Prospectus 2026/27

CANSFIELD

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

Welcome...

On behalf of the Governors and staff, I would like to welcome you to Cansfield High School and tell you a little bit more about our amazing school.

"Cansfield's support and how they make you feel like family is what makes you want to choose Cansfield."
[Current Student]

Cansfield has a body of hugely committed and talented staff. As professionals, our staff pride themselves on always learning. This is shown through our strong continuing professional development offer for all. Pathways to Masters level qualifications are offered routinely, meaning that staff are constantly learning and developing, honing their craft and knowledge to focus on being the best practitioner they can be.

We are an inclusive school with high aspirations for all students in every aspect of their lives. Our pupils wear their uniform with pride, they rarely miss school and apply themselves with dedication and commitment in all of their lessons. Pupils are also encouraged to develop skills outside of the classroom and we value and celebrate success in every area of their lives, including sports, music and extracurricular clubs. We understand that it is imperative that students have positive relationships with staff and develop strong friendships with other students.

"Our school has an engaging curriculum with passionate teachers who push students to achieve their true potential."
[Current Student]

The signature of Cansfield is undoubtedly the fact that every student is known as an individual by staff - our students really matter to us and they always have people to go to if there is an issue or if they want to celebrate an achievement. The sense of belonging that every student has at Cansfield High School ensures that we get the best out of pupils and provide them with a foundation that will ensure that they are happy and equipped to enjoy success in their lives.

I am proud to lead a school that values children as individuals, recognising individual skills, interests and needs so that we really can 'Achieve Excellence Together."

Don't just take my word for it, please feel free to organise a tour around school to see students in action, we would love to welcome you.

Nicola Daniels
Headteacher

About us

Cansfield is an inclusive 11-16 school in the Ashton-in-Makerfield area of Wigan.

The ethos of our school is evident in our vision, our mission statement and our values. It is summed up in our motto – Achieving Excellence Together – which highlights the fact that as a community we strive to be excellent in all that we do. The values, vision, mission statement and motto have been collectively written by members of the school – first outlined by the staff, then developed in consultation with students, parents and governors.

Our Values

As a community, we are:

- **Aspirational**
- **Respectful**
- **Courageous**
- **Honourable**

Vision

Our vision is that every member of our community will harness the power of education to realise their potential and achieve their dreams.

"Staff provide a safe haven at Cansfield and allowed my sons to develop and grow."

[Parent]

Mission Statement

We provide a broad education and commit to a well-defined set of values that ensures that our students are happy and have the chance to become the best version of themselves that is possible. We place huge value on the sense of community and belonging at Cansfield High School and firmly believe that when we work together there is no limit on what we can achieve as a school or as individuals.

Transition

We understand what a huge decision making the choice about your child's next five years in education is. We do not take this for granted. High school is a place where students will grow up, make lifelong friends and memories and decide on some life choices. It is important they have careful help and guidance to support all of this. At Cansfield, we aim to make the transition as smooth as possible. This includes Open Day and Evening, transition days, taster sessions (which begin in Year 5) and Summer School. Here, students get the chance to meet key staff and make new friends. We always offer extra transition for students who may need it - extra tours, time with staff and staff visiting primary school. Furthermore, we welcome communication from parents as you make this decision and will answer any extra queries you have.

"I feel that, if I have a problem, I am able to speak about it to any member of staff without worry."

[Current Student]

WELCOME TO CANSFIELD

Achieving Excellence

Together in the Classroom: Teaching, Learning and the Curriculum

"Cansfield goes above and beyond to support students as individuals."
[Parent]

At Cansfield, we offer a broad and balanced curriculum which enables pupils to develop lifelong knowledge, skills and attributes to accompany them as they move to life beyond Cansfield. Pupils are encouraged to take ownership of their own learning and develop resilience as they mature. The curriculum has been designed by subject experts, often working with a range of external curriculum specialists. It is constantly reviewed and evaluated, ensuring it is relevant and purposeful for the current context.

