



Hanley Castle High School

and Sixth Form Centre

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Headteacher: Mrs Lindsey Cooke

3 April 2020

Dear Year 11 / Year 13 student / parents / carers

I hope that this letter finds you and your families well.

We have now heard from the Department for Education and Ofqual about how they are planning to award grades for GCSEs and A levels summer. We expect similar guidance for BTECs shortly.

The overall plan remains what we expected. It is designed to ensure that all GCSE, BTEC, A and AS level students are awarded a grade which fairly reflects the work that they have put in.

Ofqual has developed a process that will provide a calculated grade to each student in each subject which reflects their performance as fairly as possible.

The exam boards will be asking teachers to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead.

Schools have now been given clear guidance on how to estimate this grade. Teachers will be asked to use their professional experience to make a fair and objective judgement of the grade they believe a student would have achieved had they sat their exams this year.

Teachers will take into account the full range of available evidence when they grade students – including assessed classwork and homework, coursework, mock exam results and any other evidence of student performance over the course of study. Schools will also be asked to provide a rank order of students within each grade for each subject.

The exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, and use this information to produce a final calculated grade for each student. This means that the final grade you are awarded may be different to the grade your teacher estimated.

The full Ofqual letter has been posted on the 'Coronavirus blog' on the school website.

Your teachers are now preparing to submit grades to the exam boards in May. You **must** help them by completing the work that has been set for you this term on TEAMS and E-Praise. Your latest, best work is required to contribute to a final judgement on awarding your grade.

Teachers will not be setting any further work until the summer term begins on **Monday 20th April**. If you are up-to-date with all your work, and have submitted everything requested by your teachers, you can now have a well-earned break. But if you have fallen behind, you should use the Easter break to catch up and submit the work you owe.

After Easter, your teachers will be in touch with you again if they require any further work from you. These final pieces of work, if required, should be your very best.



The cut-off date for submitting these final pieces of work, if requested, will be **Thursday 7th May**. No more work will be requested or accepted after this date.

It should be noted that teachers will **not** be contactable during the Easter holidays. Those of you who have been working hard will know just how much help and support your teachers have already given you. It is now time for them to take time out to focus on their families and loved ones at this stressful and difficult time.

Although subject teachers are taking a short break, the school is, of course, still there to support you in an emergency. Mrs Anderson Kirby and myself can be contacted in the event of a serious incident or situation:

Cookel@hanleycastlehs.org.uk

Andersonkirbys@hanleycastlehs.org.uk

I would like to end this letter by thanking the vast majority of you who have worked so hard at home over the past few weeks. I have had the most wonderful feedback from your teachers who have appreciated very much the excellent work that you have completed.

On behalf of myself, the Sixth Form and Key Stage 4 teams, and all of the staff at Hanley Castle, our very best wishes.

Yours sincerely



Lindsey Cooke
Headteacher

