

Sixth Form Open Evening: see our website for details



Hanley Castle

High School and Sixth Form Centre



Sixth Form Prospectus

Intake September 2021

Many of us will look back at our own sixth form experience with great fondness, and it is our intention to make the two years spent at Hanley Castle Sixth Form the best years of students' lives.

A unique Sixth Form provider

Over the last decade our Sixth Form has been transformed. With approximately 100 students in each year group, we provide the highest quality of teaching, alongside the very best levels of support and opportunity where every student is known as an individual.

Whether students are targeting Oxford, Cambridge, Russell Group or other universities – or seeking qualifications as a preparation for work or apprenticeships – Hanley Castle can offer tailored provision for students of all aptitudes and abilities.

“It’s a fabulous environment. There are strong relationships which enable staff to nurture students very well. Our son was understood as an individual, so staff were able to identify when and how to support and challenge him in order to help him progress and develop.”

Parent

Outstanding support

Sixth Form life is rewarding, stimulating and enjoyable. Friendships are strong and students welcome the dedication of staff, who go the “extra mile” to ensure their wellbeing. Students immerse themselves in a range of extra-curricular and community focussed activities that further develop them as young adults and support the development of others. Young people and staff alike feel part of a special team.



Mrs Lindsey Cooke with our 2020 Lechmere Medal Winner

Achievement matters

Worcestershire School of the Year 2018

Students of all abilities enjoy considerable academic success. What matters to us is your positive attitude and a genuine commitment to achievement.

Our Sixth Form has the vision, the staff and the facilities to deliver the high quality education of which parents, staff and students feel proud. It is an important part of our school that commands considerable respect throughout Worcestershire and beyond. We hope that you see it as the best place to continue your learning and as a springboard to your success beyond Sixth Form.

We look forward to meeting you. Do contact Mr Sam Cook, Assistant Headteacher, Post-16 Studies, for further information or to arrange a visit.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Cooke', written over a white background.

Welcome

Lindsey Cooke, Headteacher

Sixth Form Leadership

Mr Cook, Assistant Headteacher, Post-16 Studies,
Mrs Skelton (Assistant Head of Sixth Form), Mrs Eaton (KS5 Administrator)



Vision Statement

Hanley Castle Sixth Form is a positive, productive and supportive learning environment that produces confident, optimistic and resilient young adults who achieve outstanding academic qualifications and thrive in outstanding post-18 destinations.



Mrs Emma Skelton, Mr Sam Cook and Mrs Jane Eaton

“Leadership of the Sixth Form is strong.”

Ofsted

Challenge

On a daily basis you will be challenged to achieve your own personal level of excellence, whether academically or through supporting the many initiatives and opportunities available beyond the classroom. Our aim is for students to learn how to succeed in the real world, not just how to excel in their exams.

“I am so impressed by the encouragement Year 12 have from the very start of Sixth Form life to get involved with charity work, committees or mentoring programmes.”

Parent

Personalised Curriculum

Hanley Castle Sixth Form offers bespoke Career Pathways support in a range of areas.

These pathways include:

Law, Criminology, Medicine, Veterinary Science, Pharmacy, Coaching, Teaching Humanities, Journalism, STEM, Architecture Oxbridge. These pathways will allow you to learn from the experts to get ahead of the competition.

Outstanding outcomes

Tailored pathways supported students like Sophie to read Medicine at Southampton University and Jamie to read Law at Oxford University. He is joined at Oxford by Georgia reading French and Portuguese. Over the last five years, successful applications from Hanley included: Oxford for Mathematics, History, Biological Sciences, Geography, Economics and MFL; Cambridge for Natural Sciences, Veterinary Science and Architecture and also students reading Law, Dentistry and Medicine. Others have used their BTECs to embark on primary teaching degrees or high profile apprenticeships.

Outstanding Opportunities

‘Extra-curricular’ opportunities are many and varied. They enrich your Sixth Form life, develop our sense of community and make you attractive to universities and employers for the next stage of your life. Whether you are into sports, the Arts, charity work, the ‘great outdoors’, supporting other students or developing your leadership skills there is something here for you.



STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Leadership opportunities

A large number of students immerse themselves in committees that shape Sixth Form life and support peers and younger students alike.

The student body is represented by the Head Boy and Head Girl and their Deputies. Students are elected to these posts annually by every member of the school community and the Deputies represent Sixth Form on the school council.

Other leadership roles undertaken by Sixth Form students include:

- Chair of Sixth Form Committee
- Chair of Charity Committee
- Social Media Committee
- Sports Captains
- Arts Ambassador
- College Captains
- Emotional Intelligence and Social Awareness Committee
- The Pelican (student newspaper)

Any student can stand for these roles, and is elected by Year 12 and 13 students.

“The Head Boy and Girl are wonderful ambassadors for the school. They make an insightful input at Governor level.”

Chair of Governing Body

Hanley Castle High School Societies

Hanley Castle Sixth Form offers the opportunity for students to join our societies, just like they would at University. These include Law, Medics, Journalism, STEM and many more. School Societies offer opportunities to talk with like-minded students, share ideas and plans to make your dream career a reality.

Impact of Sixth Form student leadership

Our Sixth Form leadership team, made up of the Head Boy and Girl and their Deputies, have led outstanding improvements to Sixth Form. They are positive ambassadors and represent the school at local and national events. They have played a key role in the fundraising for and the design of the new Sixth Form building and the new team is currently working to further develop the student mentoring programme to include academic student mentors for the lower years.

Our Head Boy and Head Girl are invited to contribute to the work of the Governing Body and the Deputies chair our School Council to ensure that the student voice is included in strategic decisions on school development.

Facilities

Students are privileged to use our modern, state of the art, Sixth Form Centre which provides an outstanding environment to support independent and collaborative learning. It has a university feel due to its quiet, purposeful working areas, providing students with:

- a library
- silent study and group study rooms
- a large common room
- teaching rooms
- a conference room
- office space for support and careers advice
- Sixth Form weight room and gym

We believe that a trait unique to Hanley is the incredible network of support received by every student, not only from the committed staff but from each and every peer throughout the school. Success, both academic and personal, thrives in such an environment and at Hanley we are immensely proud of each other's achievements. This is complemented by an inclusive, welcoming atmosphere, giving all students the chance to get to know each other. The sense of community provides a foundation from which students feel comfortable pursuing new horizons.



James Thomas and Emma Sinden
(Head Boy and Head Girl)



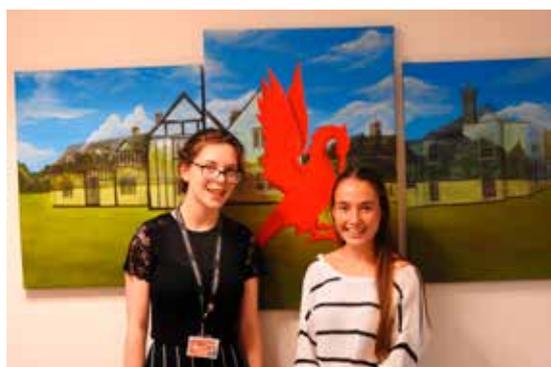
The students here are given a strong voice, not only in Sixth Form where various committees allow greater independence, but also through an effective school council, made possible by a genuine desire from students to actively participate in school life. The broad range of opportunities available to our students allow them to become more rounded and gain valuable experience for the future. We feel privileged to represent such an outstanding student body.

Back Row – Lizzy White, Sam Powell, Ellen Cope, Martha Johnson, Hannah Kerr
Front Row – Rebecca Willis, Tanya Mariga, Laura Lammas, Georgia Fisher, Sally Lewin
(Heads of General Committee)

Lessons are individually tailored and delivered by enthusiastic and dedicated teaching staff, giving every student a challenging and interesting environment in which to work. Support and guidance, primarily from highly experienced tutors, are key features of life at Hanley, which is reflected in students' exceptional exam results and their superb attitude to learning.



