



# CANSFIELD

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Yesterday the Government released the long awaited plans for how GCSE and vocational qualification grades will be awarded for 2021. The guidance is essentially that teachers are to build an evidence base and develop Centre Assessed Grades from this. The Government has provided extensive guidance for schools on how to develop these Centre Assessed Grades and the exam boards have created additional materials in the form of mock papers and sample questions to help inform our judgements. For Art and Design the grade will be based solely on the portfolio. For other subjects the teacher will only assess content that has been delivered to them throughout the duration of the course.

We intend to give our Year 11s a couple of weeks to re-establish themselves in school and then will begin to work with them to develop a body of evidence that will inform whatever grade the school gives them. This will be completed between March 22<sup>nd</sup> and June 18<sup>th</sup> when the grades have to be submitted to the exam board. As we did last year, these grades will be rigorously moderated by the Faculties and signed off by teachers, Heads of Faculty and myself as Head of Centre. All work will be completed in classroom settings and students do not need to worry about a formal, summative test in the exam hall, which I hope will alleviate any anxieties that they may have.

We are now in a position to move forward with our Year 11s rapidly and can timetable a range of events:

- **Year 11 Zoom Session** – I will provide a brief overview of the current situation and guidance from the Government at **5pm or 6.30pm on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**. I would encourage all students and parents to attend this, so that you are crystal clear on what is coming next. If you would like to attend the session please complete the survey, which will be texted to you and is also available at: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Y11UpdateSpring2>. You will also have an opportunity to raise any questions in advance of the evening.
- **Year 11 Parents' Evening** – We have brought this forward to **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March 4pm-8pm**. We will be using a virtual platform to host the evening, which has been hugely successful and popular with the parents of children in other years who have already used it. Mr Forshaw will be in touch today with instructions on how to make appointments. Class teachers will be able to discuss prior performance, including mock exam results, and provide an outline of how things will move forward in their subject.
- **Return to School** – As indicated in my letter to all students, Year 11s return to school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. I will speak with them on their return and they should ensure they come back to school with the fantastic attitude that they have exhibited throughout this strange time.

I know that this has been a drawn out process and I hope that the information in this letter provides some clarity moving forward. If nothing else, I hope that the confirmation that there will be no high stakes, summative tests in the exam hall will remove some pressure. We continue to be incredibly proud of our Year 11 Class of 2021 and will do everything that we can to ensure that they have a

Headteacher: [Dr G Baker](#)  
Cansfield, Old Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Wigan. WN4 9TP

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Telephone: 01942 727391  
email: [enquiries@admin.cansfield.wigan.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@admin.cansfield.wigan.sch.uk) web: [www.cansfield.wigan.sch.uk](http://www.cansfield.wigan.sch.uk)

well-supported, successful and enjoyable time for their remaining three months at Cansfield. Any questions or concerns please feel free to email me direct at: [g.baker@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk](mailto:g.baker@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk).

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'GB', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Dr Geoff Baker.  
Headteacher.