



CANSFIELD

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

14th May 2021

Dear parents and carers,

I am sure that you will be aware of the Government's update on Monday 10th May, which outlined the plan for Step 3 in the roadmap for the removal of restrictions. I want to outline the impact that this will have on the way our school functions from Monday 17th May and beyond. Firstly, I must once again give my thanks to all of our students and all of our parents and carers. The last year has been the most challenging I have known as a Headteacher and I very much hope that I will not experience another like it. Every member of our community has experienced loss of some sort during this period, whether it be loss of a loved one, loss of personal freedoms or just simply the unsettlement of loss of routine. Yet, I continue to be stunned by the resilience, the kindness and the care shown by all members of our community. Every day I see teachers delivering great lessons, support staff ensuring that the school runs smoothly and students learning to the best of their ability whilst developing into wonderful young people. It has not been plain sailing, but over the last year our community has continued to work as one and we are the stronger for it. Thank you all.

We are still a long way from business as normal and elements of what we have put in place to prevent the spread of Coronavirus will stay with us for some time. The electronic parents' evening system has been hugely successful and we anticipate this staying in place permanently, while the one-way system will remain a part of our school due to the positive impact it has on movement within the building. Other aspects such as enhanced cleaning processes, handwashing and regular testing will also remain. Below I have outlined some of the key changes that will be coming in the few weeks.

Face Masks from 17th May

From Monday 17th the Government's blanket recommendation that students continue to wear face coverings in classrooms or communal areas will be removed. However, today the Greater Manchester Directors of Public Health have issued a communication suggesting that Headteachers exercise caution over the next couple of weeks before removing face coverings altogether. With this in mind, I have taken the decision to continue to ask that students wear face masks in communal areas for the following two weeks, with the aim to remove them after half term when we have further monitored the situation. Within classrooms students can make their own decisions as to whether to wear a face mask. For those students who come to school on a public bus, face coverings should continue to be used. It should be noted that in the event of a local outbreak Public Health England may change its guidance – if this did happen, I would let you know immediately. Face masks can still be collected for free from Student Services for any who want them. All classrooms remain well ventilated, with all internal doors open and either windows or – even better – where we have them direct external doors from classrooms open (over the last few months we have had multiple new direct external doors from classrooms fitted to facilitate this).

Use of Changing Rooms

I am very grateful to everyone for your patience surrounding the return to normal PE lessons. While the changing rooms were out of action due to COVID restrictions we made the decision to have PE lessons completed in standard uniform with trainers – the consequence of this was that our students

Headteacher: [Dr G Baker](#)

Cansfield, Old Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Wigan. WN4 9TP

Telephone: [01942 727391](tel:01942727391)

email: enquiries@admin.cansfield.wigan.sch.uk web: www.cansfield.wigan.sch.uk

remained in full uniform every day and with it an air of normality and order has remained in our school, which we are very proud of. We are, however, now in the fantastic position to be able to reopen the changing rooms and return to full PE lessons, so please send PE kits into school once the changing rooms reopen for your child's year group.

- From 17th May to half term we will be piloting the reopening of changing rooms and the safety measures we intend to put in place with Year 7 only.
- From 7th June onwards changing rooms will be open to all students from Years 7-10 and with it a return to the full PE curriculum.

Practical Lessons in Catering

By chance 17th May also marks the opening of our awesome new catering facilities, meaning that we will be returning to full practical lessons for Catering and Nutrition from that day.

Use of Library

For the last couple of months, the Library has been used as a makeshift year group drop-in area. Following the refurbishment of the room and the purchase of thousands of new books we will be opening the Library again as normal from after half term, with a resumption of book borrowing.

School Uniform and Reemphasis on Standards from June 7th

Over the last few months, we have given as much flexibility to students and families as we could in terms of uniform. It has been difficult to purchase uniform essentials while shops are closed and we wanted to avoid unnecessary financial pressures as families coped with the economic impact of the pandemic. We have also recognised the huge challenges that students have faced and with it have provided a return to school that was as gentle and as we felt it could be. From 7th June there will be a significant focus on the basics that we would expect from members of our community with a reemphasis on the high standards that we ask of all our students. A key aspect of this will be an unequivocal return to our uniform standards including shoes, jewellery, skirt length and so on (full details can be found on the school website). The overwhelming majority of our students already adhere to our uniform policy with pride, so I do not anticipate any issues. However, if for any reason you are still struggling to purchase uniform essentials then please do not hesitate to contact me prior to half term and we will do all we can to provide support. We have the financial capacity to provide this support and our uniform is there to unite us all as one community, which everyone should be able to access.

As always, thanks again for your huge support. Feel free to email me directly if you do have any questions or comments (g.baker@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk).

Best wishes,



Geoff Baker
Headteacher