

Bulletin for Ansford Families

Issue 11: 7th March 2025

Message from the Head of School Mr Musson

Dear Families

It really feels like spring is on its way - at last we are having a settled period of nice weather!

Year 11

This week sees the end of our second round of mock exams for Year 11. Year 11 have been exemplary in their conduct in the exams and they have taken these exams very seriously. The next stage for teachers is the marking of the papers and then providing feedback to students on how they can improve. Feedback and the understanding of misconceptions is fundamental in closing the gap of the learning and feedback cycle. The next few weeks are vital for Year 11 in helping them in their final stages of preparation for the summer exams, and I would like to thank our Year 11 teachers in advance for all the fantastic work they will do over the next few weeks to help Year 11 be in the best possible position for their summer exams. Year 11 must now keep a regular daily routine of revision so they can retain all the knowledge, skills and understanding that is required to be successful. It is recommended that students should be doing a minimum of 15 hours revision per week and as previously mentioned we have created a '[Revision Hub](#)' to assist students with this.

Parents Evenings

Last night we held our Year 8 parents evening and as ever the atmosphere was purposeful and focused on supporting students to achieve their ambitious target grades.

Year 7 parents evening is the 20th March, if you have any queries please email louise.macey@ansford.net

Uniform

The vast majority of students arrive at school wearing perfect uniform with pride and I thank them (and you) for doing this. However, a small number of students are choosing to come to school wearing black socks with logos and hooped earrings. This is of course addressed when they come into school but please can I ask for support with this from home.



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Message from the Head of School Mr Musson

Year 10 Interim Reports

We are currently collecting report information from teachers. These reports will be issued to parents/carers shortly. If you have any questions regarding the report please email Mr Willson via ben.willson@ansford.net, and he will be happy to assist.

Have an enjoyable weekend; enjoy the sunshine, two weekends in a row!

Karl Musson

karl.musson@ansford.net



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Assembly Rota		
International Women's Day (8th March)		
10th March - 14th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human Rights/ Protected Characteristics Year 11 - Final countdown, week by week requirements, NEA deadlines, revision strategies, Study Leave Year 10 - Year 10s in an assembly to introduce Experience Days - Yeovil College 	Ms Hirst Mr Musson & Mr Mitchell Mr Cue/Guest Speaker
Mother's Day (19th March)		
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
Autism Awareness Day (2 April 2025)		
31st March - 4th April	ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject/Tutor Group winners Top 5 girls/boys Tutor group winners Individual accolades/achievements 	Heads of Year
EASTER HOLIDAY		



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Academy Calendar: Key Upcoming Events			
Week	Date in March	Event Details	Staff Contact
2	Tuesday 11th	KS5 Maths Inspiration Event - Year 10 - details below	Mrs Withers
2	Wednesday 12th	Millfield Maths Challenge - details below	Mrs Withers
2	Thursday 13th	Year 10 Yeovil College Experience Day Assembly	Mr Willson
2	Sunday 16th	English Speaking Union (ESU) Regional Final @ Ansford Academy	Mrs Hardy-Stewart
1	Monday 17th	AMSP Maths Fest - Year 10 - details below	Mrs Withers
1	Thursday 20th	Year 7 Parents Evening	Miss Macey
1	Friday 21st	Non-uniform Day – details below	Mr Cue
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



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Notices

From Mr Powell, Executive Headteacher

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

Safer Streets Initiative



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. 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!



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From Ms Hirst, Deputy Headteacher: Welfare and Inclusion

[Click HERE.](#)

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/carers 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 [here](#).



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From Mr Cue, Assistant Headteacher

Non-Uniform Day - Friday 21st March

It has been decided through the School Council that Friday 21st March will be a non-uniform day. Money raised will be split evenly between Comet Relief, the 'I am I Can Bus' and a local charity selected through a tutor vote.

Suggested donations is £1 payment can be made via school gateway or cash on the day.



Rewards - Last Week of Term

The week commencing 31st March is the last week of term and there will be a selection of activities available. With the exception of the inflatables, all of these will be offered at lunch time. The School Council is in the process of putting a menu of activities together, this will be shared in due course.

Students will be able to use the reward shop on the class chart to reserve an activity they would like to do.

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.

Student Success

We are so pleased to bring you a piece about Hannah W, a former student, who has accepted her offer to the University of Winchester to study BA Primary Education with QTS.