Sam Powell and Tanya Mariga (Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl)



There is a wide variety of extra-curricular activities to complement learning, from musical ensembles to sports teams. Whether it is an informal gathering or competitive tournament, there is something for everyone. This provides an excellent environment in which students of all interests can flourish.

Lizzy White and Georgia Fisher (Head of Charity Committee and Head of Sports Committee)

Course Advice & Guidance

To support the transition from Y11 to Y12 we have a dedicated, talented and knowledgeable team of tutors who will guide each student through all aspects of sixth form life including developing independence, study skills, the demands of the courses and life beyond Hanley Sixth Form – university, apprenticeships or employment.

Application and Induction

October	Course advice on website
November	Open Evening – see website for details
December	Application deadline for HCHS Year 11 students*
January/Feb	Interviews
March/April	Places on courses allocated
August	Exam Results Day – advice and confirmation of courses
September	Induction

* We accept later applications from students from other schools

“Numbers have increased rapidly because students enjoy their learning.”

Ofsted

Personalising your pathway

The Key Stage 5 Team supports every student in choosing the most appropriate types of courses for their Level 3 success.

This might be 3 or 4 A levels, a BTEC package, or a combination of BTECs and A levels.

Time allocation

Each subject will be taught in approximately 9 hours per fortnight. In addition to this students are expected, in all subjects, to spend at least the same amount of time (a total of 20 hours per week is recommended) on independent study, research and homework.

Course Entry Criteria

Our general Sixth Form entry requirement is 5 GCSEs at grades 4 - 9. However, certain subjects advise a 5 or even a 6 in that subject to continue to A level. Entry to BTEC courses is considered on an individual basis. Please see subject sheets on our website. We always consider entry on a student by student basis.



16-19 Study Programme

Students are entitled to an educational provision which allows them to maximise their learning, their progress and their outcomes. Our Study Programme details specifically what students are entitled to and their responsibilities as learners. It includes high quality Information, Advice and Guidance in relation to post-18 progression (which is supported by a seminar programme for the university and apprenticeship pathways), supportive mentoring from their tutor, an expectation that each student will carry out a minimum of 25 hours of volunteering as part of the Hanley Honours award system, and a work experience placement. In return, all students can benefit from the Privilege Pass system, which rewards them for working hard, being role models in and out of school, and meeting our high expectations for attendance and their attitude to learning. This Study Programme enables our students to grow as independent learners, preparing them to achieve outstanding outcomes at the end of Year 13 and beyond.

“Very effective teaching means that students’ attitudes to learning in the Sixth Form are outstanding.”

Ofsted

Things to consider

- Choose subjects in which you are most enthusiastic, confident and likely to succeed.
- Think carefully about the advice from your own teachers, tutor and careers advisor.
- Look carefully at the requirements of universities and degree courses that interest you.
- Think about the assessment methods for different types of courses, for example whether this is mainly by exams or coursework.
- Consider which subjects go best together. Certain ‘facilitating’ subjects (see page 9) will offer students a greater number of degree courses, and may be a requirement for entry into some universities.
- Research the courses that we offer. Details of these can be found on our website, www.hanleycastle.worcs.sch.uk. Speak to teachers who run the courses, and visit our Open Evening. In addition, you are welcome to contact the school via the Sixth Form Office.

Applying from HCHS

All applications are on line and can be accessed via <https://www.hanleycastle.worcs.sch.uk/sixth-form/virtual-sixth-form-open-evening/> There is an information box to allow students to detail the subjects they wish to study, their plans or hopes for the future and their attributes that would make them a good sixth form student.

Applying from other schools

We warmly welcome applications from students who have not previously studied at HCHS. We require a reference from your present school indicating clearly that you have worked hard at GCSE/BTEC level. As long as you satisfy our basic entry requirement, you will be invited to an interview with the Head of Sixth Form. We will gladly arrange for you to have a taster day with us and we will also be offering an Induction Day.

