



# CANSFIELD

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

27<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you are all well. As you will no doubt be aware, the NEU (the National Education Union) have announced that they intend to hold 7 days of regional strikes in relation to their dispute over pay, pensions, working conditions and jobs. The first of these days is scheduled for 1<sup>st</sup> February. I am fortunate and grateful that staff have given me an indication of their intentions for the day, allowing me to make plans based on the projected numbers who will be striking. A significant number of staff at school are in the NEU and as such many will be involved. I have, therefore, had to make a very difficult decision in relation to the extent to which school is open, which will see all students, except for Year 11 and those deemed to be vulnerable, learning remotely for the day. Below are responses to likely questions:

### **Why are staff at Cansfield striking?**

The NEU, the UK's biggest teaching union, voted in favour of strike action earlier this year. They argue that teacher's pay has fallen by almost a quarter in real terms since 2010 and that the profession faces a recruitment and retention crisis fuelled by low salaries. Within the school and the profession at large there are a range of different perspectives about strike action, and you will also have your own views. What I want to assure you is that those who are striking and those who are not have given their decision significant thought and that they remain equally committed to your children and to our community. As Headteacher I am grateful for the transparent and open way in which all staff have engaged with me, allowing me to make decisions that foreground the safety of your children on 1<sup>st</sup> February.

### **Who will attend school on 1<sup>st</sup> February?**

To maintain our high standards of health and safety at Cansfield the school will only be open to:

- All Year 11 students.
- Those who classify as vulnerable students in Year 7 to Year 10, in line with definitions from the Department of Education.

### **How will I know if my child is classified as 'vulnerable'?**

The definition 'vulnerable' includes students with an Education, Health and Care Plan; students who have a Child-In-Need Plan; students who are a looked-after child; those who have been assessed as otherwise vulnerable by the school or the Local Authority. The school will contact all families of students deemed to be vulnerable by the end of the day on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January.

### **What work will be available for Year 7 to Year 10 students?**

There will be five separate fully resourced 1 hour lessons available on Google Classrooms per year group. Students should move through each lesson for the year group in turn, roughly following the same timings that they would if they were in school.

Headteacher: [Dr G Baker](#)

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

Telephone: 01942 727391

email: [enquiries@admin.cansfield.wigan.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@admin.cansfield.wigan.sch.uk) web: [www.cansfield.wigan.sch.uk](http://www.cansfield.wigan.sch.uk)

### **How will my child access Google Classrooms?**

On Monday and Tuesday, we will run through the approach to accessing Google Classrooms to ensure every student can access Google Classrooms. Students will know how to access the Google Classrooms and will have access to the codes to achieve this. The codes for the rooms are below:

Year 7	<a href="#">yt36gjb</a>
Year 8	<a href="#">nlpcy67</a>
Year 9	<a href="#">shf6lm6</a>
Year 10	<a href="#">ze47i2p</a>

### **What if my child does not have a computer?**

As was the case during COVID we have c200 Chromebooks that we can loan out to students who need them. If you need a Chromebook we will ask you to sign an agreement stating that it will be returned on 2<sup>nd</sup> February and you will receive a fully charged laptop that will be given out on the afternoon the day prior to the strike. If you would like a Chromebook for the day please click on this link and fill out your details by midday on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January.

<https://forms.gle/BsTyMGtSY9QHfMxZ7>

### **What work will Year 7 – Year 10 students on site be covering?**

Those students in Year 7 to Year 10 who are contacted by the school due to being classed as ‘vulnerable’ by the Department of Education will have the opportunity to come into school and will be in an ICT room for the day working under the supervision of a member of staff. They will complete the same work the other members of the year group are completing at home.

### **What work will Year 11s complete?**

Where possible, Year 11 will complete their normal lessons. Where staff are not available because they are on strike, members of SLT will cover these lessons offering a variety of different sessions that will support preparation for forthcoming examinations.

### **Who will staff the school for vulnerable students and Year 11 on 1<sup>st</sup> February?**

Lessons will be staffed by those teachers who would have been teaching the lessons were there no strike. Members of SLT and any staff who might volunteer will cover gaps due to the strikes.

I realise that there is a lot to take in here. Organisation for the day will be overseen by our Senior Assistant Headteacher, Craig Lomas ([c.lomas@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk](mailto:c.lomas@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk)) – please feel free to email Mr Lomas directly if you have any questions about the operation of the day. Equally you are always very welcome to email me direct if you have any questions or comments ([g.baker@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk](mailto:g.baker@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk)).

Best wishes,



Geoff Baker  
Executive Headteacher