



# Huxlow Academy

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Our Ref: PLE/KHU/HTLet

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

It is over a week since we returned to school, and I hope you and your children had an enjoyable half term break.

We had a very busy first week back to school and this continues this week as our Year 9 students were both polite and respectful when they were visited by the schools vaccination team. As always, the team commented on how wonderful our students are and on the superb organisation of the day.

I was very pleased to receive the report from a recent safeguarding review undertaken by a consultant employed by the Tove Learning Trust as part of their ongoing work with us. The consultant met with a wide range of staff and students and focussed on the areas identified for improvement in the 2021 OFSTED report. I was particularly pleased that he identified that the school was 'calm and purposeful'. He also stated that changes to the clarity and expectations of behaviour systems seem to be making a positive impact, although there continues to be some challenging behaviours from a minority of students. In response to his recommendations and ongoing plans we have already put in place some changes around our Reset system that mean the groups of students are smaller, they can meet with staff individually to discuss their behaviours and this therefore gives them a greater chance of being successful in future lessons.

A further area of improvement that was highly commended was the PSHE curriculum. Both staff and students commented on how much they valued and enjoyed these lessons, which are vital in developing the skills and knowledge that build character and empathy for others. Students spoke about how supported they felt in the school and also highlighted the improved offer in the canteen! The consultant wanted to particularly mention the Whisper reporting tool as an excellent addition to safeguarding in the school. Anything reported via the tool is picked up every day and action taken to resolve any issues raised. Whisper can be accessed here: [Whisper Anonymous Reporting | SWGfL](#)

Despite much positive feedback we are very clear on the areas that continue to be a focus for us going forward. The consultant stated that although students feel safe at the school, some students continue to use inappropriate language and that we all need to work hard to continue to build our culture around the 'Huxlow Way' and the whole community 'calling out' those that do not display the attributes that reflect our core values. The consultant commended and reinforced our determination to set clear expectations and challenge those falling short. I appreciate that many parents support us in this aim every day by ensuring similar expectations continue in the home and wider community.

One area mentioned were the toilets and I would like to reassure you that the changes we have made around the toilets in response have been made solely with the wellbeing of students in mind. Following reports from

our younger students that they felt reticent around using the toilets during the day we felt we needed to ensure that all students had access and felt comfortable to use the toilets. Some changes have been put in place and the rationale is as follows:

A bank of toilets is open for students to use throughout the day. These are available at all times and students can leave lessons if needed. Having a single bank open during lessons has allowed us to monitor their use more closely and ensure students return to lessons asap.

At breaks and lunch, further banks of toilets are opened for students and these are monitored by a member of SLT from outside. Again, this is to ensure once used students leave the toilets quickly to allow others to use them. We have closed some particularly problematic sets of toilets to enable us to ensure those open are monitored fully.

CCTV is in operation to cover the wash areas only and this is only checked if an incident or damage occurs. Since these changes were implemented we acted on feedback from students and have ensured that two banks of toilets are now open at all times for the girls. Younger students are reporting that they now are happy to use the toilets and that they feel comfortable and safe when doing so.

I hope this answers some concerns that have been raised and clarifies some misconceptions that may have been communicated to you. It is important to me that all of our students feel comfortable to access the toilets when required.

As I mentioned in my previous letter, we have produced a Parents' Guide to the Huxlow Approach to Behaviour. This booklet can be found on our website via [this link](#). I hope you find 5 minutes to take a look and understand our expectations and systems.

**I would like to remind parents and students that on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March, the Academy will only be open to Year 7 students and Year 11 students, and some other students who have received separate communication.** After reviewing the work set in February, we have made some changes to the work that has been provided for years 8, 9 and 10 to complete at home. The work can be found on [our website](#) and also on Go4Schools where the link has been added as a piece of homework for the students.

The academy will be open as usual to all students on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

We are also looking forward to meeting Year 8 parents at the Parents Evening on Thursday. Please ensure you have booked your appointments if you haven't already. The original letter about the event can be found [here](#).

Year 11 are fast heading towards their mock exams which begin next week. We will be undertaking these exams under the same conditions and expectations as the exams in the summer and would urge parents to remind students of the need to follow the instructions given and ensure they attend exams on time and with the correct equipment, including a black pen.

Looking further ahead, March 13<sup>th</sup> sees the beginning of our second charity week of the year. After the success of our first charity week, back in December, this charity week has been heavily led and influenced by our student leadership team. Throughout the week, the Year 11 Prom Committee have organised events and activities to raise money for their Year 11 Prom. These will include the selling of sweet treats and hot chocolate


at break and lunchtimes from the Pod in the Quad to fun lunchtime events such as 'Sponging the Teacher', 'Just Dance' and 'Teacher Karaoke'.

Also raising money for a student expedition will be our Sixth Form students who will be volunteering out in Uganda. There will be an exciting event on the Wednesday lunchtime of Charity week as well as the ongoing 'Guess the weight of Mrs Bocking's baby!'. On Red Nose Day, Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March, we will be holding a whole school mufti with a £1 donation for Comic Relief. This can either be paid online through our Just giving page or on the day through a £1 donation. Our students are working very hard to organise these events to raise money, whilst enjoying themselves as they do so. We are very proud of all of our students, and we thank you for your support in making these events so successful.

Finally, the tickets for Fame Jr are now on sale via WisePay. The cast are working exceedingly hard and will be performing in the Irthlingborough Junior School Year 4 and Year 6 assemblies over the coming weeks, before Year 5 attend the final dress rehearsal. The performances take place on the evenings of 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of March. They can't wait to bring the 'feel good feeling' to our community that only a musical can bring. Please get your tickets early to avoid disappointment!

Thank you, as ever, for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully



Mr Paul Letch  
Headteacher