



Joseph Leckie Academy

5th April 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: Tuberculosis (TB) screening being offered to children and staff

As you may be aware, a student at the Academy was recently diagnosed with tuberculosis (TB). The individual has been receiving treatment, is responding well and no longer poses any risk of infection to others.

Although TB is an infectious disease, the risk of catching it is quite small; usually this would need close contact over a long period, such as someone living in the same house as a person with TB. This may occasionally include someone spending long periods of time with an infected person in a classroom setting.

We take the health and wellbeing of our students and staff very seriously and have taken advice from Public Health England (PHE) in the West Midlands and local NHS professionals. As a precaution and in line with tried and tested national guidance we have made arrangements for TB Specialist Nurses to screen a number of children who have been in closer contact to the student with TB. **Your child has not been identified as part of this close group and this letter is for information only.** We are continuing to monitor the situation and will contact you again if circumstances change. We have been reassured that there is no need to alter anything we do at the school.

We feel it is important to advise all parents of this situation and provide information to help ease any concerns you may have. TB can be completely cured with a special course of antibiotics. For your information, the common symptoms of TB include:

- persistent cough getting worse and lasting more than 3 weeks
- weight loss for no obvious reason

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- excessive sweating, especially at night
- loss of appetite
- general and unusual tiredness and feeling unwell

Less often there may be:

- coughing up blood
- swellings or lumps under the arms, neck or groin

If your child or anyone in your family has some or all of these symptoms now or in the future, contact your GP directly.

An information sheet on TB is also enclosed and further details can be available from the charity TB Alert: <http://www.tbalert.org> and from NHS Choices: <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Tuberculosis> or by visiting the PHE website: www.gov.uk/phe and looking at the Health Protection A to Z section.

If you have any concerns or wish to discuss this further, contact the Walsall Public Health Team on **01922 653736**.

Yours faithfully



Keith Whittestone
Principal

