



Bulletin for Ansford Families

Issue 4: 21st November 2025

Message from the Head of School Mr Musson

Firstly, I want to congratulate our Year 11s on how they have approached their Mock exams over the last two weeks - they have been exceptional. This is the start of exam preparation for our year 11's, they have another set of mocks at the beginning of March - 11 weeks' time. Teachers are now busy marking the exams and then will be providing detailed feedback on how to improve ready for the second set of mocks.

Since returning after the October break students have been involved in a number of trips and events. Year 11 Geography students have visited Bristol for the second of their fieldwork trips, year 10 Textiles students visited our local John Boyd Horsehair factory in Castle Cary and on Tuesday we held our Year 5 dance festival with a mixture of some of our year 9's and 10's leading the activities. All these events bring valuable learning experiences which enriches our curriculum. As usual I was extremely proud to see how our students interacted with the primary school students and to see how much the year 5's were enjoying working with our students.

On Sunday 9th November myself and two students (Tom and Millie) represented Ansford Academy at the Castle Cary Remembrance Service. We attended the church service followed by the procession through the town and then the wreath laying ceremony at the War Memorial. Our students, as always, presented themselves outstandingly and it was an honour to have them representing our school. I was also extremely proud to see so many of our current and past students also attending in representing other local organisations (Cadet's, Scouts, The Methodist Church, Cygnets and Majorettes to name a few) at the service. It was heartwarming to see our community joining together to mark such an important event in the year.

Following feedback from our student council we have recently purchased 7 new outdoor picnic benches for students to enjoy using at break and lunchtimes. Thank you to Galhampton Country Stores for supporting us in providing these.

Have a lovely weekend, 5 weeks to Christmas!

All the best, Karl Musson







sweet					
Week	Date in November	Event Details	Lead		
2	Tuesday 25th	Oliver! Full Day Rehearsal	Mr Newbury		
2	Thursday 274b	Year 11 Group and Individual Photos	Mrs White		
2	Thursday 27th	Cross Country Tournament - details to follow	Mrs Grove		
2	Friday 28th	Year 7 Ansford Ghost Tour - 6:30pm-8:00pm - details below	Mrs Martin		
2	Sunday 30th	Oliver! Full Day Rehearsal	Mr Newbury		
Week	Date in December	Event Details	Lead		
1	W/c Monday 1st	Year 7 France Trip to Amiens	Mr Cravero		
1	Tuesday 2nd	Costa Rice Trip - Parent Meeting	Miss Evans		
1	Wednesday 3rd	Year 12 GCSE certificate Collection - details to follow	Mrs Dyal		
1		Year 8 Parents Evening - details to follow	Miss Macey		
1	Thursday 4th	Year 10 & 11 Drama Trip - Woman in Black - details to follow	Mr Newbury		
1		Year 11 Strode Experience Day - details to follow	Mr Willson		
2	Manday Ctl	Oliver! Full Day Rehearsal	Mr Newbury		
2	Monday 8th	Flu Vaccinations - details to follow	Miss Fulton		
2	Tuesday 9th	Oliver! Production for Year 6 Students	Mr Newbury		



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2	Wednesday 10th	Oliver! Production - details below	Mr Newbury
2	Thursday 11th	Oliver! Production - details below	Mr Newbury
2	Friday 12th	Oliver! Production - details below	Mr Newbury

Notices

From Mrs Sweetlove, Pastoral Lead- Attendance & Inclusion

ATTENDANCE MATTERS SO DO YOU!

Our vision is to achieve excellence by consistently fulfilling 100% attendance and punctuality goals.











Attendance Update and Parent Survey Thank You

A huge thank you to all the families who recently completed our parent survey. We're currently reviewing all responses, and it has been incredibly helpful to hear your views. Your feedback plays an important part in shaping how we continue to improve our support, communication and systems.

We also wanted to make families aware that next week we will be sending out attendance update letters to all parents and carers. Each letter will share which attendance band your child currently falls into and provide a reminder of how attendance links to learning time lost.

We understand that receiving a letter about attendance can sometimes feel worrying or personal, and we want to reassure you that this is not our intention. Schools are required under the DfE guidance: Working Together to Improve School Attendance (2022 with 2024 updates) to regularly monitor and share attendance information with families, and these letters are part of our statutory responsibility.

