



Huxlow Academy

Ambition • Respect • Pride

Our Ref: PLE/KHU/HTLet
Date: 18th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

We have now completed the first two weeks of the new school year and I am very pleased to report that our students have returned with a very positive attitude and determination to approach their learning with ambition and pride. I have been particularly impressed with the new Year 7 students that have already built new friendships, and a year group identity, that is focussing on support and care for each other. As I have been around the school and dropped into lessons, their cheerful enthusiasm for the subjects being taught is palpable.

I have also been very impressed by the focus and clear work ethic being displayed by other year groups, particularly Year 11 as they enter their examination year. I was very encouraged to see so many students and parents at the Year 11 Subject Evening last week and observe the school, student and parent partnership working so well as we aim to get them well prepared for next summer.

I am also very happy to report that our new staff have settled in well and are demonstrating their considerable skill and passion for their subjects and clear ambition and high expectation for our students.

As we continue into the term it is important that we all build on this start and continue to set high expectations both in school and at home for our young people. Please continue to remind your children of our 'Huxlow Way' values and rules and help them by ensuring they attend school punctually and with the correct equipment and uniform. Please reiterate the common messages coming from us all around being both ambitious and having high expectations for the quality of engagement and work they need to demonstrate every day. These good habits take time to embed and constant monitoring and reminders at home will lead to high performance and ultimately outcomes that we can all be proud of.

I am really looking forward to speaking to Year 7 parents on Thursday at the Year 7 Exhibition, where we will be sharing work the students produced in the transition project over the summer. I have been impressed by the quality and scale of some of the projects that have already arrived at school. We set the challenge to Year 7 to be ambitious and show us their excellence at the start of the year and I have seen clear evidence that many have done just that. It is always an impressive exhibition and a great introduction to the school year. I hope that all Year 7 parents will be able to join us at the Exhibition, which is open from 4.30pm.

Year 7 students are also looking forward to their team building trip to Irchester Jungle Park next week, which is a further opportunity to get to know each other and build new friendships whilst overcoming challenges together.

We are also preparing for our Year 6 Open Evening on Thursday 28th September. Please share this date, and the link on our [website](#), with any prospective parents and students so they can attend the event and see the 'Huxlow Way' in action and also meet our wonderful students and staff.

Alongside Open Evening we have also completed a [new information video](#) for those unable to attend. I am sure you will agree it gives a real feel for our Academy and the learning environment we build every day.

In a time of difficult recruitment and shortages across the teaching profession we have also created a [video](#) around the benefits of working as a member of our staff team. I am very proud of, and humbled by, the commitment and love our

staff show for our students and their work at Huxlow. Please keep an eye on our vacancies page and share any roles that are available so that the joy and satisfaction of being a part of Team Huxlow reaches as far as possible.

Our Sixth Form Consortium (TENC) tutors met with the parents of our new Year 12 students last week and once again the desire to work together to support our students was clear. Building these links with tutors and making contact if any concerns arise is essential to ensuring issues are resolved as soon as possible. Tutors remain the first point of contact throughout the Academy and they will get back to you as soon as possible.

I will be meeting with the Academy Improvement Board and our Tove Learning Trust colleagues on Wednesday to set out our plans for the next stage of our school improvement work in 2023-24. We will continue to build on the rapid progress we have made over the last two years and the central focus will be to embed the culture and systems that I have previously outlined and can be found in our school policies. The Huxlow Way expectations around behaviour and respect are key to this ongoing improvement and our system of sanctions and rewards will be implemented consistently to ensure students understand what is required of them every day. We thank you again for your support of these systems when your child experiences them. Visitors this term have already commented how they can feel the impact of these actions through the calm, respectful and focussed working atmosphere they experienced across the Academy. This is in tandem with our work to ensure we are utilising the latest knowledge on effective teaching and learning and we will be continuing to develop the professional development of our staff around the PREMADE learning sequence that Mr Johnson introduced to you last year.

Alongside these key aspects we will also be working hard to support students to attend school every day. The first step for successful learning is making sure that students are in school, in lessons and engaging with the lessons being prepared. We appreciate your support in ensuring your child attends school. Looking at last year's exam data it is clear that students not in school regularly, i.e below 95% of the time across all five years, performed multiple grades lower than those students who achieved this target every year. Our attendance team and pastoral staff will be contacting you and offering support where students attendance data flags a concern. It is also very clear in Government guidance that I cannot agree to holidays during term time. I understand the temptation in the current economic climate to book at these times but I do believe that the best place for students' long term prospects is to be in school receiving the lessons staff have carefully crafted to guide them over the years towards the final exams that will open doors to the next stages of their lives.

Finally, we have introduced a new reward system this year. The Values House Points system allows students to gain points towards their house total and a personal total that will be recorded on Go4Schools. As students achieve benchmark numbers of house points in the year they will earn vouchers that can be spent at a variety of stores and sites. The rewards rise with £5 vouchers given each time a student gains 250 points and can earn a student up to £50 in a year.

I will write again soon with further news and updates on the many exciting events and activities taking place at Huxlow.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully



Mr Paul Letch
Headteacher