



# **Bulletin for Ansford Families**

Issue 18: 23rd July 2025

# Message from the Head of School Mr Musson

#### **Letter to All Families**

Please find <u>here</u> my letter to all families. I wish you an enjoyable summer break.

Karl Musson

Academy Calendar: Key Upcoming Events			
Week	Date in July	Event Details	Lead
2	Wednesday 23rd	Last day of term (1pm finish)	Mr Musson
2	Thursday 24th & Friday 25th	Summer School for 2025-26 Year 7 Students	Mr Davis/Miss Macey
Week	Date in August	Event Details	Lead
	Thursday 21st	GCSE Results Day (students collect results between 9.00am and 10.30am)	Mrs Dyal
Week	Date in September	Event Details	Lead
1	Monday 1st	Inset Day - School closed to students	
1	Tuesday 2nd	Inset Day - School closed to students	
1	Wednesday 3rd	School open to Years 7 & 11	
1	Thursday 4th	School open to all years	







# From Mr Arthur Llewellyn, Governor

#### **Goodbye and Farewell**

I am standing down from being an Ansford governor after 44 years and I really enjoyed it. I became a governor because I am convinced that nurturing and influencing the up-and-coming generations is a vital part of my obligation to society as a whole and our local community.

I value my experience as a governor mainly because of all the lovely people I have been able to work with; head-teachers, staff, students and all the family which is Ansford - this includes governors.

The most important and onerous part of the role is the appointment of head-teachers, and we have been able to appoint many excellent ones over my time here.

Another part of the job is setting the ethos of the school, i.e. offering a good education for all the young people of our community, both able and less able, advantaged and disadvantaged, and supporting the parents/carers of those children entrusted to our care.

School governance provides an opportunity to become involved in the heart of the school and is important so goodbye (God be with you) and farewell (fare ye well).

Arthur

## From Mrs Wood, SENCO

## Goodbye from Mrs Wood (SENDCO)

As some of you may have heard, I will be leaving Ansford at the end of this academic year to take on a new role as Senior Inclusion lead for the Virtual School. I have been at Ansford since 2017 and have really enjoyed my time here (both in PE and more recently as SENDCO). I will miss being part of the Ansford community but am confident that it will go from strength to strength. Ms Becky Holbeche will be taking on the role of SENDCO from September and we have already begun the handover process.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you and your students every success in the future.







## From Mr Cue, Assistant Headteacher

## Students Celebrate End of Term with Exciting Trips and Rewards

As the academic year came to a close, students in Years 7 to 10 marked the occasion with a variety of exciting end-of-term trips and rewards. These experiences provided a well-earned celebration of their hard work and dedication throughout the year.

Students in Years 7 and 8 had the chance to enjoy a mix of activities. One group headed to Taunton for a day of bowling and a cinema visit, combining fun and relaxation. Another group made a splash at Splashdown Water Park, enjoying the thrills of water slides and rides. Others took on outdoor challenges and adventure activities at Mendip, embracing axe throwing, tag archery, fresh air and team spirit.

For students in Years 9, and 10, there was just as much to look forward to. A group travelled to Thorpe Park, where they spent the day enjoying rollercoasters and thrill rides. Another group took in the sunshine with a classic seaside trip to Weymouth Beach, complete with fish and chips and beach games. Meanwhile, some students chose a more laid-back day of shopping and socialising at Cribbs Causeway.

These trips wouldn't have been possible without the hard work of our dedicated staff. A special thank you goes to Helen Martin, who took on the enormous task of organising the trips across all year groups. Her careful planning and coordination ensured everything ran smoothly and safely for both students and staff.

In addition to the trips, students were also recognised through our Class Chat reward system. Over the final two weeks of term, more than 1,000 rewards were distributed to students who consistently demonstrated positive behaviour and effort. A huge thank you goes to Nici Fulton for overseeing this process. Her dedication and attention to detail ensured every student's efforts were acknowledged—and her work in handing out hundreds of rewards brought a real sense of celebration to the end of term.

