



Hanley Castle High School

and Sixth Form Centre

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Headteacher: Mrs Lindsey Cooke

6 May 2020

Dear Year 13 student

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

As you will know, the 7th May 2020 marks the last day for submission of A level 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 your teachers, to thank you for all of your hard work. Of course, this hard work has not only been during the last few weeks – this is the culmination of 7 years of study in secondary school. You have been a delightful and committed year group, and your 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 Government has stated repeatedly that students will not be disadvantaged by the situation caused by the pandemic, and that candidates will get the grades they deserve to allow them to progress to university, apprenticeships or the world of work.

However, although your time at Hanley Castle is coming to an end, it is not over yet. The date when you officially leave Year 13 will be Tuesday 14th July. Until this date (and afterwards!) the sixth form 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.

Of course, one of the greatest disappointments for Year 13, and for all of us staff who know and care for you, is the uncertainty over whether we will be able to say a proper farewell. Plans were made for our normal leaving day celebration in May, but at present the lockdown remains in place. Even if the lockdown is lifted, this will be a gradual process.

However, if the situation does improve rapidly we are pencilling in a possible celebration in school for Tuesday 14th July. This day may come too early to ensure that this event 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 13. It seems just the blink of an eye since your Year 6 induction day, and literally no time at all since your end of Year 11 celebration and Prom. You really have been a lovely year group and we will all miss you very much. You have worked hard (most of the time!), been great role models for our younger students (some of the time!) and made the school a better place with your good humour, your banter and your smiles (all of the time!).



I know that many of you are ready to leave school and move on to new challenges and experiences. That is just as it should be and we wish you every future success and happiness. However, I do hope that you are able to look back on your time at Hanley Castle with fondness. Hanley Castle will always be your school, and we will always be there for you to turn to should you need help, support or advice.

I will, of course, be in touch again before 14th 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 below the signature.

Lindsey Cooke
Headteacher