Our aim is always to work with families, and we appreciate those parents who have already been in touch this year to discuss absences, health needs or wider circumstances affecting attendance, and we truly appreciate those open



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conversations. They help us put the right support in place early.

A quick reminder that any absence — including authorised absences such as medical appointments — does affect the overall attendance percentage. This is standard across all schools and not specific to Ansford Academy.

Above all, our communication around attendance is intended to support, inform and work in partnership to ensure every young person has the best possible chance to thrive, achieve and feel successful in school.

Thank you for your continued support — it really makes a difference.

Mrs Sweetlove

From the Royal British Legion (RBL)

Thank You for Your Support

The RBL have thanked Ansford Academy for supporting the Poppy Appeal and raising £80.15. This contributes to the Town total of £6,500.



"Your support has made a real difference to those in the Armed forces community. Without your efforts, we couldn't do the work we do."

From Mrs Martin, Finance Manager

Prom Committee

We are still planning to run our Students vs Teachers Football Match, watch this space for a new date - once the weather improves!



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The Ansford Ghost Tour

In the meantime, we are running a brand-new event, exclusively for Year 7 students - The Ansford Ghost Tour! Please see poster attached for information - Entry is £3.00 which includes your Ghost Tour, payment can be made on School Gateway. Please bring additional cash for food, drinks and games.

Please note, the ghost tour will take place in the dark, so torches / phones are essential, there will be scary tales and some spooky occurrences, so this event is not for the faint-hearted!



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From Mrs Martin, Teacher of English

Thank you!!

Further to my request, thank you for all the donations of board games to the Board Games Club. I will get new play doh to play some of the new games.

Learn new skills Get competitive

GAME ON!

KS3 BOARD GAMES CLUB EVERY FRIDAY LUNCH FN1





game and place

Make new friends





Master a game to beat those at home

From School Reception

Bus Passes

Students should remember to bring their bus passes in every day. Bus drivers can ask to see them at any time.

If your child has lost their bus pass you can call Somerset Council, School Transport on 0300 123 2224 or look on the website - somerset.gov.uk, follow the links to Children, Families and Education, then School Transport.

We have had lots and lots of students requesting temporary bus passes in the last week, we will only give these out in



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the short term.

From Mr Newbury, Drama Teacher and Oliver! Production Director

Oliver! Cast Rehearsal Information

Thank you for all the support you have given your child during the rehearsal stages of our production of Oliver!. With the performance just weeks away, this is a crucial time to bring everything together.

Rehearsals will continue on Wednesdays as usual. In addition, there will be another Sunday rehearsal on November 30th, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Students will have the opportunity to order McDonald's for lunch on these dates.

Thank you once again for your continued support. We're looking forward to sharing all the students' hard work with you soon!

Get Your Tickets Now!

Ticket sales go live today - get yours here, or via QR Code:

Ansford Academy Production-TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE



Dates

Wednesday 10th December Thursday 11th December Friday 12th December

Doors open at 6.30pm
Performance starts at 7pm
£6 per ticket
Please book using the QR
Code or website

https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/ansford-academy/oliver-jr/e-bbvpdj









From the Core Subject Team

Core Subject Homework Support

Thank you to all parents that are supporting their children with homework. If needed, we run homework support sessions during Wednesday lunchtime and both Wednesday and Fridays after school in IT2, that students are encouraged to attend.

Please note that detentions are set for non-completion of homework on Tuesday and Thursday break times in IT2. These will be on Classcharts.

From Mr Hill, STEM Co-ordinator

The Flying Start Competition

On Wednesday 19th November we welcomed a team of engineers, working with a number of our Year 8 students to guide and support them through an exciting project, The Flying Start Competition.

This is a STEM project where small teams of students will be tasked to Design, Build, Test and sell their product in a Dragon's Den style competition.

The sessions run after school every Wednesday until 4:30pm.