Sports Day also saw its own special reward moment. Over 100 ice creams were handed out to students who had saved and spent their positive points, adding a sweet treat to an already fun and energetic day. It was a fantastic way to recognise and reward students for making positive choices throughout the year.

It was a fantastic way to end the year, with smiles, laughter, and a strong sense of community across the school. We wish all our students and families a restful and enjoyable summer break.







## From Mr Cue, Assistant Headteacher

The school extends thanks to all staff, students, and families for their support and enthusiasm - Here's to a restful summer and an even better year ahead!

# From Ms Hirst, Deputy Headteacher - Welfare and Inclusion

#### **Support over the Summer Holidays**

Many of us are very excited about the summer break especially after such a busy academic year. However, as the holidays approach, it is important to be aware that this can bring anxiety for some young people, often due to spending more time than usual on social media – but there's lots of help still available, please find below some links to help you over the holiday period. The team would like to wish you all a very happy, healthy and enjoyable summer holiday.

Find financial support for Somerset households here.

If you have any safeguarding concerns:

- Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224
- Police on 101
- NSPCC on 0808 800 5000

If you are seeking help and support as a parent of a young person around Emotional Health and Wellbeing, please use the links to our website to help direct you to a range of external agencies who can provide help and support at this time:

# **Young People**

# **Parents**

Please find <u>here</u> a set of links to a large number of organisations who can provide help and support over the summer should you need it.

Wendy Hestor - Chaplain







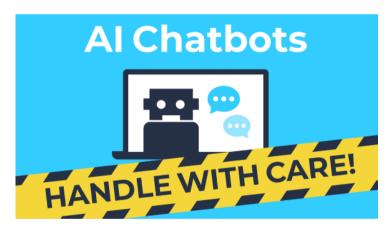
It is with heartfelt gratitude and a touch of sadness that we share the news that Wendy Hestor, our School Chaplain, will be stepping down from her role at the end of this term.

Over the past six years, Wendy has been a compassionate and steady presence across Ansford, Sexey's, and King Arthur's, offering support to both students and staff. Her gentle manner, listening ear, and wise counsel have made a lasting impact on countless young people during times when such support has been more valuable than ever. In moments of need, Wendy has been there—calm, caring, and ready to help.

This past year, Wendy has been taking a new path within the Church of England, exploring the calling of ordination. As she now follows this journey more fully, we send her off with our warmest wishes and deepest thanks. Wendy leaves behind a legacy of kindness and faith that will continue to resonate in our school communities for years to come.

We wish her the very best for the future.

# Is your child chatting to a real friend - or an AI chatbot?



Al Chatbots are built into platforms children are using every day on their phones and other devices. Research from <a href="Internet Matters">Internet Matters</a>, shows that two-thirds of children are using Al chatbots like ChatGPT, Snapchat's My Al, character ai and others, and they're being used for schoolwork, to seek advice and even for companionship\*.

**Chatbots interact in a human-like way**, they are always available, are friendly and non-judgemental, and use empathetic language - which can make children feel acknowledged and understood. However, this makes it harder for children to recognise that they're interacting with a tool rather than a real person. Chatbots are not real and their responses cannot always be trusted.

Also, they're **often not designed with children in mind** - most lack safety settings or parental controls. So if children ask for advice on sensitive topics, the lack of age checks plus inconsistent filtering mean they may be presented with







responses that are inappropriate for their age.

To help you get to grips with what AI chatbots are, and for advice and tips on how you can help your children use them safely, check out Internet Matters new AI information hub.

# **Events being run by Somerset Police**



Event will be held at Mudford Rec , Yeovil

FREE 40 POINT CHECK, TUNE UP AND MINOR REPAIRS. ALL MAKES AND SIZE OF BIKE WELCOME. FREE BIKE MARKING



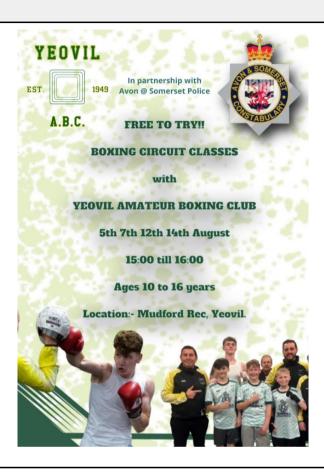












## **REMINDER: Keeping Children Safe Online**

We have assemblies about online safety and students look at this in PSHCE too. We have had incidents recently where students have experienced unpleasantness online and we would like to share some tips with you to help you to help your child should they tell you that this is happening; please also report it to school so we can support here too.

