



# Huxlow Academy

Ambition • Respect • Pride

Our Ref: PLE/KHU/HTLet  
Date: 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

At the end of a long half term, the Huxlow staff are looking forward to taking part in our first Tove Learning Trust training day tomorrow (Friday). Our support staff will be joining over 300 colleagues in Coventry and the teaching staff will be working in school alongside colleagues from Rushden Academy in order to focus on developing teaching and learning practices.

As you are aware the school is **closed to students on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October** for the half term and we look forward to welcoming all students back again on **Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October**.

It has been a very busy term and when we return we will be building on the progress we have made over the last 7 weeks. A key area we will be discussing with students is our continued drive to ensure that they are able to work in lessons without disruption and to ensure safe and calm behaviour throughout the day. Following a review of our Behaviour for Life Policy we are focussing our expectations around a new 'Huxlow Way,' which will be shared after half term. This will have at its heart three clear values driven targets that form our code of conduct. These are:

- **Respect** - Respect members of staff and other students by being calm, courteous, and polite, and following all instructions given.
- **Ambition** – Complete all work to the best of your ability, without distracting others.
- **Pride** - Arrive on time to all lessons, with correct equipment, homework, and uniform.

I am sure you will agree that these are only what you would expect to enable lessons and the school to run smoothly. We would appreciate your support by reminding your child of these expectations, and reiterating that we will have to apply sanctions should they fall short of these expectations.

After the success of Annie Jnr last year, we were very excited to see 66 students turn up for the Fame Jnr auditions last week. This is double the numbers we had in Annie Jnr and we are pleased to announce that everyone has been selected to be a member of the cast. Main roles are being auditioned for this week and further announcements will follow after the half term break.

To all Year 9 and Year 10 parents of students interested in joining the Duke of Edinburgh award, we are excited that Mrs Sandison and Mr Venn have completed all their training and are in the final steps of getting the award up and running. They have been working hard behind the scenes to get everything in place ready to launch the programme to Huxlow students. They will be in contact with students and parents at the start of the new term to explain what happens next. Mrs Sandison and Mr Venn will also be holding a parent information evening so please keep an eye out for further communications. In the meantime, if you do require any

information about Duke of Edinburgh, please contact us on [DofE@huxlow.northants.sch.uk](mailto:DofE@huxlow.northants.sch.uk) or go to the DofE website where there is a wealth of information [www.DofE.org](http://www.DofE.org)

Year 11 students and parents are now in a busy period of attending school events. Tonight (Thursday), they are invited to join the Key Stage 4 Subject Information and TENC Launch evening. This will provide invaluable advice on how to support your child towards their exams over this crucial year. It is not too late to attend.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> November parents and students can attend the TENC Open Evening at Rushden Academy. This evening enables parents and students to discuss the courses available in our excellent joint Sixth Form provision and think about the best choices and pathways for them.

Finally, we are holding the Year 11 Parents Evening on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November. This evening is to discuss current progress this year and targets for further improvement with subject teachers. We hope to see as many parents and students as possible at these events.

On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> of November, Year 7 parents have been invited to meet with their child's Form Tutor and to receive the first RATE report. It is fantastic to be able to invite parents in to meet face to face after the long periods of lockdown.

We continue to work hard to improve the facilities for staff and students at Huxlow Academy. Over the half term the PC stock in our ICT rooms will be refreshed, alongside a thorough review of our Wi-Fi and cabling infrastructure to support the software needed in a modern education.

We will also be glad to finally say goodbye to the scaffolding following the completion of the roofing works.

The ongoing internal works to create an improved first aid area alongside some additional office and meeting space and a conference room, will also be completed. These will be available for staff and student leader groups to use after the half term break.

It is important to us that you are kept well informed of the school's progress. Below is a message from Linda Brooks, the Chair of Huxlow Academy AIB, updating you on the work of the Board and the school's progress this term:

*Our first AIB meeting of the academic year was held on 21<sup>st</sup> September to reflect on the overall performance of the school last year and agree the direction of travel as Huxlow Academy undertakes its next journey in partnership with the TOVE Learning Trust. It is clear that Huxlow Academy is making real progress against agreed objectives and it was heartening to look forward to 2022/23 and next year's strategic objectives contained in the school improvement plan.*

*We reviewed, and discussed, a number of areas including aspects of staffing, curriculum (particularly the possibility of moving back to a three-year key stage 3 programme), behaviour and attendance and Post 16 changes across TENC.*

*We reviewed the progress that had been made so far to improve areas such as classroom routines, behaviour management, quality of teaching, personal development and well-being and safeguarding.*

*We acknowledged the improvements achieved thus far and the Board and senior leaders agreed that our collective aim was for the pace of further improvements to be accelerated this academic year.*

*We discussed the reasonable changes to future Post 16 provision and recognise the value in two schools working collectively to provide a high-quality Post 16 curriculum offer.*

*We discussed the improvements being secured in middle leadership of teaching and learning and, in particular, the developments across curriculum understanding and delivery.*

*We discussed the significant investment in pastoral and well-being provision and look forward to this provision supporting students and their families' moving forwards.*

*Mr Letch is adapting the school improvement plan for this year to accommodate the discussion points of this meeting, and this will be shared with you at the earliest opportunity. I am delighted to Chair the Huxlow Academy Improvement Board and with fellow AIB members, we look forward to supporting all leaders, teachers, students, and their families on this journey of continuous improvement.*

Finally, I would like once again to thank you for your ongoing support and wish you all a restful and enjoyable half term break.

Yours faithfully



Paul Letch  
Headteacher