



# Huxlow Academy

Ambition • Respect • Pride

Our Ref: PLE/KHU/HTLet

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

We are at the end of what has been a long and busy term. As we look back at what has been achieved since we became Huxlow Academy in September, we can be very proud of the progress we have made towards our goal of 'thriving through excellence.'

All areas of the school have seen rapid development around expectations and the curriculum being delivered, and the staff have been working hard on building a curriculum experience that is ambitious and aspirational. Alongside this, as we return in January, we will again focus on the clear expectations and systems we have set out within our Behaviour for Life Policy to ensure students understand fully how they should access school every day to ensure they can learn successfully. We all appreciate the support we get from parents in reinforcing and maintaining these standards with your children.

One area we will be tackling in January is the minority of students that continue to attend school in non-uniform hoodies and then refuse to remove them in the colder weather. In January we will have a stock Huxlow jumpers available to give to these students to wear during the day and refusal to change for the day will result in sanctions in line with our behaviour policy. Again, we thank you for your support in ensuring your child attends school in full Huxlow uniform.

Huxlow is a very special community and there was a real buzz in school last week as we raised funds for Nanna's and Save the Children through a variety of events. Staff gamely put themselves forward to take part in I'm a Celebrity challenges, a Lip Sync competition and arm wrestling! It is a testament to all those that took part that we raised over £400 across the week. Thank you for supporting these great causes. I don't think we will ever forget Mr Ironmonger's Beyonce performance, and some very competitive staffs' wrists may never be the same again after the arm wrestling. These events bring a real smile to everyone's faces and this was topped off by a kaleidoscope of festive colour on Christmas Jumper Day. Students have also been getting involved all month taking part in the inter-house Fitness Advent Calendar challenges. House points have also been available for form entries in an ongoing World Cup Predictor Score League. Mr Davies and Miss Crepin's forms were neck and neck at the time of writing.

I also wanted to pay tribute to our Sixth Form Student Leaders who have led the way in collecting items for our Christmas Hamper Appeal. With your support we have created a huge number of hampers to deliver to care homes and St. Peter's Church for distribution. Thank you again for your support of our wider community.

Other events, on a list too long to detail, have included a very successful focus on mental health with the Talk Out Loud Mental Health Awareness Team, a trip for Sixth Form students to the Cambridge University Library to do research for their EPQ, the launch of the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, a Year 9 bowling evening and a very lively and fun Year 7 disco last night. Unfortunately, due to a recent rise in illness we had to cancel some events

and trips, but these are being planned for the new year, giving us more to look forward to in the remaining winter months. Further details will be sent home in January.

One of the highlights of the year is the Huxlow Christmas Lunch. This year saw a record number of students choosing to eat together in the hall. Our catering team produced an extremely tasty Christmas lunch and this Huxlow community event was once again thoroughly enjoyed by all.

We are so lucky to have our catering team working hard to provide nutritious meals at a low price every day for our students. We are also excited to announce that from January they will be working as a part of Aspens, a market leading contract catering company that specialise in school food.

Aspens central values of providing a choice of delicious, healthy home cooked foods that expand the taste buds of our students, chimes perfectly with the passion of Team Einstein's. We are looking forward to seeing some innovative dishes, along with the traditional favourites, being served from our canteen and the outdoor Pod in the Quad next term. If you would like to read more about Aspens, please follow this link: [About Us – Aspens Services \(aspens-services.co.uk\)](#). Further details of how the catering services will operate will be shared with you before we return and news on further developments will be sent out as the team settle in over the coming weeks. Wisepay will continue to be used for prepayment.

We are very aware that the break will present some challenges for many of our families and below you will find some links and information that you may find useful to access.

- North Northamptonshire Council recognises that it will be unaffordable for some to heat their homes for as long as they normally would this winter. They are therefore providing and supporting warm spaces at our Libraries across the area in their Warm Spaces Initiative. Warm Spaces will provide somewhere a person can go to get warm, for free, and enjoy a hot drink. Other Warm Spaces are available across North Northamptonshire along with places that can support with food, as well as further information about Council and Government support. This can be found on the council's Cost of Living pages <https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk/cost-living>.
- CIRV (Community Initiative to Reduce Violence) have produced a very helpful list of support and a list of foodbanks and hot meals that are available this Christmas, which can be found via this [link](#). CIRV also continue their work across the community and within schools and their latest newsletter can be found [here](#).

Below are also some links and contacts details to use if you feel you need further support for your child:

- **The Lucy Faithfull Foundation.** Helpline for Child Sexual Abuse - Stop It Now! Confidential Helpline 0808 1000 900
- For age 6 years and upwards, **Kooth** offer support with mental wellbeing [www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com)
- **NSPCC Childline** - Call 0800 1111.
- **Mental Health** - Text 'SHOUT' to 85258 - free, confidential, 24/7 text messaging support service for anyone who is struggling to cope with a range of mental health issues.
- **CEOP** children or young people who are worried about online sexual abuse or the way someone has been communicating with them online. <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre>

Please read [this letter](#) from the NHS, regarding COVID-19 and the seasonal booster which is being offered to those children who are more at risk.

North Northamptonshire County Council would also like your feedback on the impact of COVID-19. If you would like to share your feedback with the council, please access this [questionnaire](#).

We have been asked again to request that you park and pick up your children thoughtfully outside and in the surrounding estates near school. Please avoid blocking entrances and do not drop students off on the zig zag lines or the entrance to the school gates. This is for the safety of all our students and neighbours.

I am immensely proud of the students and staff at Huxlow, especially with how they have embraced the changes that have been introduced throughout 2022. We continue to plan for further developments next year and I know everyone will continue to work together to realise the ambition we have for our school. It was a pleasure to see our staff present and roll out the new improvement developments that were generated together throughout this term. These innovations focus on aspects of communication, improving our environment, teaching and learning, and leadership. Staff will be developing further innovation improvements next term, and this clearly demonstrates their ambition and commitment to our mission. They deserve a well-earned rest!

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to some valued staff at the end of this term. After 14 years, Ms Dudley is moving on to new challenges and leadership responsibilities elsewhere. She has been such a positive influence on so many students and families over the years who I know are very grateful. Miss Griffiths is leaving the Science team and her Head of Year role. Her impact on Sixth Form, particularly in supporting those students applying to top universities and Science courses, has been clear. Mr Darnbrook has secured himself a new post as Head of Maths after earning his spurs as Second in Maths at Huxlow. His energy and care will be missed by his colleagues and the students, particularly his form group. Miss Kitson also leaves our learning support team after many years working closely and successfully to help students access their learning. We wish them all luck in their new roles.

Finally, I would like to wish you and all of our students a very happy Christmas. We look forward to seeing everyone return safely and refreshed on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January**.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to you all.

Yours faithfully



Mr Paul Letch  
Headteacher