



CANSFIELD

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

27th November 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to give you an update on a few areas within the school. We have had a great term so far and have seen continued improvements in attendance, behaviour and outcomes since September, none of which would have been possible without your support.

Website

Following feedback from parents and students we have made some significant updates to our website and the content has been completely overhauled. There is a lot of new material with different entry points for parents and students. We have also included some new sections following specific queries from parents – notably the Parents' Guide to the GCSE Exams. Finally, you will also note that there is a section on the website for recent whole school letters, which should help if your children are forgetful when it comes to handing letters in at home. If you have any feedback or would like anything additional including on the website, please feel free to drop me an email. Our website address is: www.cansfield.wigan.sch.uk.

Parental Visits

A number of parents / carers have noted that they would like to visit the school and see it in action during the school day. I have noted below some dates and times when I will be available to tour small groups around the school.

- Thursday 6th December 2018, 9-10
- Tuesday 11th December 2018, 12.15-1.15
- Monday 17th December 2018, 10-11

If you would like to book a place on one of these tours please email my PA, Karen Smith (k.smith@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk), letting her know the time and date you would like to visit. This will be done on a first come, first served basis so please let us know as soon as possible if you would like to visit. If these do prove popular I will be very happy to make them a regular feature in the school calendar.

School Site

i) Programme of Refurbishment of Classrooms and Corridors

Since September our programme of refurbishment has accelerated significantly. We have now redecorated 12 classrooms and 70% of our corridor spaces. It has been fantastic to see the positive and respectful way that our community have responded to this – we have had no need to redecorate any area since and students are showing real pride in the school building.

ii) Canteen

When I started as Headteacher the overwhelming issue that students and parents asked me to address was to improve catering provision at our school. This is an involved process, but I am pleased to say that we are firmly on route to addressing this. Our current caterers, Metrofresh, are now working their notice. We are half way through the tendering process for our new caterers and have the final stage due in January when three new caterers will present to a panel that will include myself, Governors, parents and students, about their plans for the canteen – this will include lots of taste tests, a responsibility I take very seriously as Headteacher. Our new caterers will begin on 1st April 2019. As part of this process the canteen will be significantly developed and there will be new areas to purchase food including a food pod / snack shack outside the canteen, which will significantly reduce queuing. This will be a hugely exciting development for the school with the outcome being a great dining experience for all.

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iii) Toilets

Last week the Headteacher's Council completed a full review of the quality of our toilets and provided a series of recommendations, which I am accepting in full. In the first instance we will be fully repairing any issues within the toilets. We anticipate that after April we will be completing a full refurbishment of the Year 7, Year 8-9 and Year 10-11 toilets. In addition, we are aiming to redesign the toilets in the English Corridor to make them gender neutral, meaning anyone can use them. I am delighted to say that incidents of vandalism in the toilets have reduced significantly, making these developments possible. We now have cameras on the corridors outside the toilets and in the unlikely event that vandalism in the toilets occurs again, students involved will complete a substantial period of work with our site team – Mark and Steve – to ensure that they put right any damage incurred.

Bikes

A number of our students ride bikes to school. While the school does not accept any liability for students' bikes, we provide an area to store bikes during the school day which is in a locked section of the school that is close to the building and can be seen from the corridors. To ensure a speedier departure from school, a minority of students lock their bikes on the railings outside of the bike store. Unfortunately, last week one of these bikes was stolen. The bike was secured using a bike lock and the thieves brought heavy duty bolt cutters to cut the lock and steal the bike. I would fully recommend that any student bringing a bike to school secures the bike in the designated area, which affords a significant obstacle to a potential thief.

Mobile Phones

In September I wrote to you outlining our approach to mobile phones in school and a planned pilot. In short, unlike an increasing number of schools that have outright bans, we are allowing students to bring mobile phones onto school property and to use them in designated Phone Zones (the canteen during break and lunch and the Year Group Drop-In Rooms / Areas during lunch). In the event that a phone is seen outside of a Phone Zone it will be confiscated and only handed back to parents or carers. The feedback from students and parents has been overwhelmingly positive on this and we will be making this a permanent approach moving forward – full details can be found on our website and in our Behaviour Policy. Needless to say that we are incredibly proud of our students for the way they have risen to this – it was our students who came up with the approach and they are more than rising to our expectations of them in this regard. As I have said before, if your children do think they will struggle to follow the rules around mobile phones then please advise them not to bring them into school at all, as if they are seen flouting the rules they will be separated from their phone until you are able to collect, which will result in unnecessary inconvenience to you.

Staffing Update

I wanted to make you aware of a staffing update that will have a direct impact on many of our students. Mr Robinson has been promoted to Associate Assistant Headteacher within our school. As a result, an internal vacancy arose and Mrs Allsop has been promoted to Head of Science. We have lots of exciting developments planned for Science, so you may well be hearing from Mrs Allsop or our Second in Science, Mrs Nash, soon.

Thank you for your continued support. If you would like to contact me about anything please feel free to email me at g.baker@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk.

Best wishes,



Dr Geoff Baker.
Headteacher.