#### Tips for managing wellbeing online

## Have regular conversations with your child

Give children the chance to talk about what they're experiencing online, what apps and sites they use and who they're talking to.

Talking regularly, like you would about their day at school, will help your child feel relaxed and mean that when they







do have any worries, they're more likely to come and speak to you.

Remind them that it isn't just you that they can talk to – another trusted adult or a <u>Childline counsellor</u> might be easier sometimes.

When children communicate online, misunderstandings can lead to disagreements or arguments. Encourage your child to look at the Childline website, which has lots of useful advice articles:

- Feeling good on social media
- Coping with stress
- Worries about the world
- <u>Childline's Calm zone</u> is also packed with tools and activities to help children de-stress and discover new techniques that can support them when they're feeling down
- Young people can also talk to each other about their worries on the Childline message boards.

Consider that what children see online is often through a filter. It isn't just images and videos that can be filtered or edited, but bodies and lives too.

#### Take breaks

Our devices are designed to keep us coming back. Features like infinite scrolling, app notifications, auto play and rewards for playing games every day are all persuasive designs to increase our use.

Mobile and wearable tech such as phones and smart watches can make us feel like we're always online and it can help everyone to take a break sometimes, to help switch off from online pressures.

You can use the settings on individual apps, or in the device settings, to silence notifications for a period of time.

You can also use the 'do not disturb' mode available on most devices to mute calls and notifications, to help avoid distractions.

Use wellbeing settings and apps







These sites and apps are specifically designed to help children with their online wellbeing:

- BBC Own it which gives advice as they chat to their friends online.
- <u>Headspace for Kids</u> is an app to teach children the basics of mindfulness in a fun way. It's aimed at 3-12 year olds, with different content for the different age groups. Free for Headspace subscribers, limited access for non-subscribers.
- <u>JoyPoP</u> is an app designed to help users find their inner resilience to deal with the highs and lows in their day to day lives. By rating mood for the day, users are directed to complete different activities to help switch to positive emotions. App costs £6.99.

You can also find out what apps your child uses the most and have a look to see if there are wellbeing guides which explain their settings to help support children's wellbeing.

## From Mrs Withers, Head of Maths

# MNSP Junior Maths Challenge - Fifth Place!!

Well done to our Junior Maths Challenge Team; Sofiia, Alaric, Wilbur and Thomas!







#### From Mrs Watson, Independent Careers Advisor

#### REMINDER: Are you a Year 11 student who lives in Evercreech or were born there?

If so, the Arthur Allen Education Trust is a charity who you can apply to for financial help with College/Apprenticeships next year.

To apply, please complete the form <a href="here">here</a> and apply ASAP. The closing date is 30th September 2025.

Please note, students will need to obtain two, suitable referees (not family members). This could be, for example, your school tutor, an employer from a part time job or work experience, somebody you know from a club or activity you attend.

#### From Mrs Grove, Head of PE

#### **MNSP sports Festival**

On Friday 11th July Ansford attended the first MNSP sports festival held at Millfield, Street. The Year 7 and 8 teams competed in Rounders, Dodgeball, Ultimate Frisbee and Athletics. Despite the extreme heat the Ansford team achieved wins in the girls Relays, high jump, 100m and dominated the rounders. A great day and students performed brilliantly against the other trust schools.



#### **Ansford Sports Day**

Well done to another successful Ansford sports day. The rain tried to stop us for a while but we powered through. Participation was excellent and the competition was strongly contested. The colour run was another success and Mr Davis took his water station very seriously!! Thank you to the sports prefects who helped set up and run the events, and to all staff who helped make the day a big success.







