young Somerset and Somerset CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services). The MHST work in educational settings across the county, supporting children and young people aged 5-16 with their mental health and wellbeing.

The webinar topics are can be found below:

- Supporting your neurodivergent child
- Supporting exam and test wellbeing
- Helping your child to thrive: Boosting self-esteem & resilience
- Understanding and supporting anxiety and low mood
- Supporting your child's big feelings

Parent carers can register for the webinars via the link <u>here</u>.



From Mr Cue, Assistant Headteacher

Why Mr Cue Likes Ansford

Ansford is more than just a place — it's a feeling of belonging. What makes it special to me is the way it fosters a caring environment where people genuinely look out for one another. Whether it's in the classroom, on the sports field, or in everyday interactions, there's a strong sense of support that makes me feel valued and heard.

Beyond that, Ansford isn't just a school; it's a community. It's a place where friendships are built, ideas are shared, and everyone is encouraged to grow. The connections we make here go beyond academics—they shape who we are and who we'll become.

Most importantly, Ansford feels like family. It's a place where we celebrate each other's successes, help each other through challenges, and create memories that last a lifetime. That's why I like Ansford—because it's not just a place I go to; it's a place that feels like home.

Student Success

Well done to our alumni student Billy B for passing his lorry test, his story was featured in a previous bulletin by Mrs Watson, here is his poster that is up in our Reception area:





REMINDER: Rewards - Last Week of Term

Through the school council a menu of reward activities have been arranged for the last week of Spring Term 2: Reward Opportunities Spring Term 2.

Activities have been shared through the student bulletin and assemblies this week. Students can use their ClassCharts points to book activities. Places are limited and are on a first come first served basis. If your child has an issue logging into ClassCharts please ask them to speak to their tutor in the first instance.

REMINDER: Prefect Applications

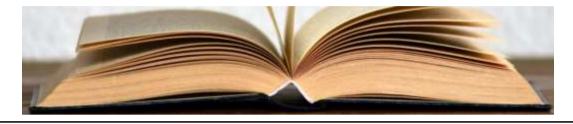
As we get close to saying farewell to Year 11s, students in Year 10 are starting the process of applying for leadership roles at the academy, please encourage any students wishing to discuss this to touch base with me or Mr Willson.

REMINDER: Enrichment Activities





A reminder of all the enrichment activities we have going on during school lunchtimes and after school. See the full schedule here, listed by year group for east reference.





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

REMINDER: Moments Matter, Attendance Counts.....





If there are barriers that are preventing your child from

attending school regularly, then please contact us. We are here to help.

REMINDER: Every Day in School Counts......

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



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

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.

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



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

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.

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 Mrs Hardy-Stewart, Oracy Coordinator

ESU Regional Final Competition - Sunday 16th March

Last Sunday, the stage was set for "an outstanding oratorical opportunity" to quote Tegan. Hurrah for the alliterative triplet! The caretaking team had set out PA2 for the public speaking competition, Mrs Dyal made the room look glamorous and special with fairy lights, flowers and dressed tables.

We were lucky to be hosting the event, meaning no travel for us - unlike one team who were late because they were coming all the way from the Isle of Wight! Six teams, including Ansford took part.

The speaker's subjects ranged from creativity versus problem solving, mindfulness, the Mona Lisa and our subject: youth homelessness. The Ansford team had never spoken better. Tegan was a jovial and insightful chairperson; Ronnie was a clear and courteous questioner adapting his questions for the Year 7 student that the draw had him questioning, and Noah spoke with real heart and verve about how the government should do more to rescue young people from "the treacherous seas "of homelessness.

We even had a mascot - Ghandi the panda from EN2, freshly washed and sporting a purple bow for the occasion.

The judges chose a different team to go through to the National Final. How could they? The team were from Torquay and their speaker spoke on the Mona Lisa. We were all hugely disappointed as this was a controversial choice and Ansford came in a close second. We have learned a lot in the lead up and on the day that we will use on the next occasion to take part.

My heartfelt thanks and congratulations to Tegan, Ronnie and Noah. You were outstanding in your oratorical opportunity. Not to forget thanks to Liam for helping us serve the wonderful array of refreshments, all of which were enjoyed thoroughly by our guests!









From Mr Hunter

Dodgeball Championships - Thursday 20th March



On Thursday 20th March two teams of Year 7 and Year 8 students went, for the first time, to the area British Dodgeball Championships 2025. There were schools from as far as Weston Super Mare and Torquay who had competed in previous years.

Both teams at the start found the competition tough but developed as teams and became more competitive quickly. The A team won two of their matches and came close to winning against teams that went home with medals. Team B the development team for next year had some very close games with teams that had been at the tournament last year and holds them in good stead for next year's tournament.