From Mrs Withers, Head of Maths

REMINDER: 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 - 4.3opm with PW in MA1	Thursday afterschool Foundation Tier Topics 3.30 – 4.3opm 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

Careers Information

Do not forget that the <u>Careers pages</u> on our website provide a wealth of information for all students, and particularly students in KS4 in the process of gathering information for their Post 16 choices:







Events and Experiences



Employers, Work Related Learning & Jobs



Labour Market Information





The <u>Events and Experiences page</u> is updated with information received from the Colleges and Sixth Forms so do keep an eye out there for events coming up in our local area.

Somerset Careers Hub

Please find this months' careers bulletin with opportunities and resources here:

8 October 2025

15 October 2025





Miss Harries, Teacher of History

Remembrance Homework

As part of our work on Remembrance, Key Stage 3 pupils were asked to complete a homework task to help them reflect on the importance of remembrance and to develop their understanding of local and personal connections to it.

Students were invited either to research the role of our local area during times of conflict or to create a fact file about







a family member or someone known to them who has served in the armed forces.

We have been delighted by the thoughtful and high-quality work the students have produced. Their projects show great respect, care, and curiosity, and have enabled us to create a wonderful and moving display in school to mark this important occasion.



Mr Kershaw, Head of Science

Sparx Homework for Science and Maths



Thank you to all parents that are helping their children to complete their Sparx homework for Science and Maths.

Homework helps build resilience and independence which play a key role in the quality of revision students eventually do for their exams in Year 11 - building these routines early will have a significant impact on their future success.

Homework is set every week and so please ask them to check the Sparx website to ensure all the tasks are completed.

Some students have been ticking it as 'completed' in ClassCharts after starting and then forgetting to complete the full task.

Detentions for non-completion are set on Tuesday and Thursday break times in IT2. These will be on Classcharts.



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Mrs Swallow, Head of Design Technology

John Boyd Textiles Trip

Year 10 Textiles students went on a brilliant textiles trip to the famous John Boyd factory in Castle Cary. We saw exquisite textiles made from horse hair imported from China. The hair is individually picked, carded dyed and woven with cottons and silks on old looms. A beautiful piece of history, still making high end fabrics which can be found worldwide, including Buckingham Palace.







Our Artists Work



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Some lovely 'ugly dolls' by Year 7s!



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From the Kitchen

More Year 9 student Soda Bread creations!







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From Mrs Grove, Head of PE

Enrichment Clubs

Our Enrichment Clubs for this term!

ANSFORD ENRICHMENT AUTUMN TERM 2

DAY	LUNCH	AFTERSCHOOL
MONDAY	 Dodgeball - RH Oliver vocal rehearsals - KM Uno Club - TT Table Tennis Club - DG Year 11 Maths Revision - TW & LL 	
TUESDAY	 Just Dance Club - GH & DG Cross-country - JD Band Club - KM Nature Club - OA KS4 Basketball Club - MD Spanish Revision Club - Year 11 Eng Catch up club - PHS 	 7+8 Hockey - DG Year 11 Eng revision - PHS
WEDNESDAY	 Sparx Homework Club - TW Years 7+8 Rugby - JD & MD Forest School Crafts - AE Year 7 Choir (Wk2) 	BADMINTON - EXTERNAL COACH OLIVER REHEARSALS - JN & KM STEM club - Invite only CH & MW Homework Club - LL
THURSDAY	Girls Football - MD Volleyball Club - DG MINECRAFT CLUB - CWJ Page turners Club - LR	9,10&11 Hockey - DG Year 11 Maths Revision - LL & TW Public Speaking - PHS
FRIDAY	 Chess Club - RH Ensemble rehearsals - KM Board Game Club - CM Year 11 Revision Sessions - SW KS3 Basketball Club - MD 	Homework Club - JD

Football Boots and Shin Pads

If you have any disused football boots and/or shin pads, we would love to make use of them. Please ask students to drop donations up to PE, or you can leave them in Reception.







From Caterlink

REMINDER: New Autumn/Winter Menu

Reminder that we have now launched our new Autumn/Winter Menu from the start of the new half term. Here is a sneak peak:



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See the full menu on our website here.

From our Student Community

Students offered places with the National youth Choir

Huge congratulations to Harry H in Year 9 and Isla H in Year 7; they both auditioned for the National Youth Choir, and were both offered a place.

What an amazing achievement, Congratulations!



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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.

Exams Invigilators

For further information on vacancies please click on the link below. Ansford Academy Staff Vacancies

