



CANSFIELD

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

15th May 2020

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you are all keeping well during this strange time. In light of recent announcements from the Government I thought it prudent to give you a few updates and I also need to discuss a proposed change to the school day from September 2020. First I should say how grateful we are for the support we have had from families since we closed for the majority of students in March – we are receiving messages and updates from you and your children on a daily basis. These have meant a lot to us – the whole team here are missing seeing all of our students face to face and the daily interactions that working in a school affords. Sadly, a number of families have been personally effected by Coronavirus, with a number of you having lost loved ones. We are also aware that the current situation has had a negative impact on the mental wellbeing of many students. At the point of writing, we appear to be slowly moving in the right direction and we are all looking forward to coming together to heal as a community as soon as it is safe to do so.

Update on school opening

Since the announcement in late March I am proud to say that we have opened school every day, including during holidays. This has meant that we have been able to provide childcare for children of Key Workers and for those deemed to be vulnerable. In light of updated Government guidance we can offer some tentative possibilities for how things will move forward until the summer holidays:

- *Students in Year 7 to Year 9* – The advice for students in Year 7 to Year 9 has remained the same and as a result we do not expect the school to open for these students until September. However, we will continue to offer childcare for all in Year 7 to Year 9 who are children of Key Workers or who are deemed to be vulnerable. If you would like to access this provision, and have not done so previously, please ring in or email me and we can provide further information.
- *Students in Year 10* – The current advice from Government is that schools should ‘offer some face to face contact with Year 10’ before the summer holidays. We are reviewing what this might look like and how we can achieve this, whilst at the same time ensuring the safety of our children and our staff. I am going to write to parents of Year 10 students in the next week with detailed guidance of how this will work. Many of you will no doubt have worries and concerns and I want to assure you that my absolute first priority will be the welfare of everyone in our community.

School opening during the May half term

We will open the school every week day during half term for the children of Key Workers. Staff providing this have volunteered to do so and it is our pleasure to contribute towards the national effort in this way.

Distance learning material

Our Coronavirus School Closure website (accessed by clicking the large pink banner on the front page of the school website) has material to keep students engaged in their learning up until summer.

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Updates have been made to ensure that there is enough work to last until the summer holidays. Likewise, students have access to all of the electronic resources they have used previously, such as Seneca and SAM Learning. In addition, the Government has recently launched the Oak Academy Trust website, which is well worth looking at and includes video lessons for a whole range of topics for every year group: www.thenational.academy. Staff will continue to contact home on a weekly basis to see how you are and whether you need further support. Equally, I would encourage you to email your class teachers, ring in or email me directly if you are struggling or have any questions.

School day consultation

I had hoped to schedule a face to face meeting to discuss this, but clearly the times no longer afford this luxury. We are proposing a change to the school day from September 2020 onwards. This is in light of student, staff and parental feedback that we need to further prioritise the welfare of our students and also that we need more time focusing on literacy development. The proposals would essentially see 30 minutes being added onto the school day, with the new timings of 8.30-3.15:

Time	Activity
8.30-8.45	Registration AND form activity OR reading
8.45-9.45	Period 1
9.45-10.45	Period 2
10.45-11.00	Break
11.00-12.00	Period 3
12.00-1.00	Period 4
1.00-1.45	Lunch
1.45-2.45	Period 5
2.45-3.15	Assembly OR mental health mile OR reading

This would enable us to achieve four things:

- *Students to complete the mental health mile every week* – a key finding of research is that walking as a community promotes mental wellbeing. Once every week, every year group will complete a mile of walking together with their form tutors on the field in good weather or in the Sports Hall in bad weather.
- *More time for Year group assemblies* – the time available for assemblies would double, giving Heads of Year the opportunity to bring in outside speakers, building students understanding of the wider world and the opportunities available to them on leaving school.
- *More time for form activities* – form time is central to our school offering, with students developing a sense of what it means to be part of our community and having an opportunity to reflect on their personal development. More time would allow more investment in this aspect of our curriculum.
- *Daily opportunities for guided reading* – one of our biggest challenges is building literacy skills. Simply put, students do not read enough and at present we do not have enough time in the

day to fill these gaps. The proposed day will give us an opportunity, in line with the findings of research in this area, to provide guided reading every day.

If you have any comments about the day please email me at g.baker@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk by Friday 22nd May at 3pm. If we move ahead with the proposed model, then the bus schedule will be changed from September 2020.

Beyond this a big thank you to you all. We look forward to seeing you all soon. If there is anything whatsoever that we can do for you and your families in the meantime, please feel free to email me and we will do all we can.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'GB', written in a cursive style.

Geoff Baker,
Headteacher.