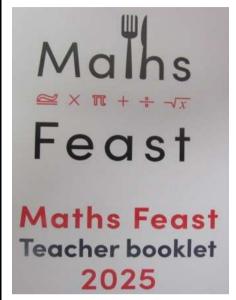
We came away with a certificate for sportsmanship and all students were respectful to the referees who were Year 10 students from Bridgwater College Academy.

All students represented the school well and should be proud of their efforts!



From Mr Hunter

Maths Feast - Monday 17th March



On Monday 17th March four Year 10 boys represented Ansford at the annual Year 10 Maths Feast held at Hayesfield School. The four boys were Charlie H-S, William R, Thomas G and Liam H. There were four gruelling rounds of maths challenges which consisted of the calculator relay round, broken calculator round, the cube and ribbon round and 'The would I lie to you round'.

The first round was 'The would I lie to you round' which was working out which answer was correct. The second round was the ribbon and cube round to work out the path of the ribbon around the cube. The third round was the broken calculator which consisted of finding out which part of the calculator was broken.

The boys did well at this round and the final round was the relay. They represented Ansford well and came a respectable 10th out of 20 - just one

point from being 8th!

AMSP KS5 Inspiration Trip - Tuesday 11th March

On Tuesday 11th March sixteen Year 10 students travelled to Bucklers Mead School for an information session about KS5 Maths. There was a brief outline given by both speakers about the different types of Maths A Level that are available to students to study (Maths Core, Further Maths and Maths), and the advantages of taking Maths as an A Level. Also, there was talk about the different career paths there are for students that take a Maths A level.

There were also some activities to problem solve such as getting three houses connected to the three utility companies without the lines crossing, and trying to answer the question: 'are you smarter if you are born in the summer or winter' with the Maths involved in this.

All students that attended fully engaged and listened well. Some have already decided that they would like to take A Level Maths when they go to college!

Millfield Maths Challenge - Wednesday 12th March

On Wednesday 12th March four students represented the school at Millfield's Maths Challenge. The students were Jack G and Chloe C from Year 11 and Millie C and Abi H from Year 10. Millfield put on a great spread for the students



From Mr Hunter

and there was a wide range of schools from across two counties, both state schools and private schools.

The students had to participate in 5 different rounds of Maths challenges. One challenge was FIZZ, BUZZ, MOO AND BAA which consisted of students as a team trying to count to 100 with Fizz being a certain type of number e.g. square, Buzz being multiples of 7, Moo being odd numbers and so forth and every time they got it wrong; they had to start again! Another challenge was relay, and they had to split into pairs and one pair would get a question then once they answered correctly or had got it wrong twice, they had to get another question and give it to the other pair and there were 15 questions in a time limit of 10mins.

Another round was the head-to-head they were given something like this and had to go up against another team and alternate between players guessing the missing numbers:

One round was 45 mins with 10 very challenging questions and then there was a 2 min speed round where each member of the team was given the same questions, and they had to answer as many as they could in the time limit.

The four students represented Ansford well and they finished 16th place. They felt quite disappointed by their placing, but I think they did very well.

From Mrs Grove, Head of PE

U13 Girls Handball game

Congratulations to the girls who played their first handball games against Westfield and Crispin. They showed great determination after being beaten by county champions Westfield and their performance improved against Crispin applying their new knowledge of tactics, beating Crispin 7-3 and earning their place in the county tournament.



Player of the tournament Bethany D with the awesome left arm.

U15 Boys Handball v Crispin

The boys played an experienced Crispin team including an England Handball player! After a quick start from Crispin, Ansford came back with some great goals from Finn W and Dougie R.

Ansford also showed some great passing skills around the edge of the D but unfortunately Crispin's defence was extremely strong and we lost 20-14.



Year 7 Netball v Huish & Sexeys





The Year 7 girls showed great teamwork against Huish, with some great passing and shooting, beating Huish. Player of the match Ruby S.

Year 7 also played a strong Sexey's team, and despite some great play from Ansford, Sexey's claimed the win. Player of the match Sophie H with some great arm stretches and deflections.

Well done girls for a great Netball season.

Year 11 Netball





Year 11 played in the Yeovil Leagues Tournament, playing 7 other schools. The girls' stamina was tested after almost 2 hours of netball but the girls showed some excellent passing from Emily and Esther and the defence wall that is Violet and Hollie made teams work hard to score against us. The girls claimed wins against Gryphon, Holyrood, Wadham and Huish, a draw against Stanchester and two losses against Sexeys and Winners of the tournament Westfield. Well played girls you were a pleasure to watch and deserved your 3rd place.

Year 8 and Year 9 Netball







Good luck to Year 8 & 9 who have the Yeovil Leagues Netball finals next week.

Netball Youth Camp at Westfield Academy - 8th April 2025

Our colleagues at Westfield have informed us about their Netball event, which our students are invited to attend:







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



From Miss Macey, Reception

Lost Property

The amount of lost property that has gathered this term has again reached to high levels. This includes coats (many!), blazers, shoes, water bottles and lunch boxes.