In years 7 – 9 students study a full range of subjects:

- English and Reading
- Maths
- Science
- Geography
- History
- Citizenship, Religion and Careers
- Life Studies
- French
- PE
- Music
- Art
- Design Technology
- Food
- Computing
- Drama

"The curriculum is broad and ambitious and well thought out."
[Ofsted, June 2024]

& KS4
CANSFIELD

English

In English we have a purposefully sequenced, knowledge-rich and ambitious curriculum that inspires curiosity and engages our young people in critical thinking. Following a broadly chronological structure, our curriculum aims to show learners that literature, art and culture are a product of the time in which they were created. Our curriculum empowers our students by developing their social and cultural capital and enabling them to participate fully in academic conversation. Our English learners are thinkers – reflecting upon their society and our world and their place within it. English at Cansfield advance our students' core skills and knowledge in reading, writing and spoken language to ensure that they are able to communicate effectively in all situations, with an understanding and appreciation of the wider world, culture and their role within it, through the study of literature and language.

To broaden the understanding and appreciation that our students have of culture and diversity we study a range of interesting literature texts across the five years. We believe that the study of literature and language within cultural and historical contexts challenges students to articulate and defend ideas, to appreciate ideas different from their own, and to respect diversity and how ideas and concepts have changed and transformed over time. This develops and prepares students to be lifelong learners, ensuring that they have a voice and a role within their community and society beyond secondary school.

Beyond the classroom, we nurture a love of creativity in our students through an understanding and appreciation of literature and language to allow them to flourish in future careers and in the community once they leave Cansfield. In addition to our curriculum we offer a wealth of opportunities and experiences to further enhance their appreciation and love of English: theatre visits, author workshops, visits from poets, and links with the local primary schools are just some of the activities that our Faculty participates in.

Maths

Our aim in the Mathematics Faculty at Cansfield High School is to cultivate a stimulating and challenging learning environment, where all students can thrive and become competent users of mathematics and mathematical application.

We endeavour to accomplish students with a foundation for lifelong learning, critical thinking, and technical problem solving, through an innovative, well-balanced and dynamic mastery curriculum. Students are encouraged to persevere and be resilient learners as they actively engage and become successful, independent mathematicians. Mathematics is all around us in everyday life. It is vital our students have a fundamental understanding of mathematics in order to thrive in their lives after school. To accomplish this, we ensure the disciplinary skills of fluency, mathematical reasoning and problem solving are intertwined into lessons within every concept; beyond that; our tasks deliberately present maths in scientific, financial and other real-world contexts.

"Teachers support us so we can be pushed to achieve excellence"
[Current Student]

Science

Our Key Stage 3 science curriculum builds on the foundations of primary science and prepares students for the deeper study of scientific ideas at GCSE. It introduces learners to the three main disciplines—biology, chemistry and physics—while also emphasising the importance of working scientifically, problem-solving, and linking knowledge to real-world applications.

Biology involves students exploring the structure and function of living organisms, including cells, tissues and organ systems, and consider how these systems work together to keep organisms alive. They study reproduction and growth in plants and animals, the principles of inheritance and variation, and the role of evolution in shaping life on Earth. Topics in Chemistry include students being introduced to the particle model of matter, gaining an understanding of states of matter and changes between them. They explore the structure of the atom, elements, compounds and mixtures, and how chemical reactions take place. In Physics, the curriculum focuses on the fundamental principles that govern the physical world. Pupils study forces and motion, including gravity, friction, pressure and speed.

Across all three disciplines, pupils develop skills in scientific enquiry. They learn to ask questions, form hypotheses, plan and carry out experiments, collect and interpret data, and evaluate evidence. Mathematical skills—such as using units, handling graphs, and working with formulae—are embedded to strengthen scientific understanding.

The Key Stage 3 curriculum encourages curiosity about the natural and physical world, equips students with the tools to think critically about evidence, and lays the groundwork for further study in science and related fields.

