



CANSFIELD

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

1st October 2021

Dear parents and carers,

We are now firmly into the new academic year, and I wanted to share some updates with you. Most importantly, despite the initial concerns that we all had given how unsettling the last 18 months have been, our students have returned without any significant issue. Behaviour has been excellent and it has been lovely to see our older students looking out for our new starters. Although we did not get to have the transition activities we hoped, Year 7 have been delightful and it already feels like they have been part of our community for a long time.

Thursday 7th October 2021

A reminder that 7th October is an INSET day and students will not be in school. Many students have kindly volunteered to help out at our Open Evening on that date though and will bring home separate letters outlining the times that they are required and arrangements for the event.

Face-to-face meetings

Given the disruption that has occurred over the last 18 months we want to create as many opportunities for you to speak with colleagues and interact with the school as possible. We have already hosted parent engagement sessions with senior leaders for parents of Year 11s (held on 20th September) and Year 7s (held on 29th September). We are in the process of organising sessions for other year groups as follows, so please do keep the evening free if you would like to come in:

Year 8	Monday 11 th October 2021
Year 9	Monday 18 th October 2021
Year 10	Wednesday 13 th October 2021

These events have included updates on the school, overviews of enrichment opportunities, an outline of wellbeing support available and a discussion about the data you will receive from the school and what it means. Letters will go out as we get nearer to the dates to outline arrangements.

Beyond these parent engagement sessions, this year there will be a parents evening for every student where you will get to meet all subject teachers and discuss the progress of your child. There will also be additional session for Years 7-10 at the end of the year where form tutors will provide an overview of the year and targets for the next academic year. Both events will utilise the SchoolCloud platform that received such positive comments last year. This is in addition to the three reports home that you will receive and various additional sessions that we will be providing that address topical issues such as keeping safe on the internet. In the meantime, if you do have any concerns about your children do please get in touch with either the Head of Year or myself and we will be happy to give you an update or look at what we can do to resolve any issues.

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Buses

Many of our students access school using a range of different buses. One of these buses, the 970, has caused particular problems that have increased significantly since September when the contract was taken over by another bus company. Sadly, the school does not have anything to do with these contracts, which are under the sole control of Transport for Greater Manchester, and our only recourse to address these issues has been to complain to TfGM. Over the last four weeks the school has made near daily communication with TfGM and the Local Authority to relay our concerns and I am very grateful to those parents who have done the same. After protracted discussions, TfGM have changed the contract to Tyrers, who are now providing a double-decker bus, which has greatly improved the service. Over the next few days, the drivers will be familiarising themselves with the route and the timings, so there may be some initial teething problems, but we anticipate that things will be running much more smoothly from next week. I very much hope that this will provide a long-term solution to the issues, but if you do have further concerns please contact TfGM directly at:

www.tfgm.com/contact-form

Please also let us know of any issues so that we can add our support to any issues raised.

Twitter

Over the last few weeks, we have sought to streamline the school's use of Twitter, to make it easier for you to follow updates online. The school Twitter account is @cansfield1 and generally retweets all information relating to the school. Rather than individual teachers Tweeting messages directly, there are now individual accounts for each Faculty along with accounts for our pastoral teams. All these accounts can be located by following the stream of our @cansfield1 account. These accounts regularly showcase the achievements of our students, so it is worth following them if you have a Twitter account.

Thank you to you and your children for being part of our community. If there are any questions, comments or concerns do please feel free to email me direct at g.baker@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk.

Best wishes,



Geoff Baker.
Headteacher