



Huxlow Academy

Ambition • Respect • Pride

Our Ref: PLE/KHU/HTLet
Date: 10th October 2023

Dear Parents and carers

I have been looking forward to writing this letter to you as it is a celebration of the many wonderful students, we have at Huxlow Academy and the efforts they are making to represent our values and add to the community both within and beyond it.

Firstly, huge congratulations and thanks goes to our Year 10 Sports Leaders who planned everything for a Year 5/6 Sports Leaders Crew Day. They planned four workshops that they delivered to five different groups of children. Each workshop was 20 minutes long and themed around inclusion, communication, STEP and My Journey. There were twenty different schools from East Northants in attendance, so it was a fantastic experience and a huge challenge for them. Mr Letts is so proud of how they excelled. Off the back of this, they have been asked to deliver the same workshops to Year 7 students from across all schools in our district in November. Well done to everyone involved.

Our GCSE Dance students also enjoyed a trip to the Birmingham Hippodrome where they returned late as the students insisted that they stay for the Q and A session with the cast after the performance to make sure that they gained as much knowledge and understanding from the professionals as possible to help them in their own performance and exam outcomes.

It was a wonderful evening last week as we welcomed Year 6 prospective students and parents to our Open Evening. It was heartening to receive feedback from parents that they could see and feel the positive culture we have built across the school and their desire to join us next September. To see our staff and students so proudly showing off our school, the curriculum, and wider opportunities that we offer was testament to their own passion for what we do every day. The tour guides and student helpers were so articulate, and parents commented on their smart, fun, and knowledgeable presentation.

I would also like to recognise the team of leaders that ran the McMillan Coffee Morning (evening) from the Pod in the Quad and provided refreshments throughout the evening, whilst raising funds for a cause they are passionate about.

Mrs Correa was also exceedingly proud to report back from the time she spent with students attending the Youth Advisory Board (YAB) on Wednesday. In the first session the team met the COMPLEAT Food Group who set out their aims to make food more accessible, healthy, and affordable.

Erin who made her very compelling case on why she wants to be part of the YAB, wrote the following, which really shows the Huxlow Way in action and her desire to leave a positive legacy.

'I think I should be a part of the Student Advisory Board as I want to be able to show and represent my school as a place with true ambition, pride and respect, voice my opinions and give feedback to help this company develop to the best of their abilities. In addition to this, I feel as a part of the future generation it is important, I take part in these projects and do my part to ensure the future is brighter and better for us.'

To be one of three schools chosen by Votes for Schools to work with COMPLEAT Food Group and ESG is a huge achievement. Our students have been tasked with a mini project before the next meeting on the 29th November.

Alongside this, The Huxlow Academy School Nutrition Action Group, known as the School Food Champions, has worked on a yearlong project with Biteback 2030 movement to put good food at the heart of a healthy school community. Ten students were involved. The objective to improve the food provision and culture and create a positive mealtime environment was achieved. The Biteback 2030 movement was so pleased with our submission it led to a presentation that was delivered to a steering group including the DFE, Tesco and Food for Life. A fantastic achievement and well-deserved recognition for this team.

I spent a fun and informative hour yesterday partaking in a cooking competition as part of a visit from the Original School Food Showdown that ran all day. This roadshow focussed on healthy eating and got key messages over in an interactive and energetic way to all involved. Unfortunately, my team, the Red Chillis lost out to the Green Peas in our cook off.

I have had the pleasure of meeting with representative student leaders over the last week who wanted to request they lead some new developments for the school. Firstly, the charity committee presented their ideas so eloquently it was agreed that **tomorrow, Wednesday 11th October, students will be allowed to come into school wearing mufti, supported with an item of yellow clothing or an accessory, if they can.** The House competition for this week will involve the form who is sporting the most yellow in support of the national theme, Hello Yellow! The yellow item represents our support of Young Minds, an organisation that raises the awareness of mental health in young people, communities, schools and with the individuals themselves to improve mental health provision across the country. A donation of £1 is requested on the day. There will also be a karaoke activity at lunchtime in the hall to support and encourage good mental health.

Sixth Form leaders also came to visit and present their idea to reinstate the role of Head Boy/Girl/Student roles so that they could act as role models and representatives of the school they are so proud to be a part of. This was also agreed, and I am looking forward to the interviews that are coming soon.

I also met some of the Sixth Form students and received questionnaires to support their work towards their Extended Project Qualification. The students have chosen a wide range of interesting research projects to undertake and asked some very thought-provoking questions. Their intelligent discussion was a highlight of my day.

The first meeting of an Interact Club for students aged 12 to 18 years old was held in partnership with the Rotary Club. It aims to provide an opportunity to develop leadership skills and work on local and wider community projects. Attendance was high at this fantastic opportunity, but a few places remain for the next session and details are available from Mrs Correa and Mrs Avey.

It was also wonderful to see Year 7 enjoying their team building trips to Irchester. This time getting to know each other, and the staff was valuable in building their community spirit and welcoming them to Huxlow. They supported each other over the many challenges and relished the time together as they became embedded as a key asset for Team Huxlow.

Our Year 11 Geographers have just departed on the GCSE field trip to Hunstanton this morning. It is clear that we are providing a wide range of opportunities to develop character and subject skills at Huxlow and that students are embracing these opportunities fully.

I hope you enjoy the rest of the week.

Thank you, as ever, for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully



Mr Paul Letch - Headteacher