History

The History curriculum at Cansfield is an in depth, broad study of world history and British History. Our approach is centred around a chronology and pupils understanding the concept of place in time. We feel it is important for students to understand how our world was built and how it has changed and developed. From year 7-9 we cover a vast and wide range of knowledge that fulfils and goes beyond standard historical concepts, taking pupils from Celtic Britain to the end of the Cold War. Within each year there are 6 key themes that interweave through the chronology; power, conflict, social, economic, religion and representation. These themes allow students to make connections and think deeper about the information in front of them. These themes also allow for the students to explore historical skills like significance and causation to slot together factors and facts to create the context of the world they live in, additional to knowing History's great stories to develop their substantive knowledge. We pride ourselves at Cansfield of having an ever-evolving curriculum that is fully inclusive and progressive.

Geography

The Geography curriculum at Cansfield takes a thematic approach. In Year 7, the students build a sense of their place in the world by studying a variety of contrasting countries such as Iceland, Russia, China, and Kenya.

In Year 8, students begin to understand the geographic issues facing the world such as Climate Change, River Flooding and the threats facing Ecosystems. In Year 9, students then explore how the world is changing, allowing them to draw all of their knowledge together, by looking at Desertification, the growth Global Cities, and conflict in The Middle East. The curriculum is designed to allow them to revisit key themes such as weather & climate, physical processes, and development throughout the whole of KS3, gradually building on their knowledge to become well-rounded geographers.

"The school environment is lovely.
The teachers strive to make a positive difference,
and work really hard to get the best out of pupils'"
[Alumni Student]

Citizenship, Religion and Careers

In Citizenship, Religion and Careers we then take a chronological approach to teaching the Abrahamic faiths (Judaism, Christianity & Islam) in year 7 followed by the Dharmic faiths (Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism), before looking at non-religious worldviews in year 8. This gives the pupils a journey through the major six world religions to understand diverse and different religions, beliefs and practices. This allows pupils to take a philosophical approach in year 9 looking at ethical and moral issues, applying religious perspectives and building on the prior learning from their religion topics from the previous two years and building on knowledge in an age approach manner.

With this, our pupils will be able to develop their debate skills, independent thinking skills and tolerance and respect. We follow the Lancashire agreed syllabus and go beyond this by extending our topics to cover a wide range of religions, morality and ideologies. At KS4 we offer the AQA GCSE Religious Studies.

"I have loved the opportunity
I have been given to grow and represent
this school in the community."
[Current Student]

Citizenship, Religion and Careers

At Cansfield we have a customised, inclusive and progressive curriculum from year 7 through to year 11.

