



Our Ref: LCO/LKN/7&8HOY  
Date: 11th January 2023

Dear Parent/Carers,

Happy New Year 2023 to you and your family. I would like to take this opportunity to re-introduce myself, I am Mrs Lou Cory and with the departure of Mrs Griffiths over the Christmas break, I have been appointed as Head of Year for both Years 7 and 8 for the rest of this academic year. It was great to see our students happy to be back at Huxlow last week, and I am looking forward to working with you again this year, to support the wellbeing and academic journey of your child.

All of our students have settled well into the routines of Huxlow and embraced our values of Respect, Ambition and Pride. They have also stepped up to the challenge of senior school academic, sporting and social opportunities. We have been very pleased with their progress and commitment throughout the first term, and how they have all adjusted well to the demands and expectations of Huxlow.

We have a couple of changes to the Pastoral Team this term, and I am very pleased to welcome Mr Matthew King, who is working with 8CDA, and Mrs Rachel Neuville, as our administrative support. If you have any queries, we encourage you to contact your child's form tutor in the first instance. We will endeavour to reply within 48 hours. The relevant contact details are listed:

Mrs R Neuville  
Mrs L Cory  
8CDA – Mr M King

[r.neuville@huxlow.northants.sch.uk](mailto:r.neuville@huxlow.northants.sch.uk)  
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As many of you appreciate, like my Pastoral Team colleagues above, I am a full-time teacher and as such, it is not always possible for me to speak with you without an appointment as I may be teaching. However, should you have any queries or concerns relating to your child, I am pleased to confirm I have a few dedicated "Office Hours" each week, during the school day, when I would be happy to make face-to-face appointment, Teams Meetings, or schedule telephone calls with parents. Alternatively, we can arrange to meet between 4.00pm -5.00pm, after the academy day, most days. Incidentally, should you have any urgent or general enquires you can contact Mrs Neuville or School Reception, respectively.

### **Uniform Expectation**

In conjunction with our Academy Value – Pride - students across the year groups have been looking very smart when wearing the uniform correctly and following expectations. These expectations, for Year 7 and Year 8, prohibit the wearing of some jewellery items, makeup and false/gel nails or coloured varnishes. There will be follow up for incidents relating to uniform. Furthermore, at this time of year it is advisable to include wearing suitable black waterproof footwear and an outdoor coat over their uniform. Please note that hoodies are not acceptable and should be removed when entering the school gate. It is a requirement that the school blazer be always worn, throughout the year. For a reminder about our uniform expectations, please consult our website.

### **Devices and social media**

As you are aware, we are a device-free school and the general approach towards this restriction has been positive. Please bear this in mind when contacting your child during the school day, as students found using their devices will be expected to hand them over to be collected at the end of the school day. Furthermore, it is difficult for the team to deal with incidents of online 'unkindness' whilst the students are at home. Please be vigilant, closely monitor their device use daily, and challenge unacceptable behaviour.

I would like to mention again that it may be beneficial to their wellbeing if you, and the students, were to consider the age restrictions for many of the social media platforms that are out there. Since April 2018, the minimum age for most is now 13 years old, in line with GDPR regulations, with some raising to 16 years old. For further information on the age limits please see: <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/blog/age-restrictions-social-media-services>

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

On the whole attendance was good last term, but with lots of cold and flu bugs around we did see dips and troughs for some students. I hope that they all had a well-earned rest over the break and have come back refreshed and healthy for Spring Term. You can check the attendance for your child on the Go4Schools app. Our target is 96% and many of our students are working towards achieving this following time off last term.

Should a student be absent on any day, you must contact Huxlow Academy as soon as possible, by e-mail [reception@huxlow.northants.sch.uk](mailto:reception@huxlow.northants.sch.uk) or by telephone 01933 650496, giving a reason for the absence. The Academy should be informed before morning registration, which is at 8.50a.m. This should be repeated for each day of absence. Please provide appointments cards and letters for medical and dental appointments to allow us to set this as authorised absence on their attendance record.

With regards to punctuality, it will always be an issue with traffic hot spots in some areas so please plan your journey to allow for these. The time of mandatory attendance is between 8.50am and 3.10pm. Students can arrive from 8.30am, when staff are available on site.

May I once again draw your attention to the 2022-23 Term Time Calendar on our website to ensure that family holidays and avoidable events are taken outside of these dates. Should you need to book special leave for exceptional circumstances, please apply in writing to [head@huxlow.northants.sch.uk](mailto:head@huxlow.northants.sch.uk)

### **Social Opportunities**

We have lots of great things happening this term. This week 45 Year 7 and 45 Year 8 students will be visiting the Warner Bros Studio - Harry Potter World with the English and Drama Departments. The students have been made aware of the sporting and social clubs at school, during LORIC. This information is also available on the website. Children who attend clubs and organised social events make friends, learn new skills, take part in supervised activities, and ultimately gain confidence. Following the success of the Year 7 End of Term Disco, I am looking forward to arranging a similar event for Year 7 and Year 8 this year. You will be notified of these nearer the time.

I am so proud of every one of the students who have stepped out of their comfort zone and taken part in a wide range of co-curricular and social activities: from wearing their organisation uniform for Remembrance Day, the Christmas disco, Winter Concert, Ukulele Challenge, or joining our lunchtime, and afterschool clubs. Also, well done to the students who have represented the Academy and their community groups, in music, dancing, gymnastics, football, netball, swimming or running competitions here, and across the county. With each step, their confidence and resilience is growing to build a strong foundation for their future. Once again, we look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child at Huxlow Academy.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs Lou Cory  
Head of Year 7 & Year 8