



Our Ref: JCR/RNE/HeadofYear8
Date: 16th June 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Introduction of new Head of Year 8 – Miss J Crépin

I hope this letter finds you well. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Head of Year 8.

As you may already be aware Mrs Cory will be taking the role of Head of English from September and in order for her to prepare for her new role, I will be starting as Head of Year 8 this term to ensure a smooth transition.

It was great to see our students happy to be back at Huxlow last week, and I am looking forward to working with you to support the wellbeing and academic journey of your child.

All students have settled well into the routines of Huxlow and embraced our values of Respect, Ambition and Pride. They have also stepped up to the challenge of all secondary school academic, sporting, and social opportunities. We have been pleased with their progress and commitment throughout the year, and how they have adjusted well to the demands and expectations of Huxlow.

I am pleased to still have the support of Mrs Cory as the Form Tutor of 8JCR. If you have any queries, we encourage you to contact your child's Form Tutor in the first instance and we will endeavour to reply within 48 hours. The relevant contact details are listed below:

- **Miss J Crépin Head of Year 8 - j.crepin@huxlow.northants.sch.uk**
- **Mrs L Cory Form tutor - 8JCR l.cory@huxlow.northants.sch.uk**
- **Mr L Knowles Assistant Head of Behaviour and Attendance - l.knowles@huxlow.northants.sch.uk**
- **Reception - reception@huxlow.northants.sch.uk**

As many of you will appreciate, like most of my colleagues, I am a full-time teacher, and it is not always possible for me to speak with you without an appointment as I may be teaching. However, should you have any queries or concerns relating to your child, I can confirm that I have a few dedicated 'Office Hours' each week, during the school day, when I would be happy to make face-to-face appointments, Teams Meetings, or schedule telephone calls with parents. Alternatively, we can arrange to meet between 4.00pm -5.00pm any weekday. However, should you have any urgent or general enquires you can contact School Reception.

Uniform Expectations

In conjunction with our Academy Value 'Pride' - students across the year groups have been looking very smart in full school uniform. The uniform expectations for Year 8, prohibit the wearing of some jewellery items, makeup and false/gel nails or coloured varnishes. Students not following these clear uniform expectations, will be sanctioned according to school policy and parents may be contacted for repeat occurrences.

It is a requirement that the school blazer is always worn, with the exception of where permission has been granted by either the Headteacher or the class teacher in lesson. Please note that hoodies are not acceptable and should be removed when entering the school gate. For further information regarding the Huxlow Academy Uniform Policy, please visit our website.

As the weather is getting warmer it is advisable to remove the jumper, which is optional. It is also important students come to school with a water bottle. They will need to take responsibility for these and ensure they fill them up at break and lunch times, not in lessons.

Devices and Social Media

As you are aware, we are a device-free school and the general response to this restriction has been positive. Please bear this in mind when contacting your child during the school day, as students found using their devices will be expected to hand them over to be collected at the end of the school day.

Furthermore, it is difficult for the team to deal with incidents of online 'unkindness' whilst the students are at home. Please be vigilant, closely monitor their device use daily, and challenge unacceptable behaviour.

I would like to mention again that it may be beneficial to their wellbeing if you, and the students, were to consider the age restrictions for many of the social media platforms. Since April 2018, the minimum age for most is now 13 years old, in line with GDPR regulations, with some raising to 16 years old. For further information on the age limits please see: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/age-restrictions-social-media-services>

Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance will be one of my focuses for Year 8. I hope that all students had a well-earned rest over the break and have come back refreshed and healthy for the Summer Term. You can check the attendance for your child on the Go4Schools app. Our target is 96% and many of our students are working towards achieving this following time off last term.

Should a student be absent on any day, you must contact Huxlow Academy as soon as possible, by e-mail reception@huxlow.northants.sch.uk or by telephone 01933 650496, giving a reason for the absence. The Academy should be informed before morning registration, which is at 8.50a.m. This should be repeated for each day of absence. Please provide appointments cards and letters for medical and dental appointments to allow us to set this as authorised absence on their attendance record.

With regards to punctuality, it will always be an issue with traffic hot spots in some areas, so please plan your journey to allow for these. The time of mandatory attendance is between 8.50am and 3.10pm. Students can arrive from 8.30am, when staff are available on site.

May I once again draw your attention to the 2022-23 as well as 2023-24 Term Time Calendar on our website to ensure that family holidays and avoidable events are taken outside of these dates. Should you need to book special leave for exceptional circumstances, please apply in writing to head@huxlow.northants.sch.uk

Social Opportunities

Year 8 had lots of wonderful things happening this year with several trips organised by different departments, and two other trips to come during this Summer Term. Students have also been made aware of the sporting and social clubs at school, during LORIC throughout the year. This information is also available on the website. Children who attend clubs and organised social events make friends, learn new skills, take part in supervised activities, and ultimately gain confidence.

I am so proud of every one of the students who have stepped out of their comfort zone and taken part in a wide range of co-curricular and social activities: from wearing their organisation uniform for Remembrance Day, the Winter Concert, the Ukulele Challenge, our school show 'Fame' or joining our lunchtime and afterschool clubs. I am also proud of the students who have represented the Academy and their community groups, in music, dancing, gymnastics, football, netball, swimming or running competitions here, and across the county. With each step, their confidence and resilience are growing to build a sturdy foundation for their future.

Once again, we look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child at Huxlow Academy.

Yours faithfully

Miss Julie Crépin
Head of Year 8