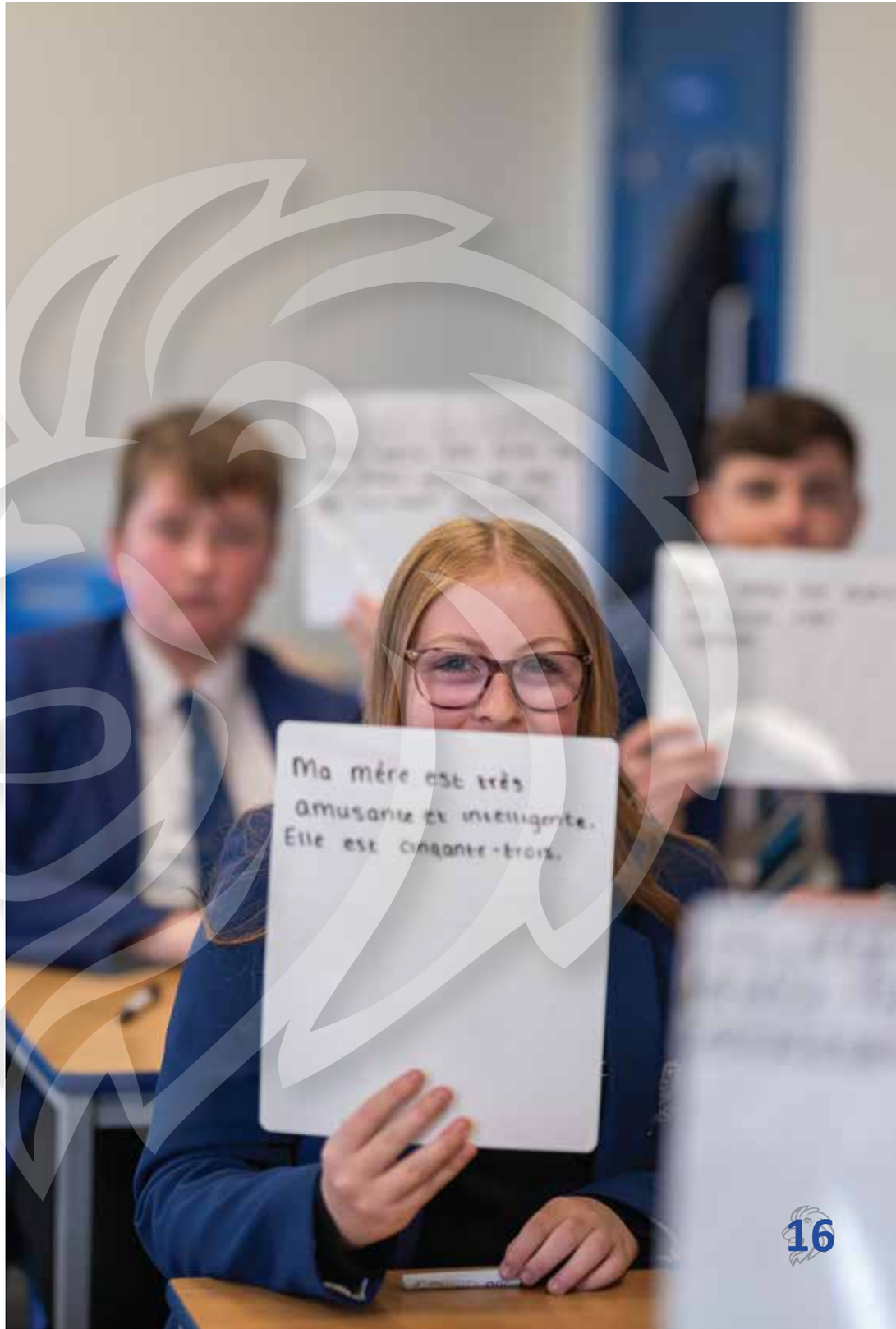
The aim of the curriculum in CRC is to ensure that pupils are ready for life outside of Cansfield in their personal life, family life, communities, UK society and as a global citizen. Life Studies covers a range of subjects including; Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE), Citizenship, and Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG), and is a cornerstone to a robust, diverse and comprehensive educational curriculum. Students cover six topics each year in the same order, these build on the previous years following a clear, age-appropriate model to allow progress in the subject. Pupils will learn about how to foster and maintain healthy friendships, online safety, law-making and politics, and how to manage money. Our educational aim is to foster informed and independent citizens who can actively participate in the country's political processes, make positive lifestyle choices, and improve their future life chances. In addition to these subjects, the curriculum fosters cross-curricular links with subjects across the school, benefitting both pupil learning and awareness of the world.

At KS4 we offer BTEC Health and Social Care to allow pupils to develop further in career options that include human lifespan and development, caring for others and understanding human behaviour.

French

At Cansfield, the French curriculum is designed to broaden students' understanding of other cultures, enhance their communication skills, and build confidence and independence in language learning. We dedicate two hours each week to French, allowing students to fully immerse themselves in the language. By the end of Year 9, students will have a solid foundation in French. Topics include: personal details, descriptions, family, pets, celebrity culture, and free time. Moving to a comparison of cultures, festivals and media all with key grammar points woven through. Furthermore, we offer a residential trip to Lille to build confidence in using French for real purposes.

Students develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills through regular assessments and progress checks. They will: identify and use tenses and key grammatical structures; translate between French and English; participate in speaking and listening activities. Our French lessons equip students with communication skills useful in today's global community, preparing them for future success.



Create & Perform

"Cansfield have value in every student that walks through the door come rain or shine."
[Current Student]

Music

We believe that every pupil is entitled to a broad and balanced music education. Music can evoke emotion, develop sensitivity, build confidence, resilience and inspire creativity and we aim to encourage our pupils through classroom music making and beyond. Throughout the KS3 music curriculum pupils will be taught skills on a variety of different instruments through solo and ensemble performances. Pupils will develop their creativity in composition through the use of Digital Audio Software and traditional methods of music making. Over the course of the three years different styles of music will be created, developed and performed to support the three pillars of musicianship. Enrichment opportunities are available for all pupils which include: Choir, band and the chance to take part in our concerts and whole school production.

