



Our ref: NAR/PLE/HTLetter.01.05.24

1<sup>st</sup> May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

It does not seem possible that we have entered May and we are already two weeks from the Easter break. Hopefully, the weather is about to remember that we are well into Spring and that Summer is not far away!

Since I last wrote to you and informed you that after the May half term Mrs Isaksen will be taking over the role of Headteacher, we have been working hard on plans to ensure a smooth transition. Mrs Isaksen will be writing to you before the end of the term to clarify how these plans have progressed. She will set out some developments and clarifications on expectations, alongside adjustments to some of our systems to ensure that the momentum for improvement is maintained and enhanced into the summer and beyond to September.

To help gather information to inform Mrs Isaksen and the Trust on parental views of the Academy, I would like to request that you follow the link below to a short survey. This survey is collected from parents/carers annually so we can see any trends and identify priorities for improvement, alongside recognising and celebrating any positives that you share. It only takes a couple of minutes to complete and we would like to get responses from as many parents/carers as possible. The results will be shared with the Academy Improvement Board at their next meeting. Thank you in advance for your assistance in completing this.

[Survey link](#)

As ever it has been a busy couple of weeks at Huxlow. We are very excited that a group of Year 7 students are currently working on a project with Northampton Saints and our Aspire Higher team through the University of Northampton. This programme is aimed to help to improve their writing skills through improving their coordination. The programme will run for 5 weeks. Each week is broken down into a core skill that lends itself to various sporting activities, as well as being integral for writing. Students will explore how each skill can be used to make the link between the skill and writing.

On Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April, students in Year 7 took part in the first Take your Child to Work Day. 70 students participated in the event, with photos and reflections of students and their experiences being sent in. These ranged from digital media experiences to veterinary experiences, working outdoors to working in offices. These invaluable experiences allow for students to begin to think about their own future career pathways and destinations. For those who were unable to secure a work placement, virtual work experience was undertaken, either at a park, airport or in a hospital and students could learn about different positions and careers within these fields. As well as this, some students took part in an Enterprise challenge with the Talent Foundry, planning for and designing a music festival. Alongside this, some students took part in a transferable skills workshop with Aspire Higher and the University of Northampton.

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Headteacher Mr Paul Letch



# Huxlow Academy

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Year 11 and 13 are rapidly heading to the start of the formal examination period. Indeed, some Year 11 students have spent two days completing their Art exam and nearly all of Year 11 have also completed their French Speaking assessments already. They have performed admirably in these assessments and the French team are rightly very proud that the year group are off to such a positive start. I popped in briefly to the art exam after day one and the quality of the work being produced was exceptional. This strong start can only build the students confidence as they work hard in the final leg of their preparations. Staff are making many opportunities available right up to the exams and students are really encouraged to make sure they are utilising these as fully as possible by attending every lesson and joining extra sessions during lunches and after school.

We are all looking forward to the upcoming extended bank holiday weekend and I hope that you are able to enjoy it together. Going forwards as part of the handover, Mrs Isaksen will be communicating with you to let you know of her plans for after the half term break. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many parents/carers who have contacted me to wish me well in my new post and recognise the work that we have undertaken to improve Huxlow over the last three years. It has been a privilege to work with all of our students and see them grow both academically and as young people. They truly are a pleasure to work with every day and they bring an energy and sense of enjoyment to our school. I would also like to thank all of our staff for their support, commitment and hard work. They work so hard and care so deeply about your children and at times this can feel like it is with little recognition and thanks. Please make sure that you continue to work together as partners of the school in your child's success and when you can please try to find the time to offer words of thanks and encouragement for all that work with them. Be it to students or staff, a kind word goes a long way.

Finally, I would like to thank you for the support you have given me over my time as Headteacher. Huxlow is a special place and will always remain a part of me. I have gained so many special memories at Huxlow and will be watching from afar to see the work that continues. Mrs Isaksen is an outstanding Headteacher appointment. Her passion and energy, coupled with her leadership skills will continue to create a school that everyone can and will be even more proud of. Please support and look after her as she sets out in this new role as the Huxlow Headteacher.

Kind regards

Mr P Letch  
Headteacher