

28 March 2025

Dear Families

The exam season is fast upon us and it is important that I share with you some key information on the lead up to the examinations and the exam period.

Exam Season

- The exam season officially starts for Ansford on Thursday 8th May and finishes on Wednesday 25th June (all students taking examinations during the summer of 2025 must be available up to and including 25th June 2025, regardless of when their last exam is).
- Statement of Entries were issued on 12th February, and Individual Candidate Timetables will be issued next week.

9th May - 16th June

- Students will remain **full-time** in school until Monday 16th June so they have specialist teacher input throughout their exam revision period where staff will support students and help them with their revision. Teachers' expertise and input is vital to enable students to achieve their best and therefore maintaining the contact between students and teachers to the end of the exam period is essential.
- Students will attend revision lessons where their normal subject teachers will assist students with their revision and provide materials for students to use.
- Students will receive a new individualised timetable, which will start on Thursday 8th May. It will include exam-briefing sessions with their normal subject teachers based on the timings of their individual exams.
- If students have an exam in the afternoon, they will have an exam briefing session in the morning with their normal subject teacher to help prepare for the examination.
- If students have an exam the following morning, they will have an exam briefing session in the afternoon of the previous day with their normal subject teacher to help prepare for the examination the following morning.
- Students will also have silent and general revision sessions when they have completed all the exams of the lesson they would normally attend. Students can then choose what they would like to revise and have access to a computer room when available. Students must bring work to these sessions.

17th June - 18th June

- Students who have an exam (Spanish and/or Design Technology) on either of these dates will only need to attend school for their exam. Students may stay in school if transport home is an issue. We must be informed if students are staying in school on either of these dates. Please email attendanceofficer@ansford.net if your child is staying in school for either of these dates.

Expectations of Students

- Students are expected to wear school uniform when in school at all times.
- These final weeks in school are really important for all Year 11 students. We expect them to continue to show a continued commitment to their own studies, exhibiting positive behaviours for learning to enable all students to make the most of the opportunities available.

Revision

- The Easter holidays are nearly with us and really important students use this time off school effectively in their preparation for their exams. This is a really important two weeks for students and they must use the time wisely to ensure they are fully prepared.
- We understand the pressures of exams and how students can feel overwhelmed with their revision. Each department has carefully planned revision to reduce cognitive load. Students can easily access effective resources and personal learning checklists at our new [Revision Hub](#).

Hoodies

- Hoodies will be issued on Monday 28th April. Students will be allowed to wear their hoodie instead of their school blazer for this week (28th April - 2nd May) if they wish to, unless they are sitting an exam (Spanish or French) where students have to wear full school uniform.

Celebration Event

- On Friday 2nd May, we will hold a celebration event, including their celebration assembly, enjoy a BBQ, and sign shirts (students must bring an additional shirt to be signed).
- Students are to attend school as per normal and finish at the normal time of 3.30pm.
- Further details of this event will be shared by Mr Newbury [Head of Year] nearer the time.

Prom

- The Year 11 Prom is taking place on Thursday 10th July, at The Northover Manor, Ilchester, arriving from 6.30pm.
- Initial details have previously been sent to parents/carers and confirmation of final arrangements will follow nearer the time. If you have any queries please contact Helen Martin - helen.martin@ansford.net.

Results Day

- Examination results will be available for collection in person from the Academy on Thursday 21st August between 9am and 10:30am.
- Results that are not collected during this time will be sent by postal services at noon on the same day.
- Results are collected from PA2, accessed from the staff car park.
- Instructions for entering and exiting the building will be clearly marked.
- Caryford Hall can be used for overflow parking where required.
- If you are unable to collect your results yourself, you should provide authorisation to the Examinations Office (joanna.dyal@ansford.net), prior to results day, for someone to collect your results on your behalf. This authorisation must be in writing and must name the person collecting your results (this can be a family member or friend). The person specified will have to provide proof of identification to us on the day, for us to release your results to them.
- Parents/carers are welcome to accompany you to the Academy site.

GCSE Certificate Collection

- Certificates will be available for collection between 5.30pm - 6.30pm on Wednesday 3rd December.
- Certificates will be available for collecting from PA2, accessed from the staff car park.
- Instructions for entering and exiting the building will be clearly marked.
- Caryford Hall can be used for overflow parking where required.

Careers Advice

- If your child requires additional support in relation to careers and next steps after they leave Ansford Academy, they can still request support from our careers advisor Mrs Watson via email (wendy.watson@ansford.net). This is available throughout the year after leaving.

Ongoing Support

- Our pastoral support of Year 11 students will remain in place up to Friday 27th June (and afterwards should this be required). Mr Newbury josh.newbury@ansford.net is available to continue supporting your child, please contact him should your child require any further assistance.

Pre-Loved Uniform

- We offer pre-loved uniform to some of our families.
- Our service relies on good quality donations from families whose children have outgrown their uniform. Items we need include jumpers, shirts, trousers, skirts, ties and blazers.
- If you have clothes you can donate, please take your items to the academy reception.

Finally, sitting GCSEs can be an intense experience for all the family. In a previous assembly, I advised students to revise regularly for short amounts of time, to take breaks and to make sure they are hydrated. The only way of retaining the vast amount of information needed for the examinations is by regularly revisiting key concepts. It has been proven scientifically that retention of knowledge increases from remembering 10% one month after initially learning to over 80% if you revisit the ideas 4 times during the month.

I have shared with the students that this is a difficult period of time but the benefits of putting the work in now is worth it for the feeling of elation when it is over. They do have to work hard but, as always, if you are worried about your child, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Newbury josh.newbury@ansford.net as previously mentioned.

Yours faithfully



Karl Musson

Head of School