



# Hanley Castle High School

and Sixth Form Centre

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Headteacher: Mrs Lindsey Cooke

1 April 2020

Dear Year 11 student / parents / carers

I do hope that you and your families are well and coping as best you can with lockdown.

I am writing on behalf of your teachers to thank you for the magnificent efforts so many of you are making to complete the work being set to the very best of your abilities.

This will help you in two ways: firstly, it will allow your teachers to see how much progress you have made since mocks and be able to recommend the best possible GCSE grade for you in their subject; secondly, it will allow you to be even better prepared for A levels or the next stage in your education.

And that is what this letter is really about. In school our thoughts are turning to plans for September. During the Easter break, Mrs Price will contact you via E-praise to fill in a Microsoft Forms questionnaire about your plans for the end of the summer. The majority of Year 11 students, along with a substantial number of new students from other schools, have already secured places in our sixth form. Mr Johnston is currently working on option blocks and timetabling to support your A level and BTEC choices.

This questionnaire will also give you a chance to confirm your subject choices, express a preference about which other students you would like to be with in your tutor group (or not!), and to opt into some of the extra-curricular opportunities available (volunteering, sport, paintball etc.).

A number of you who have not applied for places at Hanley Castle Sixth Form have contacted us regarding places in our sixth form for September – to commence post-16 courses in a school and with staff they know and trust, to take advantage of the possibility of doing any resits needed, to seek help with transport costs and to make sure we really do have that Prom (which we definitely will, just as soon as it is safe to do so)!

Replying to the questionnaire from Mrs Price will be extremely important – make sure that you look out for it when it comes during the Easter break!

In this time of uncertainty we are, more than ever, aware of our responsibility to looking after your best interests. If you want a chat about what the options might be available for next year, please contact one of us for help, advice or support:

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We are still waiting for detailed information about how GCSE and BTEC grades will be awarded following the cancellation of the summer exam series.

The outline plan remains the same. Candidates will be awarded a grade which fairly reflects the work that they have put in.

Teachers will be asked to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead, using a range of evidence and data including performance in mock exams, but also non-exam assessment.

The exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, and use this information to produce a final calculated grade for each student.

Your teachers are preparing to respond to the final guidance from exam boards. You **must** help them by continuing to complete the work set on TEAMS and E-Praise for you. Your latest, best work is required to contribute to a final judgement on awarding your grade.

**If you have fallen behind on the work set, use the Easter holidays to catch up.**

For those students who have already completed a large amount of work and are up-to-date, it is essential that you now take a break over Easter in order to maintain a healthy work-life balance.

It is a great sadness to the Hanley Castle team that we have not been able to work with you and support you face-to-face during this difficult and stressful period.

We have definitely not forgotten any of you, and every member of staff is 100% committed to continuing to support you over the coming months, and as you progress through our sixth form next year.

On behalf of myself, the Sixth Form and Key Stage 4 teams, and all of the staff at Hanley Castle, our very best wishes.

Yours sincerely



Lindsey Cooke  
Headteacher

