



PRIMARY TO SECONDARY TRANSITION - SPECIAL NEWSLETTER

Hanley Castle

High School



Welcome to this special Open Day edition of our school newsletter. Despite the challenges of this most difficult of years, this has been a fantastic year for the students of Hanley Castle, with record GCSE and A level results and large numbers of Hanley Castle students taking up places at Cambridge, Warwick, Exeter and a whole host of top universities. It is not long since all of the students featured in this newsletter were in Year 6. They and their parents faced the same vital decisions that you are making now. They chose Hanley Castle - and we hope that you will too!

Mrs Lindsey Cooke, Headteacher

RESULTS UPDATE

Despite the challenges of a disrupted year, 2020 saw a large proportion of students achieving outstanding individual results at both GCSE and A level.

Our Year 13 cohort performed spectacularly well, ensuring that the vast majority secured their places at Cambridge, Russell Group and other top universities.

There were a number of star performers, with Jacob Evans, Will Gilchrist, Daisy Haynes and Euan Lilly leading the way.

Jacob Evans was a stand-out performer with A* grades in mathematics, further mathematics, physics and his extended project, and an A grade in chemistry. Jacob will now take up his place at Warwick University to study computer science.

Will Gilchrist was delighted with his A* grades in economics, history, mathematics and his extended project. He is now off to Cambridge with another of the school's star performers, Daisy Haynes. Daisy gained A* grades in English literature, geography, history and her extended project. Daisy will now complete a summer Latin course before taking up her place at Corpus Christi to read Classics.

Euan Lilly is also celebrating an exceptional set of results. Euan gained an A* in economics and French and an A grade in mathematics. He is off to Exeter where he will be studying economics.

A particularly able and hard-working Year 11 cohort also gained well-deserved success.

There were some remarkable individual performances with a multitude of both boys and girls achieving top grades across all subjects. Oli Cooke led the way, sweeping the board with a grade 9 in each of his ten GCSEs.

Hot on Oli's heels were a number of students with very impressive grades. They include Reuben Vickers with eight grade 9s and two grade 8s, Joseph Turton with six grade 9s, three grade 8s and a grade 7, Will Emerick with five grade 9s, two grade 8s and three grade 7s, Caitlin Davis with four grade 9s, four grade 8s and a grade 7 and Rebecca Palmer with four grade 9s, two grade 8s and three grade 7s.

Of course, we are proud of every student and every grade, particularly in the light of the way in which the academic year ended, and have welcomed our most talented Year 12 group ever to our sixth form this September.



CELEBRATING SUCCESS

In September the school held its annual Celebration of Achievement awards event through a virtual ceremony where the achievements of the school's brightest, most talented and hardest working students were acknowledged and recognised. These were some of the most prestigious awards:



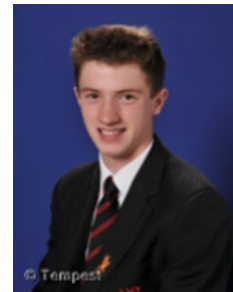
Emily Manton
Lechmere Medal Winner



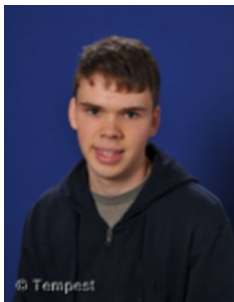
Beth Hallam
Head of KS3 Award for Commitment to Learning



Ed Duffy
Head of KS4 Award



Ollie Cooke
Best GCSE results



Jacob Evans
Best A Level Results



Rebecca Palmer
Burrows Award for Commitment to School



Caitlin Davis
Outstanding Effort Award



WHY DO CHILDREN THRIVE AT HANLEY?

- Our **curriculum** is designed to develop and support excellence in those subjects which open doors to the very best A-levels and universities. 49% of students achieved the 'English Baccalaureate' measure in all of the 'top' academic subjects: mathematics, English, science, a language, geography or history. (Worcs. Average 25 %).
- Students of all abilities need **support and praise** as well as academic **challenge**. Every child is involved in monitoring their progress against their own personal goals. High achievement is celebrated.
- Provision for more able, gifted and talented students happens lesson by lesson - this is where it has impact. Gifted students participate in numerous innovative activities and experiences, but these can never replace quality in the classroom. Our emphasis is on knowing our students and tailoring teaching and learning to their needs.
- Our staffing is stable, with outstanding teachers who are subject specialists and all deliver to A-level. They have the ability to stretch able students by developing their higher-order thinking skills, to present challenge and to support students with strategies to overcome 'being stuck'.

INFINITE

Infinite is the school's enrichment programme open to all students in KS3 and KS4. It is designed to challenge and inspire students by exposing them as much as possible to subjects and topics beyond the standard curriculum in order to broaden their academic experiences and further encourage a love of learning and discovery.

Much of this enrichment is delivered through a variety of trips, workshops, University conferences and guest speakers. However, at the heart of the programme is the students' own academic research project culminating in a Celebration Evening in the summer where parents are invited to view presentations of the projects. It is always a delightful evening to watch the students deliver their projects with such passion and expertise on a wonderful array of topics from Japanese art and culture to the future of space exploration.

