



Joseph Leckie Academy

28th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are managing to keep safe and well. I wanted to write to you again following my most recent letter, to update you on the progress we have made since we began to raise the bar on our academy standards and expectations.

The great news is that the overwhelming majority of our students have continued to meet all of the standards and expectations. I am sure you will remember that my previous letter focused on lateness to the academy, nose and facial piercings, face coverings and mobile phone usage. The overall message was that we have very clear academy policies on these areas and we are intending to implement these policies very strictly and apply more rigorous sanctions where students do need meet the expectation. This included increasing the length of detentions from 30 to 60 minutes.

I am pleased to report that there has been a significant drop in the number of students arriving late to the academy and also in the number of infringements of our mobile phone and our piercings policy. We will continue to focus on these areas as we work together to make Joseph Leckie Academy a place where standards and expectations are high and success is achieved for everyone.

The government changed its advice on face coverings in classrooms on Thursday which means that face coverings are no longer mandatory in schools. The most recent advice from Walsall's public health team is that face coverings should still be worn in enclosed communal areas and, given that the rates of infection are still high within our academy community, we are continuing to say that we strongly recommend that face coverings are worn in classrooms and in communal areas.

In addition to this, we will continue to hold our assemblies virtually for the time being and all of our other Covid-19 safety measures will remain in place. The number of cases of Covid-19 remains very high and we must do all that we can to prevent the spread of the infection. As well as resulting in serious illness, particularly for those in our community who are vulnerable, there is also a considerable impact on learning when students and teachers are required to self-isolate because they test positive. As an academy, we are doing all that we can to prevent the spread of the virus and it is really pleasing to see that the vast majority of our students have continued wearing face coverings in classrooms despite the recent change in statutory guidance.

Joseph Leckie Academy

Walstead Road West, Walsall, West Midlands WS5 4PG

Principal: Mr James Ludlow

Tel: 01922 721071 **Fax:** 01922 641497

email: postbox@josephleckieacademy.co.uk

web: www.josephleckieacademy.co.uk



Joseph Leckie Academy

This week I would like to focus on social media. As you know, there are guidelines and age limits for the use of social media by young people. More information and support can be found at the following website: <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/social-media-advice-hub/> including the information that most social media platforms have a minimum age limit of 13 years old. This means that all students in Year 7 and the majority of students in Year 8 should not be accessing social media. The reasons for this age limit are linked to online safety and security which is a big cause for concern. We have had several incidents recently where inappropriate and offensive messages have been circulated between students outside of the academy. This has resulted in verbal and, in some cases, physical, aggression in the academy or on the way to and from school. This will not be tolerated and will be dealt with severely when incidents happen. We cannot 'police' what students are writing online or the messages that they are sending however, we are happy to work in collaboration with you as parents and carers and support where we can. Any verbal or physical aggression or online offence and bullying will not be tolerated and will be treated very seriously, with our highest sanctions being applied as a consequence. Thank you for your support with this and please don't hesitate to contact your child's Head of Year if you have any concerns.

Thank you to all those parents and carers who attended my latest Parent Forum meeting on Tuesday evening last week. A recording of the meeting can be viewed on our website and there is a feedback form to go along with it. I would be delighted to hear your views on what you believe is positive about Joseph Leckie Academy and any suggestions for areas of improvement.

In the meeting, I covered a range of topics, including our plans for the next 3 years as we build on our recent positive Ofsted report where we were judged to be Good in all areas. Our aim is to become one of the best academies in the country and an academy that everyone is proud to be a part of. This will only happen with the support of our whole academy community and especially you as parents and carers.

I also pointed briefly to a few of the achievements of our students over recent weeks. These have included:

- 6th form and Year 10 students taking part in our Enterprise Challenge at Stourbridge Market in Early December
- Year 9 students participating in The Lion Heart Challenge at Bescot Stadium, supported by One Palfrey, Big Local and the West Midlands Police. Students worked in teams to develop ideas for projects to support various members of their local community
- Year 9 students taking part a Sports Leaders challenge course
- Year 7 students developing their leadership skills with the support of Military Preparation Training College (MPCT)
- Year 10 students taking part in the 'Speak Out' challenge, focusing on climate change
- Our ex-Year 11 and Year 13 receiving their awards at our Presentation Evening at Bescot Stadium with our special guest speaker, journalist, editor and ex-Joseph Leckie Academy student, Rajeev Syal

Joseph Leckie Academy

Walstead Road West, Walsall, West Midlands WS5 4PG

Principal: Mr James Ludlow

Tel: 01922 721071 **Fax:** 01922 641497

email: postbox@josephleckieacademy.co.uk

web: www.josephleckieacademy.co.uk



Joseph Leckie Academy

There are many more achievements that I could add to this list and, as we move forward, our intention is to celebrate and share in the success of all of our students. This includes the creation of honours boards in the reception area of our new building and preparation for a large celebration of achievement event for current students later in the summer terms where outstanding effort and achievement will be recognised.

Another step forward for us as an academy, will be the re-branding of the academy under our new motto, vision and values. A great deal of work has taken place across the academy to consider what our vision and values should be as we enter a new and exciting era. Some thoughts on this were shared as part of the Parent Forum and I would urge you to watch this and share your thoughts as well. The first of our proposed values is 'Leadership' as this is something that is really important for everyone to consider. Hopefully the academy events, such as those listed about, will really help everyone to focus on their leadership skills which will help them to be successful in the world of work and in life in general. Over the coming weeks, in my letters to you, I intend to focus on the other proposed academy values so that we can move forward together for the benefit of your children, our students.

Thank you again for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Mr James Ludlow
Principal

Joseph Leckie Academy

Walstead Road West, Walsall, West Midlands WS5 4PG

Principal: Mr James Ludlow

Tel: 01922 721071 **Fax:** 01922 641497

email: postbox@josephleckieacademy.co.uk

web: www.josephleckieacademy.co.uk