



Our Ref: PLE/KHU/HTLet

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022

# Huxlow Science College

Dear Parents/Carers

After the high temperatures of last week, we have returned to more manageable conditions and I would like to praise our students and staff that continued to get on with day-to-day learning despite the challenges our site gives us in hot conditions. The addition of a new canopy over our quad area over the Summer will provide much needed extra shade for everyone next year.

We are excited that work has already begun on many much-needed improvements to our site. Scaffolding is in place for our ongoing roof replacement and the site will continue to be a busy place over the Summer. Work to increase student social seating areas, a new fibre network upgrade, better food server options, full internal and external site coverage from CCTV, replacement doors and floors and general redecoration and environmental improvements are all on the list to be completed as we strive to ensure our site is both safe and best able to meet the needs of our students for learning.

Alongside this physical work on the school, we are making rapid progress in the school improvement work that we are undertaking. A recent review of our safeguarding actions by OFSTED and the ESFA stated clearly that they are satisfied with the progress we are making in this area. As we get newly appointed staff in place from September the work on all our improvement areas will accelerate. I am pleased to report that we have made some outstanding appointments across all areas of the school.

We have already started working closely with Tove Learning Trust as we prepare to join them from September. Thank you to the parents that attended the stakeholder engagement session last Monday and asked some important questions. This followed both staff and Governor meetings and it was clear that everyone attending was reassured that the additional support that being a part of TLT will give us will only enhance the work we have already begun. Their team have been on site regularly and have been incredibly positive about the actions we have begun and our progress so far. I am really looking forward to our entering the Trust becoming formalised in the coming weeks and being able to draw on their expertise and challenge to ensure we are continuing to do all we can to make rapid and sustained improvements in all aspects of the school. I will update you as this exciting development progresses.

As exam season continues the Year 11 and Year 13 students have been praised by all involved, especially our wonderful team of invigilators, for their maturity and conduct in the exam rooms. I am pleased to say that all students I have spoken to have been positive about how the exams have been going and feel they are giving them their best shot. We look forward to seeing them opening their results in August.

This Thursday the Year 11 students will complete their final papers and we will enjoy a leaving assembly together to share memories and celebrate this milestone. Plans for the proms are also gathering pace for what will be fantastic evenings. I would like to remind students that attendance at these events remains dependent on behaviour throughout their remaining time in school. Everyone wants to enjoy saying goodbye and good luck to this wonderful group of students that have overcome so many challenges in recent years.

Examinations for other year groups will now begin. Year 7, 8, 9 and 10, have started their French speaking test preparation very positively, even though for Year 7 and 8 it is the first time they will have completed one and it is the first time in a very long time for KS4 because of Covid. The French staff have been pleased with how they have embraced this new challenge.

Further mock and progress tests will take place for all year groups to ensure the students have experienced examinations under formal conditions and be best prepared for when they reach Year 11 and Year 13. Please check for other communications that explain when and where these are taking place. Other progress testing will be taking place within lessons so that we can adapt our curriculum and effectively support students from September.

Our school production 'Annie Jr.' is fast approaching, with performances being held on Tues 5th to Thursday 7th July. The students are rehearsing hard, costumes and props are being sorted and we are ready for the final run-throughs! If you have not already purchased your tickets, these are £4 per person and available to buy on WisePay now! This really is something not to be missed. Bring your friends and family too. These students and staff have worked so hard and have created a show that can be enjoyed by everyone in the local community – even if they have not got a child performing. It has been a few years since Huxlow put on a musical and we can guarantee that you will leave with a feel-good spring in your step. Get your tickets today! There will also be a big raffle drawn on the last night of the show, with fabulous prizes already donated from Rock UK, Frontier Centre, Canoe 2, Rock Up, Paradise Golf and others – if you feel you may be able to contribute a prize, please contact Mrs Runnells ([r.runnells@huxlow.northants.sch.uk](mailto:r.runnells@huxlow.northants.sch.uk)) - any donations gratefully received!