Level 3 courses currently offered

A Level courses

Art and Design
Biology
Chemistry
Computer Science
Business Studies
Economics
English Language
English Language and Literature
English Literature
Film Studies
French
Geography
German
History
Mathematics
Further Mathematics
Music
Music Technology
Physics
Politics
Product Design
Psychology
Physical Education
Spanish
Textiles
Theatre Studies

Level 3 BTEC courses

Applied Science
Business
Information Technology
Travel & Tourism
Music Technology
Sport

Other courses

Extended Project
GCSE/Level 2 Maths and English *

The courses listed are those that are currently offered in Sixth Form. They are offered in good faith, but the school does reserve the right to alter the programme as a result of student demand and therefore the viability of courses.

We design our option blocks around student choices, and endeavour to meet students' preferred combination of subjects.

Some courses will require students to have studied the subject at Level 2 (GCSE), but this is not always the case.

**Students who have not secured at least a grade 4 in GCSE English Language and in GCSE Maths are required to attend the relevant English and/or Maths courses.*

Further details about courses can be found via the sixth form section of the school website, www.hanleycastle.worcs.sch.uk

“Students make good progress in a broad range of courses including both traditional A level and vocational subjects.”

Ofsted



Facilitating Subjects

All universities want to know that the students they admit have prepared themselves in the best possible way to cope with their chosen course. For this reason, some university courses may require subject knowledge prior to entry, whilst others may not. However, there are some subjects that are required more often than others. These are known as 'facilitating subjects'. The **Russell Group universities** encourage students to keep their options open by studying two facilitating subjects within their chosen combination at A level.

The Russell Group represents the 24 leading UK universities which are committed to maintaining the very best research, an outstanding teaching and learning experience and unrivalled links with business and the public sector.

Facilitating subjects:

- Mathematics and Further Mathematics
- English Literature
- Physics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Geography
- History
- Languages (Classical and Modern)

An A level qualification in any facilitating subject will open up a greater number of degree courses for students to choose from. This includes reading degree courses such as Law which do not generally require specific A level subjects.

Further details can be found at:
www.informedchoices.ac.uk



Choosing your subjects



Sixth Form Life

Securing Success

Our ambition is for every student to fulfil their potential, and to develop the skills to make them effective, efficient learners who are ready for the next stage of their lives.

Sixth Form learning is different from that at GCSE level, and we support students in:

- making productive use of time during the day where they are not in a lesson
- developing study skills, including effective research skills, note taking, essay writing and higher level independent study
- overcoming the challenge of studying just 3 or 4 subjects but at a deeper level
- managing the expectations of working outside school time - approximately one hour for each hour of taught lessons

“It is inspiring to support our young people in developing their critical thinking and independence, and to see them develop their sense of responsibility and leadership.”

Sixth Form Tutor

“I was particularly impressed with the quality of help and guidance that we as parents received during the UCAS process.”

Parent

Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG)

Students work with their tutor for approximately two hours per week. Individuals are encouraged to reflect on their progress and to set personal goals.

In Year 12 the IAG programme focuses on building and evidencing skills to enhance UCAS applications. Examples include our own ‘Leading Learning’ project, Study Skills programme and Academic Reading programme.

The Year 13 programme includes comprehensive support with UCAS applications, or careers guidance for those not planning to progress to university. The IAG focus is on “student survival / preparation for the world of work”, including seminars on gap years, work experience, living on a budget, health issues and personal relationships.

Academic tracking and support

Subject teachers award a VESPA (Vision Effort Systems Practice Attitude) grade each half term. These criteria are designed to enable students, their tutors and their parents to monitor the development of independent learning skills that will bring about academic success at A level and beyond.

Formal internal assessment is carried out each term in a designated 'Test Week' and each student's progress is monitored against a personal target for each student in each subject.

Tutors and the Key Stage 5 Leadership Team support students through individually tailored intervention programmes if necessary.

“The tutor system greatly improved my time management skills and ability to work independently. My tutor’s guiding influence was invaluable, particularly through the UCAS process.”

