



Our Ref: PLE/RNE/HTLett

Date: 1st December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

It has been another busy period at Huxlow Academy and we continue to make changes to better support our students and ensure quality learning is taking place in the school.

Head of Year Appointments

We are pleased to announce the recent appointment of two existing members of staff, Mr J Sam and Miss C Warboys, to the pastoral teams to take on the roles of Head of Year 7 and Head of Year 8 respectively. Mr Sam is already a member of the Year 7 team and Miss M Pistokula will take over 7JSM as form tutor. Ms Nash will be supporting Miss Warboys with her tutor group while Miss Warboys takes over as Head of Year 8. Students have been informed of this during assembly this week. I would like to thank Mrs Gauvrit and Mr Knowles who have been supporting these Year groups for the majority of this term. We are looking forward to having a full contingent of Heads of Year across all our year groups going forwards. Mr Sam and Mrs Warboys are passionate about supporting their year groups to be the best they can be, and I know they will appreciate your support as they take on these key roles in the school.

Outside of the usual curriculum we have had some varied and thought-provoking visitors in recent weeks:

Wasted! – 23rd November 2023

Students in Year 7 had an opportunity to experience a drama performance by Northampton College. The college had worked alongside Engage, a drugs and alcohol support group who were delivering messages relating to drugs and alcohol abuse through theatre. The students performed before a question-and-answer session relating to the performance and decisions that one of the main characters had made. The purpose of the session was to highlight the dangers around alcohol and drug abuse, as well as the effects this can have on relationships. This supports the PSHE curriculum around Healthy Relationships.

Nattashia – 24th November 2023

Nattashia (pronounced Natasha) is a history-making DJ/electronic music artist and ambassador for Multiculturalism. Year 8, 9 and 11 experienced her musical talents integrated with messages and stories, promoting positive messages about mental health and equality to our students. Her vocal style, music and live performances certainly gave our students an opportunity to deliver important PSHE content in an alternative way. Students even had the opportunity to meet Nattashia at the end and ask for a signing of her flyer as a memento.

We are also planning a busy period as we build up to the Christmas break. Alongside Year 11 working hard to prepare for sitting their mock exams next week, we are keen to bring the Christmas Spirit into school for the next few weeks. Events planned are set out below

Charity week - 11th - 15th December

The student leadership team has been busy organising our first charity week of the year. This will take place during the penultimate week of the term and the students are organising some exciting activities to raise money for some important charities. Staff rap battle, staff penalty shoot out and I'm a Huxlow Celebrity, get me out of here! will be happening during the week, with tickets for each of these events on sale at 50p each during lunch times next week. Christmas jumper day will be held on the 14th December. School uniform will be worn but the blazer and jumper can be replaced on this day by a Christmas jumper in exchange for a donation of £1. Money raised for this will be going to Save the Children. All other money raised will be donated to a young local boy fighting cancer. As well as this, the student leadership team are organising food hampers to deliver to St Peter's Church to be distributed out to the local community. Any donations for these hampers are welcome and students will be producing form hampers as part of a house competition. Thank you, as always, for your continued support for our wider community.

Winter Showcase

I would like to invite you to attend our Winter Showcase of music, drama and dance on Monday 18th December. The evening starts at 6pm and is always a wonderful evening of talent that gets us in the mood for the upcoming festivities. Entry is free on the night, and I really would encourage you to join us if you can.

Letters have also been sent home regarding our traditional Christmas lunches and other year group activities such as upcoming movie nights so everyone should feel some Christmas spirit over the rest of the term.

Lunchtime Clubs

Our school site only has limited indoor social spaces, and whilst many students enjoy being outside at lunch and break times, staff are introducing a wider range of clubs for them to access indoors during our now longer lunchtimes. These are advertised regularly on our presentation screens around the school and during form times. Please encourage your children to try something new when they see it available as there really is something for everyone. The list of activities before the end of term includes board games, dance, vocalise, indoor football, netball, string instruments, speaking and debating, diversity, dodgeball, film club, heavy rock and metal club, badminton, show rehearsal, drama, Christmas decoration making and basketball.

Now that the weather has changed, please can we also ask that students bring and wear jumpers, blazers and coats to protect themselves from the winter wet and cold.

Equipment list

As gifts are purchased for Christmas, we would like to remind you that we have an expected equipment list that students should bring to school each day. Please check your child still has everything and replenish any gaps in time for the return to school in January. Having this equipment enables lessons to proceed without disruption and your child to complete tasks being asked of them more easily. The expected equipment list can be found via this [link](#)

Please also remind your child that all students should have a reading book with them every day. Reading sessions are an important part of our form time programme and English lessons, and we will also ask students to read their books when attending Resets so that time is constructively used.

Last day of term

Finally a reminder that the last day of term takes place on Wednesday 20th December 2023 and school reopens to students on Thursday 4th January 2024.

Thank you for your ongoing support over this busy and long term.

Kind regards,



Mr P Letch
Headteacher