



Newsletter



24th October
2025

Welcome from Mrs Isaksen

Welcome to the latest edition of our Huxlow Academy newsletter, a celebration of all that makes our school such a special place. Inside, you'll find updates, achievements, and examples that highlight why we are so proud of our students, staff, and wider community.

There has been tremendous interest in our continued progress following the Ofsted inspection in May 2025 and our fantastic GCSE results this summer. These successes reflect the impact of our unapologetically high expectations, strong relationships, and the collective effort of everyone at Huxlow. If you haven't already, I encourage you to read the recent feature in the *Northants Telegraph*, which captures our journey beautifully.

Our new Year 7 students have quickly embraced The Huxlow Way, settling in with enthusiasm and already making a positive contribution to school life.

Their kindness, willingness to support others, and determination to earn those Gold Stars for excellence are wonderful to see.

It was also a real pleasure to welcome so many families to our Open Evening on 1st October and during subsequent school-day tours. Visitors were full of praise for our students, their exemplary behaviour, commitment to learning, and evident pride in Huxlow truly stood out. These moments reaffirm the strength of the relationships between staff and students that underpin all we do.

As we approach the October break, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to every student, parent, carer, and member of staff. Your ongoing support and dedication make this role an absolute privilege. Together, we are achieving great things for our community.

Kim Isaksen



**Huxlow
Academy**

Ambition • Respect • Pride

Huxlow in the News



The Northants Telegraph recently visited our school to explore the transformative journey we've undergone since our last Ofsted report.

They emphasized the substantial positive changes that have occurred and the profound impact on our entire community.

Read the full article [here](#).

Kindness is The Huxlow Way

Our core values of ambition, respect, and pride are deeply ingrained in our school culture, influencing our decisions and the way we conduct ourselves daily.

Central to our ethos is kindness, which we believe embodies The Huxlow Way. This commitment to kindness fosters a supportive and nurturing environment that encourages every member of our community to thrive.

We uphold a strict policy against bullying, ensuring that it is never tolerated within our school. Our dedication to maintaining a safe and respectful environment is unwavering, as we strive to create a place where every individual feels valued and respected.



PREMADE

What does PREMADE stand for?

P – Prepare

This is where teachers carefully plan their lessons in line with the curriculum, establish clear success criteria, and tailor activities to meet the needs of all students in their classes. Teachers set the scene for learning by revisiting prior knowledge and sparking curiosity about what's to come.

R – Retrieve

Students practise retrieving what they already know. This strengthens long-term memory and helps them make connections between topics.

E – Explain

Teachers explain new ideas in small, clear steps, building on what students already understand.

M – Model

High-quality examples are shared so students can see what success looks like—whether that's writing an analytical paragraph, solving a maths problem, or setting up a science experiment.

A – Attempt and Assess

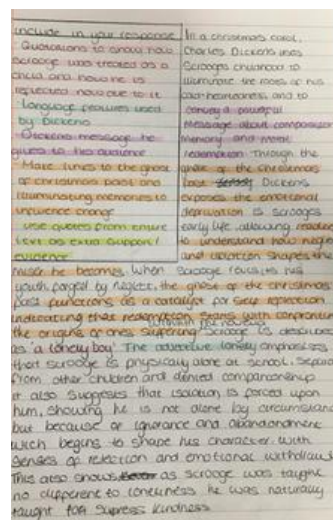
Teachers check understanding throughout the lesson using questions, discussion, and quick tasks, identifying who is ready to move on and who might need more support.

D – Deliberate Practice

Students have the opportunity to apply their learning independently, with feedback and guidance to help them refine their work and build confidence.

E – Evaluate

Students reflect on what they have learned, how well they have met the success criteria, and what they need to focus on next.



PREMADE

Why we use PREMADE

The PREMADE model ensures that every student experiences lessons that are **well-structured, purposeful, and focused on progress**. It supports high standards across the curriculum by making sure that:

- Lessons consistently revisit and build upon prior knowledge.
- Students are active participants in their learning, not passive listeners.
- Teachers can identify misunderstandings quickly and provide targeted support.
- The same learning language is used across the school, helping students transfer skills between subjects.

How it helps students “know and remember more”

Research into how the brain learns tells us that **memory is strengthened by retrieval and application**. PREMADE deliberately builds these opportunities into every lesson. Students repeatedly return to key knowledge, practise applying it in different contexts, and evaluate their understanding.