Previous Head Boy

Parents are kept informed of progress at regular intervals, along with specific successes or concerns. However, we encourage and will make more regular communication in order to support an individual student's progress. Parent consultation evenings are held twice per year.

It is vital that students are successful and achieve their potential at every stage of their courses. This is particularly important when progressing from Year 12 to Year 13.

14 HCHS students are currently studying at Oxford or Cambridge (2 with a scholarship). 42% of the class of 2019 started courses at Russell Group universities. We are supporting 20 students with fast-track university applications this year.



“Exceptional work experience opportunities will make a huge difference to our son’s future career prospects. We are very grateful to his tutor and subject teachers for all the assistance that they have given.”

Parent

Supporting gifted students

Our academic extension programme is designed to support the academic achievement and wider learning experiences of our most gifted students, including those with aspirations to study at Oxford or Cambridge Universities.

In addition to specifically targeted challenge in lessons, gifted students benefit from:

- a dedicated tutor support programme
- an academic mentoring programme
- academic discussion forum opportunities
- visits and seminars at leading universities
- Oxbridge summer school placements
- a fast track university application process
- talks by Oxbridge admissions officers
- ‘super-curricular’ opportunities to enhance personal statements
- opportunity to enhance chosen A levels with an Extended Project Qualification.
- Cambridge University HE+ Programme

This provision has led to the percentage of students consistently achieving top A* grades at A level to well above the county average.

All Sixth Form students are encouraged to enrich their Sixth Form experience in order to broaden their learning and enhance their curriculum vitae. This builds a sense of community and makes them more attractive when applying to universities or future employers.

Sixth Form enrichment

“I have been given a range of fantastic opportunities, such as helping in lower school lessons and sports events, to give me new leadership experience.”

Hannah



Committee work

- Sixth Form committee
- Charity committee
- Arts committee
- Sports committee
- Environmental Awareness committee
- Mental Health Ambassadors

Teamwork

- Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
- Music
- Drama
- Sport
- Public Speaking

Supporting others

- Peer listening
- Peer counselling
- In-lesson support
- Teaching Module
- Community Projects
- Primary School visits



“My time at Hanley so far could not have been better. I’ve made wonderful friends, exceeded my academic expectations and been given countless opportunities, such as being Head of Sports Committee and being a regular player in sports teams. I can’t imagine being anywhere else.”

Megan, new to HCHS in Year 12

Sixth Form Gallery



Notable Year 13 results: class of 2020

Student	Grades	Subjects	Next steps . . .
William	A* A* A* A	History, Maths, Economics, Computer Science	Cambridge – Economics
Jacob	A* A* A* A	Further Maths, Maths, Physics, Chemistry	Warwick – Computer Science
Elisabeth	A* A* A*	Biology, Chemistry, Physics	Birmingham - Biochemistry
Euan	A* A* A*	French, Economics, Maths	Exeter - Economics
Daisy	A* A* A*	Geography, History, English Literature	Cambridge - Classics
Natalia	A* A A	Biology, Maths, Chemistry	Bath – Chemical Engineering
Katie	A* A A	Psychology, Geography, History	Nottingham - Psychology
Emily	A* A B	Maths, Further Maths, Physics	Cardiff – Computer Science
Alec	A* A B	Business, Economics, Maths	Newcastle – Business Management
Tara	A A A	Psychology, Art & Design, English Lit	Warwick - Psychology
Adam	A A A	Maths, Chemistry, Physics	York - Chemistry
Olivia	A A A	English Literature, History, Spanish	Exeter – Modern Languages
Dom	A A A	Maths, Chemistry, Physics	York - Chemistry
Harry	A A B	Maths, Physics, Chemistry	Sheffield – Chemical Engineering
Hari	A B B	Biology, Chemistry, Maths	Nottingham - Biotechnology
Daisy	A C C	Physical Education, Biology, Chemistry	Exeter – Medical Sciences
Fern	B B B	Geography, Biology, Chemistry	Exeter – Medical Sciences
Freddie	B B B	History, Politics, Economics	Aston – Politics & International Relations
Millee	B B B	Psychology, History, English Literature	Nottingham – Ancient History & Archaeology
Hannah	B B B	Psychology, Biology, Chemistry	Bangor – Marine Biology and Oceanography
Eddie	B B C	Maths, Chemistry, Physics	Cardiff – Mechanical Engineering
Harry	B B D*	Drama & Theatre, English Lang & Lit, BTEC Sport	RAF

