



# Hanley Castle High School

and Sixth Form Centre

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Headteacher: Mrs Lindsey Cooke

6 May 2020

Dear Year 11 student

I am writing to explain the arrangements for the rest of this academic year.

As you will know, the 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020 marks the last day for submission of GCSE work to your teachers. This work will support teachers in the process of allocating their 'best estimate' grades for each subject for which you are entered. Once this information has been collated it will be sent to the exam boards who will then apply their own calculations before determining a final grade.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all of your teachers, to thank you for your hard work. Of course, this hard work has not only been during the last few weeks. The vast majority of you have worked consistently well throughout your time at Hanley Castle. You have been a delightful and committed year group, and teachers will ensure that grades are allocated fairly to recognise your talents and the level of effort you have shown.

Of course, it will be the exam boards who will calculate the final grades, but we are confident that this also will be a fair process. The exam boards will take into account the performance of Hanley Castle Year 11 students in previous years when calculating these final grades. Over the years this performance has been consistently strong, with many students achieving fantastic grades as a result of their hard work.

I am sure that you will all be thinking 'what's next?'. The date when you officially leave Year 11 will be Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July. Until this date (and afterwards!) the KS4 team will continue to be there for you. They can provide help and support in case of any problem or emergency, as well as advice about your plans for next year.

By now you will know that there is a big change in our sixth form from September. Mr Cook has been appointed as Assistant Headteacher, and also Head of Sixth Form. He will now be leading all of our sixth form provision. Those of you who have contacted me regarding late applications for a sixth form place should email him at [cooks@hanleycastlehs.org.uk](mailto:cooks@hanleycastlehs.org.uk) as soon as possible.

In addition, wherever you are moving on to next year, your teachers are currently planning the preparation work to bridge the gap between now and the end of term. You should complete the work set in the 3 or 4 subjects you have chosen to study next year (as well as that set for any other subjects which catch your interest). This work is very different than that set by your teachers previously, and is designed to ensure that your knowledge and skills continue to develop. In normal times the process of sitting GCSE exams plays a huge part in preparing Year 11s for the step up to sixth form study. Your teachers will be setting tasks which really get you thinking. There are guidelines for how long you spend on each task, but if one really grips you, feel free to spend as much time on it as you like!

The work will be available on the school website after half-term, so you are allowed a proper break until then! Please continue checking Epraise, your school e-mail and the school website for updates.



Of course, one of the greatest disappointments for Year 11 (and for all of us staff who know and care for you) is the cancellation of the Prom in July. Plans are being made for a Prom in September, but we are thinking about whether it may be possible to have an end of Year 11 celebration on the 15<sup>th</sup> July.

Of course, at present the lockdown remains in place. Even if it is lifted, this will be a gradual process which may mean that the 15<sup>th</sup> of July will come too early to ensure that this is an event which can be held safely. However, we will keep the situation under review, and if it can be done, it will.

Finally, I cannot emphasise enough how much we have missed being with you during these last few months of Year 11. We miss your energy as a year group - your hard work, your sense of humour, the excellent relationships you have built with each other and with your teachers and other staff, the banter, the (rare) telling off and the happy and positive atmosphere you bring to our school.

I will, of course, be in touch again before 15<sup>th</sup> July. I would like to wish you and all your families the very best. I know that these have been tough and, in many cases, very sad times. I hope that we are now beginning to see a little light at the end of what has been a long tunnel.

In the meantime, stay at home, protect the NHS, save lives and be proud of everything you have achieved.

My very best wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'L. Cooke', with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

Lindsey Cooke  
Headteacher

