

# Hanley Castle High School

and Sixth Form Centre

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Headteacher: Mrs Lindsey Cooke



3 June 2020

Dear Year 10 Parent

On Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June the headteachers, Chairs of Local Governing Bodies 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.

During the meetings those involved reviewed a large amount of relevant evidence, including detailed local data which can be accessed by entering the following into your web browser:

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

[This local data confirms 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. Levels since 20<sup>th</sup> May have been very low.](#)

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 remaining level of risk is outweighed by the benefits for pupils.

As a result, I am writing with the good news that we are now inviting every Year 10 student to attend school for one full morning of English and maths teaching during the week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> June.

The sessions are really important, with three main objectives:

1. To get students back up to speed academically, starting with English and maths
2. To provide a 10 minute one-to-one session with a member of the Key Stage team to check on emotional wellbeing
3. To train students in the new ways of working safely in school

Please see below for the day on which your child will be expected to attend, as well as their allocated group number, classroom, entrance and toilet facilities.

The approach that we are taking for Year 10's return to school is more cautious than that proposed by the Government. Full details are contained in the document 'Year 10 phased return to school' which can be accessed via the following link: <https://www.hanleycastle.worcs.sch.uk/assets/Letters-home/Year-10-trial-week-arrangements-for-parents-and-students-Final.pdf>

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.

In the first trial week we are looking at just one morning session per student, not full days or weeks, 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.

In practice, this will mean that a maximum of 48 Year 10 students and around 12 members of staff will be in school at any one time. Each group of 8 students (or fewer) will be based in one classroom, in order to allow maximum social distancing and minimise risks.

The school to which students return will not be the same as the one they left in March. Our routines and expectations will be very different. **A more detailed Covid Code of Conduct (CCC) can be accessed via the following link:** <https://www.hanleycastle.worcs.sch.uk/assets/Letters-home/COVID-Conduct-Contract-1.pdf>

The in-school sessions will commence with a briefing on the CCC, but it is vital that this is read and discussed by both parents and children before Year 10 return to school.

### **Important**

- Students must not return to school if they have an underlying medical condition which places them in the 'Highest Risk' category, or if they live with a household member in that category (please check Government guidelines on the Gov.uk website)
- Students must not be sent to school if they are unwell in any way
- Students will not be admitted to school unless they agree to comply fully with the Covid Code of Conduct

To ensure that we have an accurate picture of which students to expect during the week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> June **we now need all parents to complete the 'Year 10 returning students proforma', which can be accessed via the following link:**

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=P017pBkXkE-8TQEHDi9HJ9M15H7\\_8s5NscVEhIhSMuFUQkcxUDdWVINCUKxMSVQwU0dZQIFJUE1PMY4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=P017pBkXkE-8TQEHDi9HJ9M15H7_8s5NscVEhIhSMuFUQkcxUDdWVINCUKxMSVQwU0dZQIFJUE1PMY4u)

The deadline for completed proformas is Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June.

The Year 10 trial, commencing on 15<sup>th</sup> June, will be reviewed continually throughout the first week, with a formal review and evaluation scheduled for Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June. We are then hopeful that we will again be able to invite Year 10 groups into school during the weeks beginning 29<sup>th</sup> of June and 13<sup>th</sup> July.

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

It should be noted that the in-school provision will supplement, not replace, the work set online for Year 10 students to complete at home. They should continue to access and complete this work as usual.

Some students have been in school throughout the lockdown, both during the school terms and the holidays. This provision has been highly successful and all children and staff have remained safe and well. Some parents may still feel nervous about sending their child back to school. This nervousness is natural, but I can reassure you that every part of our planning has been designed to minimise the risks to both students and staff.

I do hope that the news this letter contains is welcome, and that you feel reassured by the cautious approach the school is taking. An immense amount of thought and care is going into determining when and how our students return to school, and that the safety of students, staff and their households remains our top concern.

My very best wishes to you all.

Yours sincerely

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