



CANSFIELD

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

17th September 2020

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you can forgive the number of letters I have sent out over the last few days, but this is a dynamic and rapidly changing situation and I wanted to contact you to take stock of where we are in light of yesterday's changes. As you know, yesterday we had two positive cases of Covid 19 in Year 9 and Year 11. Both students were kept home by their parents when they showed symptoms of Covid and as soon as we were alerted to the positive result we acted immediately in line with Government advice and sent the year groups home. I am well aware that there are a mixture of feelings in our community relating to these decisions, but I want to assure you that we will always follow the Government advice to ensure that our children are safe and secure. Once again I am hugely appreciative of the many messages of support we have received from you all, it made a very difficult day that bit more bearable. We had procedures in place for this kind of thing to ensure that staff were ready to act quickly and calmly. What I would add is that our children behaved impeccably – they were incredibly composed, mature and understanding of the situation. Our students continue to amaze us with their resilience and positive attitude and they are a credit to you all.

Unless Government guidance changes, closures of bubbles within schools like this are going to be the new normal moving forward and you are no doubt aware that many schools across Wigan specifically and the country in general have been in exactly the same position over the last couple of weeks. There are, therefore, a number of updates I want to ensure that everyone has.

Remote Learning

In light of the fact that remote learning is likely to become a feature of life for some time, last week we made the decision to invest heavily in support for those who need it and have spent £30,000 on 100 new Chromebooks. These are due to arrive tomorrow and will be lent out to those families who need them for any period of isolation. Likewise, we have created a space just outside the school where those without wifi can come to upload and download work. In cases where an entire family is isolating and do not have access to internet at home we have internet dongles which staff will bring to houses for students to upload and download work. This has meant that we have been able to move to a Google Classrooms platform, where all work will be uploaded and students can get real time feedback from their teachers and complete regular assessments, from quick quizzes to essays and exam questions. Students have had training on the use of this platform and teachers will immediately move over to this approach in the event a group of students isolate, thereby ensuring that every member of our community has continuity and access to education provided by the school. If you have any questions about this at all, our lead on this is Lisa Shoreman who can be contacted at l.shoreman@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk.

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Face masks in communal areas

In light of the rising number of Covid cases in the local area we have decided to make use of face masks in communal areas mandatory. This means that students moving through the school corridors in between lessons and during break and lunch, when traffic is heavier, should wear a mask. When they are with their year group bubble or in lessons it will remain optional. We have provided masks for those students who needed them and would ask that any masks worn around the school are in accordance with the uniform, so black, white or blue, and do not have any motifs on them. I know that there are mixed feelings about the wearing of masks in the community, but I want to assure you that we have given every child on site instruction on how to wear a mask safely and will continue to emphasise this information as we move forward. Likewise, if students cannot wear a mask because of underlying health issues such as asthma or anxiety then this is fine. Where students are not wearing a mask this will be addressed in a caring and compassionate manner, taking into account the fact that we are all struggling to adapt to these new changes. Students have worn the masks today and there have been no issues. If you would like to discuss this decision then do feel free to contact me.

Results from Covid Tests

I must reiterate again the absolute importance of immediately letting us know the outcome of a test before sharing it on social media. We want to avoid false information and panic, as well as maximise the time we have to put a response in place. You can email me at any point and it would be great if you could also ring in and alert one of our office staff or leave a message outside of school hours.

Thank you again and we look forward to working closely with you all to get through what will no doubt be a challenging year. Any issues or concerns then please feel free to email me direct at g.baker@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk.

Best wishes,



Dr Geoff Baker,
Headteacher.