



## Bulletin for Ansford Families

Issue 1: 26th September 2025

### Message from the Head of School Mr Musson

I cannot believe it is the end of our fourth week back after the summer break - how time flies!

I have been so impressed with how our students and staff have started this term. It truly is a joy to walk around the school building during lesson time and see students fully engaged in learning. Teachers are providing high quality teaching, and our students are certainly rising to the standard expected to be successful learners. I've seen amazing bread making, dresses created from art designs, amazing analytical descriptions in English and some very thought-provoking problem solving in Maths, to name a few.

We have already held some really important events in the calendar, particularly for our year 11. We've hosted our annual 'Moving On' evening where colleges, apprenticeships and other post 16 providers attended to provide valuable information on the journey beyond Ansford. We also held our first of two Year 11 Parents Evenings last night to provide families with key information on how to prepare for the upcoming mocks and what particular areas to focus on to ensure their child is successful during year 11.

Today our Drama students and those taking part in our December 'Oliver!' production took part in an amazing all day workshop. We were privileged to have Billy Byers (who recently played the Artful Dodger in the West End Production at the Gielgud Theatre in London) and Billy's ex Drama teacher (who coached Billy to be chosen for the role of the Artful Dodger), Charlie Harris come to Ansford to work with our students. Together they prepared and delivered an incredible experience for our students where they explored the characters of Oliver! and worked on the scene 'Food Glorious, Food'. This once in a lifetime experience will be a memory our students will hold for a very long time!

The sun is shining, so I wish you all to have a lovely weekend. I'm now off to get some lunch.... Please sir, can I have some more!

Karl Musson





Academy Calendar: Key Upcoming Events			
Week	Date in October	Event Details	Lead
1	Wednesday 1st	Guy Braga - Visit Som Wildlife - Forest School	Ms Evans
1	Thursday 2nd	Fire Safety Talk - Year 7	Mr Davis
1		Open Evening - details below	Mrs Dyal
1	Friday 3rd	Primary Offer - Year 6 Drama	Mr Newbury
2	Tuesday 7th	Drama Exam - Devising - Year 11	Mr Newbury
2	Wednesday 8th	Open Morning - details below	Mrs Dyal
2		Year 10 Information Evening - details to follow	Ms Walsh
2	Thursday 9th	Basketball Tournament - details to follow	Mrs Grove
2		Somerset Skills and Careers Fair - details to follow	Mr Mitchell
1	Tuesday 14th	Year 2 Sports Festival	Mrs Grove
1	Wednesday 15th	Year 11 Lyme Regis Trip - Geography Students - details to follow	Mr Antoine
1	Friday 17th	Road Safety Talk - Year 7	Mr Davis
1		Primary Offer - Year 6 Drama	Mr Newbury
2	Monday 20th	Autumn 1 Colour Matches - details to follow	Mrs Grove



Report a student absence by phone: 01963 350 895 or by email [attendanceofficer@ansford.mnsp.org.uk](mailto:attendanceofficer@ansford.mnsp.org.uk)  
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2	Thursday 23rd	Year 11 Photographs -details to follow	Mrs White
2		KS3 Information Evening - details to follow	Mr Mitchell
2	Friday 24th	INSET DAY - School Closed to Students	
Half Term - 27th to 31st October			

### A Warm Welcome to our Open Evening and Open Morning





## Ansford Academy

# Open Evening and Open Morning

*Year 6 and Year 5 families are warmly invited to attend our open events*



**OPEN EVENING**  
**Thursday 2nd October: 5.00pm until 7.30pm**  
*Please join us to hear from our Head of School and take a tour around our school*  
*Presentations will take place in PA2 at: 5.15pm and 6.00pm—no need to book in advance*

**OPEN MORNING**  
**Wednesday 8th October: 9.30am until 11.00am**  
*You are invited to come and see our students in action*  
*School Tours will take place during the morning — no need to book in advance*

*“At Ansford we are aiming high and dreaming big”— Year 11 Head Students*

**We are celebrating our best GCSE results in recent years, marking a significant milestone in our school’s academic journey. We are committed to creating a great place to learn, work and grow;**

*learning together to lead our lives*

Ansford Academy, Maggs Lane, Castle Cary, Somerset, BA7 7JJ - 01963 350895 - [admissions@ansford.mnsp.org.uk](mailto:admissions@ansford.mnsp.org.uk) - [www.ansford.org.uk](http://www.ansford.org.uk)



## Notices

From Mr Newbury, Drama Teacher and Oliver! Production Director

### Oliver! Cast Workshop

What an amazing event - well done to the cast on your participation today - what a great time we had!



