

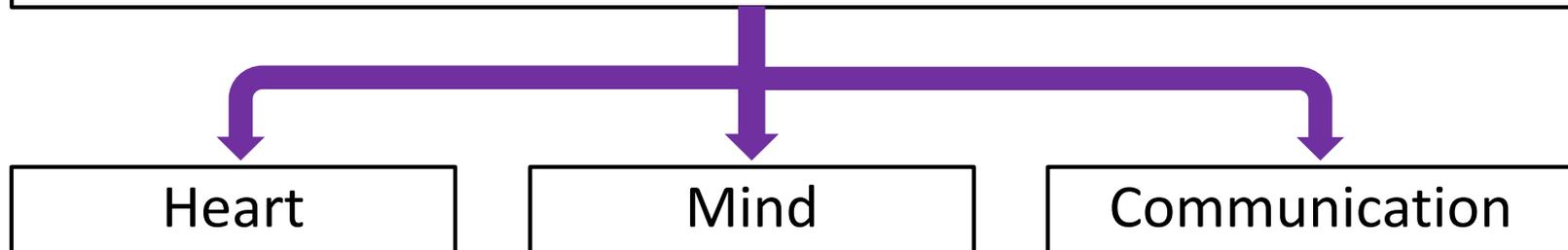
# Word of the Week

Week beginning Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2019.



# Building the Vision.

To achieve academic excellence, develop character, and raise aspirations for all at Castle Hall Academy



# Mind:

- One of the key objectives of any school is to produce well-rounded, **independent** young people who can make an important contribution to society.
- In order to produce this sort of young person and to facilitate your progress to be able to contribute to a range of communities, there are going to be a number of instances where you have to be **reflective** on what you have done and the outcomes that this produced.

**independent** - adjective: capable of thinking or acting for oneself; not depending on something (or someone) else for strength or effectiveness; not depending on another for livelihood or subsistence; free from outside control.

**reflective** – adjective: thoughtful (relating to or characterised by deep thought); the ability to look back and learn.

# In the news:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-46900154>



## **London state school secures 41 Oxbridge offers**

**Article taken from BBC News website: Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2019.**

**Dorcas has been in care since she was 14 and has just received an offer to study Law at Oxford university. She is one of 41 students at Brampton Manor, a state school in east London, to have secured an offer to study at either Oxford or Cambridge this year. The school is based in Newham - one of the poorest boroughs in London.**

**However, its success rivals the admission rates of some of the top-performing private schools across the UK. Nearly all of those who received offers are from ethnic minority backgrounds, while two-thirds will be the first in their family to attend university. Half of them, like 17-year-old Dorcas, are on free school meals.**

**"When I was put in care because of family difficulties all I knew was that statistically care leavers don't do very well," she says. "But I wanted to prove that it's not the end of the world and show my foster-sister that you can change the outcome of negative experiences." Only 6% of young people leaving care attend university.**

**Fleeing Algeria, another student, Lydia, arrived in the UK alone when she was 12, unable to speak English; she now lives with her older sister. She says participating in inter-school debating competitions has helped boost her confidence.**

**"A lot of people filter themselves out of the Oxbridge process because they don't think they belong," she says. "But the truth is people from unconventional backgrounds like mine do have the potential and it's about reassuring ourselves that we have a voice." She now holds an offer for English at St Hilda's College, Oxford. "My first language is Arabic - lots of people outside of school said I couldn't do it, but my teachers always believed in me."**

**Part of Brampton Manor's motivation, the students say, is seeing the faces of former Brampton pupils who received Oxbridge offers on the school walls. At the entrance of the school, on bold laminated plaques, are lists of names of every former student to have attended university. The photos of its Oxbridge students are also displayed in multiple places across the school.**

**In 2014, only one student received an offer. Last year, 25 students received offers from Oxford and Cambridge. This year's 41 offers, which are conditional on the students getting the grades, is a new record.**

# Discuss and Debate - what do you think?



Structuring your thinking or discussion:

- ? Think back to the words that we have thought about over the last few weeks: do you **aspire** to achieve things like these students?
- ? What should Castle Hall not aspire to something similar? Do our students have the **potential** to achieve such things?
- ? What **imaginative** ways that we've not thought of yet would get students approaching their studies in such a way that results would increase? What can be done to engage parents more in students' learning? **Communication**?
- ? What can be done to encourage more effective **independent** study at Castle Hall that would allow students, parents and staff to be **reflective** on what works well. (and maybe what doesn't!)