



# Huxlow Academy

Ambition • Respect • Pride

Our Ref: PLE/KHU/HTLet

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

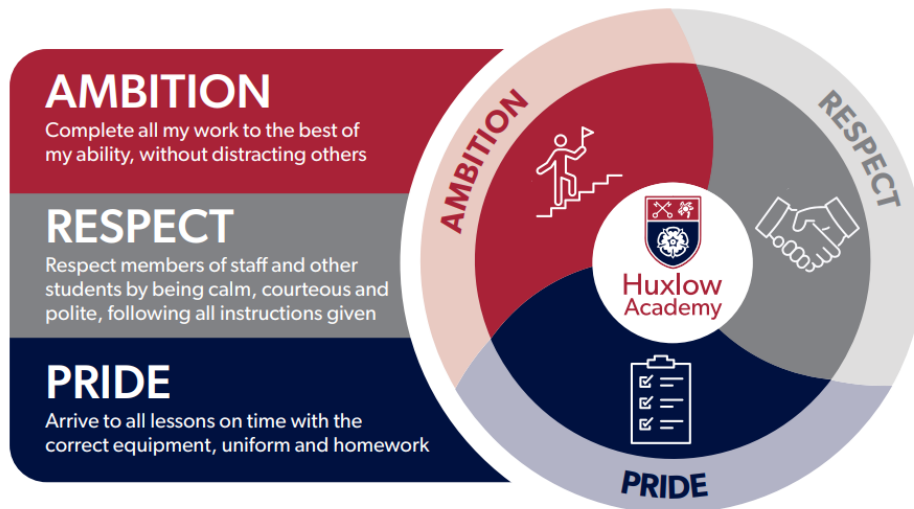
I hope you enjoyed the two bank holiday weekends and have been able to take the opportunity to relax and spend time together. As I have written recently to update you on school closure information, I wanted to share with you some of the many exciting activities that have continued to take place, and the progress we continue to make in our improvement plans at Huxlow.

Our Huxlow Way and Classroom Rules posters have been going up across the school. These serve as a reminder to us all of the central character traits we value and aspire to at Huxlow, alongside the core expectations that students should follow every day. Please take a moment to familiarise yourself and discuss these statements with your children as we are regularly reminding students of them and they form the central plank of our rewards and behaviour sanctions systems. The vast majority of our students live and work to these values daily and it was very pleasing to hear some students last week commenting on and correcting each other's behaviours by reminding each other of 'The Huxlow Way.' Recognising and valuing clear and positive character traits are key to the work we have been embedding to ensure your child's continued personal development. We know that you will continue to support us in this ongoing work by reinforcing them at home.

## The Huxlow Way

 <h3>AMBITION</h3> <p>At Huxlow we are curious about our learning. We are committed to, and excited about pursuing excellence in everything we do. We strive to be the best version of ourselves.</p>	 <h3>RESPECT</h3> <p>Huxlow is a safe and supportive community that promotes tolerance, responsibility and trust. Our staff and students are kind to each other and approach every day with an open mind and positive mindset.</p>	 <h3>PRIDE</h3> <p>Huxlow staff and students take responsibility for leaving a positive legacy. We support and celebrate success as individuals, as a school, and as a wider community. <b>We are Team Huxlow!</b></p>
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# Classroom Rules



Clearly, having the 'Huxlow Way' and 'Classroom Rules' on display across the school serves to remind us all of our framework for working and living together successfully, and these values are also being embedded in everything we do. Developing our students' character through our curriculum, leadership opportunities, clubs, activities, and all of our daily interactions is key to supporting students becoming impressive, ambitious, and respectful young people that are confident and proud of who they are. I have immense pride in the many achievements of our wonderful students every day.

Our Duke of Edinburgh students recently completed their practice expedition and will be attempting their assessed expedition next week. Mrs Sanderson and Miss Crepin gave up their weekend to support the students and were keen to let me know what a fantastic group of students they were. They really demonstrated 'The Huxlow Way' by facing the challenge with positivity, humour, and determination. Next Monday evening, I am looking forward to popping up to join them at Grafham Water to hear their tales from Day 1 and wish them luck for Day 2. It is a tough challenge to complete but I know they are a group that will support each other to overcome anything that may arise across the two days.

Our Sports Leaders continue to visit Primary schools to deliver Dance workshops and are working with Year 7 to run sessions as part of the Girls Do Sport initiative. Feedback from everyone involved has been universally positive and the below statement from Irthlingborough Junior School Year 3 staff fully reflects the values we have set out above. Well done, to everyone involved.

*'I just wanted to say a big thank you to your dance leaders, they were brilliant today. Both in terms of their performances and their leadership skills. Our kids were truly inspired and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. It was great how they broke down the moves, which enabled our students to remember what to do. Lots of them continued to perform their dances at playtime. We are looking forward to the leaders coming back to work with Year 6.'*

Year 12 students from across TENC have recently returned from a residential trip to London. This cultural and team building opportunity was led by Mrs Holmes and Mrs Avey. New friendships were made, and growing independence nurtured in the students involved. Their experiences together set them up for the hard work required over the current assessment period. Bringing students together from across the schools of TENC is one of the many positives of the consortium and key to preparing them for the world beyond Huxlow, and their next steps in life.

Our ambitious Year 11 were amazing as they recently took on the challenge of their French speaking exams. Miss Maubert and her team have been very impressed by the determination and effort they have shown and the resultant quality of their overall performance as they start the formal examination period.

We have been pleased to recently see some drier weather and this has allowed us to reopen the field to the students at break and lunchtimes. It has been lovely to see the students playing together and burning off some energy. We have supervision from staff on the field at all times, but please remind your child to always play together sensibly and kindly, and use the bins provided for any litter they may generate.

Alongside the field opening, we have made some changes to how we run the hall at lunchtimes. Something staff identified with students was the need for a greater opportunity to sit with friends and eat together in a more formal canteen style setting. Last week we rolled out our new approach where students purchasing food in the canteen are asked to sit and eat before leaving the hall. The new system ensures trays and litter are returned before departure and we have begun to provide big screen entertainment such as cartoons and music to enhance the environment further. Reward tokens will be rolled out in the coming weeks for students to earn house points for demonstrating the 'Huxlow Way'. My greatest delight was to see students chatting and playing card games together after they had finished eating, and some staff joining students to eat lunch together too. These changes are all part of our moves to create a respectful and calm environment for students and staff at Huxlow. As ever, we are already reviewing the new systems and will be tweaking them over the coming days. Very soon, we plan to have the Pod in the Quad fully open to enable students to purchase canteen items from an alternative location and the Aspens team are also awaiting the arrival and fitting of new hot counters to enable them to once again offer the full range of hot food meal options to students.

Finally, a plea from our Design and Technology Department. They are looking to make local and national links within the creative and manufacturing industries to support our students in their knowledge, experience, and the understanding of these areas. If this is something you could assist with, or you know someone who can, please contact Mr Turner. We are always looking for ambitious opportunities to develop all of our curriculum areas and enhance the experience and learning of our students.

I will be able to update you soon on a very busy and successful period of recruitment to our staff team ready for September. It is a privilege to work with our passionate staff every day as we work to ensure we are 'Thriving Through Excellence'.

As ever, thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully



Paul Letch  
Headteacher