



# CANSFIELD

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

2<sup>nd</sup> September 2022

For our Year 11 class of 2022,

Results day went so quickly. While my team and I were able to speak with you all, I wanted to send you a few thoughts.

The two years you have spent completing your GCSEs have been the most difficult years I have spent as a Headteacher. The Covid pandemic turned life upside down for everyone, but it had a disproportionate impact on our community. In addition to the periods of working from home, you being ill, teachers being ill, the changes to the school environment and the general trauma of living through a pandemic, many of you also suffered bereavements, many of which sadly involved very close family members. But to an individual, throughout the last two years you have faced any issues that have arisen with courage and bravery. On a personal level I can state that your fortitude inspired me to keep going when I was struggling, a sentiment I know that many of my team would also agree with. In the face of real adversity, you have shown yourselves to be kind, funny, honourable and compassionate. I am humbled that you have been part of our community and think that as a year group you have absolutely exhibited the best of Cansfield.

In addition to the above, you have also achieved some excellent outcomes. You will obviously know your individual achievements, but I wanted to be certain that you understood the scale of your achievements as a year group. This year did not just see the school achieving, by some distance, the best grades in its history, but also:

- The first time in our school's history that we have achieved a positive progress figure, meaning that you outperformed the grades that you were expected to achieve based on your primary school attainment. This measure highlights the fact that students at every level outperformed targets, whether increasing their grades from a 1 to a 2 or from an 8 to a 9.
- Huge improvements in our headline figures. Our 4+ Basics (which means English and Maths) increased from 63 to 71%. Students achieving 5+ in Basics increased from 36% to a staggering 60%.
- This year Cansfield had the most improved attainment in Wigan.
- Cansfield High School is now one of the highest performing schools in Wigan.
- Overall we are above National Averages on pretty much every measure.

The thing I am most proud about, is that behind these figures was absolute graft from all members of our community. You, you parents/carers and your teachers did everything to ensure that you achieved the best set of grades that you could. This was seen particularly in the additional revision sessions that teachers organised during evenings and weekends. Not only am I grateful to my colleagues for arranging these sessions, but your turn out and effort made them hugely productive. I will struggle to get over the sense of pride I felt when every single member of my RE class turned up for a five hour revision session on a Sunday before the GCSE! Likewise, it was wonderful to see staff absolutely energised after lessons and revision sessions where you had done everything in your power to make them a success.

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In short, I want you to know what an absolute pleasure it was to have you at Cansfield. You have left our school as great people and the incredible outcomes that you have achieved are totally deserved. Despite all of the challenges that the world faces at the moment, it is a better place with you in it and I have every confidence that you will all go on to make a positive impact with your lives.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Awards Evening later in the year. In the meantime, if there is anything you need at all please do not hesitate to drop by or send me ([g.baker@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk](mailto:g.baker@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk)) or any other staff member an email.

Best wishes,

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

Geoff Baker.  
Executive Headteacher.