



# CANSFIELD

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

6<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dear parents and carers,

It has been a delight to welcome back our fantastic students and to welcome for the first time our new Year 7 students who have settled well. As it is the start of the new academic year, I wanted to give you some updates on aspects relating to our school.

## **GCSE Results 2019**

This year we saw big improvements in outcomes on every measure. The percentage of students achieving standard passes (4+) in English and Maths increased by 8%, with strong passes (5+) increasing by 4%. Our Attainment 8 score, which measures student attainment across all subjects, also increased significantly. Many subjects delivered outstanding results, with a sea change in grades having occurred in some. For example, in Science there was a 30% increase in the number of students passing triple science, and the number of students achieving a pass grade in Combined Science doubled. We will not rest until your children are receiving a standard of education comparable with the best schools nationally and internationally, but this summer marked a major step forward.

## **Home Learning and Knowledge Organisers**

Over the last year we consulted with parents and students about homework. In light of our reflections, Show My Homework will no longer be used and, with the exception of Year 11, small individual tasks will no longer be set by teachers. Instead we will be moving to a Home Learning model centred on Knowledge Organisers. Every student will be given a Knowledge Organiser each half term. The Knowledge Organiser, along with a guide about how it can be used, can be found on the website under Parents / Home Learning. The Knowledge Organisers include a single A4 page for every subject that contains the key knowledge that we expect students to know that half term. We will expect students to use these Knowledge Organisers as a revision tool and students will regularly be tested on this knowledge. The Knowledge Organisers will also allow you to have a clear understanding of what is being covered throughout the year and to support your children in developing core knowledge that will help ensure they enjoy success moving forward. Over the year we will be putting on workshops for parents and carers and assemblies for students giving further guidance.

## **Target Setting and Reporting Home**

A clear message that has come from parents and students is that our historic approach to target setting has had a negative impact on many students. Targets are set nationally based on performance at primary school. This has led to some students having incredibly high targets and being graded as 'Working Below Expected' throughout the duration of their time at school, while others have had ridiculously low targets that have demotivated them. Teachers will continue to have access to this data, but we will be taking it off student books and off reports home. Our new approach will be more meaningful in that it will provide real data along with a renewed focus on the Attitude to Learning grade, which we think is key. Students will continue to receive bespoke feedback for formal assessments and for regular low-stakes assessments that we are confident will lead to accelerated progress. Our new approach will mean that we report home three times a year:

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- At Key Stage 3 (Years 7-8) the report will contain an Attitude to Learning grade, a percentage from an assessment and the average percentage for the year group so that you can contextualise this information.
- At Key Stage 4 (Years 9-11) we will report home an Attitude to Learning grade and a predicted GCSE/BTEC grade. The predicted grade will be the teacher's professional judgement based on all the data available to them as to how they think your child will do based on their current performance, understanding and effort. In addition to this you will receive a mock exam grade at the end of Year 10 and after the two pre-public examinations in Year 11.

### **Uniform**

I wanted to thank you for the support that you have given the recent changes in our uniform policy. From September, boys were asked to wear polishable black shoes, not boots. I am grateful to note that the overwhelming majority came in on the first day wearing shoes as requested. Likewise, despite the changes to our girls' skirts not coming into force until January we were pleased to see so many already wearing the new skirts. The upshot is that we have had a number of parents and members of the public comment on the impact of these changes in the way our students look and the manner in which they hold themselves. Needless to say, we are proud of our uniform and all those who wear it.

### **Staying in Touch**

Our main vehicle to stay in touch with parents and carers is the MyEd app. This already includes vital data about your children and more will be going onto the MyEd app over the coming weeks. You can also message school from the app and receive important updates. Beyond this you are welcome to visit in person, to ring in, email, or follow us for updates and news on Twitter (@cansfield1).

### **Parent Engagement Evening**

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 event where we can outline developments and where you will get an opportunity to share your ideas. Senior staff will also run various drop in sessions on issues such as use of Knowledge Organisers, revision techniques and getting your children to start thinking about employment and careers. The event will be held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 6.30pm. Drinks and snacks will be provided and you are welcome to bring your children. If you want to attend please email Karen Smith ([k.smith@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk](mailto:k.smith@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk)) no later than 20<sup>th</sup> September letting her know how many places you will require.

Thanks for your ongoing support for the school and we look forward to working with you this academic year. If you have any questions, please contact me directly at [g.baker@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk](mailto:g.baker@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk).

Best wishes,



Dr Geoff Baker,  
Headteacher.