



CANSFIELD

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

31st August 2021

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you have all had a good summer and I appreciate your patience with this letter – I wanted to ensure that we had responded to any updates in Government guidance. Our whole team is excited to welcome our students back and hopefully taking a further step towards a new normal.

Return dates

As we did last year, the first day of term will be for Year 7s only, giving our new students the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the school before everyone returns. The following day, all students will return. So:

- **Monday 6th September, 8.30am** – Year 7s only and those students who have been asked to support.
- **Tuesday 7th September, 8.30am** – All students.

On-site testing

The Government has recommended that the academic year begins with all students having two on-site lateral flow tests, following which they should continue to undertake twice weekly home testing until the end of September, when further guidance will follow.

The on-site testing is entirely voluntary, and no student will be tested without parental permission. As we did last year, we have hired in an external team of trained testers to come in and do this. Students will be tested in the morning, before going into lessons, on the day they return and then again within 3-5 days. If you would like your child to be tested, please complete the Google form below **no later than 3pm on Friday 3rd September**.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScDGQD9tAcbUhPLWJxINuEDyBEwcnNjyx6PYIpfSDWs3jDvoQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

Arrangements for when we return

While the Government has removed the bulk of its guidance around bubbles and isolation that caused such disruption last year, we will be retaining some aspects of last year's infection mitigation measures. These will be shared with students when they return, but include, for instance, the one-way system around the school and the continued focus on good hygiene practices. Likewise, we have continued to invest in installing direct doors outside from classrooms wherever possible, improving ventilation throughout the school. We have also invested in CO2 monitors to help us monitor the quality of ventilation. While no student will be asked to wear a mask moving forward, we will continue to respect the choice of those students who wish to wear a mask at any point during the school day including during lessons.

Obviously, we will be monitoring the situation carefully and if Government guidance changes at any point I will be in touch to let you know. As I have said in previous letters, I remain hugely grateful to all students and families for the manner in which they have engaged with the school over this. I understand there are a wide range of views about how the country should be moving forward through this pandemic and I appreciate the huge support for how we have sought to address this.

Headteacher: **Dr G Baker**

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I have said this before, but it goes without saying that we really hope that this year is a normal year with minimal disruption and a focus on 'normal' school business. Whatever the future brings though we will continue to work through this together. We have a LOT of exciting things on the horizon ... in October we have two new classrooms being built, around Christmas the renovation of the Theatre will be completed and in January the construction of our new admin block begins. Likewise, we hope to fully launch our extra-curricular clubs and across the school we are introducing a new and exciting curriculum. We also have several new staff starting this September, the majority of whom have been hired to raise capacity, further reducing class sizes (for instance, we are now looking at an average class size of 18 for Key Stage 4 Maths).

As always you are very welcome to get in touch with me directly if you have any questions or concerns (g.baker@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk).

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'GB', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Geoff Baker,
Headteacher.