

16th July 2021

Dear parents and carers,

We are now a week away from the end of term and I wanted to confirm arrangements for the last day. Once again though I must begin by thanking you all for the huge support that you have given the school. This has undoubtedly been the most professionally challenging year I have experienced and all students and staff have had to deal with huge disruption as well as the fallout of living through a pandemic that has had an impact on all of our lives in one way or another. As challenging as this has all been, I am very grateful for the kindness, compassion and understanding that has become the hallmark of how all members of our community have faced the challenges of the year. Thank you.

Last day

The last day of term is Wednesday 21st July. The day will be an own clothes day and school will end at 1pm. Bus companies have been advised accordingly. Students will have period 1-3 as normal, then at midday we will have an early lunch, with form period 12.45-1.

Mental health

The mental health and wellbeing of our students during these strange times continues to be an area of concern for us all. Phil Swain, our Senior Assistant Headteacher, has put together a brief booklet called 'Get Appy', which will be handed to all students in school over the next few days. The booklet signposts students to numerous websites and apps where they can find support for their mental health and wellbeing throughout the summer holidays. If you do have any concerns or worries about your child's wellbeing in the meantime, please feel free to ring into school and ask to speak with either the Head of Year or Mr Swain and they will offer support as appropriate.

Departing colleagues and new appointments

This year we say farewell to four colleagues: Nici Daniels (Deputy Headteacher), Cathy Smith (Teacher of DT), Garry Purse (Teacher of Music) and Liz Porteous (Teacher of English and Assistant SENCO). All have provided an exceptional level of care and support for our students and will be missed by staff and students alike. All four departing colleagues have secured well deserved promotions and we wish them well in the next stages of their careers.

In line with our priority to reduce class sizes, we have 11 new teachers starting in September, who I will introduce in September. One key thing to note in the meantime is that Dave Forshaw – currently Senior Assistant Headteacher – will become Acting Deputy Headteacher in September.

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

Arrangements for next year

As a result of previous experience, where Government guidelines have changed repeatedly over the period of a vacation, we will not be sharing plans for September until nearer the date. School will open on Monday 6th September for Year 7s only and the current plan is that we will see a full return of students on Tuesday 7th September, though this may need to be adapted slightly to facilitate testing of students. Further details to follow in a letter that we hope to share on Friday 13th August.

I hope that whatever your plans are for this summer that you all manage to get a much-needed break and a chance to enjoy time with your families. If you have any questions or concerns then please feel free to ring into the school or to drop me an email directly at g.baker@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'GB', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Geoff Baker.
Headteacher