Our Drama curriculum develops pupils' creativity, confidence, communication, and performance skills through practical and theoretical study. Students explore a range of dramatic techniques, styles, and texts, learning how to create, rehearse, and evaluate performances. Through individual and group work, they develop collaboration, problem-solving, empathy, and presentation skills while gaining an understanding of theatre practitioners, stagecraft, and the role of drama in reflecting society and human experiences. We encourage students to express themselves creatively and to become reflective, resilient learners.

P.E.

The PE department inspires pupils by developing their confidence and expression through physical literacy instilling lifelong skills for continued participation.

KS3 PE is a conceptual curriculum approach which offers an alternative to the traditional sport and skills based. Personal and social development plus leadership skills are fundamental when becoming a well-rounded sportsperson and we teach these concepts throughout the course. Pupils will also learn how to become competent and then excel in a variety of sports over the three-year curriculum. These include: Football, rugby, dance, gymnastics, trampoline skills, athletics, table tennis and many more. There are a variety of enrichment opportunities for pupils to participate in, including sporting fixtures, lunchtime and afterschool clubs and trips.

"Cansfield provides lots of opportunities with all of the clubs, including a variety of sports, school productions and arts."
[Current Student]

Create and Design

These subjects deliver opportunities for a range of distinct creative provision which have long been an integral part of Cansfield's major achievements. We have an inspiring and dedicated teaching team of educators that have a passion for not only their discipline, but for the wider school and support the unique creative and nurturing ethos of Cansfield, ensuring we enhance students' visual language, as well as their understanding of a range of skills, knowledge and understanding, which enables them to translate their thoughts and ideas into creative outcomes. This is ensured through the exciting and creative curriculum that we offer our students, as they are encouraged to experience a wide range of topics.

At Key Stage 3 we deliver a broad creative curriculum in which skills are embedded and taught with rigour which enables our students to experience an extensive range of materials, techniques and processes. In Art, we study Great British art and art movements such as Anthony Gormley and Paula Rego. In Food, we look at nutrition and a safe working kitchen as well as making lots of delicious food such as flapjacks and stir fry.

In Computing, the importance of staying safe online runs through the curriculum as well as programming and designing. Finally, in Design and Technology, there is an iterative element to design using CAD/CAM and the laser cutter.

There is a large uptake for subjects in the Creative Faculty at Key Stage Four, with students being supported throughout the exam process with after school drop in sessions, one to one practical tuition and extended holiday workshops. Critical understanding is further developed by trips to relevant exhibitions and visiting industry practitioners. Many Cansfield students go on to select a creative career pathway after leaving Cansfield and their successes are testament to the contribution the Creative Faculty has made to the creativity of students past and present.

In years 10 and 11, pupils follow a more specialised curriculum in their areas of choice which builds on the foundations of Key Stage Three. We offer a diverse curriculum to cater for pupils' interests and needs this includes a range of GCSEs and BTECs.

Food

In Food, we provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the hospitality industry while developing practical food preparation and service skills. The curriculum blends academic knowledge with vocational training to prepare learners for careers in hospitality or further study. This includes: knife skills; catering for good nutrition and for dietary needs; cooking methods and presentation; working with a variety of ingredients and cuisines and menu planning. We also cook some amazing food such as fish and chips, cakes, puddings, flapjacks and stir-fries.

Computing

In Computing, the importance of staying safe online runs through the curriculum as well as programming and designing. The curriculum aims to equip students with the skills and understanding needed to thrive in a digital world. It balances computer science, information technology, and digital literacy, preparing students to become confident, responsible, and capable digital citizens. Amongst other things, students will: understand how computers work, e.g. binary, logic gates, hardware components; design, write, and debug programs using text-based languages like Python; develop computational thinking: decomposition, pattern recognition, abstraction, and algorithms and evaluate and apply information technology to solve real-world problems.

