



17th July 2026

Dear Families,

This year has been a year of celebration for us; students gained our best set of GCSE results in recent times last summer and of course our incredible Ofsted report which validated all the hard work we have done in our drive for improvement. What made me proudest when reading the report wasn't just the praise for our academic standards, it was that the inspectors recognised the strong, inclusive community we have built here and the recognition that 'students flourish at Ansford'. They saw the excellent work everyone in our community produces every day. The report gives us a brilliant platform to build upon. It showcases our achievements to the wider local area and firmly establishes Ansford as the school of choice for families in our community.

Alongside these two amazing achievements, I also want to celebrate all the dedication our students have shown with their learning. As I've said before, one of the most enjoyable aspects of being a headteacher is visiting lessons, talking to students about their learning, looking at the outstanding work in their books and seeing the pride and joy students have on their faces when discussing their achievements. It has been particularly pleasing to see our students embracing the high expectations and contributing to a culture where learning is valued and everyone can succeed.

Collaborating with MNSP colleagues, our staff worked tirelessly to develop and embed high-quality, challenging curricula across all subjects that push students to achieve their absolute best. The impact of this hard work is visible every single day; our classrooms are full of engaged, curious students who are actively thriving and making strong academic progress. We are incredibly grateful to our staff for their unwavering commitment to excellence and for creating an environment where every student at Ansford can succeed. This year, we have continued to refine not only our assessment processes but also the way we prepare our students for them. The continued integration of our Personal Learning Checklists has made a notable difference, transforming how many of our students approach their exam revision with structure and confidence. We were collectively incredibly impressed with how all cohorts conducted themselves throughout the end-of-year exams, demonstrating outstanding resilience, independence, and a clear desire to achieve their absolute best. We would like to celebrate Year 10 in particular, who successfully navigated their first full round of formal GCSE Mock Exams, a highly valuable milestone that has provided them with essential experience and a strong foundation as they head into Year 11.

Careers learning at Ansford reached a major milestone this year wicurriculum. This curriculum is specifically designed to empower students, giving them the confidence to make informed decisions about their future educational and career pathways. Our work experience program has reached fantastic new heights, offering students across multiple year groups invaluable, hands-on insights into the professional world. Year 7 students enjoyed an outstanding trip to The Newt in Somerset, which provided them with a fantastic opportunity to explore a broad range of professional pathways. They had the chance to meet and learn from many different members of staff, including farm managers, head chefs, HR managers, online promotional creators, and even archaeologists.



Meanwhile, Year 8 students spent an incredibly valuable day shadowing a family member at work, giving them a unique front-row seat to real-life workplaces and the daily routines of different professions. In July, Year 10 students successfully completed a week-long placement, gaining vital real-world experience across dozens of different employment sectors, both right here in our local community and further afield across the UK. We are immensely proud of how all of our students represented Ansford, showing curiosity, maturity, and a genuine eagerness to learn about their future possibilities.

Throughout the year, we have continued to place a strong emphasis on promoting positive mental health and wellbeing, ensuring our students have the support, knowledge and confidence to thrive. We have been fortunate to work alongside the Mental Health Support Team (MHST), who have delivered a range of engaging workshops, while the "I Can, I Am" bus provided valuable opportunities for students to build resilience, confidence and self-belief. Students also participated in important workshops focused on stopping violence against women and girls, helping to raise awareness, challenge stereotypes and promote respectful relationships. Our School Council has continued to play a vital role in shaping school life through our "You Said, We Did" approach, demonstrating that student voice is truly loud and proud. We thank all of our students for their enthusiasm, kindness and willingness to make our school community a kind and purposeful environment.

I would like to remind all families of the importance of arriving in full school uniform every day. Wearing the correct uniform helps to foster a sense of pride, belonging and readiness to learn, while ensuring consistency across our school community. Over the summer break, please take the opportunity to check that all uniform and PE items, including footwear (a polite reminder that students have to wear black 'formal style' shoes and that black trainers are not allowed), meet the school's [uniform expectations](#) and that everything is clearly labelled. In addition to this it is also important that students are fully equipped for their learning by ensuring they have all items on our [equipment list](#). We greatly appreciate the continued support of parents and carers in maintaining our high standards.