Over time, this approach means that learning becomes **secure, connected, and long-lasting**—so students can recall and use what they’ve learned with confidence in lessons, assessments, and real-life situations.

PREMADE at Huxlow Academy
Our Lesson Structure

• This is the sequence that teachers at Huxlow Academy use to plan and structure learning.
• Research has shown that by using these structures in a lesson, we can ensure that students learn and remember more.
• You can support your teachers and yourself, by knowing this sequence and the role that it can play in your school life.
• Through the sequence we build **ASPIRE** in what we are capable of, we show **RESPECT** to ourselves and others and do everything with **PRIDE**.

Prepare	
Retrieve	
Explain	
Model	
Attempt & Assess	
Deliberate Practice	
Evaluate	

www.doodlekit.com



My Child at School (MCAS)

Parent / Carer Sign up - You will need to use the email address we hold for you.

[MyChildAtSchool - Sign Up](#)

School Code: 15611

The system will invite you to create a password for MCAS. Please note you will need to have a minimum of 8 characters, including an UPPERCASE, lowercase, a number and a special character.

You are able to access MCAS via the web version at [My Child at School](#) or via the App. [MyChildAtSchool on the App Store](#) [MyChildAtSchool - Parent App - Apps on Google Play](#)

Student Portal

Student Portal - Redeem Invitation Code

School Code: 15611

Username and invitation codes have been emailed to all students' school email addresses who have yet to create their account.

If students have previously set up their account but are unable to remember their password, they can select password reset from the log in screen.

Once the account is created you are able to access the student portal via the web version at

[Student Portal](#) or via the App.

[MyChildAtSchool on the App Store](#) [MyChildAtSchool - Parent App - Apps on Google Play](#)

Further information will follow as we enable additional modules.

If you require further support, please email bromcom@huxlow.northants.sch.uk

Bromcom



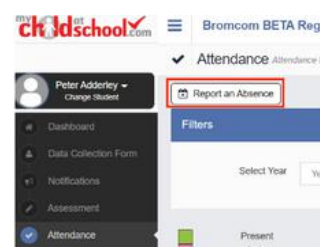
Following our transition to Bromcom as our new Management Information System (MIS), we are delighted to be extending the functionality to include reporting students' absence via My Child at School (MCAS).

Please use MCAS going forward and not MyEd.

Reporting an absence via My Child at School (MCAS)

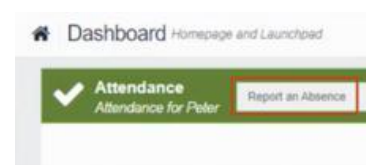
Desktop site:

Go to MyChildAtSchool > Dashboard > Attendance.
Click on the Report an Absence button.



Via the app

Go to the MCAS App > Attendance



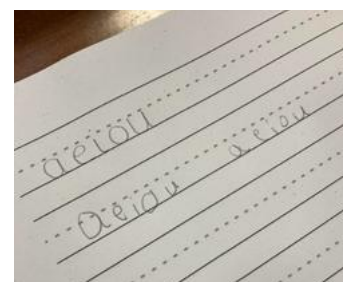
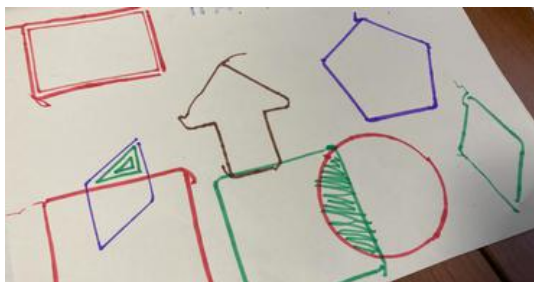
SEND Support at Huxlow Academy

At Huxlow Academy, we celebrate inclusion by building strong partnerships with parents and carers through our open-door policy, established in September.

Since then, we have met with and listened to 42% of parents of students with SEND, engaging in open discussions about how we can best support their child together.

Every morning, our dedicated Teaching Assistants also run a range of sensory interventions, including fine motor skills activities, designed to help students feel calm, focused, and ready to learn.

We are proud of the inclusive and nurturing environment we continue to create, and we warmly encourage parents to come and talk to us at any time if they have questions or would like to learn more about our SEND support.



Greatest improvement in the county!

Attainment 8 is one of the ways the government measures a school's performance. It is calculated by adding up the point scores from a student's best eight GCSE subjects, with certain subjects counting for more. It's a way to show a school's average academic performance based on its students' results. The score is calculated using a point-based scale, where 9 is the highest and 1 is the lowest.

