



**Huxlow
Academy**

Ambition • Respect • Pride

Our Ref: PLE/KHU/HTLett

Date: 3rd November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you all enjoyed a pleasant half term and managed to avoid the rain.

This week we have been welcoming our students back in house assemblies. The theme has been Hate Crime Awareness Week, where we have been considering how we as a community can ensure that everyone feels safe and included in Team Huxlow. Ensuring that nobody is on the receiving end of hateful behaviours for being who they are is a particular passion of mine, and we continually work to educate our community around this central aspect of Respect in 'The Huxlow Way.' I am pleased to report that the culture and atmosphere of care, tolerance and support across the school has improved markedly over the last two years and students are quick to call out others that fall below our expected standards. It is a pleasure to spend each day with our students, see their kindness for each other and their huge desire to achieve in their learning.

It was a pleasure to welcome Year 7 and Year 11 parents into the Sixth Form Centre to meet with Tutors this week. Year 11 Tutors focussed on RATE 1 and the continued drive to support students towards their exams next Summer. Year 7 Tutors discussed how they have settled into Huxlow and received results from the recent CAT tests. Both sets of parents were incredibly positive about how their children were progressing and how the year started. We always welcome feedback and are already responding to some of the issues raised.

Year 11 parents are reminded that we are holding our TENC Sixth Form Open Evening at Rushden Academy next Wednesday. Bookings for tours can be made online through our website and Huxlow staff and students will be on hand to guide parents and students as they discuss their options for 2024 onwards. It is hugely beneficial for Huxlow to be a part of TENC as it spans two schools, which widens the course choices available and enhances the Sixth Form experience for students by enabling our students to meet and work with a wider group of staff and students. I hope to see as many Year 11 students and parents there as possible.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff that accompanied a group of Year 10 students to Cornwall during the half term break. This has become an annual trip that gives experiences beyond our locality that many students would not have without the commitment of this team. By all reports this was a fantastic trip and both staff and students came home with memories that will stay with them throughout their lives. We look forward to offering this trip to the current Year 9 next year.

All students took part in a lesson around Parliament week. This focussed on democracy and the power of getting involved and voting to have a say in our community. To end the lesson, they all visited the Sports Hall to cast their vote and place

it in the ballot box to choose the next House staff competition. The choices were Huxlow Staff Got Talent, Staff Rap Battle, Staff Penalty Shoot Out, and the Huxlow Big Fat Quiz of the Year. We will announce the winner next week. Whichever wins I am sure we will see staff competing with the usual determination and passion for their Houses soon.

On Monday Year 8 will be taking part in our annual 'Prison! Me? No Way!' day. During the day they will attend a crime and safety awareness day that will involve workshops covering consequences, choices, fire, magistrates, and prison. These sessions support the PSHE curriculum but also raises awareness of community issues and how to keep safe and make the right choices. The workshops include the following topics: county lines, domestic violence, Red Cross, a prison van, and gangs/knife crime. Our values inspire us to develop our students to become ambitious and respectful members of our community. Understanding issues around law and criminal behaviour enables students to consider the importance of developing the correct character traits and go on to make positive choices and live a healthy and successful life. The company used are a national organisation who work with schools up and down the country and deliver these workshops to thousands of students throughout the year.

Next Friday we will mark Remembrance Day with a whole school two-minute silence. This year we plan to come together as a whole school and hear the last post, as well as observing the silence to show our respect for those that have made the ultimate sacrifice for us all. We will also be represented at both Irthlingborough and Finedon Remembrance ceremonies. Huxlow students will once again read out the names of Irthlingborough residents that perished in both World Wars before moving to the memorial to lay wreaths. This is always a very moving ceremony and I recommend coming down to Parsons Green at 10am on Sunday 12th November if you can.

Finally, I would like to remind you again that we are endeavouring to be a Nut free School and would ask you to ensure that no nuts or nut-based food items are brought onto our site to help protect everyone in our school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



Paul Letch
Headteacher