Although the school closure meant that students this year were unable to deliver their presentations, we did manage some fantastic enrichment activities, including the Christmas lectures at Birmingham University on Biomedicine and Geology; a highly interactive Science, Innovation and STEM fair at The Three Counties Showground and the Oxford University Gifted and Talented Conference consisting of a series of talks on Philosophy, Shakespeare and Epistemology.

At Hanley we feel these experiences are so important to a child's academic and personal development and to help them nurture their curiosity. We are proud of the programme's popularity with the students and hope that your child will also find it a richly rewarding activity.

WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY . . .

Katy Husband, former student:

How has Hanley helped me?

When making big decisions, I often think: is this the Hanley way? Life now is so far removed from life at school, and yet you never forget the values that Hanley instils in you from a young age: respect, kindness and speaking up for what is right. It's reassuring also to know that the community at home is always rooting for you.





HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2019-2020



USA Ski Trip

32 students departed Heathrow and flew to Boston on the 27th of Dec 2019. The students from yr7 to yr10 and 4 staff ranged from complete beginners to a downhill racer. After a 3 hour drive from Boston Logan airport we arrived at the resort of Sunday River. The hotel accommodation was a treat for many, 4 sharing a room, the food typically American provided hearty breakfasts and plenty of fuel for the days exertions. The skiing was fantastic, snow conditions amazing and great instructors. The American skiers went home on New Years day leaving the mountain to ourselves for the final 3 days. All students, even the beginners, managed to get to the see the full mountain range and everyone has returned with a life long skill and a smile on their face.

Local Democracy Day

A group of KS3 students took part in a competition presenting ideas on a green economy to councillors for Local Democracy Day at Malvern Hills District Council in October with one of our students winning the individual contribution award.

Bergen-Belsen and Auschwitz visits

Each year two sixth form Holocaust Ambassadors embark on a visit to Auschwitz with the *Lessons from Auschwitz* education programme. This year, two more students visited the concentration camp for the commemoration of the 75 year anniversary of the liberation of Bergen-Belsen. These student ambassadors will now continue the legacy of our previous students in teaching the younger school about tolerance, respect and remembrance to help ensure we never forget, and never repeat, the horrors of the Holocaust.



OXBRIDGE UPDATE



It has been another successful year for our Oxbridge hopefuls. Will Gilchrist will be reading Economics at Cambridge and will be joined there by Daisy Haynes who is reading Classics.

This year we have several potential Oxbridge candidates who have just embarked upon the application process. Our fortnightly Oxbridge/ Fast track seminars and our enrolment with the HE+ will support and guide these students along their way as well as prepare our new intake of sixth formers who are also interested in this route.

ALUMNI UPDATE– CLASS OF 2018

Martin Evans

After completing his A Levels Martin undertook a twelve month volunteering placement in the Dominican Republic supporting vulnerable adolescents living on the streets. He is currently studying Hispanic Studies and History at the University of Nottingham.

Abi Senior

Abi, a former Lechmere Medal winner, is studying Sport Science and Outdoor Activities at Bangor University where she applies the principles of Sports Science to activities such as hiking, kayaking and climbing. She was also awarded a sports scholarship which is providing her funding for her training for the triathlon European Championships in the Netherlands.

Josh Spiers

Josh has taken a gap year to volunteer on an aardvark project in South Africa. He is studying and photographing the behaviour of aardvarks in the bush and using geolocation technology to analyse trends in data. His work will contribute to a research paper to be published by the University of Pretoria.

Please see the school website for more alumni news



ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES AT HANLEY CASTLE

At Hanley Castle we pride ourselves on the quality of every lesson in every classroom. We celebrate success and students feel valued, supported and cared for. However, there is much more to school life for our students. Here's just a taste!

LANGUAGES

Oxford University Languages Conference
Links with GCHQ
Cultural exchanges: France and Germany
Native Speakers Visits
Language Leaders

ENGLISH

BBC Young Reporter
Hanley Featured Writers
Film-making Club
Debating Club
Theatre visits
Transition Book Club (Year 6 and 7)
National Poetry Competition

HUMANITIES

History Club
Tewkesbury trip
Berlin trip
Barber Surgeon Visits
Warwick History lectures
"Your Green Future" trip
Auschwitz Ambassadors
Battlefields Trip
SS GB

SCIENCE, MATHS, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

Maths Challenge
Coding Club
Robot Club
Science Fair
Links with QinetiQ/3SDL/Speller Metcalfe
Cyber-security apprenticeships
Cipher Challenge
Maths in Motion competition
Top mathematicians university course
Museum and industry visits
Chess Tournament
BP STEM Challenge

SPORTS

Football – girls and boys
Rugby
Hockey
Netball
Rounders
Lacrosse
Athletics
Gymnastics
Cricket
Softball
Trampoline
Sports leadership
Tennis
Handball
Table Tennis
Outdoor and Adventure Activities

TRAVEL

China
Iceland
Tanzania
South Africa
India
Spain
Germany
France
USA Ski Trip

THE ARTS

Professional artists
Gallery and museum visits
Competitions
Projects - Upton Bridge mural
 - Upton Primary School mural
Swing Band
School Orchestra
Chamber Orchestra
School Choir
Chamber Choir
Hanley's Got Talent
School productions: Oliver, Grease, We
 will Rock You, Our House, School
 of Rock, Made in Dagenham

College events

Student leadership opportunities
School Council