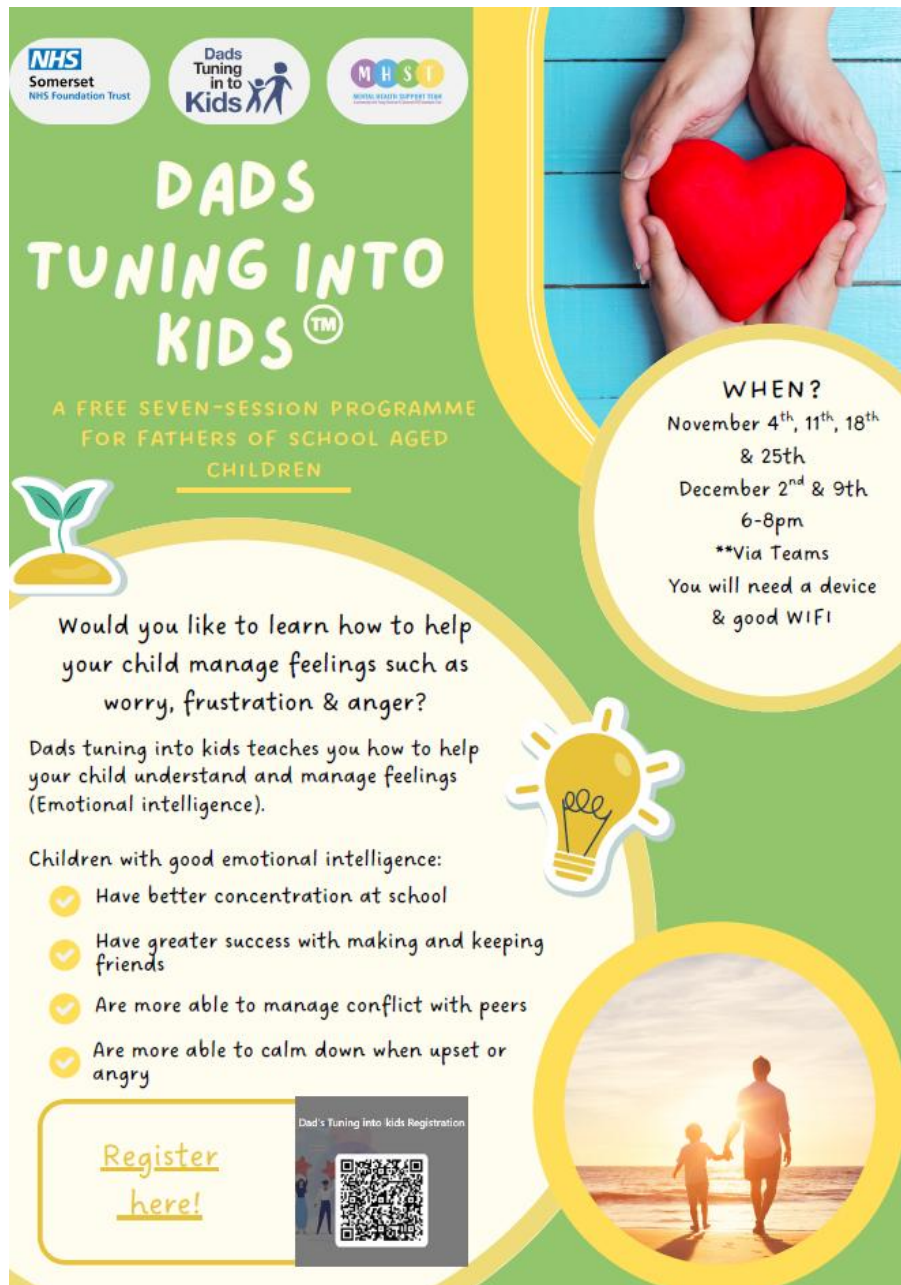
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From Ms Hirst, Deputy Headteacher: Welfare and Inclusion

## Dads Tuning into Kids



**NHS Somerset NHS Foundation Trust** **Dads Tuning in to Kids** **MHST**

# DADS TUNING INTO KIDS™

A FREE SEVEN-SESSION PROGRAMME FOR FATHERS OF SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN

Would you like to learn how to help your child manage feelings such as worry, frustration & anger?