The very high number of A* and A grades achieved by so many students was a key feature of the results. The percentage of A* and A grades was particularly high in Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, History, Economics and English Language and Literature.

William was delighted with his 4 A* grades in History, Maths, Economics and Computer Science. He is heading off to Cambridge to study Economics, along with Daisy who will be studying Classics, whilst Jacob heads to Warwick University to study Computer Science.

A Variety of Year 13 destinations: class of 2020



Student	University	Course
Samuel	Reading	History & Economics
Joseph	Chester	Games Development
Thomas	Leicester	Medical Biochemistry
Daisy	Liverpool	Chemistry with Research in Industry
Elliot	Bournemouth	Physiotherapy
Dan	Falmouth	Television
Morgan	Bath Spa	Creative Writing & Criminology
Oliver	Falmouth	Computing for Games
Annaliese	Southampton	Pharmacology
Poppy	Nottingham	Architecture
Theo	Reading	Biological Sciences
Isobelle	Nottingham Trent	Fashion Marketing & Branding
Sam	Reading	History & Economics
Bethan	South Wales	Rugby Coaching & Performance
Michael	Cardiff	Archaeology & Ancient History
Libby	Hartpury	Equine Performance & Rehabilitation
Simon	Birmingham	History
Elinor	Portsmouth	Modern Languages
Dillon	Plymouth	Electrical & Electronic Engineering
Phoebe	Newcastle	Chemical Engineering
Adam	Reading	Law
Jessica	Aston	International Business & Modern Languages, Spanish
James	Swansea	Mechanical Engineering
Megan	Hartpury	Equestrian Sports Coaching
Joseph	Gloucestershire	Sports Therapy

Gap Year / Deferred (2019)

Natasha	Reading	Physical Geography
Elisabeth	Birmingham	Biochemistry with International Year

Apprenticeships

Charlotte	Creative Sales, Digital Marketing & Design
Mae	Paralegal Apprenticeship
Eleanor	NHS - Nursing
Cameron	Activity Instructor
Louis	Electrical Engineering
Kirsten	Finance & Accountancy

Sixth Form Gallery



South Africa – helping to support a community school



Our Sixth Form Centre



Sixth Form Open Evening

This year we are operating a Virtual Sixth Form Open Evening. Please see our website where you will find a video which showcases our amazing students and explains all that Sixth Form does. There are individual videos providing information about each subject currently on offer and videos explaining each of

our bespoke pathways. Please take the time to have a look at the areas that you are interested in and if you have any questions at all, please get in touch by phone or email.

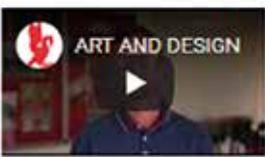
01684 593241 (Option 5)
ks5@hanleycastlehs.org.uk

Virtual Sixth Form Open Evening



Please click [here](#) for our 2020 Sixth Form Prospectus. Our 2021 prospectus will be available soon.

Below you can find out more about our A-level and BTEC courses from subject leaders, along with information about our Careers Pathways.

Sixth Form Course	Careers Pathways
 <p>ART AND DESIGN</p> <p>Art & Design - pdf</p>	<p>Law & Criminology pathway</p>  <p>LAW AND CRIMI...</p>
 <p>BIOLOGY</p> <p>Biology - pdf</p>	



Hanley Castle High School Sixth Form

Assistant Headteacher, Post-16 Studies: Mr Sam Cook

Assistant Head of Sixth Form: Mrs Emma Skelton

Sixth Form Administrator: Mrs Jane Eaton

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