Congratulations to the following for winning:

Athletics interform winners HH. OTA. CWJ & HK

This year's interform winners overall are HH, OTA, MD & CH

This years colour team winners are

1st BLUE

2nd RED

3rd YELLOW

4th GREEN

# **County Success**

Congratulations to Tom R who has made the county Football team, Martha T-Z and Kitty C who have made the Netball county team.

## **Year 6 Sports Day**

On Thursday 10th July Ansford hosted our last and biggest festival of the year, with 100 year 6 students attending their Sports Day Festival. The Year 9 sports leaders who have been working hard planning and preparing for the day led the day brilliantly.

Sessions included Trampolining, Rugby, Football, Netball, Tennis, Capture the flag, Dodgeball, Cricket, Boccia and Basketball.

Considering the high temperatures all students were excellent and we were impressed with the quality of performance from the Year 6s.





**Badminton opportunities at Yeovil Badminton Club** 







Yeovil Badminton Club

## **Summer Holiday Tennis**



Full information: Yeovil Tennis Club

## Plea for PE Kit Donations

If any students have grown out of their PE kit, we would be pleased to receive any items to use these within school!

Many thanks in advance.

## From Miss Fulton, Medical Co-ordinator

#### **Students with Health Care Plans**

If your child has a Healthcare Plan held in school, you will be contacted very soon with a request to review. Please ensure this is done promptly to ensure we have all the correct information to keep your child safe when we return in







September.

Many thanks for your support in this matter.

# From Mrs Wendy Watson, Careers Advisor

## Year 8 My Futures Day - Yeovil College

As part of our Careers programme, Year 8 met employers, tried their hand at different skills and found out about subjects they could study after GCSEs as well as visiting Yeovil College campus for the My Futures event last week.

Students selected workshops ranging from Food and Hospitality to Engineering, from Graphic Design and Media Make-up to Academic subjects. There were some grizzly results from the Media make-up department, some students sporting quite convincing fake wounds! Students cooked some delicious dishes in the College kitchens and the Engineers got to sit in a real life Helicopter!

A big thank you to Yeovil College for hosting the event and introducing Year 8s to the possibilities that are open to them in the future and many thanks to the employers and staff who supported this.

A very big well done to all of year 8 who behaved impeccably and were great Ambassadors for Ansford.





Our Engineers meet Will who is an ex-Ansford student!



Some beautiful Graphics work using 3D design



Practising the Hot Cross Bun technique!



Mechanics of the future



Our Bricklayers get stuck in!

# Year 10 Work Experience week – Monday 7th July to Friday 11th July 2025

Many congratulations to every one of our Year 10s who took part in work experience this month as part of their Careers Education programme, learning about the world of work.

Students chose placements from Somerset to Hampshire to London, working in industries which included Real Estate, Buying and Marketing to hands on Engineering, Animal Care, Childcare and Hospitality.

Students recognised that a full working day can be very exhausting, especially in the hot weather, and learning to get up that bit earlier can certainly be a challenge! Many students enjoyed the change of pace and environment and the majority agreed that it had been a real boost to their confidence meeting and speaking to different people including staff and members of the public; as well as learning the skills of their chosen trades and professions.







Employer feedback has been very positive – identifying students as enthusiastic and willing to learn, to ask questions and engage in the tasks set for them. Some have been offered summer and part time jobs and others are being considered for Apprenticeships in the future.

Well done to all year 10s – as one employer put it; you are a credit to the school!

Ansford would like to extend a huge thank you to all employers who supported work experience this year and acknowledge appreciation for their time and commitment in supporting the students in placements – without this the programme wouldn't be possible. Thanks also to all the parents who supported the process.

Thank you all very much!



Making friends with the British Blue at Tiger Barn Cattery



Molly the horse enjoys a refreshing cool down at Divoky Riding Stables



Figuring out Logistics at Willmotts Transport

Making a mark in Marketing and events at Yeovil College













# From Mrs Marshfield, Head of Music

# Year 7 Samba project

Thank you for supporting your young people in bringing in the resources they needed to make their percussion instruments to use in their practical samba performance this term.

