



CANSFIELD

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

2nd November 2020

Dear parents and carers,

As we begin the new half term, I wanted to give you a few updates. First I should say again how grateful for your support we continue to be. Despite everything that is going on nationally, school has remained calm and purposeful and despite the uncertainty that exists about the future, our students have continued to approach both their learning and their relationships with others within our community with positivity.

Remote Learning Update

You will be aware of the national picture in relation to the rising number of Coronavirus cases and the Government's attempts to prevent that figure increasing. The impact on schools has been significant. A recent BBC report showed that almost half the schools in England sent home students in the final week of last half term for COVID related incidents and I am sure that you are aware that in our region a number of schools have completely closed in recent weeks. It is highly possible that this situation will continue as we progress deeper into winter. As a school, we work closely with Public Health England when a student has a positive result and, dependent on the particular specifics, it may be that in the event of a positive case only a handful of students are sent home to isolate or that a whole year group needs to be sent home. Whatever the future holds, it is clear that remote learning will be a significant element of our provision for children over this academic year. I have spoken with many parents and students over the last couple of months about ways in which we move forward with remote learning, which has yielded valuable insights, and for those of you have had children sent home I hope you have seen the rapid progress we have made with this. The key aim for us is that students can move seamlessly between face to face learning and remote learning. In light of feedback you have given me I have reviewed our Remote Learning Protocols completely and wanted to outline the key developments so you know what to expect in the event your child needs to isolate:

Remote learning: what we have done

To ensure that we are in an appropriate position to effectively deliver our approach to remote learning, we have put significant provision in place. This includes:

- The purchase of 250 Chromebooks at a cost of over £50,000. This means that we can loan out Chromebooks to all of those families who need this support. Likewise, we have created a hot-zone in the school and have internet dongles, meaning that students who do not have access to the internet can either have their Chromebooks dropped off at school so they can upload / download work each day or can have a dongle dropped off at their house for the same purpose.
- Our IT Technician has installed, at incredible speed, 250 new desktops that have built in webcams so that staff can video conference with students.
- Staff have undertaken significant professional development so that they can use Google Classroom and we now have many colleagues who hold both the Level 1 and 2 Google Educator Award.
- Every student in the school has received training on how to use Google Classroom.

Protocols for when a whole year group is isolating

When a year group is isolating, lessons will revert immediately to delivery via Google Classroom. Students will follow their normal timetable. With the exception of when a class teacher is ill and will leave a set of tasks,

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every lesson will begin with a Google Meet video conference where the teacher will set out the activities to be completed during a lesson. From here the lesson could take a range of different directions, but the teacher will be available throughout to provide feedback. Not all students will be able to access the Google Meet video conference because they do not have real time internet and are relying on one of the school provided hot-zones – those students will complete the accompanying task list. We will be tracking student participation through the submission of work. At least twice a week students will complete a ‘Turn It In’ assignment of some sort. Class teachers and Heads of Year will follow up when students have not completed work.

Protocols for when an individual or small group of students are isolating

When individuals or groups of students are isolating we are unable to provide the same level of remote learning provision as class teachers need to continue to teach the classes that they have physically in front of them. In these circumstances, we are unlikely to be able to provide video conferencing support. However, staff will ensure that a series of tasks are uploaded for every lesson and that the lessons follow the sequence of learning that they would cover were they in school. Any work completed while isolating should either be submitted through the ‘Turn It In’ function on Google Classroom or emailed to the respective class teacher.

Lessons completed during isolation WILL NOT be covered again in class. While there will be opportunities for students to revise content, remote learning lessons should be valued in the same way that face to face lessons are. This is particularly important for those in Year 10 and 11 working towards GCSE examinations.

Parents’ Evenings

Our absolute hope would be that we can have face to face parents’ evenings this year. However, the possibility of this is looking less likely as each week goes on. We are currently reviewing a range of different approaches that offer a forum to give feedback remotely. I will be in touch in the new calendar year to outline our plans, sharing dates and instructions. In the meantime, if you have any queries at all you are welcome to email me, your child’s Head of Year or their subject teachers directly for feedback or support.

Parental Update Zoom Sessions

At the end of last half term we held an evening of Zoom meetings giving updates to parents of Year 11s, in which they were able to ask questions in advance of the meeting that I responded to. The feedback from these sessions was universally positive. In light of this, we will be hosting a further session for parents of Year 11 students each half term. Also, we will be emailing out invitations to parents of students in all year groups over the first week back with invitations to sessions to sign up to if you feel it would be beneficial to hear about how we are addressing the current situation, along with any other issues that are deemed pertinent.

As always, feel free to email either myself (g.baker@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk) or any member of our team directly. We appreciate your support throughout this very strange time.

Best wishes,



Dr Geoff Baker.
Headteacher.