Dads tuning into kids teaches you how to help your child understand and manage feelings (Emotional intelligence).



Children with good emotional intelligence:

- ✓ Have better concentration at school
- ✓ Have greater success with making and keeping friends
- ✓ Are more able to manage conflict with peers
- ✓ Are more able to calm down when upset or angry

**WHEN?**  
November 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>  
December 2<sup>nd</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>  
6-8pm  
\*\*Via Teams  
You will need a device & good WIFI

**Register here!**

Dad's Tuning into Kids Registration



ANSFORD ACADEMY

LEARNING TOGETHER TO LEAD OUR LIVES

MNST Free Parent and Carer Webinars



Autumn 2025

**FREE PARENT & CARER  
WEBINARS**

Hosted by Somerset's Mental Health  
Support Team

**WONDERING HOW TO  
SUPPORT YOUR  
CHILD'S WELLBEING?**

**WHAT'S ON?**

- SLEEP
- SUPPORTING BIG FEELINGS
- BUILDING SELF-ESTEEM & RESILIENCE



[BIT.LY/AUTUMNWEBINARS25](https://bit.ly/AUTUMNWEBINARS25)



[BIT.LY/MHSTINFO](https://bit.ly/MHSTINFO)

[BIT.LY/YOUNGSOMERSETMHST](https://bit.ly/YOUNGSOMERSETMHST)

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**From Mrs Sweetlove, Pastoral Lead- Attendance & Inclusion**

As part of our ongoing focus on **attendance and punctuality**, we are placing a strong emphasis this year on supporting students to arrive **on time, every day**. Being punctual sets a positive tone for the day and ensures students don't miss vital learning time—just a few minutes late each day quickly adds up to hours of lost education.

**Why Punctuality Matters:**

- Students who arrive late often miss the crucial start-of-day routines and instructions
- Being late can cause unnecessary stress and disrupt learning—for both the student and the class
- Consistent punctuality builds good habits for life and shows respect for others.

**Help Your Child Start the Day Right:**

A good morning routine at home is key. Here are a few helpful tips:

- Set a regular bedtime and wake-up time
- Prepare school bags, uniforms, and lunches the night before
- Aim to arrive at school **10 minutes before the start time**, to allow for a calm start to the day.

**New Punctuality Procedures:**

To ensure consistency and fairness, we are introducing the following steps:

- If a student is **late 3 times to the legal registration periods (Am reg & Period 4) in one week** without contact from a parent or valid medical evidence, a 1-hour after-school detention will be issued.
- If a student is **late 5 times in a two-week period**, a 2-hour after-school detention will be issued.
- For **persistent lateness**, students will be placed on **tutor reports** and may require additional support and monitoring.

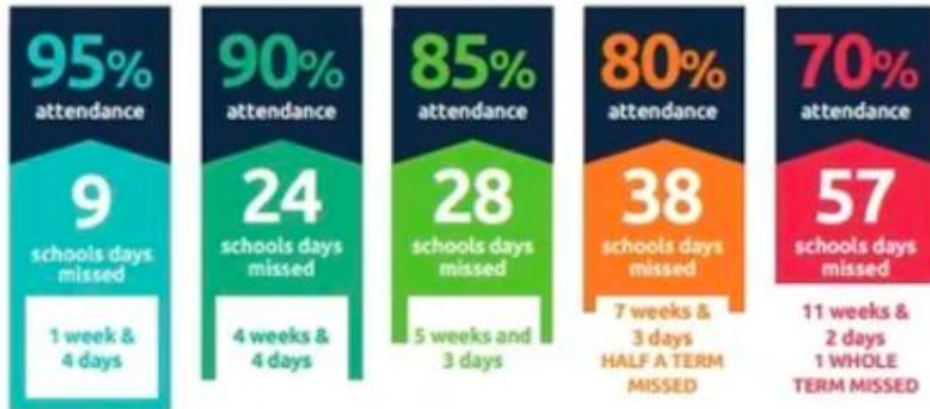
We understand that occasional lateness can happen. If there is a genuine reason for your child being late, please contact the school office or provide medical evidence where appropriate.

