



# CANSFIELD

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

25<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear parents and carers,

The Government has asked secondary schools to 'offer some face to face support' for Year 10 students before the summer holiday. This is being interpreted very differently by different schools. As a group of staff, we have missed each and every student and we are looking forward to seeing them all as soon as possible and continuing to support them to make accelerated progress. However, my priority is the safety of everyone in our community. Over the last couple of weeks, I have had conversations with many parents and it is evident that there are a wide range of views about schools reopening. As a parent myself in the process of making this decision, I recognise how difficult this is and I intend to respect and support your personal decision about whether to send your children into school before the summer holiday. Below I provide an overview of the provision we will be offering, how we will ensure the safety of those attending school and what will happen if you chose not to send your children in.

### **Our offer for Year 10 students until summer**

Our aim when having Year 10s back in school has been to ensure that they have a meaningful learning experience. We have looked at a range of different models to achieve this and we feel that the best approach is a series of 3-hour subject-specific Masterclasses that supplement the online resources and printed work packs we have provided. These classes will give students an opportunity to consolidate learning completed at home and to prepare a roadmap for what they should be doing while at home for the remaining time they have till the summer holidays. Students would not be covering new material and the purpose would solely be to provide face to face support for them to access and continue to be challenged by the resources that we have provided.

At the same time as sending out this letter, you have been emailed and texted a link to a Survey Monkey questionnaire that must be completed by **midday on 1<sup>st</sup> June**. This asks for you to inform us which subjects your child would like to attend Masterclasses in (it may be that they feel that they do not need additional support for some subjects, but require particular support in others). Once we have reviewed this data, we will look to staff these classes over the final weeks of this academic year and will provide your child with an individual timetable letting them know when they should be in. Students would come in for either a morning session (9.00-12.00) or an afternoon session (1.00-4.00) by invite only. Throughout this time, members of the Senior Leadership Team and our Heads of Year and Mental Health First Aiders will all be on hand to offer any support for wellbeing.

### **Ensuring the safety of our community**

My overwhelming priority is to do everything we can to ensure the safety of every member of our community while on site. With this in mind, the following provision has been put in place:

- Year 10 students will enter at a different time from the children of Key Workers preventing possibility of cross contamination. They will work in a single area of the school only (the old DT block), remain in their classrooms with the exception of when they go to the toilet and they will only use the toilets in that block.
- Students with a temperature (or any other symptom of Coronavirus) will not be allowed to attend sessions and should self-isolate in accordance with Government guidelines. If

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symptoms were developed during a session, students would be placed in a designated area under supervision and parents would be asked to immediately collect.

- Classes will not exceed 15 students meaning that there is one student to each desk and the 2 metre guidance can be adhered to.
- All classrooms will be deep cleaned before each lesson and our Housekeeper, Linda, will conduct a rolling clean of all surfaces and toilets throughout the day.
- Medically approved alcohol-based hand sanitiser will be available in every room and students and staff will have access to this.
- Classes will be dismissed at the end of their sessions in a staggered manner to ensure that there is only ever one group leaving at the same time.
- Students will have break time in their classrooms.
- Members of SLT and the pastoral team will be on hand at all times for any issues that may arise.
- Students and staff will not be wearing uniform or business wear to ensure that clothes can easily be washed every evening.
- In the unlikely event that students cannot adhere to these guidelines, parents will be contacted and asked to collect their children or give us permission to send them home.

Crucially, by ensuring that these sessions are time limited and in a cordoned off section of the school we believe that we can negate many of the more challenging issues involved in fully reopening the school – movement in corridors is not an issue, break and lunch time is not an issue and the sharing of common objects should not be necessary.

### **Students who do not come into school during this period**

It is absolutely your personal decision as to whether you send your child into school before summer and we will respect and support any decision that you make. You do not need to take up a place at school before summer and, if you choose not to, neither the school nor the Local Authority will take any action relating to attendance. If you decide not to send your children in before summer, they will continue to have access to the remote learning resources and we will continue to provide support as we have been doing.

### **Longer term impact**

Whether or not your children come into school before summer, this situation is far from desirable and whatever we put in place it is not a substitute for being in school every day of Year 10 being taught by subject specialists in a school environment. It should, however, be noted that every Year 10 in the country is in the same situation and, if nothing else, it will be reflected in the grade boundaries in the 2021 exams. We will keep you updated on this as we have more information, but in the meantime the best your children can do is to keep working through the material we have provided and contacting teachers when they have queries and concerns.

### **What next?**

Please complete the survey monkey questionnaire that you have been emailed and texted as soon as possible, but no later than **midday on 1<sup>st</sup> June**. We will then be in touch once we have finalised timetables for individual students.

**What if I am a Key Worker?**

If you are a Key Worker accessing childcare then nothing will change and when not taking part in a Masterclass, childcare provision will be there as it has been throughout this crisis.

If you remain undecided as to what your intentions are then I am more than happy to discuss these points in more detail so that you can make an informed decision. Feel free to email me ([g.baker@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk](mailto:g.baker@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk)), ring in to school or book an appointment for a meeting.

Amidst all of the chaos the Coronavirus has brought, this crisis has shown our school at its best. I am incredibly grateful for your support during this difficult time and we look forward to seeing you all as things begin to settle.

Best wishes,



Geoff Baker,  
Headteacher.