



CANSFIELD

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

5th January 2021

Dear parents and carers,

You will have noted in my letter yesterday that I thought it was highly possible that the Government may make another policy U-turn. The U-turn has come faster and is far more abrupt than anyone anticipated. I recognise that Boris Johnson's announcement last night will have come as a relief for some and a source of anxiety for others. In short, he announced that we are returning to a lockdown akin to the one we experienced in March and that GCSEs have been cancelled. These are big changes and I have attempted to answer some of the questions that you are likely to have.

Plans for remote learning

School has not been closed. All lessons and form group meetings will be moving to remote learning delivery via Google Classroom and will begin tomorrow (Wednesday 6th January) in line with the planned start of the new term. We have learnt a lot since the closures in March and I am confident that we will be able to deliver a high standard of learning moving through the curriculum as we would if our children were at school. We will be utilising the video conferencing facility in Google Classroom, so students will see their teachers every lesson, albeit virtually. All students are expected to attend remote learning classes, following their normal timetable, unless this has been agreed with your child's Head of Year in advance. The school will be tracking student engagement in remote learning via the completion of submitted tasks on Google Classroom and, in the event that there is a failure to submit two or more pieces of work, you will be contacted by a member of the team at Cansfield. All work should be submitted electronically for the deadline set.

Provision for Key Worker and vulnerable children

The school will remain physically open for Key Worker and vulnerable children throughout this period. Children will be supervised while working through the same remote learning lessons as their peers. If you would like to send your child in during this period, then please email Lisa Shoreman at l.shoreman@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk. Please note the following if your child is coming into school during this period:

- All students should wear school uniform.
- The canteen will continue to operate for lunch and break.
- The school day will run 8.30-3.15.
- As far as we are aware public transport will continue to run as it did during the lockdown in March. However, please note that the Government continue to advise not using public transport and to consider alternative methods of getting your children to and from school.

Access to electronic facilities

We have already had a number of parents come into collect Chromebooks and the remainder are now awaiting collection. If you were not on our list and your circumstances have now changed and you need a Chromebook or you need any support in using one then please email Lisa Shoreman at: l.shoreman@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk.

Headteacher: [Dr G Baker](#)
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Telephone: 01942 727391
email: enquiries@admin.cansfield.wigan.sch.uk web: www.cansfield.wigan.sch.uk

Free mobile phone sims

I mentioned in my email yesterday that we have a number of Vodafone sims pre-loaded with data for a limited period, which will allow internet connectivity when paired with a device. We will be targeting these at families we know will need them the most, but if you think you would benefit from having one of these sims then please drop Dave Forshaw an email at: d.forshaw@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk.

Year 11s

Clearly the news yesterday evening was all the more significant for Year 11s. Last night Boris Johnson stated that exams could not run 'as normal' and this morning Michael Gove confirmed that this meant that GCSEs had been cancelled. Gavin Williamson, the Secretary of State for Education, is scheduled to provide an update on what this means tomorrow. I realise that this is hugely upsetting, but at this time we have no further news. On Thursday afternoon (7th) I will be hosting a Zoom meeting for all Year 11 students and their families. We can only fit 100 in a chat room at one time and so will run the session twice, once at 5.30 and again at 6.30. If you would like to attend one of these sessions please complete the online survey no later than 4pm tomorrow (Wednesday) to be allocated a place. I truly hope that I will be able to offer some clarification about the next steps. The survey is available at: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Y11UpdateJan21>.

Timetabled exams for the next couple of weeks

At present the Government is saying that planned vocational exams will go ahead over the next couple of weeks. This has caused consternation amongst school leaders throughout the country and further clarification is expected. For now, on health and safety grounds I have made the decision to cancel all planned exams for the next couple of weeks and will be in touch with further information as it becomes available. This means that the Year 10 Music exam scheduled for 7th and the Year 11 IMedia exam scheduled for 11th will not go ahead.

Free School Meals

Free School Meals will continue to be provided for those who are entitled to them. We will be in touch in due course, but if you do have any specific queries in the meantime please email Debbie Sutch at: d.sutch@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk.

Thank you for your continued support. As always you are welcome to contact me directly if you would like to discuss any issue or raise a question (g.baker@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk).

Best wishes,



Dr Geoff Baker.
Headteacher.