Design and Technology

The (DT) curriculum provides students with the knowledge, skills, and creativity to design and make products that solve real-world problems. It encourages innovation, critical thinking, and an understanding of materials, tools, and technologies. Our curriculum aims to develop creative, technical, and practical skills to perform everyday tasks confidently so students can build and apply a repertoire of knowledge to design, make, and evaluate products. They will also respond to design briefs, be inspired by famous designers and consider technological advances using a wide range of materials and tools whilst working safely and accurately.

Achieving Excellence Together Beyond the Classroom

"Pupils benefit from the wide range of worthwhile educational experiences that are on offer."
[Ofsted June 2024]

There is a vast array of extra-curricular clubs designed to suit every individuals' needs. Some of these focus on furthering academic skills for example, debate club where the hot current topics are discussed and short story writing and essay development, for students who want the space to explore their imagination on the page. There are clubs for pupils who love the outdoors such as gardening club who help keep the school gardens and orchard cultivated and presentable. We also have the Duke of Edinburgh bronze and silver award which Year 9 pupils participate in and culminates in a weekend expedition of hiking, cooking, campfires and a night in the wild. For those not wishing to be adventurous there is Lego club, dance club, drama club, choir…and everything in between.

Students in Year 10 have the opportunity to take part in the Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award, developing valuable skills in leadership, teamwork, resilience and independence through volunteering, physical activity, skill development and an adventurous expedition.

"The Duke of Edinburgh weekend was challenging but I loved it."
[Current Student]

At Cansfield, it is our privilege to celebrate our students' musical talents in the Christmas and summer concerts. This is accompanied by our annual show in March. Of course, we also have our extra-curricular sports offer. This may be playing for a team to represent the school, or simply joining in with trampolining, boxing, badminton, dodgeball, etc.

"The school has a well-considered programme to promote pupils' personal development."
[Ofsted, June 2024]

Pastoral Care and Guidance

At Cansfield we have a strong pastoral system to support your child. The Pastoral Team aims to ensure that the climate for learning at Cansfield High School is a positive one, where all children feel safe, encouraged, and supported to do their best. We strive to encourage all students to be responsible, moral, and well-rounded citizens who are ready to face the outside world and are equipped with all they need to be successful when they leave us. We seek to build positive relationships with every student and their families, and we are committed to support each student every day. All pupils are welcomed into school on the school gate and their successes are celebrated as they leave school. The welcome into school each day allows our team to check on our student's welfare, to support them with any concerns and to prepare them for a positive day of learning. Throughout the day we support our students with any issues that may arise and focus our efforts in visiting lessons, as well as building strong relationships with them. The Pastoral Team's approach is a child centred one and we are passionate in our belief that all our students can achieve and be successful.

We aim to build strong relationships with parents and outside agencies to create a supportive culture for our students. Some families and students may need additional support and we work with individuals to ensure a tailored approach to remove barriers to learning, including mental health and well-being support, Designated Mental Health Leads, Mental Health First Aiders (MHFA), and an onsite counsellor who works with students if they are being affected by issues including anxiety, bereavement, and depression. The Pastoral Team works closely with other agencies in Wigan to support our students during their time at Cansfield.

Our Pastoral Team includes five non-teaching Heads of Year and a number of pastoral workers who are responsible for the safety, wellbeing and nurture of their year group. The Pastoral Team are highly trained in safeguarding and are alert to the needs of all our students. The school also has an Attendance Officer and an Attendance Administrator who work closely with pupils, parents, and outside agencies to maintain high standards of attendance.

On the gates, students store their mobile devices in Yondr Pouches allowing for a phone-free environment helping pupils to focus more effectively on their learning, build stronger relationships with peers, improve their wellbeing, and engage more fully in school life without the distractions of mobile devices.

