



Bulletin for Ansford Families

Issue 2: 10th October 2025

Message from the Head of School Mr Musson

It was such a pleasure to host our annual Open Evening last week. It was a fantastic evening and honestly, I could not have asked for anything more from either our staff or students. We had nearly half of our students helping during the evening, wanting to show off their school. This says a lot to me; it is a true reflection of where we are as a school when so many students are willing to give up their time to represent the school. They were all incredible - polite, articulate, friendly and confident. I am so proud of each and every individual - they were brilliant. We had so many positive comments from parents about the evening, it really was a wonderful evening.

On Wednesday we held our Year 10 Information Evening. The evening consisted of providing Year 10 parents key messages about the journey of Key Stage 4 and how to support their child at home. If you were unable to attend the evening or would like to go over the point discussed here is a [link](#) to the presentation. One of the key messages discussed was the importance of communication between families and school. Communication is central to everything we do, if you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to email your child's tutor or contact their Head of Year.

As I've said before, being the Head of School at Ansford gives me the privileged position of regularly visiting lessons and seeing the amazing learning that takes place in our classrooms. This week I had the pleasure of visiting a year 7 English class who were studying 19th Century Victorian slang. I must say I was blown away with the obvious love for learning in the lesson where students were creating their own Victorian slang and the humour that goes with this - particularly when the Head of School is in the classroom! Just brilliant.

Have a lovely weekend
Karl Musson





Academy Calendar: Key Upcoming Events			
Week	Date in October	Event Details	Lead
1	Tuesday 14th	Year 2 Sports Festival	Mrs Grove
1	Wednesday 15th	Year 11 Lyme Regis Trip - Geography Students - details issued	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
2	Wednesday 22nd	Oliver! Full day Rehearsal	Mr Newbury
2	Thursday 23rd	Non-Uniform Day - details below	Mr Cue
2		KS3 Information Evening - details to follow	Mr Mitchell
2	Friday 24th	INSET DAY - School Closed to Students	
Half Term - 27th to 31st October			
Week	Date in November	Event Details	Lead
1	Monday 3rd	School Opens to Students	
1	Tuesday 4th	Year 11 Bristol Trip - Geography Students - details to follow	Mr Antoine
1	Thursday 5th	Year 7 Students - Orchestra Session	Mrs Marshfield
2	W/c Monday 10th	Year 11 Mock Exams Fortnight Begins	Mrs Dyal



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Notices

From Mrs Sweetlove, Pastoral Lead- Attendance & Inclusion

Attendance Survey

We are always looking for ways to strengthen our partnership with parents and carers and one area that continues to be a key focus for us is attendance. We know that regular attendance at school has a significant impact on a child's learning, progress, and sense of belonging.

We also recognise that every family's experience is different, and that there can be a range of reasons why attendance may be a challenge at times. With this in mind, we have invited all parents and carers to take part in a short Attendance Survey.

Thank you to those who have already responded to the survey. If you are yet to provide a response, you can access the survey [here](#).

The survey will be open until 4pm on Thursday 16th October 2025.

Attendance Matters Booklet

Attendance Matters: A Partnership for Success

We believe that excellent attendance is the foundation of educational success. The Department for Education's latest research demonstrates that students with 95% attendance or above achieve significantly better outcomes than their peers.

Our [Attendance Matters Booklet](#) outlines our collaborative approach to supporting every child's educational journey through consistent school attendance.

We take seriously our shared responsibilities of working together as a community, striving for excellence in all we do, and ensuring that our school community is valued for who we are and who we can become. Through high academic and personal expectations, we inspire our students to enjoy their time here and ensure that they leave fully prepared for the next phase of their lives.



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Attendance Matters, Moments Count

Do Now

Engage

Learn

Build

Apply

Review

Attendance Matters, Moments Matters

School Target - Above 95%

Good attendance means consistent learning, stronger progress, and better preparation for exams. Being in school daily supports routines, builds confidence, and boosts mental wellbeing by keeping students connected to friends, teachers, and support systems. Every lesson counts, and every day in school helps students move closer to their goals.

Attendance Percentage vs Days/ Lessons Missed

Attendance (%)	Days Absent (per year)	Lessons Missed (per year)
100%	0	0
98%	4	20
95%	9.5	47.5
93%	13.3	66.5
90%	19	95
85%	28.5	142.5
80%	38	190
75%	47.5	237.5
70%	57	285

Attendance and Attainment



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Do Now
Engage
Learn
Build
Apply
Review

Attendance & Attainment

Studies show a strong link between attendance and attainment, with consistent school attendance significantly increasing the likelihood of achieving higher academic outcomes.

