



CANSFIELD

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

26th February 2021

Dear parents and carers,

We were delighted to see the news that schools are due to begin reopening fully from 8th March 2021. The support we have had from parents / carers and the effort that our students have put into remote learning over the last couple of months has been exceptional and we are genuinely overwhelmed with the level of engagement and the quality of work. However, I am sure that you will agree that remote learning is ultimately no replacement for being in school and we are certainly looking forward to seeing all of our students again, teaching them, talking with them, and hearing laughter in our corridors and classrooms once more.

The UK's vaccination programme has, to date, been a huge success and as each day goes by our ability to control the virus becomes stronger. However, while huge progress has been made, we need to continue with a number of measures over the next few months to ensure that the school remains as COVID secure as can be and that the next stages of the Government's plan to lift the lockdown can take place.

Phased Return to School

From 8th March onwards we will be welcoming back one year group at a time. This is to enable the lateral flow testing programme that the Government has introduced to take place. From the date of their return students will be expected to attend school every day as normal. The dates for each Year group to return are:

Date	Year Group
Monday 8 th March	Year 11 return
Tuesday 9 th March	Year 10 return
Wednesday 10 th March	Year 7 return
Thursday 11 th March	Year 8 return
Friday 12 th March	Year 9 return

For those students waiting to return to school during the week beginning 8th March, they will continue to access remote learning via Google Classroom until their year group returns.

Wellbeing Support

I know that we have a lot of students who are anxious about returning to school and we have clear plans in place to ensure that the return is as smooth and supportive as possible. On the first day students return they will spend considerable time in their form groups and both the pastoral team and senior leaders will be dropping by to see them. Our Mental Health First Aiders and our counsellors are ready also for those who want to talk. If you require any specific support at all please do not hesitate to contact me at g.baker@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk.

Face Coverings

New Government guidance states that students must wear face masks in communal areas and are recommended to wear masks in classrooms. If you send your child in on public transport please also

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remind them that they should be wearing a mask throughout this period. We are happy to help with providing masks for any who have not got them. This was not an issue prior to Christmas and we do not expect it to be an issue moving forward.

Behavioural Expectations

The behavioural standards at school were superb between September and December. We will be reinforcing these standards moving forward and have no doubt that every student will come back in the same frame of mind, ready to work with us to get our school back open and a return to business as normal, as quickly as possible. The existing patterns that students are used to: the one way system, the queuing on the yard for Maths etc will be there as they were prior to Christmas. Also, from 8th March all students should wear their full school uniform and we look forward to seeing every member of community looking smart and proud.

Friday 5th March Pd 5 / Form Time

To ensure I have an opportunity to meet with all staff and brief them on plans for the full return to school, on Friday 5th March formal taught lessons will finish after period 4. We celebrate World Book Day next week and so we will be asking all students to choose a text of their choice and use period 5 and form time for reading for pleasure.

Google Chromebooks

A number of you have queried when Chromebooks need to be returned. There is not a huge rush on this, but if you could get them back to the school for Friday 19th March it would be much appreciated.

Lateral Flow Testing for Coronavirus at Home

The Government has asked all schools to provide the option of lateral flow testing for Coronavirus for all students. Those students whose parents opt for them to be tested will receive three tests over a two week period. To facilitate the completion of these tests, the return to school will be phased from 8th March onwards, as already noted. Testing will be completed by a combination of trained school and agency staff. Testing is optional, but the Government strongly recommends that all parents give their consent. If you wish for your child to receive the lateral flow tests, please complete the form available at:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdsOHkix0Eks_fIUh9Y8xtBxB0VAvErxhPJ0fLpDIBwOapfA/viewform?usp=sf_link

The form must be completed by midday Wednesday 3rd March 2021. If your form is not received by this deadline, we will take this as confirmation that you do not give consent and your child will not be tested. If you have any questions please email our Business Manager, Debbie Sutch, at d.sutch@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk.

Lateral Flow Testing for Coronavirus at School

Once the three lateral flow tests are completed at school, parents will take over this responsibility and complete them at home. We will provide more details as soon as they are available.

How the Lateral Flow Tests Work

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained school and agency staff. The lateral flow tests are quick and easy to undertake, using a swab of the nose and throat. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with the individual participant. The school will inform the student of a positive test result. Parents / carers will also be informed.

What happens if a Students Tests Positive?

If a student tests positive on a lateral flow device, they will need to self-isolate for 10 days and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What if a Student Tests Negative?

While a small number of students may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason, students who test negative will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal.

What if Students have been in Close Contact with Someone in School who Tests Positive?

The student will be notified that they are a close contact by the school and will need to self-isolate for 10 days in line with Government guidance.

What if a Student Develops Symptoms?

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (including a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste) they must immediately self-isolate and book a test by calling 119 or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

Finally, just to say again a big thank you for all of your support. We have been doing our best to keep some of the developments at the school as quiet as possible and think our community will be delighted when they see the gym, the catering room, the DT room. There is lots to look forward to and it appears evident that the end of this bizarre time is finally in sight. Any questions or concerns please feel free to email me direct at: g.baker@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk.

Best wishes,



Dr Geoff Baker.
Headteacher.