



CANSFIELD

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

16th December 2021

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you are all well and looking forward to Christmas. This is the first term in nearly two years in which we have not seen widespread disruption to the school brought about by Covid. I want to say how grateful we all are to you and your children in helping us get through this year. Students have been fantastic at following the regulations. Likewise, I am hugely grateful to all of our parents and carers for the supportive manner in which they have engaged with us. There are a range of perspectives in our community about how best to approach the pandemic, yet the hallmark of how all members of our community have worked together is respect and kindness. Thank you so much for this, the continued support and positive interactions we have had with you has made the last term (and the last couple of years) just about bearable.

As always, your children have been delightful. Throughout the ups and downs of the last term, they have made coming to school a pleasure and there are countless occasions this term when I and my team have been reduced to tears of laughter by their bizarre jokes, been humbled by their empathy and left speechless by their generosity.

Last Day of School

Just a reminder that school finishes at 1pm tomorrow. Students are welcome to wear their own clothes with a Christmas jumper.

Omicron Variant

Sadly, it appears that we are ending another year in the midst of further Covid-related turmoil. Already the lead story on BBC is whether schools will be open in January. Obviously, this decision is out of our hands and the two weeks of holiday period are likely to see many more developments as the Government puts in place measures to control the spread of the Omicron variant. What I will say though is please do not despair. If schools are open then we will continue to follow all Government advice and more to ensure that your children are as safe as they can be. This term we utilised the continued deployment of a scientifically-based mitigation strategy that included the continued use of masks in communal areas and the continued option for students to wear masks in class if they so choose, the use of CO2 monitors in all rooms, increased ventilation throughout the school and a focus on good hygiene practices. No doubt there will be further guidance over Christmas that we will incorporate into our risk assessment as appropriate in January. In the event that there is a move to remote learning we are absolutely ready for immediate mobilisation of our distance learning curriculum and the deployment of the hundreds of laptops that we purchased last year. In this eventuality, we will also do everything that we can to keep the school open for all children who need access to it, as we have done in previous years. Clearly, we are not out of the woods yet, and I very much hope that some of the predictions we are seeing in the press do not materialise, but whatever the situation I am certain that we will face these challenges together in a resolute and unified manner.

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January Return

Given the huge uncertainty as to what the school return will look like in January, we will be in touch before the new year when things hopefully become clearer. As it stands we are planning to have a staggered return to facilitate mass testing. Once students have returned to school, students will stay in school for the rest of the week and moving forward.

Date of return	Year group
Wednesday 5 th January	Year 7 and Year 11
Thursday 6 th January	Year 8 and Year 10
Friday 7 th January	Year 9

But more on this will follow before the academic year begins.

Parent Advisory Board

Next term we will be restarting the Parent Advisory Board. This is a group of parents who kindly give up a couple of hours to listen to updates about plans for the school and then share their thoughts and responses. If you are interested in joining please drop Karen Smith, my PA, an email (k.smith@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk) letting us know and we will contact you with a date nearer the time. For the foreseeable future I imagine that these meetings will be virtual, though when we are able we hope to return to in person meetings, where drinks and snacks are provided.

Invigilator Vacancies

We have vacancies for a number of exam invigilators. These are sessional roles, which involve supervising students whilst they conduct exams. Although the main exams season is in May/June, we hold exams throughout the year and the positions will suit people who would like flexible employment opportunities. If you are interested please email Debbie Sutch, our School Business Manager (d.sutch@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk).

Thanks again for everything this year. If you need anything at all please do not hesitate to get in touch (g.baker@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk).

Best wishes,



Geoff Baker,
Executive Headteacher.