



CANSFIELD

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

4th January 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Happy New Year and I hope you all had a relaxing holiday. I had hoped that we would have a less eventful start to the year, but alas this is not to be. I would expect that you have all seen the discussions in the news around the re-opening of schools and the debate that the Government's position and subsequent u-turns have sparked. In light of this I wanted to give you an update as to what the next couple of weeks will bring, in the event that there are no further changes. This said, this is a dynamic situation and the Government has already made a number of last minute changes to their policies, so this is certainly subject to possible change. Also, I think you will all be aware that we are seeing updates from the Government at the exact same moment you are, meaning that we have very little time to process this information.

Plans for the next couple of weeks

The Government has announced a staggered return for secondary schools. This means that:

- **Wednesday 6th January** – Classes will be delivered remotely for all year groups. As we have entire groups at home we will be able to utilise a video conference approach, meaning that all lessons will be delivered with the teacher present in the virtual classroom.
- **Monday 11th January** – All of Year 11 will return to school. Year 7-10 will continue to access lessons remotely.
- **Monday 18th January** – The entire school, Year 7-11, are due to return.

There are a couple of things to note:

- **Key Worker and vulnerable children** – If your child is classed as vulnerable or you are a Key Worker then your child is welcome to come into school from Wednesday 6th January. The day will follow the same pattern as a normal day at school, beginning at 8.30 and ending at 3.15. Throughout the day students will remain in an IT room, supervised by a member of staff, joining in the remote lessons that their peers are also part of. If you would like to utilise this facility, then please email Lisa Shoreman at l.shoreman@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk so we can put measures in place to accommodate your children.
- **Year 10 Music and Year 11 IMedia students** – Vocational exams are currently planned to go ahead. This means that the following scheduled exams will happen as planned in the Sports Hall, ensuring that there is more than sufficient space for social distancing:
 - o Thursday 7th January 9am – Year 10 BTEC Music Exam
 - o Monday 11th January 1pm – Year 11 Cambridge Nationals IMedia Exam

We have consulted with the Local Authority who have stated that revision sessions for this exams can go ahead as planned. This means that the following revision sessions will be available:

- o Year 10 Music – All day revision session (9-3) on Wednesday 6th January. Please arrive at the visitor entrance.
- o Year 11 IMedia – All day revision session (9-3) on Friday 8th January. Please arrive at the visitor entrance.

Free pizza will be provided for lunch at each revision session.

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Remote Learning

We are fortunate to be in a position where we can revert to remote learning for the entire school, with full access to Google Classroom and video conferenced lessons, due to previous work we have done. As before, if you would like to borrow a Chromebook or you require any support to access the platform, please email Lisa Shoreman at l.shoreman@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk.

Free Data Sims

We have a significant number of mobile phone sims available for FREE from Vodafone. These will provide data for a limited period meaning that if you do not have internet access or you have a poor connection that you can use these sims to connect your device to the internet. We will initially be providing these sims to our most vulnerable families, beyond which they will be available on a first come, first served basis. If you would like one please email David Forshaw at d.forshaw@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk.

Rumours about Testing and Vaccinations at School

I have been contacted by a number of parents over the last couple of days who have heard rumours on social media that schools across the country will be conducting forced testing and vaccinations of students. I hope that this goes without saying, but this is not something that we would ever condone or allow. I will be writing to you with further details about the new rapid result Coronavirus tests in the next few days. But to allay any fears at this point, it would only be provided to students whose parents have given consent to prevent the need for them to isolate if they have been in close proximity to someone who tested positive. We will, of course, absolutely respect any parent's decision with this. At this stage, I know nothing about plans for vaccinations.

As noted above, this is all subject to possible change. I will be in touch again in the next few days to outline in more detail how rapid response Coronavirus testing will be conducted and to provide a further outline of the health and safety measures that the school has taken to reduce the risk of Coronavirus transmission as much as is possible. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to email me at: g.baker@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk.

Best wishes,



Geoff Baker,
Headteacher.