



Huxlow Academy

Ambition • Respect • Pride

Our Ref: PLE/KHU/HTLet

Date: 16th November 2022

Dear Parents and carers

Please see below the latest update on what has been happening and is upcoming at Huxlow Academy, including a report from the last Academy Improvement Board meeting by Linda Brooks, Chair of the AIB. As you will see we continue to make progress around our vision of Thriving through Excellence and also continue to provide opportunities to our students to display and develop their ambition, pride, and respect.

Prison! Me? No Way!

On Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th November, Year 8 and Year 9 students participated in a Crime Awareness Day. This day gave students the opportunity to experience a unique and interactive educational experience through a series of workshops with the focus being on discussions around staying safe, making positive choices, and having opportunities to ask important questions regarding crime and deviant behaviour. Through our personal development provision, it is important that our students at Huxlow Academy have these opportunities to prepare for life outside the Academy and help them understand the importance in making the right decisions. Student voice from both year groups has returned a positive response (scores of 4.18 out of 5 from Year 8 and 4.3 out of 5 from Year 9) showing how much they appreciated the day as part of their educational experience. We have already rebooked for the day to be offered to our current Year 7 students next year.

Remembrance Day and Remembrance Sunday

On November 11th, students who are part of the Uniformed Services, the Scouting movement and the Girls/Boys Brigade were invited to wear their uniforms for Remembrance Day. Before the 2 minutes silence, Lucas (Year 11) took on the role of Parade Commander and marched Jakub (Year 11) and Thomas (Year 11) onto the front roundabout where they both played the Last Post alongside Mr Meadowsmith. The whole school respectfully took part in immaculately observing the two minutes silence thereafter.

On Sunday 13th November, Year 11 Prefects Mihai and Max joined Mrs Gauvrit in Finedon to lay a wreath on the school's behalf at the Memorial Service in the town.

In Irthlingborough, together with Mrs Corrêa and Mr Northway, Senior Prefects Tegan, Ralph and Idris from Year 12 and Year 11 Prefects Miracle and Oakley had the honour of taking part in the parade, laying a wreath, and reading out The Roll Call; the names of all those who gave their lives in both World Wars.

We are very proud of all of our students and the respect that they have shown for this extremely important event.

Christmas Hampers

Our student leadership team is working hard to gather as many food items as possible to produce food hampers to deliver to care homes and St. Peter's Church before the Christmas break. If you can spare any tins, or items of non-perishable food for the hampers, please send these in with your child and the student leadership team will be working their way around the form groups to collect these. Thank you for your continued support.

Year 11 Parents Evening, RATE, and Interventions

Year 11 Parents Evening took place last night (Tuesday 15th November). It was a pleasure to meet so many parents that are passionate about working with the school to support their children towards success in next summer's exams.

We will be sending home RATE progress reports via Go4Schools to other year groups. Please keep an eye out for notification on when they are ready to view.

Our Year 11 intervention programme has been a great success with more than 80 students attending last week. A student won the £15 weekly voucher for attending at least 2 sessions. These after-school sessions, which are called Period 6, are focusing on Maths, Science and English. They are 30 minutes long and they are meant to be short and sharp to help students fill gaps in understanding and better prepare them for their upcoming exams. We are hoping to have even more students attending this week.

Duke of Edinburgh

A letter was sent out last week inviting Year 9 and 10 parents to a Duke of Edinburgh Information Evening on Wednesday 23rd November. If you haven't already, please could you complete the form included in [this letter](#) so we know the number of people attending. This is really exciting opportunity for our students and we are looking forward to getting the award launched very soon.

Workshop - Enabling parents to help students with mathematics

A workshop designed to help Year 7 parents support their child in mathematics will take place on Thursday 1st December 5.00pm to 5.45 pm in the Maths department. The aim is to ensure that teachers and parents are consistently using the same methods to reinforce the understanding Year 7 students have in this subject. There is no need to book so please come and join us on the night. Details will be sent home soon regarding a session for Year 11 parents.

Academy Improvement Board Meeting 2nd November 2022

Our second AIB meeting of the academic year was to reflect on early progress being secured against the Academy's strategic plan. We confirmed the decision to return to a two-year Key Stage 4 programme (KS4 will be Years 10 & 11 and Year 9 will form the final year of Key Stage 3) and were pleased to hear implementation arrangements have been well planned to ensure staff, students and parents/ carers have sufficient time to enable an effective transfer.

The Post 16 changes across TENC are also moving at pace and students from both Huxlow and Rushden can continue to look forward to a broad and balanced Post 16 curriculum offer moving forwards. Colleagues from

both schools are working collaboratively on the proposed future curriculum provision and students who achieve the entrance criteria can be assured of a quality Post 16 programme of study.

We received input from the Head of Science outlining future developments, including curriculum developments in relation to double award and triple science. Further information was provided to explain future changes to the exam specifications used and how these will benefit all students. We also received curriculum papers from English and History, and we look forward to meeting the leaders of these subject areas to discuss developments at future meetings.

We were heartened to hear the positivity from staff about the TOVE training day, where teaching colleagues had an opportunity to work collaboratively with teaching colleagues from Rushden and all support staff were able to meet and share training with colleagues from across TOVE. Governors look forward to these professional relationships developing further in the future as they can only bring huge benefit to the students.

Feedback from the leaders of behaviour, pastoral and well-being provision was received and governors acknowledged the challenge that a small minority of students are continuing to give academy leaders through persistent non-compliance with the reasonable expectations set. Robust plans are in place to support these students and, where appropriate, their families to bring about the improvements that are required. We will receive updates about the progress through these plans at the next meeting.


Best wishes

Linda Brooks, Chair of Huxlow Academy AIB

We have a busy schedule of events and activities in the lead up to the Christmas break and I will write again soon to keep you informed.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



Paul Letch
Headteacher