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[Meet Hannah](#)

Please email any successes of current or former students with us! Please email mailbox@ansford.net.

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 ease of reference.



From Mrs Dyal, Communication & Operations Manager

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

Moments Matter, Attendance Counts.....



PARENTS –
GUIDING OUR CHILDREN THROUGH
THEIR EDUCATION IS ONE OF OUR
GREATEST ROLES.

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Consistent support and motivation from you plays a pivotal role in their success, and this begins with school attendance – that isn't just about adhering to school rules; it's about shaping their future, one day at a time.

**YOU CAN HELP YOUR
CHILD BY:**

- ensuring your child understands the importance of excellent attendance and punctuality.
- asking about school work and encourage them to get involved in school activities.
- discussing any problems they may have and inform their Form Tutor to pass on concerns.
- not allowing them take time off school for minor ailments – particularly those which would not prevent you from going to work.
- arranging appointments after school hours, at weekends or during the holidays, to prevent disruption to your child's education and to the school.
- being open and willing to work with us to improve your child's attendance.



If there are barriers that are preventing your child from attending school regularly, then please contact us. We are here to help.

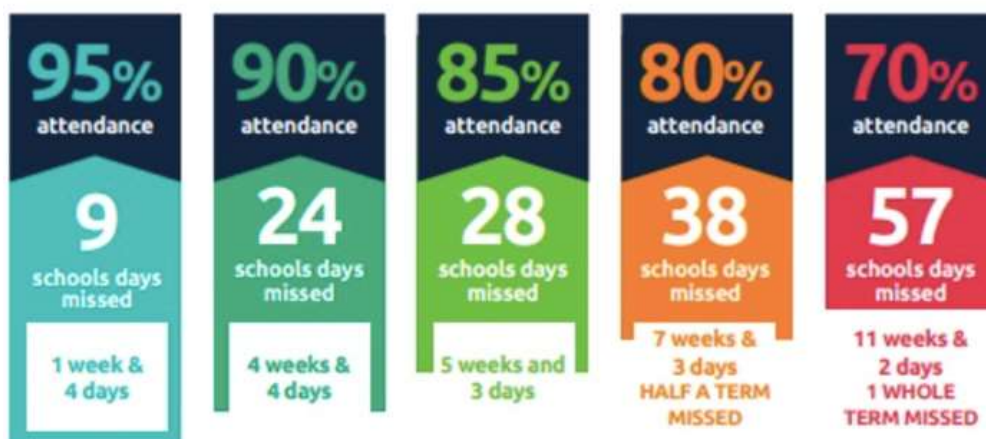
REMINDER: Every Day in School Counts.....

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



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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 and around one third achieve no GCSEs at all



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- 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 Grove, Head of PE

Lots of Sports News!

Netball

The Year 9 Netball team smashed both KA and Preston in their last two games. This team has really developed this year and their performance as a team is a delight to watch. Player of the match Lily-Mae F.

Year 7 Netball team performed excellently in their first netball games, beating Preston 7-2. The girls are still developing their netball skills playing in a variety of positions. Their skills were tested against a very strong Westfield side who took us by surprise, but the determination of Ansford made them work hard for every point. Player of the match Victoria who jumped through the air to deflect some strong balls into the D.



Handball

The U13 boys handball team enjoyed their first game versus a well established Westfield side, despite their loss they continued to improve and made Westfield work hard for each point. The movement across the middle of the court was our strength, and despite plenty of shots we failed to find the back of the goal.

The U15 girls handball side played their first league game against Westfield, despite being a player down we were able to show great passing skills, Westfield did a great job of blocking us at the top of D but this didn't stop Layla from finding the angle and sneaking one at the goalkeepers legs. Well done girls.

Netball

The Year 8 Netball team travelled to a cold Huish Episcopi last week, it paid off though as they came away with a great win 15-10. Player of the match Mia S.

The Year 10 netball team have played two games losing to a strong Huish game, and despite coming back from a 6 goal down deficit lost to KA 13-12 with KA scoring in the final few seconds.



Cricket

U13 Girls Cricket; after making their debut performance into the indoor cricket competition the girls found themselves into the semi-final against Bishops Fox. The long journey and very short warm-up meant we took a while to get going, however great batting from Pippa K and Chloe W put us in a great position. Bishops Fox were able to find a few 6's but with the amazing fielding skills of Beth N and Leonie R we took 5 quick wickets! Narrowly losing a place in the final. Well done girls looking forward to our summer league games.