The provisional attainment data has now been released to all schools for the 2025 GCSE results. Huxlow Academy has had the greatest improvement in Attainment 8 score compared to all other schools in the county, demonstrating the impact of our huge improvement journey so far!

Duke of Edinburgh Year 9 & 12

Mrs. Sandison is delighted to announce the formal launch of our recruitment process for the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Bronze Award. This is an exciting opportunity for students to engage in a journey of personal development and adventure.

We sent out a letter to parents and carers, providing all necessary information on how to sign up for the award.

A copy of the letter can be found [here](#).

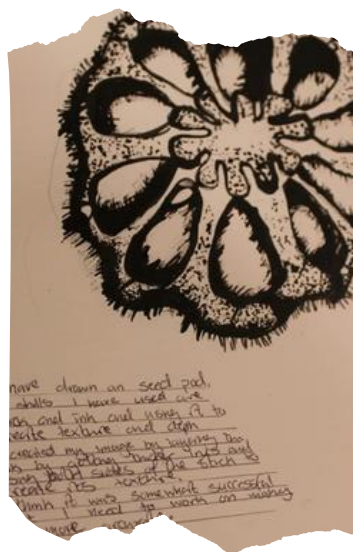
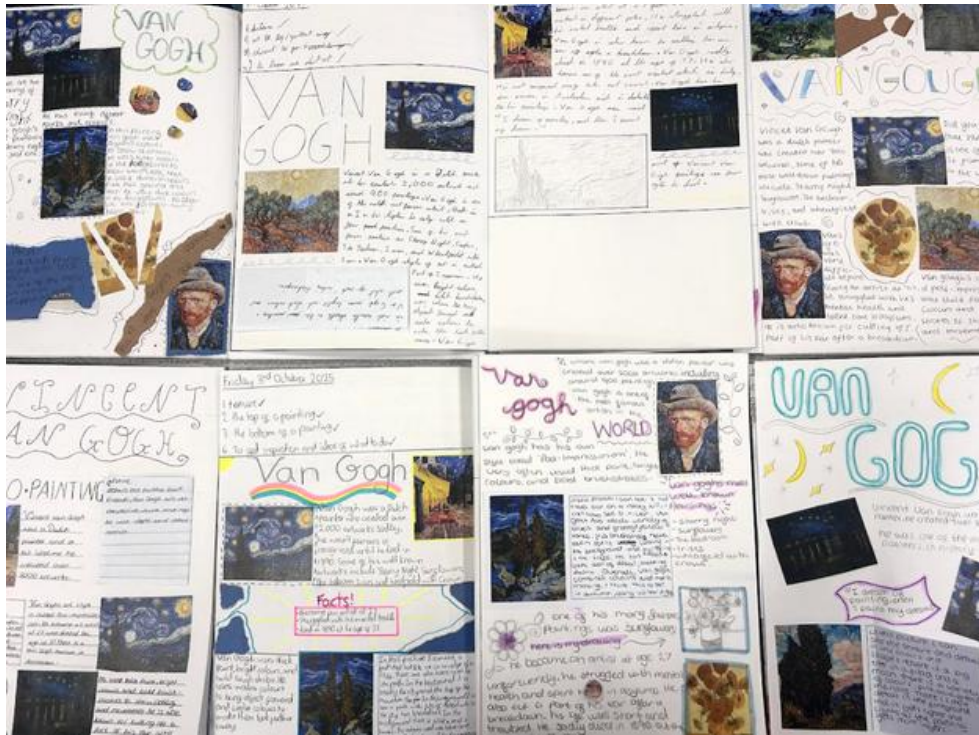
Please be reminded that the deadline to sign up for the DofE Bronze Award is Thursday, 13th November. We encourage you to ensure all sign-up procedures are completed by this date to guarantee your child's participation.

We look forward to welcoming new participants to the DofE Bronze Award program and supporting them on this rewarding journey!



Year 8 Art

Miss Knighton's Year 8 Art students are currently working on their Landscape project. Last Friday, we focused on developing our understanding of how to write an artist analysis, exploring the work of Vincent van Gogh. Students examined his different landscape paintings and discussed how he uses foreground, midground, background, and mark-making to create depth and texture in his work.



A showcase of artwork created by our talented students



Literacy

To enhance literacy and support students needing extra reading help, we have launched an initiative focused on bridging reading gaps and boosting confidence.

