



CANSFIELD

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

12th September 2022

Dear parents and carers,

It has been lovely to welcome all our students back this week. A real highlight has been seeing the way in which our older students have looked out for our new starters, particularly the work that our PALS have done on the Year 7's first day. Below are a few key updates that I wanted to share with you all:

Passing of Queen Elizabeth II and Bank Holiday on 19th September

As you will be aware, on Thursday Queen Elizabeth sadly passed away, having spent over 70 years serving us as our sovereign. The outpouring of sadness that has been seen over the last few days is befitting for a leader who dedicated her life to public service. Given the historical significance of the Queen's life and her passing, our team quickly developed a range of resources about Queen Elizabeth, and it was great to see students discussing her role in British history and the lessons we might take from her life. On Friday we observed a minute's silence to commemorate her death and it was incredibly moving to see the respectful way in which our community honoured this. We are now in a national period of mourning and the Government has confirmed that the day of the funeral will also be a bank holiday, meaning that school will be closed on 19th September.

Exam Success for Year 11 Class of 2022

This summer our departing Year 11 group achieved the best grades in our school's history. Some key headlines are:

- The percentage of students achieving 4+ in Basics (English and Maths) rose from 64% to 71%.
- The percentage of students achieving 5+ in Basics rose from 36% to an astonishing 60%.
- Cansfield High School achieved a positive Progress 8 figure for the first time in the school's history, which means that students made more progress than would be expected in all subjects based on their attainment in primary school.
- Cansfield has the most improved attainment in the borough and is now one of the highest performing schools in the borough.

These incredible achievements were the result of significant effort from students, staff and their families and shows what our community is capable of. It should also give you great confidence that your children are in a school where they will be supported to achieve the best grades that they are capable of.

Support with Managing Cost of Living Crisis

The difficult times appear to keep flowing and we are now living through a period in which there are expected to be further heavy pressures on all our finances. I wanted to alert you to a number of measures we have put in place to support our families:

- **Removal of costs for cooking lessons** – Cansfield has historically asked parents to contribute to the costs of ingredients for practical cooking lessons. We have reviewed our policies and from this term onwards the school will cover all costs for cooking lessons.

Headteacher: [Dr G Baker](#)

Cansfield, Old Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Wigan. WN4 9TP

Telephone: 01942 727391

email: enquiries@admin.cansfield.wigan.sch.uk web: www.cansfield.wigan.sch.uk

- **Support with uniform costs** – For some years we have offered support to those who are struggling with the cost of uniform. Please keep in mind that this support remains and if help is needed you only need to email me and we will do what we can. This may be financial support or it may be access to our collection of pre-loved uniform.
- **Support with costs of trips** – In the last couple of years we have reviewed our policies for trips. In the first place, while we recognise that trips are hugely beneficial part of the learning experience that our students have while with us, the only trips we will now support are ones that we deem to be within the scope of reasonable affordability. We also always set aside funds for those who need it to support with the cost of these trips. If a trip is organised, please do not be put off by the cost if you think it would be beneficial for your child to attend. Drop me an email and we will outline the support we can provide.
- **Support with costs of breakfast** – We run a breakfast club at school, which is accessible to all and includes toast, tea cakes, cereal etc at a very reasonable cost. If you are struggling with meeting this cost, regardless of whether your child receives free school meals, please do not hesitate to let me know and we will ensure that your child has a breakfast every morning.
- **Support with costs of lunch** – Our canteen has transformed and offers great value, nutritious food at a very reasonable cost. The government provides free school meals for those who are deemed to meet a certain criteria. Around a third of our students have access to free school meals, which our card system ensures is handled in manner in a way that ensures no one else would know. If you do not currently access free school meals and your circumstances change in anyway please contact us and we can support you through the application process. The savings from this are very significant so we would encourage you to explore this.

Open Evening Early Closure on 13th October

On Thursday 13th October the school will be hosting an Open Evening for prospective students and their families. To give us time to prepare there will be an early finish of 2pm. The public bus has been notified and has adjusted its timings accordingly. As with every year we will be asking students to help on the evening and letters will be sent to those who want to volunteer in due course. If for some reason you cannot collect your son or daughter at 2pm, let us know and we will make arrangements to keep them to the usual closing time.

Pre-Loved Uniform

If you have any uniform that has been used, is in good condition and is no longer required, it will be gratefully received by the school. We are trying to build up a bank of pre-loved uniform that will be cleaned and given to those who need it at no cost.

Updates for Our Newsletter

We have had lots of lovely feedback about the school newsletter, the first of which went out just before summer. One section of the newsletter is concerned with student news. If your child does anything at all outside school that you think needs celebrating please let me know – might be sports, volunteer group, a promotion in a part time job – please let me know so that it can be included in the newsletter.

Parental Advisory Board

We host a Parental Advisory Board meeting in the evening three times a year. Parents are welcome to attend who would like to hear about developments within the school and share any thoughts with me as we look to develop the school and our provision for our community. If you are interested in attending then please email my PA, Karen Smith, who will add you to our list and contact you to invite you to our next meeting (k.smith@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk).

Pastoral Team Update

We have made some changes to our pastoral staffing as noted below. If you have any concerns about your child's welfare then either their form tutor or their Head of Year should be the first port of call. Note that due to the demands of Year 11 we have allocated two colleagues to be Head of Year, either of whom can be contacted with any concerns. Their contact details are below and they will be happy to talk with you over any issues:

Miss Katie Ferguson	Head of Year 7	k.ferguson@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk
Mrs Kate Fleming	Head of Year 8	k.fleming@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk
Mrs Kim Owen	Head of Year 9	k.owen@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk
Mrs Amy Daly	Head of Year 10	a.allso@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk
Mr Chris Mugan	Head of Year 11	c.mugan@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk
Miss Paige Sapherson-Lawrence	Head of Year 11	p.sapherson-lawrence@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk

As always, thank you for your support and if you have any further concerns or would like any support with an issue please feel free to contact me direct at g.baker@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk.

Best wishes,



Geoff Baker,
Executive Headteacher