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From Mrs Kasereka, MFL Teacher

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 Adios NK

The poster features a globe icon in the top left, a French flag in the bottom left, and a Spanish flag in the bottom right. There are also some decorative pink and blue shapes.



FRENCH CLUB IN MFL2
LUNCH 13.50-14.20
French KS4 Wednesday
Come along and work on your homework
exams strategies and grammar.
Bring your lunch. Merci
NK

The poster features a globe icon in the bottom right and a French flag in the bottom left. There are also some decorative pink and blue shapes.



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From Miss Voit, Food Teacher

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](#).

Year 9 Practicals- Rotation 1

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 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.



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From Mrs Withers, Head of Maths

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 Mrs Martin, Finance Manager

Year 11 Leavers Hoodies

Please remember the deadline for ordering Year 11 Leavers Hoodies is Monday 17th March. After this date, no further orders will be taken.

You can find the original letter [here](#) with full details - there are paper copies available on Reception which your child can collect if required.

Please remember you need to order the hoody online via the Fizz website and sign and return the consent form to have your child's name included within the 25 design on the reverse of the hoodies.



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From Wendy Watson, Careers Advisor

Microsoft Degree Apprenticeship and AI Talk to Year 10s

To celebrate National Apprenticeship Week we were delighted to welcome back Microsoft Apprentice and Ansford Alumnus, Daisy Parker (Class of '20) to tell Year 10 all about her journey after Ansford and about her success gaining a highly competitive role as a Degree Apprentice with Microsoft. She spoke to students about AI and how we use it in the workplace as well as its use for individuals.

Here is her story about her role as a Degree Apprentice:

Best Bits: I'd have to say the best bits of my apprenticeship so far is the incredible array of people I have met and just how much I have learned. I'm also able to have a tangible impact in work, with the projects I do and the training session I lead with TechHer - a Microsoft initiative to introduce more women to the world of technology.

Challenges: The stereotypical challenges when starting an apprenticeship: Not knowing how the business operates and not having that network of people you can lean on if you're struggling. Imposter syndrome is something often talked about at Microsoft, and I've definitely had to work through my own dose of imposter syndrome during my time with Microsoft. I've found the best way to deal with these challenges is to talk about them, and to keep doing difficult things - because outside of your comfort zone is where you'll learn the most. Talking about a challenge can help reduce your anxiety around it or could help you find an easier route or solution to something.

Application to apprenticeship schemes: It's no secret that many apprenticeships are highly competitive, especially at degree level. My role had over 4,000 applications! It can be overwhelming when thinking about applying and it is scary to put yourself up for a chance at rejection, but good things only come to those who dare to try. To be competitive and get an edge in these applications:

- Be Yourself!
- Sell Yourself!!
- Do your research on the Company – 'Fail to prepare, then prepare to fail'

My biggest top tip is something I touched briefly on before, which is to do things that scare you. Being outside of your comfort zone is where you will learn the most about yourself and the world around you. My experiences with Microsoft would not have impacted me nearly as much if I had played it safe and never put my hand up to do anything.

Interested in AI Careers? See National Careers [here](#).

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



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From Wendy Watson, Careers Advisor

- 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

Next week (March 12) we have a Mexican theme and then at the end of April we have some themed meals to go alongside the Four Nations.



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Wednesday, 12th March 2025

Beef burritos

(Chilli con carne tortilla parcels)

Roasted cauliflower fajitas with pineapple salsa & spicy slaw

(Spiced roasted cauliflower wrap with salsa & crunchy salad)

Spanish rice

(steamed rice with tomato, cumin and garlic)

Spiced Fries

(paprika and garlic dusted fries with sour cream and salsa dip)

Mexican street salad

(crispy fried tortilla chips with tomato, lime and feta salad)

Polvorones (Mexican Wedding Cookie)

(domed cinnamon sugar cookie)

Handheld & Bowled Over

Mexican chicken Molletes

(flatbread with spiced chicken and salad)

Quorn tortas hamburguesas

(spiced quorn burger with salsa Mexicana)

Sincronisadas

(ham and melted cheese folded tortilla)

Loaded black bean nacho pots

(spiced black bean topped nachos with cheese and sour cream)



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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 | Ansford Academy](#)

Head of Year (Teacher)

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

Design Technology Technician



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[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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