Importance of Reading Support:

- Reading is crucial for academic success, and challenges can hinder progress.
- Targeted support can improve comprehension, vocabulary, fluency, and overall performance.



Parents are encouraged to foster a positive reading environment at home, to enhance the effectiveness of this intervention.

Reading is a Superpower



As 'Reading is a Superpower' each Year 7 child has can select their own reading book from this year's Book Buzz offering.

Pumpkins

Year 10 pupils have been busy applying their retrieval skills and creating fantastic pumpkins to demonstrate their powerful knowledge of A Christmas Carol- their GCSE English Literature text.

They were able to recall judicious quotations, their subject terminology, the character they relate to and the theme that they convey.



Cucina

We encourage all students to take a moment to complete a feedback form about their experiences with the catering services provided by Cucina. Your insights and opinions are incredibly valuable as we work to enhance our services.

As a thank you for your time and effort, students will be entered into a draw for a chance to win a complimentary lunch on us!

Click [here](#) to participate.

HERE'S A REMINDER OF REASONS TO LOVE OUR FOOD!

- Tasty Food** - Fresh, chef-made meals you'll actually look forward to.
- Great Value** - Cheaper than most packed lunches or high street options.
- Energising & Balanced** - Meals that help you stay focused and fuelled for the school day.
- Made from Scratch** - 95% of our food is prepared on site.
- Something for Everyone** - Options for all diets, cultures, and preferences.
- Allergy-Friendly** - Clear labels + Allergy Buddy support if you need it.
- Eco & Safety First** - Eco-packaging and top food safety standards.
- Chilled Spaces** - Relaxed vibe, friendly team & fast contactless payment.

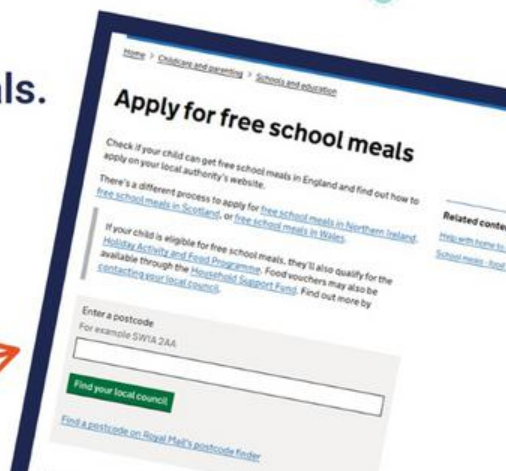
THERE IS SUCH A THING AS A FREE LUNCH!



You could be eligible for **free school meals**.

To check if you're eligible simply search "free school meals" and click on the government website!

No special treatment, you just get your food like you normally would!



WHAT'S COOKING AFTER HALF TERM?

There's lots to look forward to on the menu when students return after half term! Our caterers have refreshed the school restaurant offer to bring warm, hearty meals for the colder months, alongside fresh, lighter options – all designed to give students variety, balance, and great taste every day.

The new winter menu is full of comforting classics like roast Wednesdays and fish and chips Fridays, as well as tasty vegetarian and vegan dishes that make it easy to eat well.



MAKE IT A MEAL DEAL!

chill deal

For those who prefer something cold and easy, the Chill Deal is a great option – four items (such as a roll, yoghurt, fruit pot, or small home bake) all within the Free School Meal allowance.



OUR CONCEPTS AT LUNCHTIME

Our popular **StreetVibes** range brings a taste of the High Street to school with a build-your-own format. It's all about choice, flavour, and fun, encouraging students to create meals that suit their tastes. Each week, Tuesdays to Thursdays, a new concept will take centre stage, but the approach stays the same.

street VIBES

CHOOSE IT!

Whether its rice, noodles or salad, we have a variety of bases to create the foundations of a delicious dish.

ADD IT!

Add proteins such as grilled chicken, savoury beef or plant based alternatives.

TOP IT!

Top it with some chilli or a cool mayo, whichever finishes the dish right for you.



There's even more to enjoy – grab a **PowerBites** snack pot at break, try the **Naturally** vegetarian and vegan options, or start the day with a **free porridge breakfast**.

For anyone concerned about food allergies, our **Allergen Buddies** (purple hat and apron) are around to help with safe choices. Just ask!

Visit the restaurant to find out more!