It was wonderful seeing them make their creations and the performances have been excellent with only a few minor "rice explosions" from shakers along the way.

The pictures included only show a selection of the instruments and the various materials used. The prize for the most unique material must go to Ella-Mae in 7MW for her off-cut of decking; a first for me in the few years I have completed this topic!



**REMINDER: Instrumental Lessons** 







All students are welcome to access the instrumental lessons on offer from our visiting music teachers regardless of age, ability or if they are taking/intend to take GCSE Music.

## **NEW STUDENTS**

If your child is new to an instrument/the school, lessons will be set up as a new starter, even if you have had lessons before with a different teacher or in another school.

## **CURRENT STUDENTS**

If your child currently has lessons with a visiting teacher in school and intends to continue, you do not need to fill in a form and should confirm continuation in person with the teacher.

## **INSTRUMENT HIRE**

For some instruments, it may be possible to borrow or hire an instrument from school or Somerset Music. These would normally incur an additional cost.

There can be instruments/equipment available for lessons e.g. guitar amps and pianos but most smaller instruments will require students to bring them into school for lessons and then take home again for practice.

Click the link <a href="here">here</a> to find out more and apply for a place







# From Mr Newbury, head of Drama

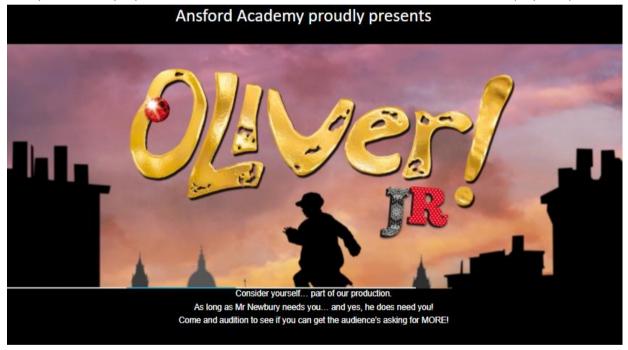
#### Oliver Auditions

Ansford is thrilled to announce that we will be staging the beloved musical Oliver this December!

Auditions and casting have now been completed, and the level of talent displayed by our students was nothing short of extraordinary.

The excitement around school is already building, and it's clear that this production is going to be something truly special. From powerful vocals to standout performances, the cast promises to deliver a show that will leave audiences shouting for MORE!

Consider yourself lucky if you had the chance to witness the auditions — the talent on display was phenomenal!







# From Mrs Swallow, Head of DT

# Final Bake Off of the Year!

Well done to Year 10 Hospitality and Catering final Sweet Treat bake off of the year. A massive thank you to the Newt for the sponsored Chef whites. Our students look so smart.

Thank you and goodbye to Miss Voit for inspiring our students. Good luck in your new school.







## From Mrs Rice, Head of English

#### **Empowered writers!**

Huge congratulations to Mia (Year 8) and Saffron and Elisha (Year 9), all of whom entered a poetry competition on the theme 'Empowered' and had their work selected for publication.

What an amazing achievement - well done, girls!

#### The Final Year to The First Year...

Some of our Year 7 and 8 students took part in a wonderful online video call with the Year 6 class at Countess Gytha Primary School this month.



All of the students had read 'The Final Year' by Matt Goodfellow, a novel written in verse that deals with a boy's experience of Year 6. Our Ansford students prepared by discussing the novel and coming up with some questions for the Year 6 students which were answered brilliantly during the call. The students also shared a number of reading recommendations. Finally, Year 6 were able to ask Ansford students some questions about the transition from primary to secondary school, and hopefully finished the call feeling reassured and excited about moving up.

All of our Ansford students were enthusiastic about the experience and impressed by how articulate the Countess Gytha students were. They are hoping to meet some of those students in person next year and discuss more of their reading in a book club. Perhaps their first novel could be Matt Goodfellow's sequel, 'The First Year', all about - you guessed it - Year 7.









A big well done to all of the students involved. We're looking forward to repeating the experience with more of our primary schools next year.

