



Joseph
Leckie
Academy

9th May 2023

Dear Families,

I hope you are well and enjoyed the extra time with your loved ones over the extended Bank Holiday weekends.

I am writing to update you on two very important matters.

Dangerous parking by the road crossings outside the academy:

The first involves the safety of our students and is linked to the road crossings around the academy site. We are continuing to experience some very dangerous parking just outside the academy gates in the morning and after school. There are a number of parents who, despite warnings from academy staff, are continuing to park on the double yellow lines or on the white zigzag lines by the zebra crossings. This is particularly dangerous at the crossing just outside the entrance to the academy reception as it impairs the view of drivers who are approaching the crossing and they, in turn, will not be able to see our students as they are waiting to cross the road.

On numerous occasions, members of staff from the academy who are on duty before and after school and have asked parents not to park on the zigzags. These requests continue to be ignored and therefore it is time for us to take further action, including legal reinforcement of the parking rules. Members of the academy staff (along with all members of the public, including parents) have the right to take photographs of any vehicle that is parked in a restricted area and a fine will be issued by the council. I would encourage all parents to take this action in support of the academy.

We continue to liaise with the council regarding road safety around the academy and have requested additional patrols and safety measures. At the beginning and end of the school day, we have numerous staff on duty on the pavement by the entrances to the academy. They are there to ensure that students are greeted as they walk into school and that everyone is safe. They have no powers to intervene with motoring offences although they will be asked to report any dangerous parking or driving and this in turn will be reported to the authorities.

In an attempt to further dissuade parents from parking dangerously, from Tuesday 8th May, academy staff will also be placing cones on the zigzag lines by the crossing on Walstead Road West in order to highlight the dangers of parking so near to a busy road crossing. I am sure that you will support us with our aim to ensure that the road crossings around the academy are as safe as possible.

We have already contacted Walsall Council and the police regarding the issues we are facing and they will be supporting us. Many of our students live within easy walking distance of their homes and I would ask that students are only picked up by car where this is absolutely necessary. With our increased number of students on roll from September, this is a situation that could get worse if action is not taken. I thank you in advance for your support with this and can assure you that we will do everything within our powers to prevent dangerous driving and parking around the academy site.



Learn together, lead together.



Joseph Leckie Academy

Walstead Road West, Walsall, WS5 4PG.

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Principal: Mr James Ludlow



Joseph Leckie Academy

Parent Trustee Vacancy:

In much more positive news, we have a vacancy for a parent trustee to join our Board of Trustees. The role of a trustee is very important and is very similar to the role of a governor in a maintained school. Trustees are responsible for making decisions relating to financial and academic matters within the academy. They also hold the Leadership team to account and ensure that all academy policies are followed and applied fairly and consistently. Trustees play an important role in the life of the academy, they meet several times per year to look at the performance of the academy from both a financial and academic point of view. The following link provides more detailed information on the role of a trustee: [Role descriptions for chairs, governors, trustees and governance professionals - National Governance Association \(nga.org.uk\)](http://nga.org.uk)

The Trust Board is currently made up of 13 people, who have a range of experience and backgrounds. Some have been trustees for several years and others have only recently joined our Board. They are supported by a strong administrative team, including our governance professional. You would therefore be joining a committed and knowledgeable team of people who will help and guide you within the role. There is also a full training programme available which will help you to gain a clearer insight into the role of governance. Applications are welcome from any parent, no matter which year group your child may be in. If there is more than one application for the position, then a ballot will need to be held. The main qualities we are looking for are those of commitment and a real passion for improving Joseph Leckie Academy and being able to work as part of a team to set the strategic direction and oversee the work of the senior leadership team.

I know that other trustees say what a rewarding role this can be and that it teaches you lots of new skills that may come in useful for your own job applications and career development. It also brings the satisfaction that you are giving something back to the community and making a difference to the young people who attend the academy, including your child. If you are interested in finding out more about the role, before you submit an application, I would be very willing to meet with you and talk more about the role and what it entails. It is really important that the trust board is representative of the academy community so please do not hesitate to come forward and find out more if this is something that interests you. I know that many workplaces offer time off for their employees to attend duties related to a role in governance and so this may be something you wish to consider.

If you are interested in finding out more about the role of a parent trustee, please contact my personal assistant, Sam Richards on s.richards@josephleckieacademy.co.uk

I look forward to hearing from you. I also thank you again for your support and assistance with the parking issues mentioned above and I look forward to seeing a significant and immediate improvement.

Yours faithfully,

Mr James Ludlow
Principal

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