Did you know?

Every 1% drop in attendance equates to approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ GCSE grade lost. This compounds over time, significantly affecting students educational outcomes and future opportunities

"It's not just about Year 11 – Year 10 matters too." Research shows attendance habits formed in Year 10 continue into Year 11. Students with high attendance now are more likely to stay on track next year

Research shows that students with over 95% attendance are far more likely to achieve five strong GCSE passes, including English and Maths

Future Earnings - Persistently absent students (students with attendance less than 90%): Could earn £10,000 less by age 28 compared to those with near-perfect attendance (95–100% attendance).

From Ms Walsh, Head of Year 10

Year 10 Visit to the Somerset Careers and Skills Fair

Year 10 had a morning at Westlands, in Yeovil, attending the Somerset Careers and Skills Fair. All students had the opportunity to explore numerous post 16 options. The venue was filled with career stands, offering information [including apprenticeships] and guidance, giving students the chance to ask questions about their area of interest and more.

The trip was a great success and most, if not all students returned with a bag full of brochures, pens and information to help them with their post 16 choices. All students behaved impeccably throughout and should all be very proud of themselves.





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LEARNING TOGETHER TO LEAD OUR LIVES

Somerset Skills and Careers Fair 2025

From Mrs Rice, Head of English

Screening of 'Macbeth' at The Amulet

On Monday 29th September, we teamed up with the English Department at St Dunstons to offer our Year 11 students the opportunity to watch Shakespeare's 'Macbeth' on film at The Amulet in Shepton Mallet.

The Amulet Theatre itself is an exciting building, designed in the bold, brutalist style of the 1970s, and there is a campaign to reopen it as a multi-purpose community venue in the heart of Shepton Mallet town centre. You can see further details here: <https://buytheamulet.org.uk/>.

A big thank you to The Amulet for generously screening the film for free, welcoming our students and even selling ice creams. Thank you also to St Dunstons for collaborating and booking the venue. Thirty of our Year 11 students attended to watch their Shakespeare set text for English Literature - not bad at all on a Monday evening! Mrs Hardy-Stewart and I were proud to accompany them.



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From Mr Cue, Assistant Headteacher: Personal Development

Non-Uniform Day – Thursday 23rd October

We are pleased to announce that our next Non-Uniform Day will take place on Thursday 23rd October.

Students are invited to wear their own clothes on the day, with a suggested voluntary contribution of £1. Contributions can be made in cash at the year gate or via the school payment portal.

All money raised will go towards a project chosen and led by our Student Council. The Student Council represents the voice of our students and plays an active role in improving life at the academy. They are currently discussing potential projects that will make a real difference to our school community.



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The council will be meeting on Tuesday next week to finalise their plans and decide how the funds will be used — ensuring that every contribution helps to create a positive impact that benefits all students.

Thank you for your continued support in helping our students take the lead and make a difference at our academy.

From Mr Newbury, Drama Teacher and Oliver! Production Director

Oliver! Cast Rehearsal Information

Full day rehearsals for Oliver for all cast:

- Wednesday 22nd October
- Tuesday 25th November
- Monday 8th December

Full day Sunday rehearsals for all cast

- Sunday 16th November
- Sunday 30th November



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From Mrs Withers, Head of Maths

Year 11 Maths Revision Session Plan

YEAR 11 MATHS REVISION SESSION COUNTDOWN PLAN 25-26

Exam Board: Edexcel

Paper Details: Paper 1 Non-calculator, Papers 2 & 3 Calculator

Exam Date(s): Paper 1 – Thursday 14th May Morning, Paper 2 – Wednesday 3rd June Morning, Paper 3 – Wednesday 10th June Morning

Sessions run every Thursday after school 3.30 - 4.30pm Higher Tier with Mrs Withers in MA1, Foundation Tier with Mrs Loud in MA3

Sessions run every Monday lunchtime 2.00 - 2.30pm Higher Tier with Mrs Withers in MA1, Foundation Tier with Mrs Loud in MA3