"There is a caring and nurturing amosphere."
[Ofsted, June 2024]

"Staff are always there to support."
[Current Student]

"I love the strong sense of community the school has."
[Current Student]

Preparing for Life After Cansfield

"Pupils, including those with SEND, are well-informed about their next steps."
[Ofsted, June 2024]

In Key Stage 3 the enrichment curriculum introduces our students to the world of work, encouraging them to explore a range of potential careers culminating in an initial career plan. As the curriculum spirals, students build upon prior learning and use this to understand their place in the world and what options are available to develop a bespoke set of career pathways. Once these are established the focus is drawn to identifying and developing employability skills through the creation of a curriculum vitae and gaining an understanding of the labour market. Students will undertake opportunities such as; careers meetings with our careers advisor, attend careers fairs, guest speakers, alumni carousels, national apprenticeship week, virtual work experience, options evenings and university and college trips.

In Key Stage 4 students will start to forge their bespoke career pathways and refine skills and knowledge through mock interviews and work experience, helping them gain an edge. They will explore life after Cansfield and understand the importance of achieving grades necessary to pursue their pathway, receive personal advice and support to achieve this along the way.

"Pupils have positive attitudes towards learning and each other."
[Ofsted, June 2024]

Push bar to open
CANSFIELD

Cansfield House System

"The House System provides every student with an additional sense of belonging, identity and pride."

At Cansfield High School, our House System was created through student voice, giving our pupils a genuine opportunity to shape an important part of school life. Students designed the House names and themes, ensuring that each House reflects our school's Core Values and what matters most to our community.

The House System provides every student with an additional sense of belonging, identity and pride, helping them to build strong relationships across year groups and feel connected to something bigger than themselves. It encourages teamwork, participation and healthy competition while celebrating the diverse talents and achievements of all students.

There are a wide range of student leadership pathways within each House, enabling pupils to develop confidence, responsibility and leadership skills. House Captains and other leadership roles give students the opportunity to represent their peers, organise events and contribute positively to school life.

Students earn points for their House through our House Rewards System, recognising achievement, effort, attendance, behaviour and contribution to the wider school community. Throughout the year, Houses compete in a variety of exciting competitions and events, including sport, the arts, academic challenges and charity initiatives.

Each House also has its own unique House Song, creating a strong sense of identity and tradition, and bringing students together during celebrations, competitions and whole-school events.

Our House System embodies our commitment to ensuring that every student feels valued, supported and inspired to succeed, while living out our Core Values every day.

COURAGE

OAK

WE STEP FORWARD, TAKE PART AND DO WHAT IS RIGHT

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- Resilience
- Confidence
- Participation
- Leadership
- Moral Courage
- Trying Despite Difficulty

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

- Showing Resilience
- Entering Competitions
- Taking Leadership Roles
- Asking for Help
- Standing Up for Others
- Persevering Academically

ASPIRATION

SYCAMORE

WE STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE IN ALL THAT WE DO

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- Ambition
- Personal Growth
- Academic Success
- Leadership
- Future Pathways
- Representation of the School

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

- Excellent Effort
- Participation
- Improvement
- Commitment
- Taking Opportunities
- Supporting Others to Succeed

HONOUR

WILLOW

WE ACT WITH INTEGRITY AND REPRESENT WITH PRIDE

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- Integrity
- Character
- Trust
- Pride
- Responsibility
- Representation

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

- Doing the Right Thing
- Leading by Example
- Wearing Uniform Correctly
- Representing the School Positively
- Sportsmanship
- Reliability

RESPECT

BLOSSOM

WE RESPECT OURSELVES, OTHERS AND OUR COMMUNITY

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- Kindness
- Inclusion
- Conduct
- Professionalism
- Community
- Relationships

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

- Listening
- Positive Conduct
- Inclusion
- Pride in Environment
- Respectful Competition
- Encouraging Others

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YE
Young Enterprise
Pursuit of Excellence Award
DELTA
YE
Young Enterprise
Best Trade Stand
Greater Manchester Showcase 2026
YE
Young Enterprise
Member of JA Worldwide
Competition Winner
Greater Manchester Showcase 2026
Manchester Metropolitan University
YE
Young Enterprise
Sustainability

CANSFIELD

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

Cansfield High School

Old Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield,

Wigan, WN4 9TP

Tel. 01942 727391

Email. enquiries@admin.cansfield.wigan.sch.uk

Web. www.cansfield.wigan.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs N Daniels