**Let's work together to build strong habits, reduce missed learning, and support every child's success.**

Together, we can make being on time a priority.



## Every day in school counts...



## and every minute counts...



### Attendance and Appointments – A Reminder to All Families

As we move through the academic year, I want to take a moment to thank you for your continued support in promoting good attendance — something that plays a vital role in every child's education and long-term success.

This year, I've noticed a significant increase in the number of students already being taken out of school for appointments during the school day. While I completely understand that some appointments are unavoidable, I'd like to kindly remind all families to book appointments **outside of school hours wherever possible**, to minimise disruption to your child's learning.



Report a student absence by phone: 01963 350 895 or by email [attendanceofficer@ansford.mnsp.org.uk](mailto:attendanceofficer@ansford.mnsp.org.uk)

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When appointments during the school day cannot be avoided:

- Please ensure your child is out of school for **the shortest time possible**
- I encourage students to come into school before their appointment or return afterwards, wherever this can be managed
- All students **must be signed out at reception by a parent or carer listed on the student's contact list**, or by someone the school has been informed about in advance through written or verbal authorisation
- **Students are not allowed to leave the premises alone** unless prior arrangements have been made with the school.

It is also essential that you notify the school in advance of any appointments and provide evidence (such as a letter, appointment card, text or email confirmation). In line with Department for Education (DfE) guidance, schools cannot routinely authorise absence for appointments without supporting documentation. If evidence is not supplied, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

Please also be aware that in accordance with DfE guidance, if a student accumulates 10 sessions (equivalent to 5 full school days) of unauthorised absence within a 12-week period, this may lead to a formal referral and the potential for a penalty notice being issued, this is something we strongly want to avoid.

I understand that balancing school, family life, and appointments isn't always easy, and I truly appreciate your cooperation. By working together, we can ensure that every child is supported to attend regularly and make the most of their learning.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss anything related to attendance, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

#### From Reception

##### Personal Property

May we remind all families to ensure students' blazers, PE Kit, jumpers and all equipment are marked with their names. We have lots of property lost each term that is handed to us, and we are unable to return it to its rightful owners.

All lost property not claimed at the end of term is used within school or recycled!





### No Mobile Phones

Just a reminder of our 'Off and Away' Mobile Phone Policy. Should you require contact with your child during the school day, please call us at Reception and we will get a message to them for you.

### From Mrs Grove, Head of PE

#### Kit Requirements

Year 7, 8 and 9 students will be moving onto our Invasion unit of work week commencing 6th October.

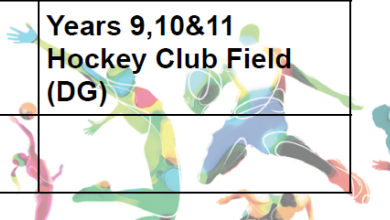
They will all now need boots, gum shields and shin pads. As the weather gets colder, they will also need to wear their PE hoodies to keep them warm.

Any problems with kit please let your PE teacher know.

#### Extra-curricular Sports Activities for the Autumn Term



DAY	LUNCHTIME 1.45pm - 2.30pm	AFTER SCHOOL 3.30-4.30pm
MONDAY	Dodgeball Club - Sports Hall (RH)	
TUESDAY	Cross-Country - All Years Field (JD) Handball Club - Sports Hall (DG)	Years 7+8 Hockey Club Field (DG)
WEDNESDAY	Year 7 + 8 Rugby Club Field (JD/MD)	All years Badminton Sports Hall (Coach)
THURSDAY	Year 7 Multi-sports - Sports Hall (JD) Girls Football - Field (MD)	Years 9,10&11 Hockey Club Field (DG)
FRIDAY	Years 9, 10 & 11 Volleyball (DG)	



#### Sporting Success

Chloe W in Year 8 has been successful in making the U13 Cricket Somerset Team. This is a great achievement, and







**ANSFORD ACADEMY**  
*LEARNING TOGETHER TO LEAD OUR LIVES*

Chloe has worked hard to get into the squad.