Weeks until Summer Paper 1	Week commencing	Monday lunchtime Higher Tier Topics 2.00 - 2:30pm with PW in MA1	Monday lunchtime Foundation Tier Topics 2.00 - 2:30pm with LL in MA3	Thursday afterschool Higher Tier Topics 3.30 - 4.30pm with PW in MA1	Thursday afterschool Foundation Tier Topics 3.30 - 4.30pm with LL in MA3
31	6.10.25	Simultaneous Equations	Angles	- Standard form calculations - Histograms - Weekly 10 Mock revision P1	- Directed no.s - Indices - Weekly 10 Mock revision P1
30	13.10.25	Recurring decimals to fractions	Stem & Leaf diagrams	- Circle Theorems - Area Sector - Length Arc - Weekly 10 Mock revision P2	- Best Value - Factorise - Expand brackets - Weekly 10 Mock revision P2
29	20.10.25	Trig Ratios	Nth term	- Sine Rule - Cosine rule - Weekly 10 Mock revision P3	- Fraction of amount - Ordering fractions - Calculations with fractions - Weekly 10 Mock revision P3
28	27.10.25	OCTOBER HALF TERM			
27	3.11.25	Surds	SDT	- Cumulative frequency - Vectors - Weekly 10 Mock revision P1	- Frequency trees & Multiples/Factors/Primes - Weekly 10 Mock revision P1
26	10.11.25 Mock Week 1	- HCF, LCM, prime factors - Probability tree diagrams	Recipes	Completing the square	- Pie charts - HCF/LCF

Careers

Somerset Careers Hub

Please find this week's careers bulletin with opportunities and resources [here](#).

Somerset
CAREERS HUB

THE CAREERS & ENTERPRISE
COMPANY



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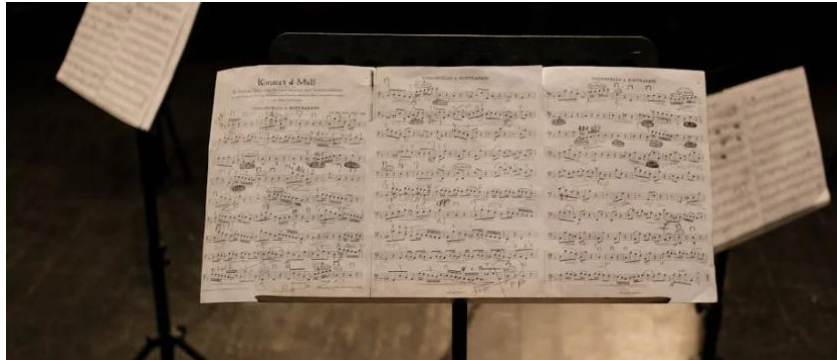
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Mrs Marshfield, Head of Creative Arts

Orchestra Sessions for Year 7 Students

Year 7 students will be having the exciting opportunity to experience four performances, each one hour long, exhibiting and discussing the four sections of the orchestra during November. Each performance is presented by professional musicians demonstrating their instruments and performing individually and as an ensemble. We look forward to sharing some photos!:

- Thurs 6th November
- Tues 11th November
- Wed 12th November
- Thurs 13th November



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Mrs Thomas, Science Technician

Apples, apples, apples!



Please say a huge thank
you to the YR11
Horticulture group, who
picked, sorted and
delivered to the Staff
Room, an apple for every,
single student in the
school.
Excellent job!



Mrs Swallow, Head of Design Technology

Delights from the Kitchen!

Year 8 Quiche



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Sweet/Chocolate Tubs

We ask for donations of any unwanted tubs/christmas chocolate tubs for students to take food home in, they would be gratefully received!



From Mrs Grove, Head of PE

REMINDER: 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.

REMINDER: Extra-curricular Sports Activities for the Autumn Term

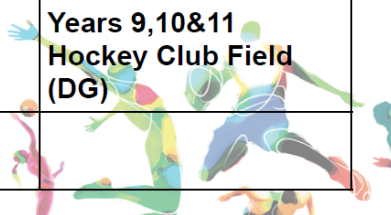


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DAY	LUNCHTIME 1.45pm - 2.30pm	AFTER SCHOOL 3.30-4.30pm
MONDAY	Dodgeball Club - Sports Hall (RH)	
TUESDAY	Cross-Country - All Years Field (JD) Handball Club - Sports Hall (DG)	Years 7+8 Hockey Club Field (DG)
WEDNESDAY	Year 7 + 8 Rugby Club Field (JD/MD)	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)	



From Caterlink

REMINDER: Breakfast Club

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

REMINDER: 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.

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.





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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.

[Teacher of ICT and Computer Science](#)

[Parent and Family Support Advisor](#)

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

[Ansford Academy Staff Vacancies](#)



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