



# Huxlow Academy

Ambition • Respect • Pride

Our Ref: PLE/KHU/HTLet  
Date: 20<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing this letter to you having just watched the moving funeral of our late Queen and hope you were able to spend some time over the extra Bank Holiday together with your family.

It is fitting that this week in assemblies and PSHE we will be reflecting on the importance of having a sense of belonging. Whatever the different views on monarchy may be, I think that we can all agree that the recent period has shown the power of the nation reflecting together and being a part of something bigger than ourselves. With this in mind, we will be discussing with students how having a sense of belonging meets our need to feel accepted, valued, supported, respected, and connected. We will encourage students to look to find the similar not the different, to be more accepting of others, and judge others less. Something we should all strive for and encourage.

As the community of Huxlow Academy, we should celebrate our successes, seek to care for and help each other, and be proud of the ambition and respect we demonstrate every day. Our sense of belonging derives from how we respect and behave towards each other, approach our learning, and wear our uniform with pride. We will urge students to increase their sense of belonging by finding their own personal group and join one of the many extra-curricular opportunities available to them. A full list will be sent home shortly, and we hope you will encourage your child to get involved in something as belonging to a group or team is proven to reduce stress and anxiety.

Our social media has been quiet during the period of mourning, but we have much news to share over the coming days. Please regularly visit our Twitter and Facebook feeds to see what has been going on inside and outside of lessons. You can also access our news via the newly launched website.

On Friday, it was a huge pleasure to welcome our new Year 7 parents into school for the first time to view the Transition Exhibition. There was lovely atmosphere in the exhibition and watching the students proudly show off their work, and the many certificates that they had been awarded, to their parents and visiting primary school Headteachers was a fantastic end to the week. We were so impressed by the ambition of the students to produce some very high-quality work that we are planning to display the exhibition again at our upcoming open evening for Year 6 students and parents.

On Thursday, in front of the staff we presented the new Year 11 Prefects with their silver ties and lanyards. In the coming weeks, this team of role models will join the existing team of Year 12 Prefects to take on key roles across the school. I also spent a very enjoyable morning interviewing Year 13 students for further student leader roles. The quality of the candidates and their maturity and desire to improve the school for all was outstanding. The Sixth Form students will work closely with all other student leaders from across the school community to plan and deliver new activities and events that add further opportunities for our community to come together.

This week teaching staff will be meeting with their TENC colleagues from our consortium partners at Rushden and Ferrers. This valuable time together allows them to carefully plan for the delivery of the shared courses and how to best support the students, that attend Huxlow from all three schools, to access them. The wide breadth of courses

available is a real strength of the TENC approach and we will be starting the process of providing information around what is available to Year 11 soon.

Finally, this week I would like to pay tribute to, and publicly thank, the support staff at Huxlow Academy. These often-unsung heroes have really gone the extra mile over the summer and particularly at the start of this term as we have joined Tove Learning Trust. This move brings with it many changes of systems, including Finance, IT, HR, and communications amongst many others. The extra burden this has created has been met head on and their positive, can-do attitude has meant we will be operating smoothly as soon as possible. Support staff have supported each other fully, picked up extra workload, and together with the site team's improvement works that have continued to move at pace, they really deserve our appreciation and thanks.

The Trust transfer work continues, and I would please ask everyone to remember our core value of Respect when communicating with the school via, email, phone or in person as all of our members of staff deserve no less.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully



Paul Letch  
Headteacher