



## Bulletin for Ansford Families

Issue 17: 27th June 2025

### Message from the Head of School Mr Musson

Congratulations to all of Year 11 who have now finished their GCSE's. They all worked tirelessly until the very end, as I have mentioned previously I have been so proud with the way they tackled the intense time of sitting their exams - they really have been role models for all our other students. I wish all of Year 11 the very best for the future and I look forward to seeing you all at the Prom and of course results day in August.

Year 10 students also completed their end of year written exams this week (just one group of Hospitality & Catering students to complete their practical on Monday). This is the first time they have sat examinations in the Sports Hall and they have conducted themselves exceptionally throughout the two weeks. It is the first of three experiences they will have in the Sports Hall before they sit their GCSEs this time next year. As the saying goes 'Practice makes perfect' - students learn from their participation in sitting exams and the preparation of revising. The more practice that takes place the better they will become. It is vital that students revise frequently to help them retain the content required to be successful in exams. Again, as with Year 11, I have been so impressed with their conduct during the exams and the way they have approached them - Year 10 are already stepping up to be role models to the rest of the school.

It has been a real pleasure this week to have been involved in the senior prefect interviews. Students went through a rigorous process of applying and then being interviewed by myself, Mr Cue and Mr Willson. I can honestly say the quality of the applications and the way the students presented themselves during the interviews was outstanding. Huge congratulations to Noah, Liam and Tom who have been appointed as our senior prefects for 2025/26, all three are a real asset to the school and I'm really looking forward to working with them next year in their new roles.

The results from the uniform survey are in! I will be sending a letter next week to parents next week updating you all on the outcome of the results.

Have a lovely weekend, it looks like a hot one again.

Karl Musson



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Assembly Rota		
30th June - 4th July	Safeguarding - E-Safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An introduction the term 'digital footprint'</li> <li>• Exploring the issues faced by many young people who have unlimited access to social media:</li> <li>• Cyber bullying, threats, trolling, taking images / videos without permission.</li> </ul>	Ms Hirst
<a href="#">Frida Kahlo's birthday</a> (6 July)		
7th - 11th July	<b>REWARD TRIPS - Tutor Led (no assemblies)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tutors to record / update student preferences on the spreadsheet</li> <li>- Trip leaders to prepare content.</li> </ul>	Heads of Year
14th - 18th July	<b>ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY 6</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subject / Tutor Group winners</li> <li>• Top 5 girls / boys</li> <li>• Tutor group winners</li> <li>• Individual accolades / achievements</li> </ul>	Heads of Year
21st - 23rd July	Whole school assembly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Celebration of the year</li> <li>• Academic successes</li> <li>• Enrichment successes</li> </ul>	Mr Musson/Mr Powell





Academy Calendar: Key Upcoming Events			
Week	Date in July	Event Details	Lead
1	Tuesday 1st	Year 1 Indoor Athletics Sports Festival - details to follow	Mrs Grove
1		Exeter Maths Circles (Foxtrot) - details to follow	Mrs withers
1	Wednesday 2nd	Year 10 College Taster Day - details to follow	Mr Willson
1		Athletics Tournament - details to follow	Mrs Grove
1		Transition Day and Evening - details to follow	Mr Davis
1	Thursday 3rd	Year 8 My Futures Day	Ms Walsh
2	Week of 7th	Year 10 Work Experience Week	Mrs Watson/Mr Willson
2	Tuesday 8th	Exeter Maths Circles (Hotel) - details to follow	Mrs withers
2	Thursday 10th	Year 11 Prom	Mr Newbury
2		Year 6 Sports Day Festival	Mrs Grove
1	Monday 14th	Sports day	Mrs Grove
1	Tuesday 15th	Sports Day	Mrs Grove
1	Friday 18th	Rewards Trips	Heads of Year
2	Monday 21st	Awards Evening	Mr Musson
2	Wednesday 23rd	Last day of term (3.30pm finish)	Mr Musson
2	Thursday 24th & Friday 25th	Summer School for 2025-26 Year 7 Students	Mr Davis/Miss Macey



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## Notices

**From Mr Cue, Assistant Headteacher**

### **Update on Centralised Detention System and New Reading Requirement**

We are pleased to share that the centralised detention system launched after the Easter break has had a significant positive impact, with a dramatic reduction in the number of students missing detentions and requiring further escalation. This reflects our continued commitment to maintaining high standards and supporting positive behaviour across the academy.