We are very proud of your success Chloe!

**From Miss Fulton, Medical Co-ordinator**

**Health Care Plans**

If any families are yet to return their child's Health Care Plan, please do so as soon as possible.

**From Mrs Marshfield, Head of Creative Arts**

**The National Youth Choir**

The National Youth Choir are currently signing people up and students can apply to undertake a free online audition for a place if they are interested up until 10 October.

It's open to all singers from ages 9-18 (so ideal for younger or older siblings too) who are interested in singing whether they have lessons or not.

There is a link [here](#) for more information.



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From Mrs Swallow, Head of DT

## Delights from the Kitchen!

Year 8 Gluten Free Swiss Roll



Year 9 Soda Bread



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## From Caterlink

### Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is open from 8.30am every morning, offering a selection of breakfast items including fresh fruit, pastries and bacon rolls.

### Maximum Daily Spend

All students are given a £5 daily spend limit. This is the maximum they can spend in a day, even if they have more on their account.



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Please advise your children if they want a main meal at lunch they need to make sure they are saving £2.65.

We do not allow overspends in the Canteen. If you would like to increase/decrease your child's daily spend limit please contact Helen Martin in the Finance Office.

### **From Our Community**

#### **Hadspen Village Hall**

You might not know about Hadspen Village Hall ([hadspenvillagehall.org.uk](http://hadspenvillagehall.org.uk)), which was built in 2008 and is tucked away in the valley between Bruton and Castle Cary. The perfect place for holding birthday parties or other gatherings, it has the following facilities:

- Idyllic rural location in the valley between Bruton and Castle Cary, on the edge of a cider orchard
- Extra-large car park
- Capacity for 80 standing; 60 seating, with beautiful sprung wooden floor, which is perfect for dancing!
- Well-equipped kitchen with catering dishwasher
- Recommended caterers can be provided
- Wifi
- Wide-screen TV for presentations
- PA system
- Gazebos
- Bouncy castles permitted

[hadspenvillagehall.org.uk](http://hadspenvillagehall.org.uk)

#### **Castle Cary Youth Club**







ANSFORD ACADEMY

LEARNING TOGETHER TO LEAD OUR LIVES

YOUTH CONNECT SOUTH WEST

Funded by  
Castle Cary is a 'Top Town' Trust

# CASTLE CARY

## YOUTH CLUB

YEAR 7+

EVERY TUESDAY  
4PM - 6PM

SNACKS, GAMES,  
ACTIVITIES, CHANCE TO  
TALK AND MORE!

SPORTS PAVILION,  
ANSFORD RD, CASTLE CARY  
BA7 7LB

For more info get in touch with Penny:  
☎ 07814125508  
✉ penny.lukins@ycsw.org.uk

Follow us



[www.youthconnectsouthwest.org.uk](http://www.youthconnectsouthwest.org.uk)



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**Inspiring Young People**

**Castle Cary Youth Club – Free Weekly Sessions for Young People**

Looking for a fun, safe space for your child after school? The Castle Cary Youth Club is now open to all students in Year 7 and above, offering a welcoming environment to socialise, take part in activities, and make new friends.

🕒 Every Tuesday, 4pm–6pm

📍 Sports Pavilion, Ansford Road, Castle Cary, BA7 7LB

🆓 Free to attend

Run by Youth Connect South West and funded by Castle Cary Town Council, the club offers a variety of activities including music, games, and sports - all led by experienced youth workers who create a supportive and inclusive space.

“Our goal is to create a space where young people feel valued, supported, and free to be themselves.” – Youth Connect South West

No registration required - just come along and join the fun!

For more info get in touch with Penny on 07814125508 or [penny.lukins@ycsw.org.uk](mailto:penny.lukins@ycsw.org.uk)

**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.

**No vacancies at present**

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

[Ansford Academy Staff Vacancies](#)



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