Huxlow and Rushden Academy Sixth Form



Huxlow & Rushden Academy

SIXTH FORM

One Trust, Two Schools, One Vision of Excellence

Our students successfully gain places at Russell Group universities including Oxford and Cambridge

Our Sixth Form provision is Ofsted rated 'Good' at both Rushden and Huxlow Academy

Join us for our...

OPEN EVENING

Thursday 13th November 6pm - 8pm
at Rushden Academy



or scan here!

Sign up for one of two presentations at **6pm** or **7pm**

Join us for a tour of the school and the chance to chat with staff and students. Book today to reserve your place bit.ly/HARA2026

Rushden Academy

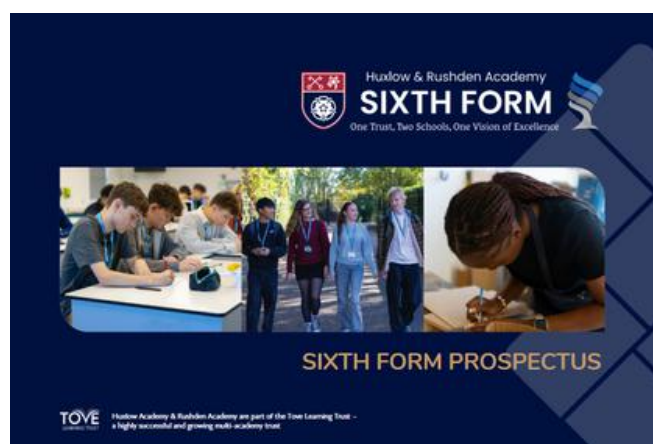
www.rushden-academy.net

Huxlow Academy

www.huxlow.northants.sch.uk

X Hara6th f HuxlowAndRushdenAcademySixthForm @ HuxlowRushdenSixthForm

Discover the exciting opportunities the Sixth Form has in store by taking a look at our [prospectus](#)!



SIXTH FORM PROSPECTUS

TOVE Huxlow Academy & Rushden Academy are part of the Tove Learning Trust - a highly successful and growing multi-academy trust

High School Musical

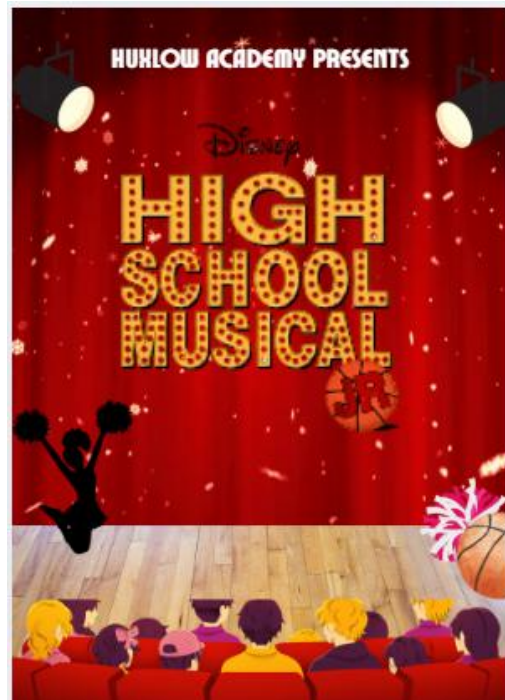
Our school musical production of High School Musical is officially in full swing, and the excitement is contagious!

The cast is growing steadily as more students catch the performing bug — it's wonderful to see so many enthusiastic faces joining the team.

Behind the scenes, our backstage crew is also expanding. They've already made fantastic progress, having designed both the set and costumes. Their creativity and teamwork are shining through every step of the way.

Next up?

The making begins! With construction and costume creation on the horizon, the energy is building and the buzz is real. We can't wait to see the magic come to life on stage.



Year 7 - Emerald Crown

We couldn't be prouder of our incredible Year 7 students who recently performed their mini musical, Emerald Crown. From start to finish, they brought energy, creativity, and confidence to the stage — and they did brilliantly!

It was a joy to welcome so many parents and carers to the performance. Your support means the world to our young performers, and it was lovely to meet you all and share in this special moment together.

A huge thank you goes to Mrs Ashcroft, whose dedication and passion have inspired such ambition in her lessons. Her hard work and encouragement helped bring Emerald Crown to life, and we are so grateful for the opportunities she creates for our students to grow and shine.



Hello Yellow Day

Positive Mental Health and supporting each other is so important. To celebrate Hello Yellow Day, our staff and students promoted positive mental health with messages and photos to show that we will support each other and promote positive mental health in our community.



