



# CANSFIELD

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

24 March 2023

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you are all well and looking forward to a great Easter break. As always, the term has brought many challenges and many moments of joy. While I am always worried about jinxing an improving situation, after a tricky period of staff absence, things have settled down significantly and we are almost back at full capacity. We have four new staff joining us after Easter – Mr Dobinson in Geography (who replaces Mr Cegura); two new Maths teachers – Miss McGowan and Mr Burrows; and Mrs Nelson in Creatives. It has been a really positive term for parental engagement and our programme of parental engagement talks has begun with sessions on supporting mental health and wellbeing and another on domestic abuse and the impact on children. We had our first Student Summit meeting last week, some details of which are below, and at the point of writing we are about to take half of Year 7 to Colomendy for the weekend. Please find below a number of brief updates:

## **Last Day of Term**

As in previous years we will be finishing at 1pm on Friday 31st March. The day will run as normal until the end of Period 3, lunch will be 12 to 12.45 then there will be a brief 15-minute form, following which all students will be dismissed. We have been unable to get the Y62 public bus moved, so will be providing our own bus transport for that route using the minibuses. Any students who would normally take the Y62 and would like a lift home should meet in the Library at 1pm and suitable arrangements will be made.

## **Student Summit and Key Agreements**

On 16th March Mr Forshaw and I took 16 students – 4 from each year group from Year 7 to 10 – off site for an afternoon. Students volunteered for the position and then the required number were randomly selected. Prior to the meeting form tutors gathered thoughts about the school – good and bad – from their tutees. During the meeting with the 16 students discussed their perception of the school, what they love and what they would want to change. Mr Forshaw will be putting a section on the website giving an overview of these meetings, which we intend to have twice a year moving forward. Three key changes / updates were agreed considering the feedback from students:

- *One way system* – We discussed this at length, and all felt that the introduction of the one-way system had been a positive and led to a calmer environment. However, two small modifications were made which students felt would speed up movement around the school: the doorway to the outside off the main corridor opposite the Library will be made two-way and the small corridor outside the pastoral office will be made two-way. These two changes give more points of entry onto the one-way system, which students feel will benefit them.

- *Afternoon form time* – Students valued the long assemblies and the extra time for PSHE that afternoon form allows, but they felt that the time spent on numeracy and literacy was not as valuable as lesson time led by a specialist teacher. We have already completed a review of the school day from September and in light of this feedback also have made the decision to move to six lessons of 55 minutes per day, rather than the current model of five one-hour lessons and a 30

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)

minute form time. This relatively small change – which has no impact on the start and end times of the day – will mean that students will have an additional English and Maths lesson every week taught by their specialist teacher, as well as ensuring that subjects like Cooking and Computing get a lesson a week rather than the current setup where they are on rotation for six months at a time. An assembly lesson will also be timetabled for every year group once a week. All students felt that this would enhance these sessions as well as accelerate their progress in the respective areas.

- *Use of toilets during lessons* – This has been a very contentious issue nationally over the last few months. As a school, we have a safeguarding duty to know where students are, and we want to avoid students unnecessarily leaving lessons. However, obviously anyone can be caught short, and we want our children to be comfortable in lessons. Our current practice is that anyone with a medical pass can leave lessons as they want to use the toilet, but others need to wait for a member of the safeguarding team who will take them to the nearest toilet. However, students felt that this could take too long in an emergency. Instead, they suggested that during lessons we have one central set of toilets that all students go to and that the corridor outside is supervised by a member of staff. Use of toilets during lessons should remain in emergency only and will be noted ... where it is felt that students are abusing this setup, appropriate support will be put in place. To ensure that the toilets can be appropriately monitored, one set of toilets will be open all day (the Year 10-11 toilets) and available to all during lesson time. Staff and students all felt that this was a very fair compromise and would ensure that toilets were available, though should be used in an emergency only.

### **Forthcoming Parent Event**

Just a reminder that the next parent engagement event is at 6pm on 25th April 2023 and is on the topic 'Supporting Students at Home to Prepare for Exams at School'. To sign up please use this link: <https://forms.gle/sxqezj3WxvHPEpPa8>.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly at [g.baker@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk](mailto:g.baker@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk).

Best wishes,



Geoff Baker.  
Headteacher.