Alongside rehearsals for Annie a wide variety of clubs are available for students to get involved in. These include Rounders, Baseball, Chess, Gaming, Foreign Movie, Warhammer, Dance, French Guillotine Building, Design Technology, Drama, STEM, Dodgeball, Football and Basketball clubs. Please encourage your child to visit the Clubs noticeboard for further details of times and venues.

Year 12 students have lots to look forward to this term, including work shadowing and a raft of post 18 options events such as 'Futures Week' on 27th June to 1st July. The week will also see the Year 11 students who are staying on in Sixth Form, joining for 3 days of induction across all three schools. Students have received a letter to confirm times and events. Year 11 will also be going to stay at Kent University on the 5<sup>th</sup> to 6th July; this always proves to be a fun and informative trip.

Year 13 have been working incredibly hard and are coming to the end of this examination series. They will then be preparing for their well-earned Prom at Kettering Park Hotel on the 14th of July. Other events to look forward to include a Year 13 London & Supreme Court Trip on the 12th of July and a Year 12 Cambridge Activity Day on the 21<sup>st</sup> of July. The Sixth Form team are so pleased to be able to get the students out and about again.

We are currently recruiting for our next group of Prefects from Year 10. The successful students will join the existing student leadership team, to widen the Prefect and House Teams. This will enable them to build on the great work that has already been started, which contributes to our whole-school school improvement work. We will also be recruiting further Prefects from Year 12 to ultimately create a team of students from across Year 11 and the Sixth Form. From September these leaders will represent the wider student voice and gather feedback and ideas from all year groups. The deadline for Year 10 applications is today but if any Year 10 still wishes to be considered please speak to Mrs Huchet asap.

We have welcomed a variety of visitors into school over the last weeks, including the author Simon Green who worked with Year 9 and 10 and took them through his inspiration and the craft of writing his books. Students also worked with visitors from Brook Education to complete work around contraception for Years 8 to 10. Alongside these visits students have been travelling off site on trips and visits to enhance the curriculum. For example, Year 10 Science students recently visited Silverstone to explore STEM careers and gain an insight into the motorsport industry. Many more opportunities are in the planning stage and letters have been or will be coming home soon.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that expectations around behaviour and uniform remain for the rest of the term. We are working hard to ensure the consistent application of our sanctions where these standards are not met. This is important as students are then able to understand how they should present themselves each day for school and in lessons. It allows them to regulate themselves and take ownership of their actions and appearance. It is a huge support to the students, and everyone in the school, if parents and carers also reinforce the expectations and support us when sanctions need to be applied if their child falls short of these. Reinforcing messages from school at home helps students make the right choices and become more able to focus on the core business of learning in their lessons. This in turn reduces the chances of poor choices being made and further sanctions having to be applied in the future. I thank you for your ongoing support in this area.

On Friday we said farewell to Mrs Stanyon our Sixth Form Administrator, who has worked to support our Sixth Form students at Huxlow for the last 9 years. She has helped so many of our students to move successfully onto the next stage of their lives and her care will be greatly missed. We wish her good luck in her new post. I am very pleased that we have been able to ensure this care will continue as Mrs Avey, our Clerk to the Governors, will be taking on this role. Mrs Avey is Huxlow through and through and I know she will be a terrific addition to the Sixth Form team.

We have so much positive activity and development going on at Huxlow at the moment. It really is an exciting time to be a part of our community and I can honestly say that this has been the most rewarding period of my career so far. I am privileged to be leading our wonderful community forwards and our newly adopted school values of 'Ambition, Respect and Pride' sum up how I feel about the work that has been achieved so far and the plans that are in place for the coming year. We are lucky to have such a committed and passionate staff that care so deeply about Huxlow and our students, as we work towards our vision of a school 'Thriving Through Excellence.' Change takes time, commitment, and energy and our staff are demonstrating this in abundance. I thank them wholeheartedly for their support.

I also want to thank you for your unstinting and ongoing support for the work we are doing with your children every day.

Yours faithfully



Paul Letch  
Headteacher