Gold Star/Attendance Winners

The students listed below have accomplished an impressive feat: achieving 100% attendance along with the highest number of gold stars in their year group. Well done to each of you!



Prize Draw Winner

We are thrilled to announce that Zachary is our very worthy winner of the gold star prize draw!

His stellar efforts have earned him the top spot, and he chose the coveted AirPods as his prize. We couldn't be happier for him!

For all of you aspiring winners out there, remember to keep earning those gold stars. Your hard work and dedication could make you our next lucky winner. The next big draw is set for Friday, December 19th.

Your continuous efforts and achievements make all the difference. Keep up the great work, and who knows—you might be the one celebrating next!



HARA Halloween

On Thursday, Year 12 and Year 13 students embraced the Halloween spirit with a delightful pumpkin carving event. Armed with their creativity and safely using appropriate equipment, the students produced an array of fantastic carvings that showcased both skill and imagination.

A special shout out to Bradley, who carved his way to first place! His impressive design earned him the coveted prize, a delightful "Boo Basket" of goodies, generously organized by our social team.

A huge thank you to everyone who participated and helped make this event a memorable success. We look forward to more fun and engaging activities in the future!



Half Term Fun



Looking for exciting ways to keep the kids active & entertained this half term?

We've got you covered with a huge range of activities across Corby, Kettering, Rushden, Wellingborough, & Thrapston!

Swimming sessions – family floats, SEN swims, pirate pool, & more
Sports - football, basketball, tennis, badminton, pickleball & table tennis
Xplorer Trails – fun, free outdoor map-reading challenges for families

Activities run from Monday 27 to Friday 31 October

Various leisure centres and open spaces across North Northamptonshire, book online or just turn up for selected sessions! Full details & booking links: www.northnorthants.gov.uk/holidayactivities

For further information: nnleisure@northnorthants.gov.uk

Attendance

Yr7 - 95.3%
Yr8 - 92.8%
Yr9 - 89.9%
Yr10 - 88.1%
Yr11 - 91.6%

Huxlow 5

All students need to be equipped with:

- Black/Blue Pen
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Purple Pen
- Planner

Positive Points

Yr7 - 37677
Yr8 - 42818
Yr9 - 43540
Yr10 - 40598
Yr11 - 33746

Diary Dates

- 23 Oct - School closes to students
- 23 Oct - Y7 Music Performance
- 24 Oct - Training Day
- 3 Nov - School reopens
- 6 Nov - Y11 Parents Evening - Guide to Mocks
- 12 Nov - Poland Parents Evening
- 13 Nov - Duke of Edinburgh Parents Evening
- 13 Nov - HARA Open Evening
- 21 Nov - Flu immunisations - all year groups



Safeguarding

If you have any concerns about a child's safety, you can report them directly to relevant staff (details on our website) <https://www.huxlow.northants.sch.uk/home/about-us/safeguarding/>.

Please note that email addresses may not be responded to immediately. Concerns can also be reported anonymously through the Whisper reporting tool.

Additionally, for urgent safeguarding concerns, please contact MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) 0300126 7000.



Alternatively, you can send a message to 07860 021 323 starting your message with [HSC1] to report via SMS



IF IT IS AN EMERGENCY AND YOU THINK THAT A CHILD MAY BE IN IMMEDIATE DANGER PLEASE CONTACT THE EMERGENCY SERVICES DIRECTLY BY CALLING 999.

IF YOU NEED TO CONTACT MASH URGENTLY DURING THE EVENING, AT NIGHT OR AT THE WEEKEND, PLEASE PHONE THE MASH OUT OF HOURS TEAM - 01604 626 938

Huxlow Safeguarding Team 2025/26



Mrs R Roberts
Deputy Head
Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mrs N Grove
Operational Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Z Correa
Assistant Head
Deputy Safeguarding Lead

Other Trained Staff:

Mrs K Isaksen - Headteacher
Miss G Ashcroft - Head of Year 7
Mrs H Sghendo - Head of Year 8
Mr J Fletcher - Head of Year 9

Mr J Sam - Head of Year 10
Mr L Venn - Head of Year 11
Mrs J Watson - Deputy Head
Mrs J Holmes - Director of Learning for Sixth Form

Mrs D Sturdy - ELSA
Miss K Marlow - Behaviour Lead



You can contact MASH directly on: 0300 126 7000
You can contact the Local Authority Designated Officer on: 07738 636449