



Joseph Leckie Academy

26th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are well. I am writing to let you know that our most recent Ofsted report is now available for you to read on our Academy website. As you will see, **we have now been judged to be a Good Academy in all areas and this is significant improvement on our last inspection report from 4 years ago.** This improved judgement has come about as a result of the hard work of everyone associated with the Academy over the past 4 years.

We are very pleased with this outcome and feel that it is a very fair reflection of the standard of education that students receive at Joseph Leckie Academy. We also know that we want to continue making improvements in all areas so that we can become a truly outstanding Academy within a short space of time.

I would like thank you and your children for the part you are playing in ensuring our Academy is successful. The opening paragraphs of the report, under the heading 'What is it like to attend this school?' make very positive reading and provide a good account of the successful learning community we are creating together:

- **Pupils are proud of their school.** Their attendance and punctuality are good. Pupils are safe. The school is calm and purposeful, and disruption to learning is rare. Few pupils underachieve and most flourish.
- Pupils of all abilities are enthusiastic learners who enjoy their learning. Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) thrive. They receive strong support.
- Pupils play and work happily together. There are few disagreements and staff resolve issues swiftly. Pupils work well with adults in school. Pupils value the opportunity to learn about social, moral, and cultural issues. They treat others with respect and will speak out if something is not right. They talk confidently with adults.
- Pupils appreciate the extra opportunities this school offers. They take part in a wide range of activities. This includes animal care and poetry writing. More than 200 pupils are school council members. Pupils believe that their voice makes a difference.

It is equally lovely to read that Ofsted say '**staff are proud to work in this school**' and '**the school is moving forward at pace.**'

I would like to thank everyone who completed the Ofsted Parent View questionnaire and who spoke to inspectors during their visit. Equally, I would like to thank and praise your children for the role they played during the inspection. Inspectors reported that they were extremely impressed with all the students they met and talked to during their visit.

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



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The next steps for us now is to build on this successful outcome and move the Academy forward so that we are judged to be outstanding in all areas at the next inspection. We will do this by continuing to reflect on what we do and look for ways in which we can improve further. We will also do this by developing stronger community links and building partnerships with you as parents and carers.

All students eating indoors

On a separate note, we have been working to reduce the amount of litter on the playground and the number of seagulls that come to pick up scraps of food that are dropped on the school yard. In order to address these issues, **from Monday 29th November, we will be insisting that all food is eaten inside at lunchtimes.** We are also picking up on any student caught dropping litter around the Academy site and after school detentions will be set for anyone who engages in this behaviour. Working together we can make a dramatic difference to the Academy environment – thank you in advance for your support with reinforcing our high standards and expectations and, as always, my thanks go to the majority of students who never drop litter.

Face coverings

Please can I also ask for your support in reinforcing **the importance of wearing face coverings in all communal enclosed areas where social distancing cannot be maintained.** This includes in classrooms, on the corridors, in changing rooms, in the dining areas (when not eating) and at lesson changeovers when moving around the Academy.

Our recommendation around face coverings being worn in lessons has not changed and in addition, Walsall Public Health has reinforced this with all secondary schools.

Uniform standards and winter weather

Please can I also ask for your support in **reinforcing the importance of high standards with uniform.** The vast majority of our students set high standards in this respect and always wear the correct uniform. Unfortunately, there is a small minority of students who are not following the behaviour code in this respect. I would like to remind you, for example, that **nose studs are not permitted** on the Academy site and a 'retainer' should be worn if your child has a nose piercing. May I also remind you that **students should not wear 'sportswear' items such as jackets and hoodies.** For the winter months, it is highly recommended that your child wears a sensible, dark coloured waterproof and warm coat. Once again, I thank you for your support in upholding our standards in this area.

'Step Together' initiative

We are about to be involved in a very exciting partnership with the West Midlands Violence Reduction Unit (WMRVU) as part of their 'Step Together' initiative. In their report, Ofsted noted that *'staff work together well to promote a strong culture of safeguarding and to make sure pupils know how to stay safe.'* We are pleased with this recognition and know that there is even more we want to do to ensure that our students feel safe and reassured at all times, including when they are not in the Academy. This project will involve a number of mentors supporting our students on their way to and from the Academy in the morning. The role of the mentors is to ensure that students feel even safer and better

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supported as they walk to and from school and also to signpost them to relevant clubs and activities on offer

within the community. There is a letter from the WMRVU explaining the role of the mentors and we are really pleased to be associated with this new initiative.

Upcoming events and end of term arrangements

Finally, there are now just a few weeks left until the end of the autumn term. There are a few events and arrangements that I wish to make you aware of.

Term will end this year on Thursday 16th December, at the usual time of 2.50pm, and there will be no school for students on Friday 17th December as this is the day that the Academy has chosen in lieu of the extra Bank Holiday for the Queen's Jubilee.

Before the end of term, we have the following activities and events taking place:

- Year 12 and 13 Parents' Evening – 2nd December 2021
- Year 11 Mock Exams – 3rd – 9th December 2021
- Parent Forum Meeting – 7th December at 5pm (a letter will follow with full booking details).
- Celebration of Achievement – 8th December (July 2021, Year 11/13 Leavers)
- Year 9 Lion Heart Challenge – 9th December 2021
- Year 12 and 13 Mock Exams – 13th – 17th December 2021
- End of Term for students – 16th December 2021

I will write to you again before the end of this term. I would also like to acknowledge and thank you all for your support during this very difficult time for us as an Academy community with the sad passing of our wonderful teacher, colleague and friend, Mrs Small. I have been very impressed with the support and empathy shown by our students as we come to terms with our collective loss. We will be planning a memorial event and celebration of Mrs Small's life in the near future and organising collections in aid of a charity that was close to her heart.

Thank you for your support with everything we are aiming to achieve as an Academy. It is much appreciated and congratulations once again to everyone on our successful Ofsted outcome.

Yours faithfully,

Mr James Ludlow
Principal

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