



Our ref: PLE/NAR/HT.Letter2.Jan24

19 January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly I would like to thank you as parents/carers for your support of many of the actions that were outlined in my previous letter. We have witnessed the positive impact of your involvement in creating a school culture that values self-discipline and respect. By consistently adhering to our uniform guidelines, your children are not only displaying a sense of belonging but also reflecting the values we strive to instil in every student. Unfortunately, too many Year 11 students continue to not follow our expectations around the wearing of PE Kit and other non uniform items and I will be speaking to them and writing to parents next week to set out the actions we will be taking to reset the standards within this year group. All staff, in particular Mrs Sgehndo and the PE team will appreciate parental support of our actions when they are shared.

Your support reinforces the importance of presenting a united front in promoting a positive and respectful learning environment. Students who adhere to the uniform and conduct standards are better prepared for academic success and are more likely to develop the essential life skills of responsibility and self-discipline. We will continue to set our standards high and take action where they are not met.

I would now like to ask for increased efforts and support around school attendance. Yesterday 10% of our students were absent from school. 13% of Year 11 students, those in the most important examination year of their lives, are absent.

We have become used to statistics and sadly, these patterns of absence are now considered normal in schools. Indeed our attendance is higher than national and local averages.

Missing two weeks for a family holiday taken in term time will mean that your child has missed fifty hours of learning new things they will never be taught again but will face questions on in an exam in the future. Having broken attendance (a day off every week or fortnight, on random days) means the students will miss five hours of new learning each time but will struggle to understand the work they do the following week because lessons are taught in sequences that rely on prior knowledge.

There is a significant correlation between absence and exam results. Put simply, students who miss school regularly, reduce their lifetime earning potential because they achieve worse exam results than their peers, and develop poor habits to take into the workplace where high levels of absence, poor punctuality, or an indifferent attitude to responsibility can result in dismissal.

You may think I am over-dramatising, but my experience tells me that this is a real concern and the Government agrees because they have highlighted the issue in recent weeks. Please can I ask that if your child is absent from school regularly (students should have full attendance most weeks) you seek to address this and ask us for support if you are struggling with your child.



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Today is the last day of two weeks of Year 11 mock exams. I would like to congratulate Year 11 for their conduct during the period of exams. The mock exams give the students the opportunity to complete full papers and experience the challenges of time management. Students will access their full grades in a Mock Results Day taking place on Thursday 8th February.

Yesterday, I was delighted to judge the first Year 7 inter-house music and drama competition. The students performed as classes a musical drama song which they have been choreographing and rehearsing over recent weeks. The experience of standing on stage and performing to your peers is always daunting but the students rose to the challenge and have gained skills and confidence that will stand them in good stead over the coming years. The energy, enjoyment and ambition of the performances was wonderful to watch and it was a close run competition. 7JIR emerged triumphant but it took some hard deliberation to decide the final result.

I am also delighted to share with you that Friends of Huxlow raised £200 from the raffle during the Winter concert. Thank you to everyone who supported us.

As a school we are dedicated to promoting the health and safety of our community by being a nut free environment. Please remind your child not to bring any nut products on to the school site. This ensures the safety of our staff and students.

After the recent cold snap, it is hard not to notice that it is the time of year again, where we may experience adverse weather conditions and although it is rare to do so, in some circumstances it may be necessary to close the school. If the decision is made to close the school before the school day begins, you will be notified in a number of ways:

1. A message will be sent to all parents using MyEd and Email
2. School website homepage will confirm a closure
3. Message posted on Facebook and Twitter
4. Message on Heart Radio in Northamptonshire – frequency 96.6FM

Finally I would like to draw your attention to some upcoming events:

On Monday 29th January, Year 9 will take part in Carry a basketball not a blade programme. They also are preparing for the Year 9 Options Evening being held on 1st February. A separate letter has been sent to parent/carers yesterday.

The Year 11 Parents Evening is planned for Thursday 8th February and booking will open soon.

I hope you have an enjoyable weekend and, as ever, thank you for your ongoing support.

Kind regards

Mr P Letch

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