



CANSFIELD

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

17th February 2023

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you are all well and looking forward to the half term. Please find below several updates relating to the school.

Strike Day

The second day of strikes organised by the National Education Union is scheduled for Tuesday 28th February, the first week back after half term. We will be following the exact same pattern that we did for the strike day in January, which means Year 11s and those deemed to be vulnerable by the Department for Education (parents and carers will be contacted to let them know that their children fall into this category and to confirm attendance on the day) are in school. Year 11s will have begun their PPEs and will be completing two or three PPEs that day dependent on their options. Remaining students from Year 7 to Year 10 will be accessing learning remotely. The codes to access the classrooms in Google Classroom remain as they were on the last letter:

Year 7	yt36gjb
Year 8	nlpcy67
Year 9	shf6lm6
Year 10	ze47i2p

As per the last strike day, laptops will be available and if you like a Chromebook for the day please click on this link and fill out your details by midday on Monday 27th February. The link to borrow a laptop is: <https://forms.gle/hG46VrLYxiw8BVpZ9>.

Organisation for the day will be overseen by our Senior Assistant Headteacher, Craig Lomas (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.

Parent Workshops

In recent discussions with parents, I have been asked if we could provide workshops on a range of different issues such as supporting students with a special education need, helping children to understand healthy relationships and consent, and how to prepare for exams. We have prepared a schedule of workshops for between now and summer and they will be delivered by a mix of Cansfield staff and external speakers. The outline of dates and topics is below, and Mr Lomas will be sending a separate letter out with information on how to book these sessions. The cost of all workshops will be covered by the school and refreshments will be provided free of charge.

28 th February	Supporting a young person's mental health and wellbeing
17 th March	How abuse affects children and parenting styles
25 th April	Supporting students at home to prepare for exams at school
2 nd May	Autism Identity – Dean Beadle
18 th May	Supporting a young person to understand healthy relationships and consent
22 nd June	Supporting a young person with SEN

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

Telephone: [01942 727391](tel:01942727391)
email: enquiries@admin.cansfield.wigan.sch.uk web: www.cansfield.wigan.sch.uk

Staffing

This has been a tricky term for us due to staff absence – as you know, at the start of this year we had a run of bad luck with different staff off on long term sick for a variety of unconnected reasons. Thankfully, most of those staff have returned, or are returning, but in many cases, they are returning on phased returns, which has brought additional challenges. This has meant a level of disruption to certain groups, which is now settling down, and I am confident that normal service is very close to being resumed. We have made several new hires over the last few weeks, with some starting after February half term, most starting after Easter and the remaining colleagues joining us after May half term. This includes the appointment of a new school-based team of cover staff, which will ensure that they are trained in our standards. Likewise, while I am grateful to Mr Forshaw and Mr Swain for the work that they have done with Year 8, I am pleased to say that after an unexpected setback, Mrs Fleming is returning as Head of Year 8 after half term, as is Mrs Briscoe. Thank you all for your patience and understanding with this.

Musical Fridays

Your children may have already told you this, but we have the most wonderful initiative on a Friday. Students put themselves forward to perform songs of their choice in the canteen, which are sung to a backing track or with acoustic support. During a lunchtime we will usually have 600-700 students move through the canteen listening, while there are usually an additional 100 students or so who will be in the immediate area around the performers offering support and encouragement. The standard of the performances has been incredible, but so too has the way other students have responded, with support, cheers and spontaneous sing-a-longs. As this becomes a Cansfield institution, Miss Rose will be sharing some film clips on our website so you can get a sense of how these events unfold.

Inclusion and Special Educational Needs Support

Thank you to the parents and carers of students who attended the recent inclusion evenings that we hosted at Cansfield. We had over 100 parents attend, and it was a great opportunity for families to meet with key staff and to understand the processes used to identify that extra support is needed and what that support might look like. If you were unable to make that event or have any further questions regarding inclusion and support for learners with a special educational need please feel free to contact our SENCO, Mrs Cashman, directly: h.cashman@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk.

As always, please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions or concerns (g.baker@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk). I hope you all have a lovely half term.

Best wishes,



Geoff Baker.
Executive Headteacher.