As part of our next step in developing this system, from **Monday 23rd June**, all students attending a detention are required to **read silently for the duration of their detention**. This change not only reinforces our focus on literacy but also encourages a calm, reflective atmosphere during these sessions.

Students should have a reading book with them as part of their basic school equipment each day. However, if they do not have one, they will be able to borrow a book from the school library.

Thank you for your continued support.

**From Ms Hirst, Deputy Headteacher - Welfare and Inclusion**

### **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.



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**From Ms Hirst, Deputy Headteacher - Welfare and Inclusion**

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 [Childline counsellor](#) 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](#)
- [Childline's Calm zone](#) 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**





**From Ms Hirst, Deputy Headteacher - Welfare and Inclusion**

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.
- Headspace for Kids 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.
- JoyPoP 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 Maths Challenge Heats - 23rd June**

Eight teams of year 7 students took part in MNSP Maths Challenge Heats at Ansford on 23rd June. The following students were selected and took part (sadly there were a few absentees)

Yellow Groups

Stanley N, Wilbur H, Soffia M, Karina K, Thomas H, Skyla C, Morgan W, Alaric N

Blue Groups

Dexter B, Alex-James P, Jude P, Harry H, Dexter W, Victoria E, Isabella P-J, Isaac F

Green Groups

Kacey W, Henry B, Maxi L, William W, Ruben C, Jordan H, Lola S, Charlotte P

Red Groups

Ruby S, Daisy J, George F, Mia S, Henry M. Isaac C, Marley L, Mason H

Well done for all that took part!





Huge congratulations to the winning team that are going to the Final at Norton Hill School on Friday 4th July are:

Sofiia M

Wilbur H

Thomas H

Alaric N

Good Luck!!

**From Mrs Watson, Independent Careers Advisor**

**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 [here](#) 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**

**Year 8 Rounders Yeovil Leagues Winners**

On Tuesday 24th June the girls travelled to Bucklers Mead academy for the area finals. We were up against last year winners Bucklers Mead so we knew this would be a tough game. In true Ansford style the girls took a while to settle making silly mistakes and Bucklers took the lead. However, the determined Ansford team came back to take the draw. With a 9 good ball match Ansford won 4-2 earning their place in the final against Preston. After losing to Preston in the earlier games Ansford composed themselves and with some change in tactics the girls won 13.5 to 8.5. Congratulations girls, a well deserved win.

**Year 9 Rounders Yeovil Leagues Runner ups**

On Thursday 26th June the year 9 girls travelled to Gryphon school to play last year's winners Holyrood. The girls fielded well with only a couple of errors and batted well to take the lead by 1 rounder. A slight restructuring of the field reduced the oppositions total further and Ansford continued to dominate their batting, winning confidently and



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earning their place in the final against Gryphon. Gryphon took the home advantage over the steep pitch and gained an early lead, despite an impressive batting performance from Ansford the girls couldn't quite manage a win losing by half a rounder. Player of the tournament Kitty C.



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**From Mrs Marshfield, Head of Music**