Wishing everyone a happy summer of reading. Don't forget that there are recommended reading lists for each year group on our school homepage, with some fantastic suggestions which should be available in local libraries: <a href="https://ansford.org.uk/key-information/curriculum-and-enrichment/reading/">https://ansford.org.uk/key-information/curriculum-and-enrichment/reading/</a>. Parents and carers - why not get two copies and mirror what your child is reading? It can lead to some great conversations.

From Ms Wilson, Deputy Head of English/KS3 Lead

**Encourage Reading over the Summer** 

**Summer Reading** 

## From Ms Walsh, Head of Year 8 & 9

#### End of Term Rewards for Years 8 & 9

YEar 8 Term 6 HOY Star Students:

- Jayden A
- Isla B

Year 9 Term 6 HOY Star Students:

- May G
- Elliot D







Well done!!

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

#### FROM THE EPICENTRE OF SPORTS DAY 2025

Picture this. I have somehow (blame Ryan W) ventured onto the track to run part of my tutor group's relay race. I am not alone. The other year 9 tutors are all on one of the other lanes somewhere receiving, running and passing on batons.

I am getting ready to do just this (in my pink converse shoes) when I see a year 9 boy thundering down the track to my left. If I had moved an inch off my lane, he would have trampled me! Luckily, he stayed in his lane and I ran my little part of the race four times without pulling a muscle. Result!

Now picture this. When I first came to Ansford a good while back, Sports Day was about watching the fastest outsprint each other over 100, 200, 300, 400 metres and then watching some of the same runners in very competitive tutor relay races with 4 students per group. And don't get me wrong, it was amazing to watch. My job as a tutor then was to cheer on the reps from my tutor group and manage the other students as they spectated.

It was a great chance to see athletically talented students in a completely different light to when they are interpreting Shakespeare or improving their punctuation.

Fast forward to 2025. No one just sits around spectating. Everyone takes part.

Students play football, benchball, rounders and Capture The Flag and, at the end of the day, many took part in the crazy, psychedelic Colour Run if they chose to. And the tutor relay races involve everyone in the tutor group working together to get the fastest time be they running, walking or standing close to each other on the track and passing the baton at lightning speed. Quite the tactic!

So this version of Sports Day/s is win win. You can still see the fastest sprinting but you also see tutor groups screaming their heads off as one of their tutor group scores a rounder or a Year 7 discover they can throw a javelin impressively far in the field events.

Congratulations Mrs Grove and the PE department for all your hard work, for a wonderful couple of sports days where inclusivity was the buzzword. I really enjoyed seeing how the older GCSE PE students ran the field events for younger students the previous days too. It's inspirational stuff.

You never know - I might even buy myself a new pair of trainers and start running again.







**From Our Community** 

**RSPCA Summer Photo Scavenger Hunt** 



Female Football - Wincanton Town Ladies FC





# Female Football At Wincanton Sports Ground



Wincanton Town Ladies Football Club are proud to offer the following opportunties for all females interested in participating in football.

**Saturdays 10 - 11am WILDCATS - AGE 5 to 11 years old**A fun hour of games and playing football. Nothing competitive just fun for all girls.

Wednesdays 7pm - ADULT TRAINING - AGE 16+ Come along and train with our ladies football team who play in games on Sundays in the Somerset County Women's League.

**Thursdays 6 -7pm - U12 GIRLS TRAINING**Our Junior Hornets play competitive games on Saturday mornings and we are always looking to recruit new girls.

In women's football, every goal scored is not just a victory on the field.

It's a strike against stereotypes, a leap towards equality, and a powerful kick that shatters glass ceilings, inspiring countless girls to dream without boundaries.

contact@wtlfc.co.uk

www.wtlfc.co.uk

# **Nature Photography Competition**

The Balsam Centre are running a Nature Photography Competition that they are running as part of their Wild & Green Community Fair on 27th September.





**REMINDER: Ansford Parish Council** 

To find out what's happening in your local community, click here for events









## **REMINDER: Castle Cary Town Council**

To find out what's happening in your local community, click <a href="here">here</a> for events



#### **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** 

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

**Ansford Academy Staff Vacancies**