



Our ref: NAR/PLE/headteacherlett/7Mar24

07 March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

As this is such a short half term leading up to the Easter break I wanted to give you an update on our latest activities at Huxlow Academy.

When we returned after half term, I led assemblies to every student at Huxlow around the power and impact that negative language can have on others, both inside and outside of our community. The key aspects covered were the use of racist, sexist and homophobic language and how this can make others feel. Unfortunately, instances of this type of unacceptable language are experienced in school and we tackle these robustly, however often this language is firstly experienced beyond our gates and students bring in the belief that jokes and derogatory comments about certain groups are acceptable. I have asked them, and I now ask you as parents and community members, to challenge each other where such language is heard. Only by being challenged regularly will our students and our wider society become a safer community that celebrates the diversity of individuals within it. I have raised with students that the use of swearing in general discussion is an example of 'lazy language' that only adds an air of aggression to their discourse. Please remind your children that swearing is not acceptable in polite society and especially in a workplace such as our school. Staff will be challenging and sanctioning any instances of the use of the above language at Huxlow. This is a key aspect of our Respect value.

Leading up to and into half term we had some students and staff travelling far and wide to have experiences that will both develop them as young people and provide memories they will cherish.

A group of year 11 students from across TENC, accompanied by Mr Coutts, had the opportunity to visit communities in and around Chennai in India. The trip was organised through the charity Salt of the Earth, who introduced the students to several of the projects they support, including support for children and schools, as well as providing health care and fresh water to villages. The students spent the year fundraising for the trip, which included a donation to the charity to construct a water tank and bore pipeline, providing fresh water to an entire village. Our students acted as exemplary ambassadors during the trip and have been left with a unique perspective and experience.

At the beginning of half-term, fifty three Year 11 students embarked on a five day Paris adventure. They had the opportunity to visit the Opéra Garnier, admire the Mona Lisa, and visit the Conciergerie - a mediaeval prison where Marie-Antoinette spent her last days. What next? Climbing to the top of the Galeries Lafayette huge and magnificent department store, enjoying a sunny lunch in front of Notre-Dame, seeing the Eiffel Tower from many different angles and light, exploring the artistic area of Montmartre, cruising on the river Seine and so much more.



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The students were absolutely amazing and impressed the staff on so many levels. Not only was their behaviour absolutely perfect, but they were also joyous, curious, and resilient. Real ambassadors for our Huxlow values. #Pride#Ambition#Respect. Staff and students came back buzzing from a great social and cultural experience. Memories made and plans to come back!

On Friday 1st March we welcomed Year 6 from Irthlingborough Junior School for a Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths Day in our Design and Technology workshops. The students were looking at aerodynamics and how to produce a vehicle to race as effectively as possible along a track. They focused on measurement and scale along with cutting, drilling, finishing techniques and the forces involved in the project. Year 6 had a 'fabulous' day with great success and the students learned so many new skills in a practical learning environment, each taking home their race car. This was helped greatly by the support of our Sixth Form TENC Design and Technology students who supported and developed their production and organisational skills.

On Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March, Year 8 students took part in a theatre performance and workshop 'Smashed!' that was delivered by a theatre company who are currently travelling across the country. The message is of three teenagers who make decisions regarding alcohol and supports the PSHE Association's programme of study for the Key Stage. Students were engaged in the performance and the workshop, asking insightful questions and gaining an insight into how making different decisions would lead to very different outcomes. It enabled students to improve knowledge, social awareness, and decision-making skills around the subject of underage drinking.

On 5th March, sixteen Year 10 students had the opportunity to visit Kettering General Hospital and participate in a series of talks, part of the Next Gen project. The 'your future career' event was exclusively for year 10 students with a keen interest in a future career in health or care. The students spent the morning with professionals in a range of health and social care settings, including physiotherapy, paramedics, podiatry and health care.

### Coming up soon we have Charity Week running in the week of 11th - 15th March

This term's charity week is being run by our student leadership team. They have been working hard to organise events and are hoping to raise money for two charities - Headway: a local brain injury charity in Irthlingborough and Comic Relief on Friday 15th.

There will be events happening throughout the week, such as staff netball, student vs. staff The Chase and Karaoke. On Friday 15th March, we are asking for students and staff to dress in fancy dress - **this is not a mufti day** - but a bit of fun to support the charity and raise some money. £1 donation on this day please, collected in forms by the student's leadership team. Other events will be supporting an ex-student who is running the London money to raise money for the local charity and we will be collecting money throughout the day. There will also be a link available to donate online. We thank you for your continued support.

At the start of the new term, we have had some key new support staff to Team Huxlow. We are very happy to welcome new members of our finance team, learning support team, behaviour support team, first aid team and reception team.



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These staff will take up important roles in supporting our students and parents to ensure the smooth running of the school and enable students to be in school and learn effectively. I know you will work with them constructively and respectfully should they or you have the need to make contact about an aspect of their roles.

Finally, I am very excited to report that we have been accepted as a bidder with the FA in our attempts to secure the funding for a 3G football pitch on site. We will now progress to the next stage of completing surveys and putting our bid together. A key part of this bid will be the creation of a community facility and the involvement of community groups from beyond the school in its future use. Please reach out to us at school if you have any interest in using the 3G pitch for any activity should it be successful. The funding we are requesting is part of the FA Lionesses fund that aims to grow girls football following the successful Euros campaign. The bid will need to be presented in January 2025, with a view to a decision in April for a possible summer 2025 build programme. We are asked to provide at least half of the funding for the project, which is a considerable amount. We are keen to hear from potential sponsors and partners to contribute and support our bid. The FA would guarantee to match any funding we raise. If you have contacts who would personally like to discuss this exciting project with me, please call the school office on 01933 650496 to make an appointment.

I will be sending a link home next week that will take you to our annual parent survey. Please keep an eye out as we are keen to have your input to help us to plan the next phase of development and improvement at Huxlow.

Kind regards

Mr P Letch  
Headteacher