### **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 [here](#) to find out more and apply for a place



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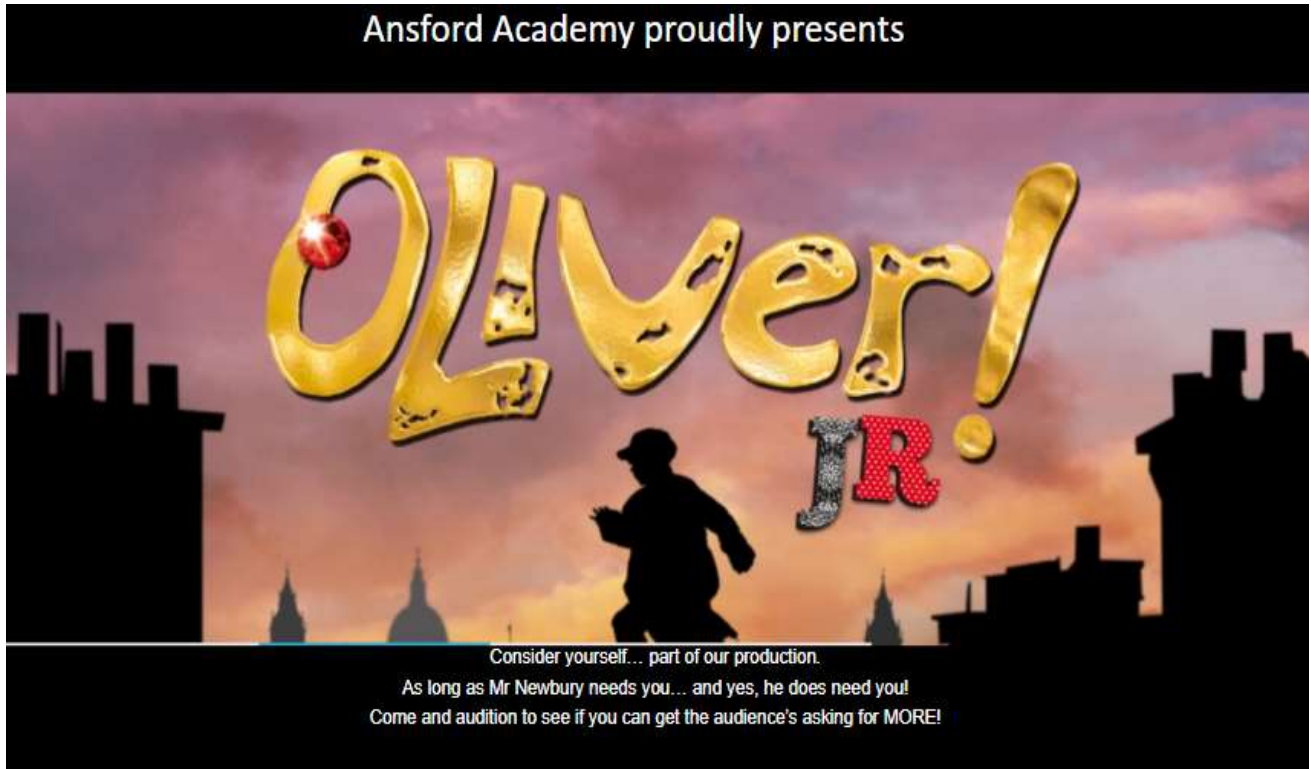
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From Mr Newbury, head of Drama

