



# Hanley Castle High School

and Sixth Form Centre

Church End, Hanley Castle  
Worcestershire WR8 0BL

Tel: 01684 593241

Email: [office@hanleycastlehs.org.uk](mailto:office@hanleycastlehs.org.uk)  
[www.hanleycastle.worcs.sch.uk](http://www.hanleycastle.worcs.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mrs Lindsey Cooke

1 June 2020

Dear Parent

On Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June the Heads, LGB chairs and HUET Trustees held a series of meetings to discuss whether HUET schools are in a position to expand their provision to allow more children to return to school.

Legally, the decision to allow access to more children, and to deploy staff accordingly, falls to the HUET board following advice from the headteachers of the four HUET schools – Hanley Castle High School, Hanley Swan, Kempsey and Welland primary schools.

During the meetings those involved considered the following questions:

1. Whether sufficient progress has been made towards the Government's five key tests in general terms to consider reopening HUET schools (in particular, how has the situation improved or deteriorated since the first day of lockdown on 23rd March)
2. Whether the degree of progress suggests that the risks of expanding primary provision are acceptable (for children, for staff, for the households of children and staff, for the wider community)
3. Whether the degree of progress suggests that the risks of expanding primary provision are acceptable in terms of the risk assessment developed by the professional associations
4. Whether the remaining level of risk is outweighed by the rewards for children
5. The timing of the commencement of any expansion of provision in primary schools
6. Whether the degree of progress suggests that the risks of expanding provision at Hanley Castle are acceptable (for students, for staff, for the households of students and staff, for the wider community)
7. Whether the degree of progress suggests that the risks of expanding secondary provision are acceptable in terms of the risk assessment developed by the professional associations
8. Whether the remaining level of risk is outweighed by the rewards for students
9. The timing of the commencement of any expansion of provision at Hanley Castle
10. The mechanism and timing for reviewing the decisions made on 1st June

To support the decision-making process, those involved were provided with as much relevant evidence as possible, including:

- 'Expansion of provision in HUET schools from 1st June 2020'
- Covid-19 - the Government's five key tests
- Local Authority letter to parents 19th May
- Joint teaching union position statement and Workplace Checklist
- SAGE document on risks associated with school reopening (more documents available on GOV.UK website)



- Liberata HR Guidance for school leaders on Covid-19
- Completed risk assessment for Hanley Swan
- Completed risk assessment for Hanley Castle
- Completed risk assessment for Kempsey
- Completed risk assessment for Welland
- Official Government Coronavirus data slides

In addition, the meetings considered evidence provided by Stephen Price (HUET board member, Chair of Kempsey LGB and statistician for NHS Worcestershire), as well as detailed local data which can be accessed by pasting the following into your web browser:

<https://lginform.local.gov.uk/reports/view/matthew-fung/covid-19-report-for-education-providers>.

[This local data confirmed that there were no new cases of Coronavirus confirmed by laboratory testing in Worcestershire on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> May, the two most recent days for which data is available.](#)

The HUET board concluded, having carefully reviewed the evidence regarding progress towards the Government's five coronavirus tests and reviewed the four HUET schools' plans (included detailed risk assessments):

- That the degree of progress towards the five key tests is sufficient to suggest that the risks of expanding provision at the schools are acceptable (for students, for staff, for the households of students and staff, for the wider community) once mitigated by the provisions outlined in the schools' risk assessments.
- That the degree of progress is sufficient to suggest that the risks of expanding provision are acceptable in terms of the risk assessment developed by the teaching unions.
- That the remaining level of risk is outweighed by the benefits for pupils.

This is also my conclusion, and Hanley Castle is now beginning to plan in earnest for small groups of Year 10 students to return to school from 15<sup>th</sup> June, with groups of Year 12 hopefully following from 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

The approach that we are planning at Hanley Castle is more cautious than that proposed by the Government. The Government's recommendation is for groups no bigger than 15; we will have groups no bigger than 8. The way in which students access the school grounds, enter buildings, use the toilet facilities, have their breaks – everything will be tightly planned and controlled.

We are looking at half-days, not full days, while an enhanced cleaning regime will ensure that all classrooms and other facilities are sanitised and effective measures put in place to deal with all eventualities.

The trial will be continually reviewed throughout the first week, with a formal review and evaluation scheduled for the end of each week.

Our approach is centred around 'baby steps', and any increase in local infection rates will lead to an immediate pause in the trials.



I will be writing again to parents of Year 10 and Year 12 with full details of next steps. It now seems highly unlikely that other year groups will return to school before September, but I will keep parents informed of any changes or developments. In the meantime, students in all year groups should continue to complete the work set online. I would again like to thank both our wonderful students and their wonderful parents for making such a success of the home working arrangements.

Yours faithfully



Lindsey Cooke  
Headteacher

