



Hanley Castle High School

and Sixth Form Centre

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Headteacher: Mrs Lindsey Cooke

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For the attention of all exam students.

How GCSE/AS/BTEC and A level grades will be awarded at Hanley Castle in 2020

Thank you for your patience and hard work over these last few weeks. You have been through a challenging and uncertain time that none of us has experience of or can really relate to. The part you have to play will soon be over. I can now inform you that your GCSE and A level courses will officially finish on the 7th May.

The grade awarding process has been finalised and I want to explain the part you now need to play. Your class teachers have used their professional judgement to make an initial attempt at placing you in rank order and assigning 'the most probable grade' you would have achieved in the summer exams, based on all the evidence they have over the last 2 years of your courses. This includes classwork, all mock exams and other assessments. Teachers have worked carefully and diligently and taken into consideration any special circumstances or ill-health you may have had.

Your class teachers now need to check their decisions by asking for attempts at particular pieces of work. These pieces will not determine your grade but will fulfil the essential task of benchmarking. This is where we compare pupils or pieces of work to a set standard, this allows us to decide between 2 grades. You will not know whether you are being asked a question in order to act as the standard for that grade or the student whose grade we are considering.

As such, not all of you will be asked to submit work. Some subjects may not ask for any further evidence whilst other subjects will request work from you all. It is entirely appropriate that these differences exist as subject skills and rates of progress are all different.

This 3-week evidence collection period is crucial and so we ask that you complete the work to the best of your ability with no outside support. I ask that you follow your normal timetable and check Epraise regularly to see if you are being set work. A 24hr notice period will be provided for all requests. Work or assessments will appear according to the schedule published below and on the website. The schedule has been written to ensure that no student is overloaded with requests from their subject teachers at any one particular time.

It is likely that you will be asked to join a live 'Teams' meeting when these tasks are set to ensure the work is your own. The evidence gathered through this process has the potential to change awarded grades, so for your benefit and your fellow students we ask that this process is followed fairly. If a student with a secure grade was chosen as a benchmark and they submitted work that was unexpectedly too high for the level we were testing, then it could result in other students having their grade reduced by one.



It is in all your interests to produce work that is genuinely your own.

I hope you feel that we have produced a system that is both fair and robust. I trust your teaching staff to make the right decisions given the instructions I have provided for them. So, for just a few more weeks, take any opportunity you are given to show your teachers what you are capable of.

My very best wishes. Your long-deserved rest is very close now!

D.Findlater
Assistant Head: Performance and Curriculum

The assessment schedule:

Week Begin	GSCE	A Level	
Mon 20th April to Fri 24th April	English Maths Science	Block A Computing Eng Lang Geog Psych	Block B Politics Business Physics Art Music
Mon 27th April to 01st May	Humanities Languages Business	Block C Eng Lit Maths	Block D Bio Product De History PE FMaths French
Fri 01st May to Thurs 7th May	All other subjects	Block E Chemistry Economics Theatre Studies Spanish	

