



Huxlow Academy

Ambition • Respect • Pride

Our Ref: PLE/KHU/HTLet
Date: 10th February 2023

Dear Parents and carers,

Thank you to over 200 parents that completed the annual **Parent Survey**. We are currently analysing this feedback and using it to inform our next areas for development. Many of the items identified are already part of our ongoing school improvement plans and it was heartening that you recognised lots of the progress we have made so far, particularly of our raised expectations of students in lessons, whilst also confirming that we need to continue to work hard in our work around behaviour and communication to achieve our overall vision of a school 'Thriving through excellence.'

A key part of this work is to clarify to all students, staff and parents our expectations and systems to support positive behaviour across the Academy. Following a thorough review of these processes we have created a parental guide, which will be shared with you in a separate communication after the half term.

Please take some time to review the information so that you understand the Huxlow approach to behaviour and can discuss aspects of it with your child. The role of you as parents in supporting the school to ensure your child comes to school with clear expectations of how they should behave, and a realisation that you will support the school in ensuring these are met, is key to their success. We really appreciate your support in this key aspect of our home school partnership. We will be having a particular clamp down on our classroom conduct, uniform and piercings rules after half term.

I would like to thank you for your understanding and support during the recent **industrial action**, and resulting closure to some year groups. The arrangements for the next planned date for action (Wednesday 1st March) is underway and we will communicate details on whether we can increase our offer to a further year group when we have clarity after half term.

Please follow the link to read our latest edition of [The Hux Lowdown](#). It has once again been a packed period of activity for the school and the magazine gives a real feel for the busy and energetic community that we are. We are already planning our next edition and would love to advertise some local businesses next time it is published. If you are interested in having a space in the magazine at very reasonable rates, please contact our Business Manager, Ashley Northway, by calling Reception.

This half term we have been working hard to support our **Year 11 students** as they head rapidly towards their upcoming examinations.

Our **Year 11 Subject Evening** on the 8th of February was a real success and it was fantastic to see so many parents attending to support their children. They had the opportunity to collect key information regarding the up-coming Mocks in March and summer GCSE Examinations. There was a presentation about how to develop healthy routines and how to overcome barriers with a revision timetable. All subject leaders attended and shared key priority lists to support students through their revision.

To support our **Year 11 students** in their everyday life, especially at lunchtimes, we have reviewed our provision for them. From Monday 6th February and going forward, all Year 11 have the opportunity to be the first to be served in the canteen. They will also be able to access a Hot Space in ART 2 every day at lunchtimes.

This silent space is supervised by either Mrs Sghendo or Mrs Huchet and students are allowed to listen to music (with their own earphones) and eat whilst they revise or read.

In response to many parent requests, an [Intervention Calendar](#) for Year 11 has also been uploaded onto the website – please follow the link to view. Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Huchet if you have any queries.

This week is the county's **Mental Health Awareness Week** and the theme is 'Let's Connect'. Healthy connections towards each other are vital in supporting our mental health and sense of wellbeing, whatever our age. School representatives on the Talk Out Loud Team have planned a cake bake on Friday 10th February to raise awareness of mental health issues and wellbeing is being covered in our PSHE lessons. The Talk out Loud Team will represent the school at 3 more meetings with other schools discussing mental health support and awareness for young people in the county. #letsconnect

27th January marked Holocaust Memorial Day. Students respectfully listened during assembly time to the shortened, yet powerful testimony of Zigi Shipper, a Holocaust survivor who died only recently on the morning of his 93rd birthday. As a sign that our community is not prepared to forget the Holocaust nor other acts of genocide that have happened since, students, parents and staff sent in photos of their remembrance candles, a symbol of light in the darkness.

We are continuing to remember with a proposed Tour of Krakow in December for current Year 10, 11 and 12 students. Letters of interest are with parents/carers and the tour will allow students to experience sites of remembrance, embark on the journey of becoming a Holocaust Ambassador and continue the work of remembering the stories of the atrocities of the past and fighting to prevent them from happening again.

We will be holding our second **charity week** of the year, in the week commencing **13th March**. We hope this will be bigger and better than the first! The events organised for the lunchtimes on the Monday and Friday of that week will raise funds for the Year 11 Prom and other events in the remaining lunchtimes will raise funds for a local charity that the Student Council will decide upon. All lunchtime activities will be 50p each and can be paid for in cash prior to or at the event.

On **Friday 17th March**, the whole school will take part in a **Mufti Day** where will ask for £1 donations for **Comic Relief**, which will either be payable through Just Giving or on the day.

This term was launched with a selection of **House activities**, which have been ongoing since Christmas. These have included a 'Word of the week' challenge, a Geography orienteering task, dodgeball for all years and a somewhat taxing maths challenge, to name just a few. Students and Form Tutors have got stuck in and gained points for their houses. The results so far are:

Red Kites - 1896

Green Ospreys – 1875

Golden Eagles - 1375

Blue Falcons - 1158

Events coming next term are:

w/c 20th February	History World Book Day prep	Essay time machine competition Decorate form doors in forms favourite book
w/c 27th February	Library	World Book Day (02.03.23) Word of the Week
w/c 3rd March	French	KS4 French vs British culture/KS3 Pronunciation/true Parisian quiz
w/c 13th March	Science	British Science Week themed activity (10-19 March) Word of the Week
w/c 20th March	PE	Basketball competition (Lunchtime activity)
w/c 27th March	Art	Portraiture competition Word of the Week

Finally, we are keen to help recruit as many quality candidates as possible into the teaching profession. On **Thursday 23rd February** the **Grand Union Teacher Training Partnership (GUTP)** will be holding a **Train to Teach virtual event between 5.00 and 7.00pm**. They offer the opportunity to gain a PGCE (Post Graduate Certificate in Education) in a wide variety of subjects and bursaries are available whilst training. Please pass this information on to anyone that may be interested so that they can register by emailing gutprecruitment@sponne.org.uk . For further details please visit www.gutp.co.uk .

Please have a restful and safe half term break. We look forward to seeing all of our students back at Huxlow on Monday 20th February.

Yours faithfully



Paul Letch
Headteacher