



# Huxlow Academy

Ambition • Respect • Pride

Our Ref: PLE/KHU/HTLET

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

It is with great sadness that I am writing to you, at the end of our first week as Huxlow Academy, as the whole nation mourns the loss of our dear Queen. The news that came through yesterday has thrown a sombre mood across the school today. All of our students have spent today's Form Time and assembly remembering, with gratitude, the Queen's life of unwavering service for her country, the commonwealth, and her people. Next week we will be setting up a condolence box for students to write messages that they may wish to send to the Royal Family or to express how they feel about the Queen and her life.

Earlier this week, I spoke to all of our students across every year group from Years 7 to 13. The theme of my presentation was around the idea of 'Legacy.' I asked every student to consider what their legacy will be at the end of this year; What will their friends, other students, staff, parents, and the local community say about them if they are asked at the end of the year? What better example of creating a legacy of service, respect and honour could we have than that left by our Queen. Her legacy mirrors our own core values of Respect and Pride and we will be reflecting on this further over the coming few weeks.

We are aware that many students will be unsettled by this sad news and the impact it may have on their family. If they require any support, please contact their Form Tutor, and encourage them to speak to their trusted adult in school. I will communicate any further arrangements that effect the school as they are confirmed.

Our driving aim at Huxlow Academy is to move forward and continue on our improvement journey in order to become a proud community of exceptional learners. If every member of our community demonstrates our values of ambition, respect, and pride in everything that we do, our joint legacy cannot fail to be positive and powerful. I know that you are fully behind this drive and will continue to support your children and our staff to build our legacy for the future of everyone.

I do want to congratulate our students on what has been a very successful start to the term. It has been a real pleasure to be in their company again and to see how keen they are to embrace their learning and the many opportunities that are coming up over the year. I would particularly like to mention our new Year 7 who have settled in superbly well and have already become a key part of our community. Their enthusiasm is infectious and new friendships can be seen blossoming across the year group.

I would like to thank you all for supporting our systems to ensure a smooth start, with high expectations of behaviour and dress. The students have been quick to adapt to some new approaches and are really showing pride in these areas.

The calm atmosphere throughout the day has been palpable, and students and staff are enjoying getting down to our core business of learning. The new facilities such as the canopy over the quad, more seating areas and the wider CCTV coverage are already making a difference to the students' enjoyment and safety.

We are in the process of finalising the latest updates to our uniform policy and this will be sent out to you as soon as it is ratified by our Trust Board. In the meantime, students have had clear guidance in assemblies around expectations. Following student and parental feedback one change is to allow fully black leather style shoes such as Air Force Ones, but they **must** be completely black and polishable, and students must remove the metal tags from the laces before wearing them to school. Polished shoes are still the preferred option.

As we start the new term, and the weather begins to turn, the traffic at the start and ends of the day has increased. Please respect our neighbours, and the safety of all in our community, by parking responsibly when picking up or dropping off your child. Please do not park in bus laybys, on the zigzag lines or across our neighbours' driveways.

To reduce congestion outside the school entrance, please drop your child off further along the road and ask them to walk up. Please do not turn around or drop students off in the school access area from the road, as students are constantly crossing this area and buses need to enter and leave the site. We will also be reminding students who cycle to and from school to do so in a safe manner. Please reinforce these messages with your child. Thank you for your cooperation in this area.

Next Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> September, I look forward to meeting many of the new Year 7 parents when we will hold our Transition Project Exhibition, between 3.30 and 5.30p.m. We are really excited to celebrate what the students have achieved over the summer.

This event will be closely followed by our Open Evening on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September for prospective new students and their parents. More details will be sent out via our feeder schools and social media soon. It is exciting to be able to hold these events and welcome you back into our school after the last few years of restrictions.

Finally, I am pleased to inform you that we have launched our new Huxlow Academy website. You will find that is far easier to navigate and find information about the school. We will be continuing to add further information over the coming term. You view the site by searching Huxlow in Google or following this link: [Huxlow Academy - Thriving Through Excellence](#)

To help you plan for the coming term, below is a reminder of some of the key events taking place across this term.

- Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September - Year 7 Exhibition
- Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September - Open Evening
- Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October - Year 11 Subject Evening
- Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October - Year 11 Mocks (in lessons, all week)
- Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October - School closes to students
- Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October - Training Day
- Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October - School reopens to students
- Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November - TENC Open Evening at Rushden Academy
- Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November - Year 7 Tutor Evening
- Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November - Year 10 Mocks (all week)
- Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November - Year 11 Parents Evening
- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December - Year 10 Parents Evening
- Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December - Year 13 Parents Evening
- Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December - School closes to students

- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January - Training Day
- Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January - School reopens to students

Please have a pleasant weekend as we reflect on the loss of our cherished Queen and the succession to King Charles III.

Yours faithfully



Paul Letch  
Headteacher