Students have been encouraged via the student bulletins and tutors to reclaim any items they have lost, we would love to see them going back to their rightful owners.

Any items still held on the last day of term will be allocated for reuse within school, donated to charity or thrown away for recycling.

From Mr Newbury, Teacher of Drama

Year 11 Drama Exam - Wednesday 26th March

The OCR examiner is coming to watch the Year 11 GCSE Drama performances on Wednesday 26th March. The students below will be performing during Periods 1, 3 and 4.

Good luck Drama students!



From Miss Voit, Food Teacher

REMINDER: Year 9 Food Practicals

Thank you for your continued support with the Year 9 practicals. As a part of the second rotation we will be making four recipes before Easter and two after half term.

Please ensure that all ingredients are brought into the Food Room as soon as students get onto school site.

The Recipe Booklet is here.

Practical title	Date 9a (Tuesday)	Date 9b (Thursday)
Chicken and Mushroom Risotto	4/3/25	6/3/25
Pineapple Upside down cake	11/3/25	13/3/25
Quiche	18/3/25	20/3/25
Pizza Wheels	25/3/25	27/3/25
Own Recipes	29/4/25 & 30/4/25	30/4/25 & 1/5/25

From Mrs Withers, Head of Maths

REMINDER: Year 11 Maths Information and Revision Schedule

Revision sessions

Year 11 Maths revision will take place every Thursday from 3.30-4.30pm, both Foundation and Higher sessions. These



From Mrs Withers, Head of Maths

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.

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 Wendy Watson, Careers Advisor

REMINDER: Year 10 Work experience Reminder

The initial deadline has now passed but has been extended to Wed 23rd April. However, the sooner, the better in order to secure a placement you want and also to process all the paperwork.

- If you have secured your placement, please let me know ASAP by email: wendy.watson@ansford.net
- If you are still unsure about what to do and would like support, please also email me or pop in to see me on Mondays or Wednesdays in school.

From the Canteen

Upcoming Theme Days

At the end of April we have some themed meals to go alongside the Four Nations.







From Our Student Community

Connie P - Year 9

Connie P has made it to the County Football Team!



Well done Connie!

Ruby S - Year 7

On Monday 10th March, Ruby S ran for the School at the Junior County Championships in Taunton.



Ruby with her championship badge. Well done Ruby!!



Ruby also was selected for Avon & Somerset Cross Country Team at her first national competition last saturday. She is Year 1 U13 at club level, and it was a very challenging 3km. She came 89th out of 308 girls from 46 UK counties, (year 7 and year 8) in Nottingham.



From Our Local Community

Castle Cary Youth Club

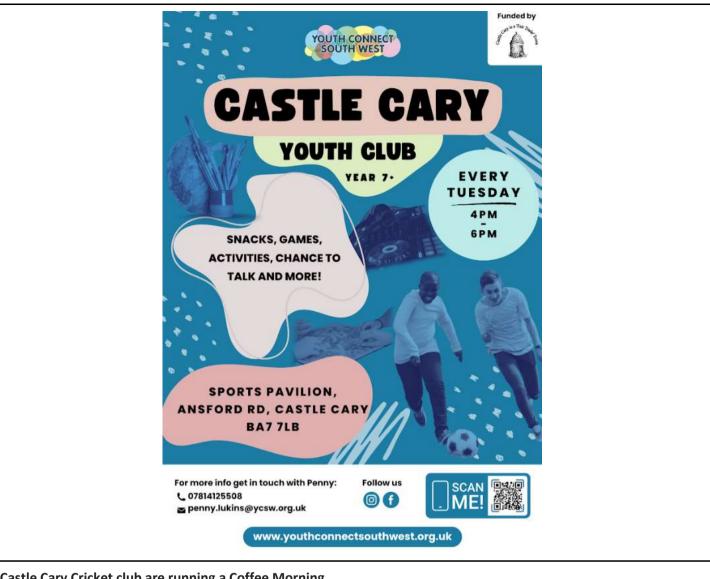
Castle Cary Youth Club, a fantastic opportunity for students in Year 7 and above to socialise, take part in activities, and enjoy a safe and welcoming environment outside of school.

The club runs every Tuesday from 4pm to 6pm at the sports pavilion, Ansford Road, Castle Cary, BA7 7LB and is run by Youth Connect South West, with funding from Castle Cary Town Council.

We offer a range of activities, including music, games, and sports, providing a fun and supportive space where young people can relax, try new things, and meet new friends. There is no fee for attendance.

Youth Connect South West is a charity dedicated to supporting young people across the region. Our experienced youth workers create safe spaces where young people can socialise, develop skills, and access support and guidance when needed.





Castle Cary Cricket club are running a Coffee Morning





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.

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



