

Dear Year 11

I hope that this email finds you all safe and well with your families at this difficult time. The world right now has a number of problems and you are the next generation of amazing young people who will be out there solving some of these issues in the years to come. It is for this reason that I am emailing you, you may have heard that when you return to school, I will be your Assistant Head and your new Head of sixth form. It doesn't seem that long ago that I was visiting lots of you in your primary schools! I am excited to be able to support you again and be there at the end of your journey through Hanley Castle High School.

My ethos and philosophy hasn't changed much and is still not very complicated in terms of what I believe will provide you with the best experience. As a KS5 team our priorities are fairly simple, not accepting second best for you or from you, the widest possible range of high quality experiences that are personal to you and your goals, early identification and support of academic and pastoral issues and excellent communication with you all. With a clear focus on lots of hard work, these things are eminently achievable and will deliver what I hope most of you want; to be able to leave Hanley Castle well equipped to follow your dreams whatever they may be.

Your Sixth form will be an inclusive sixth form where bespoke pathways for all of you, combined with the extra-curricular and super curricular opportunities available, will allow you to achieve to your individual potential and beyond.

I would like to challenge you to discover new interests and passions as well as keeping up with the things that they already know and love.

To reassure you all regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on your goals; I have a very clear plan for you all to ensure that you are not disadvantaged. As part of this I would like to ask you to complete the questionnaire below. This will allow us to provide specific careers support sessions for areas that you are interested in. Making decisions like this can seem difficult on your own, to help with this we have attached some amazing guidance, collated by Mrs. Price, to help you focus on what it is you really want. It is my firm belief that if you have a goal then that is half the battle. We will then support you with a plan and help equip you with the tools to achieve that goal. We do understand that these goals are flexible and may change, this is not a problem, if you do change your mind our support for you will change.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=P017pBkXkE-8TQEHDi9HJznZMjUodMNChwlygKOcn5hUMFNVODZaRFICM1NKSIFGRk5RUDZHUzA0NS4u>

You have all selected your A-level and BTEC choices and I hope you are looking forward to starting them as soon as the situation allows. To support you with the transition from GCSE to A-level and BTEC Level 3 qualifications, your teachers will be providing you with materials to start bridging this gap after half term. The work will be available on the school website, I will send you a reminder nearer the time. The style of this work is designed to allow you to work independently and using a variety of learning methods. All of these methods will support you making the jump to the next level of your studies. Please take the time to complete these to the best of your ability, they will set you up for good habits in the future.

Once school starts again, we will provide you with extra time and support in front of teachers to ensure that all of the work that you need to support this transition is readily available.

Finally, this is obviously a time of great change for us all, however change is just another opportunity. Please do let me know if there are any additional changes that you would like to see in **your** Sixth Form. I would like to challenge you all to leaving your Sixth Form in a better place than when you arrive. I would love to hear your ideas on this and look forward to seeing all of you making the most of the opportunities on offer.

If any of you have changed your mind about leaving us and would like to come back to Hanley Sixth Form, please let me know as soon as possible so that we can make sure we have a plan for you to.

Really looking forward to seeing you all soon, if you need anything please ask

Kind regards

Mr Cook

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