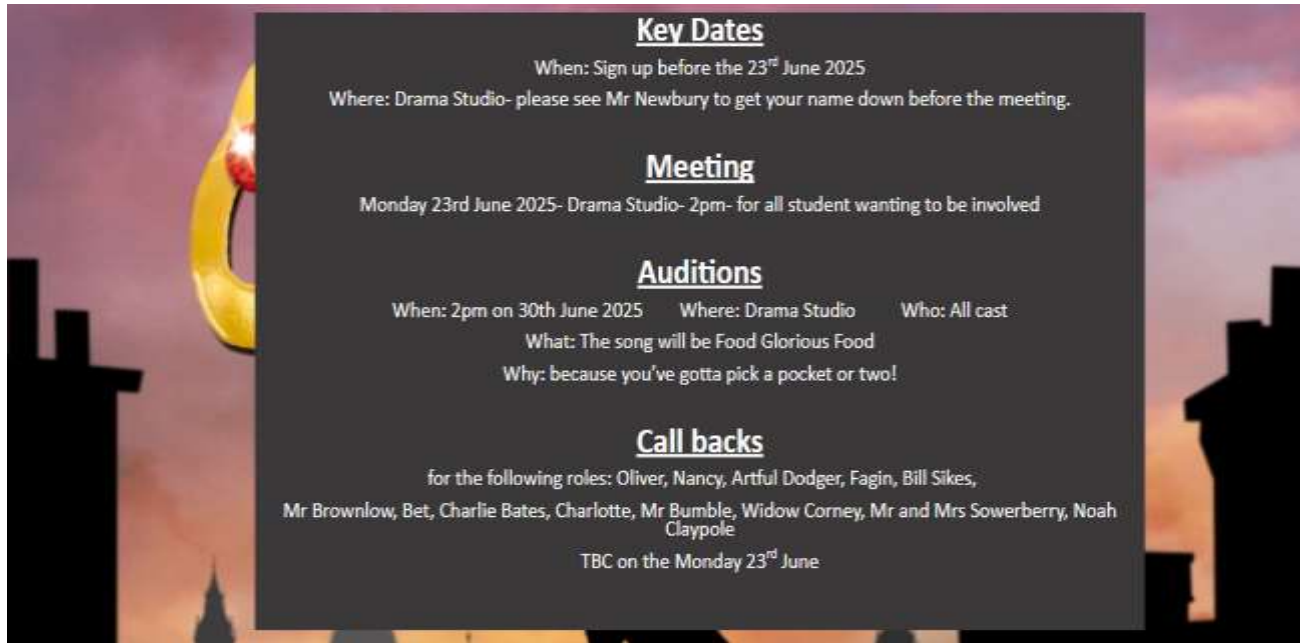
REMINDER: We are proud to announce that this year's School production will be.....

Ansford Academy proudly presents



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**Key Dates**  
When: Sign up before the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025  
Where: Drama Studio- please see Mr Newbury to get your name down before the meeting.

**Meeting**  
Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025- Drama Studio- 2pm- for all student wanting to be involved

**Auditions**  
When: 2pm on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025    Where: Drama Studio    Who: All cast  
What: The song will be Food Glorious Food  
Why: because you've gotta pick a pocket or two!

**Call backs**  
for the following roles: Oliver, Nancy, Artful Dodger, Fagin, Bill Sikes,  
Mr Brownlow, Bet, Charlie Bates, Charlotte, Mr Bumble, Widow Corney, Mr and Mrs Sowerberry, Noah  
Claypole  
TBC on the Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June

## From Mrs White, Governance Professional

### Become a Parent Governor and make a world of difference

#### Why become a Parent Governor?

- Make a difference: Shape the future of your child's school and all the children who attend!
- Learn new skills: Gain valuable experience in strategic planning, teamwork, and more.
- Develop your skills: Enhance your leadership and communication abilities.
- Support the school: Help ensure the school's continued success and excellence.
- Network: Connect with other parents and school staff who are passionate about education

#### Who can be a Parent Governor?

- Parents of current students at Ansford Academy are eligible.
- You don't need prior experience, but a passion for education and the school is a must!

#### How to apply:

- Please click [here](#) to apply using our quick and easy google form.



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- Alternatively, please contact Zoe White if you would like any further information about the role.  
[zwhite@ansford.mnsp.org.uk](mailto:zwhite@ansford.mnsp.org.uk)



#### From Mr King, Site Technician

##### Drop Off and Collection

Parents/carers are reminded that the staff car park is not a drop off or collection point.

This area has seen increasing thoroughfare and the safety of students is at risk - there have been a number of near-miss vehicular incidents, which also heightens risk to pedestrians.

The entrance to the car park is not purpose built to take volumes of traffic entering and exiting during start and end of school times.

Please also note that the school accepts no responsibility for vehicles while on the premises and they will not be covered by any insurance.

We appreciate your full cooperation in this matter.



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

**My Future Consent Reminder for Year 8**

Please do ensure that you have given consent for your child to attend My Future day at Yeovil College on Thursday 3rd of July 2025. Without consent students will not be able to attend.

**From Our School Community**

**Ansford Parish Council**

To find out what's happening in your local community, click [here](#) for events



**Castle Cary Town Council**

To find out what's happening in your local community, click [here](#) for events



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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.

#### Governor

[Governor I Ansford Academy](#)

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

[Ansford Academy Staff Vacancies](#)



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