



CANSFIELD

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

4th January 2023

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you are all well and had a peaceful Christmas and New Year. Below, please find a number of brief updates on some key issues relating to the school.

Heads of Year

Please accept my apologies for the disruption to the pastoral setup we have at Cansfield over the last term. Some of you will already be aware, but last term we experienced an unfortunate run of staff absence due to planned operations, medical emergencies, injury, bereavement and so forth. These absences disproportionately affected the pastoral team. Thankfully, we are now returning to full strength. We have also appointed an additional colleague, Mr Osborne, to further increase capacity in the pastoral team. Below, please find a reminder / update of our Heads of Year and their contact details:

Year Group	Head of Year	Email
7	Miss Ferguson	k.ferguson@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk
8	Mrs Fleming	k.fleming@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk
9	Mrs Owen	k.owen@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk
10	Miss Sapherson-Lawrence	p.sapherson-lawrence@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk
11	Mr Mugan Mr Osborne	c.mugan@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk c.osborne@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk

Note that Mrs Fleming is due back in the next ten days (in the meantime any Year 8 enquiries please email Mr Swain at p.swain@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk) and Mrs Briscoe is also due to return in the next month or so, though while she recovers will be on a phased return adding capacity as opposed to being responsible for any particular year group.

Home Learning

Just to let you know that we have recently updated the Home Learning section of the school website. In addition to updated Knowledge Organisers, there is also a guide for how to use them and links to additional work and support for those who want them. This can all be found through the drop-down menus at Teaching and Learning / Home Learning. If you would like any support with Home Learning then please contact Mr Lomas (c.lomas@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk).

New PE Kit and Cost of Uniform

Over the last few months, we have worked with colleagues, parents, and students to update our PE kit so that there are less items required and the kit is cheaper. This is in line with our aims to reduce the overall cost of school uniform and you will know that we have already created a collection of pre-loved uniform that has been of use to many parents, while we also always provide financial assistance for those who need it. In the next week Mrs Ainscough will be sending out final details of the PE kit, but just to assure you that no one needs to update their existing kit and we are happy for the full transition to the new kit to take a couple of years.

Headteacher: [Dr G Baker](#)
Cansfield, Old Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Wigan. WN4 9TP

Detentions

Over last term we had a handful of incidents where students missed detentions. When set, detentions are 30 minutes in length. From this term onwards, we will be returning to a one-hour detention the following night for those who miss the first detention. Parents / carers will be informed the morning of the detention if an extended detention is given, though obviously we hope and do not anticipate that this will be a regular occurrence at all. We are proud of the behavioural standards at Cansfield and appreciate your support with this.

Free French Courses

Parents of Year 7 and Year 8 students will know that after long consideration the Languages Faculty have decided to focus their curriculum time on the development of one language only – French. This will mean that while at Cansfield, rather than leave with a more superficial engagement with two languages, every student will become completely immersed in French language and culture, doubling the amount of time they spend on French at Key Stage 3 and giving us the opportunity to focus resources on this one subject, which all will take till GCSE. We will continue with German and Mandarin in extracurricular clubs. This move gives us capacity to offer a series of after school French clubs, free of charge, to parents and carers. This would start with a beginner's guide, and we would aim to eventually offer GCSE French to those who would like to continue to achieve an accredited qualification. The course would be taught by members of the Languages Faculty and supported by GCSE students. You would also be very welcome to attend any course with your child. In the first instance, if you are interested in taking part in these courses could you drop a brief email to Karen Smith (k.smith@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk) so we can gauge interest and ensure we are planning appropriate resources. We will then liaise with those who have indicated an interest to find a time that suits as many as possible.

Lanyards

Just a quick note to say that following a consultation on uniform with students we have made the decision to remove Lanyards. They were introduced during the height of the pandemic to ensure we could prevent students mixing years groups (or bubbles as they were known). Thankfully the need for them has now gone and I am grateful to the students who queried their continued use. Thanks to you all for your support with making sure students had these and wore them appropriately.

As always, please feel free to contact me directly if you have any concerns or queries (g.baker@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk).

Best wishes,



Geoff Baker.
Executive Headteacher.