



24th July 2024

Dear Parents, Carers, and Guardians,

As we reach the end of another hugely successful academic year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the remarkable achievements and progress of our Cantell Family. Our students have not only excelled in their studies but have also developed a wide range of skills that will serve them well beyond their time here at Cantell. Through a variety of experiences both inside and outside of school, they have created lasting memories and friendships. I am incredibly proud of each and every one of them!

We were thrilled to receive an "Outstanding" judgment from Ofsted in March after a rigorous two-day inspection. What the report did not fully capture was the inspectors' amazement at the students' heartfelt testimonials about their experiences and the strong community spirit that is a hallmark of our school. It fills me with absolute joy to hear that our young people are proud to be part of Cantell ... proud to be part of the Cantell family.

Visiting numerous lessons this year, I have been consistently impressed by the hard work, passion, pride, and strong relationships between students and teachers. Our ambitious curriculum continues to empower students, helping them gain and develop the knowledge and skills necessary to become subject experts. It has been fantastic to witness students articulating their understanding, connecting previous learning, and inquisitively engaging with new material. Their growing confidence in using subject-specific terminology both orally and in writing is particularly commendable. There is no better feeling for a Headteacher than to listen to students articulating their learning in a subject – where they have come from, what they are learning now and where they will go to next. We are determined to create 'subject experts' in every subject, where children think, read, discuss and write like a scientist, geographer, mathematician and so on.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to our dedicated teachers, LSAs, and support staff. Their commitment to exceptional teaching and learning, both in the classroom and beyond, is extraordinary. They inspire students with recommendations for further reading, organise enriching trips and visits, and foster an environment where students feel confident to participate, ask questions, and even lead parts of their learning journey.

Reading remains a priority at Cantell, and it has been a joy to see students embrace reading aloud and develop their oracy skills. Our librarian, Miss Lohvinova, has recommended some fantastic books inspired by the upcoming Olympics. Please refer to her newsletter for these recommendations. Additionally, local libraries are running the Marvellous Makers reading challenge until August 31, 2024. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to continue their



reading journey over the summer. It is really pleasing to hear that the Reading Buddies programme that we co-created with the University of Southampton is being rolled out more widely to other schools. As Napoleon Bonaparte said “show me a family of readers, and I will show you the people who move the world.”

Throughout the year, our students have been recognised for their commitment to learning and demonstration of EMPOWER skills. We are working with more businesses than ever before to ensure our students are well prepared for the world of work. Our Careers & Next Steps provision has been highlighted as one of our strengths, with activities throughout the year ensuring all year groups benefit from the many events and sessions on offer. Highlights include the Future Focus & Options Evening, NatWest & Cantell Careers Week, and the extensive Work Experience Placements for Year 10 students. In September 2024, we launch the “Inspiring the next generation: Southampton” programme across 13 schools and 1 college in the City. The programme is sponsored by BDO and is co-created with them, Luke Staton, an inspirational speaker/author and the vision is borne from our school.

Rewards this year have included hot chocolate with myself, house awards, pizza parties, hoodies for millionaire readers, and certificates for most improved effort, and academic excellence in our end-of-term Celebration Assembly. The recent reward afternoons, featuring activities like a film screening, basketball, and a ‘chilled’ zone with colouring, were topped off with ice lollies, making them a delightful way to celebrate student success. We are particularly proud of the many students who have not received any behaviour points this year. To honour them, we have planned a special surprise for the autumn term—more details to follow.

The competition for the House Cup has been intense, with students earning over 556,242 house points. I am thrilled to announce that Endeavour House has won the coveted House Cup this year. It is equally exciting to note that 72% of our students participated in one or more of the 85 clubs on offer, forming lifelong friendships and growing in confidence. The year also saw 100 trips and visits, including memorable experiences such as a trip to NASA in Florida and a Brazilian Jazz concert at Turner Sims.

Our Year 6 Transition Week, celebrating its 10th anniversary, was another highlight. It was wonderful to host Year 6 students from across our trust schools and showcase what awaits them at Cantell. As we continue to build on the excellent work of our primary schools, we look forward to guiding these students through the next stage of their academic journey.

Behaviour, emotional welfare, and attendance have been better than ever this year, as evidenced by various quality assurance measures and positive feedback from parents and stakeholders. The post-pandemic world of education is very different to what it used to be and whilst we are flexible and support our young people through challenging times, we will never lower our standards and expectations of them and what they can achieve. To do so, would do them an absolute disservice.

Mr. Creswell has sent out the Parent Guide for September, which I highly recommend reading to familiarise yourself with key information and contacts. Please pay special attention to the sections on uniform, attendance, and a new section on Children Previously Looked After.



We are committed to supporting families with uniform costs and emphasise the importance of maximising school attendance to ensure student success. We also take great pride in our status as a School of Sanctuary, offering additional support to students who have previously been in the care system or have come to our Country to seek asylum or refuge.

As always, safeguarding remains our top priority. If you have any concerns about anyone in our community, please contact our safeguarding team at any time at safeguarding@cantell.co.uk

Thank you for your continued support. It remains an absolute privilege and honour to be the Headteacher of such a wonderful school.

Please rest assured, we will strive to be even better next year as we shape and mould the life chances of the young people in our care. They are truly magnificent.

Have a great summer break with family and friends, and we look forward to coming together again in September!

Warmest regards,



Harry Kutty
Headteacher



Cantell - An exceptional school experience:
Academic excellence | Exciting teaching & learning
Life-changing opportunities | A richly diverse community

