



CANSFIELD

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

26th February 2019

Dear parents and carers,

As you know, we had a visit from Ofsted on 23rd and 24th January. The full report has now been released and can be viewed on our website under the 'About Us' / 'Ofsted Report and Parent View' tabs and it will go live on the Ofsted website in five days. We are also happy to print a hard copy on request for any parents who are unable to access the internet.

In the four categories that Ofsted report on we were graded as Good for Leadership, Good for Teaching and Good for the Behaviour and Welfare of students. Due to a historic legacy of underachievement our judgement for Outcomes remains at Requires Improvement, though the report clearly notes that recent changes have meant that outcomes are improving rapidly. **The overall judgement for the school has moved to Good, which represents a substantial improvement for the school and is a recognition of the huge journey we have been on over the last ten months.**

The full report is available for you to review on our website, but I note some highlights below:

- *'Staff, pupils, parents and carers are unanimous in their view that behaviour is good throughout the school. Pupils are proud of their school and show respect to each other and to adults ... They are polite and welcoming towards visitors, offering inspectors a chair to sit on in lessons.'* We have seen massive improvements in behaviour in lessons, around school and in the way that our students conduct themselves whenever they are wearing the Cansfield uniform. We are all incredibly proud of our students – their exemplary behaviour during the inspection reflected what we are increasingly seeing on a day to day basis.
- *'Teaching is improving because teachers receive high quality training ... Teachers plan activities to engage and challenge pupils. As a result, progress of the most able is improving and there is now very little difference between the progress of boys and girls.'* The quality of teaching at the school has continued to improve and I have no hesitation in stating that the teachers at Cansfield are amongst the best I have worked with in my career. They are totally dedicated to supporting your children to become the best they can be, they are specialists in the fields in which they teach and they continuously look for ways to develop their practice.
- *'The Headteacher inherited a curriculum which, for many pupils, was not fit for purpose because it did not meet their needs or interests. Leaders made immediate changes, making sure pupils in Years 10 and 11 were entered for examinations at the right level and changed some courses where necessary ... As a result, the curriculum is now fit for purpose and further improvements are planned.'* Ofsted were highly complimentary of the changes we have made to a number of courses for Year 10 and 11 students. As has been seen in the exams students have already completed, the difficult decision to change some courses, pathways or tiers mid-way through a period of study has had a hugely positive impact on outcomes. I am very grateful for the trust that parents have placed in us to make these decisions. Moving forward we have a rigorous curriculum pathway planned for every student at the school, which will challenge them at the same time as ensuring that their individual chances for success are maximised.

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The report offers us a number of development points, all of which we are already working on. The most substantive of these points relates to promoting literacy development and a culture of reading across the school. We have a number of initiatives planned to develop a reading culture in the school, so watch this space over the next six months.

The improvements that have been noted in the report are the result of every member of the Cansfield team working together. All leaders, catering staff, cleaners, teachers, site staff, teaching assistants, governors, admin staff, and the rest of our support team share a common goal at the centre of which is the wellbeing and life chances of your children. Speaking personally I want you to know how proud I am to serve you and your children and how committed I am to continuing to move the school forward. I know that this feeling is echoed by every single person in our team.

This school is on a journey. Huge progress has been made in the last ten months in getting us to where we want to be. There is still much to be done and I am certain that the future for Cansfield High School and everyone in our community is a bright one.

I also wanted to pass on my sincere thanks to all parents and carers for your overwhelming support throughout the inspection process and more broadly for the support you have given us in making the changes necessary to improve the school. I hope that you are as proud of the report as we are and if any of you would like to discuss any aspect of it please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'GB', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr Geoff Baker.