

5th September 2018

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you had a good holiday. I wanted to share a number of updates with you, many of which have stemmed directly from conversations I have had with those of you who have contacted me, for which I am very grateful.

Parent engagement evening: 'Cansfield the next 5 years'

Over the last few months we have made a number of developments to the school and we are all committed to driving the school forward as rapidly as possible. It is important to me that you are aware of the direction in which we hope to take the school and that you have a voice in that process. With this in mind we would like to invite you to an evening event where I will speak about our initial views and where you will get an opportunity to share your ideas. Senior staff will also run various drop in sessions on issues such as e-Safety, revision techniques and getting your children to start thinking about employment and careers. The event will begin on 20th September 2018 at 6.30pm. Drinks and snacks will be provided and you are welcome to bring your children with you. If you are interested in attending could you please email Karen Smith (k.smith@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk) no later than 14th September letting her know how many places you will require so we can make suitable arrangements.

Cansfield High School PTA

We would like to establish some form of Parent / Teacher Association at Cansfield High School. This would give us an opportunity to organise events that bring our community together, such as quizzes, bingo etc. If anyone is interested in becoming involved could you please contact Karen Smith (k.smith@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk).

Assessments

I have received near universal feedback from staff, students and parents that the way that assessments have been conducted in the school have had a negative impact on the experience of our students. In particular, six high-stakes assessment weeks every year have led to unnecessary stress and hindered students developing a passion for the subjects they are studying. Moving forward we will be halving the number of formal assessment points during the year and teachers will decide where they place the assessments in a unit of learning, which will ensure that they are spread throughout the year. In KS4 we will continue to have one set of mock exams in Year 10 and two sets of mock exams in Year 11. Sitting behind this, teachers will conduct regular low-stakes testing in class such as quizzes and responses to single questions, meaning that we are still able to identify and respond to misconceptions in a timely fashion. As a consequence of the above there will now be three formal points during the year when the school reports home – December, April and July. Beyond this, teachers will contact home if they have particular concerns or want to celebrate any particular achievements of your children. Likewise, I would encourage all parents and carers to contact the school immediately if they have any concerns or are particularly proud of something their children have done.

Mobile phones in school

Many of you will have seen in the press that in recent months there has been a debate about the use of mobile phones in schools. A number of schools have issued an outright ban on mobile phones from the school site. I have spoken about this with students, staff, parents and governors and at Cansfield we have agreed to take a different tact. The students and the parents I have spoken with strongly feel that students should be able to use phones during break and lunch. Whilst I am happy to support this, unrestricted use of mobile phones in the school poses a number of issues for us. Therefore, we have agreed to pilot a new approach to mobile phones in the school. During break and lunchtime only there will be a number of 'Phone Zones' in the school – these are the School Canteen and the Year Group Drop-In rooms. These areas are supervised by staff. Beyond phones being out in these rooms during break and lunch, the existing rules will stand, which is that if phones are seen out during lessons, in between lessons or in any space outside of the 'Phone Zones', the phone will be confiscated. Confiscated phones can only be collected by a parent or carer.

Headteacher: [Dr G Baker](#)
Cansfield, Old Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Wigan. WN4 9TP

I am confident that our students will rise to the trust we are placing in them with this new approach. We will be speaking with all students about our expectations during the first few days back. For those students who are concerned that they might not be able to adhere to the new rules I would strongly advise that they do not bring a phone into school at all, as the wait for a parent or carer to come and collect could result in students who do not follow the rules being separated from their phones for some time. The new rule will be introduced from Monday 10th September and we will review after October half term and make a decision on how effectively it has been. In the meantime, we will continue to run e-Safety sessions for students to ensure they have the necessary wherewithal to use mobile devices in a safe manner.

New staff

We welcome some fantastic new staff to our team this year:

- Michelle Rothwell (Maths teacher)
- Caroline Gibson (Maths teacher)
- Sally Hesketh (History teacher)
- Chris Armstrong (Cover teacher)
- Jodie Ackers (Science technician)

New roles for existing staff and Heads of Year Pastoral / Academic

We will be updating the staffing list on the website shortly. Over the last few months there have been a number of changes, with many of our fantastic staff receiving promotions. There are two new roles I want to draw your attention to. Our new Heads of Year Pastoral (replacing the Pastoral Manager role) will look after all pastoral issues for each year group – e.g. behaviour, wellbeing issues etc. We also have a completely new role of Head of Year Academic who will be monitoring the academic performance of all students in a given year group and offering support and intervention as necessary to ensure all are making the progress they should. They will, no doubt, be in touch in the forthcoming weeks. If there are any issues in the meantime though I would encourage you to contact them.

Year Group	Head of Year Pastoral	Head of Year Academic
7	Miss Oldham l.oldham@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk	Mr Flynn a.flynn@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk
8	Mr Travis a.travis@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk	Mr Mayor j.mayor@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk
9	Mr Dawber j.dawber@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk	Miss Rae h.rae@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk
10	Mrs Davies ma.davies@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk	Mr Sumpter m.sumpter@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk
11	Mrs Briscoe j.briscoe@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk	Mrs Vickers j.vickers@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk

If you do have any issues or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me directly (g.baker@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk). Thanks for your continued support and we are all looking forward to working with you and your children this academic year.

Best wishes,



Dr Geoff Baker,
Headteacher.