Attendance at Ansford continues to be a real strength, reflecting the importance our community places on being in school every day. We will continue to work closely with students and families to reinforce the clear link between excellent attendance and positive outcomes, maintaining the high expectations that underpin every aspect of school life. I would like to remind all families that we are here to support you and your child. If you have any concerns relating to behaviour, attendance or any aspect of school life, please get in touch with us at the earliest opportunity. We encourage you to contact the school directly with any concerns or questions and whilst we recognise the popularity of social media, a direct approach to us is the appropriate route to take. Working in partnership enables us to address any issues quickly and effectively, ensuring that every student is supported to thrive.



We have continued this year to be extremely successful with our sporting achievements. All the girls hockey teams made it to the Yeovil Schools Hockey finals where year 10 brilliantly came first in their category.

U13 girls made it to the South West England Schools Handball championships in Gloucester and the U13 girls won the Yeovil Leagues Football finals. All our netball teams made it to the Yeovil Netball finals where year 9 and year 10 both came 2nd in their categories. Year 8 and 9 made it to the Rounder Yeovil Schools league finals where year 9 came 2nd and the year 10 football team won the Gillingham Football tournament. What amazing achievements by all - great team work!

Reflecting on the past academic year I am immensely proud of our SEND students' magnificent successes this year; it has been an absolute joy to watch how much they have progressed, matured, and grown as individuals. Their hard work has been matched by our commitment to enhancing our provision, including introducing more robust in-class support and targeted interventions to ensure every student receives the tailored assistance they need to thrive. Additionally, we have streamlined and improved our exam access arrangements process to ensure students are supported for their examinations. Our teaching staff have also engaged in extensive training focused on adaptive teaching strategies, further equipping them to meet the needs of every individual in their classrooms. Looking ahead to the next academic year, there will be some changes to our SEND team, as sadly Ms Holbeche is moving on to another school that is closer to home. We are fortunate to have secured Mr Owsley, a very experienced SENDCO who is based at Frome College, who will be working at Ansford for 1-2 days a week in September whilst we recruit a new SENDCO to start in January. Mr Owsley will be contacting parents of SEND and EHCP students in September.

It gives me pleasure in sharing the exciting news that we have secured funds to refurbish our humanities block. The block has been in need of an upgrade for quite some time having been a temporary building built in 1972! The block will have air conditioning installed which will certainly help in these warmer weather conditions. Both dilapidated toilets will be removed and replaced by modern individual cubicles (floor to ceiling) with hand basins in a communal area. The classrooms will also be fitted with large smart screens. We look forward to showing parents the block when it is completed.

We bid a fond farewell to a number of colleagues who are embarking on new chapters in their lives. Many are departing to pursue promotions, relocate closer to their homes or enjoying the time ahead of retirement. I would like to express my sincere gratitude for their dedicated service. Their efforts have been instrumental in ensuring that students at Ansford Academy not only enjoy their time at school but also flourish as successful learners. We all wish Mr Hunter, Mr Cavero, Mr Clark, Mrs Martin, Mr Higgins, Mrs Morgan, Ms Evans, Ms Holbeche and Mrs Harris the very best for the future.

While many are looking forward to a well-deserved summer break after a busy academic year, the upcoming holidays can also bring anxiety for some young people, particularly due to increased time spent on social media. Fortunately, a wealth of support remains available throughout the holiday period. If you need guidance regarding emotional health and wellbeing, please use the links to our website to find external support agencies for [Young People](#) or [Parents](#).



Additional financial assistance for Somerset households through Somerset County Council is also accessible [here](#). For any urgent safeguarding concerns, please contact Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224, the Police on 101, or the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000. Further details can be found directly on our [website](#).

As we approach the summer break, I want to encourage all our students to use this time to unwind, recharge, and cherish moments with loved ones so they come back in September feeling revitalized and eager for another year of academic achievement and personal development.

Lastly, I would personally like to offer our sincere gratitude to you all. Your ongoing partnership is an essential component of our school's success. Whether through supporting your child's learning at home, giving your time at school events, attending parents' evenings, or providing daily encouragement, your active involvement has a significant impact. We are truly grateful for the trust you place in us and for your continued collaboration.

Just a reminder that in September, Year 7 and 11 return to school on Monday 7th September and then all students return on Tuesday 8th September.

On behalf of all the staff at Ansford Academy, I wish you and your families a safe, happy, and restful summer.

With warmest regards,

Karl Musson
Headteacher