



# Joseph Leckie Academy

4<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are well and enjoying the occasional burst of summer sunshine we are experiencing! It has been a real pleasure to see so many of you in person over recent weeks as we have held parental events in person for the first time since the pandemic began. Thank you for your continued support. We are nearing the end of the academic year and I wanted to write and update you with some important news and information.

Reflecting on my first full year as Principal of Joseph Leckie Academy, it is clear that there is so much to celebrate. Our Year 11 and 13 students have just completed their examinations and we look forward to sharing in their success on results days in the summer. They have done amazingly well and their conduct throughout the exam period has been exemplary. All other year groups have recently undertaken formal examinations and for some students this has been the first time they have ever experienced such an environment. I would like to thank all our students for their excellent conduct during this time. I know how important these assessments will be in informing our teaching and learning for next year and ensuring that all our students achieve the best possible grades when it is their turn to sit external examinations.

As pupils are preparing to take their next step into further academic studies or the workplace, we know this can be confusing and feel a bit daunting. Throughout the summer the National Careers Service is running a series of webinars for parents and carers of young people who are expecting their exam results this August. This a fantastic chance for parents & carers to learn more about how to support their children with advice about choices and careers, information on useful sources, advice for results day and a Q&A with a panel of experts. The information can be found by accessing the link below.

[Exam Results 101 - What you need to know as parents and carers Tickets | Eventbrite](#)

Our major achievements and positive developments as an academy this year include our improved Ofsted rating with the recognition that we are now **Good** in all areas. We have also launched our new vision, values and academy motto and these are being embedded into all areas of the academy. They are making a real difference and helping to further raise standards and I would like to thank everyone for embracing and incorporating our collective values into everything they do.

It is great that we have had such an exciting mix of activities this year including a full range of House activities and competitions and some amazing trips and visits to enrich our curriculum. If you follow us on social media then you will be fully aware of all the great opportunities that are on offer to our students. We have achieved several notable successes this year including winning the Lion Heart Challenges in conjunction with One Palfrey Big Local, winning the University of Birmingham Big Science Quiz and being a part of the winning team at the recent Black Country Games.



Learn together, lead together.



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Principal: Mr James Ludlow



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Last week we celebrated the rich diversity within our academy during our first ever Cultural Diversity Day. This was a fantastic day where students and staff dressed in cultural clothing, and we were able to celebrate and experience music, food, art, sport and activities from all of the 40+ countries that are represented within our academy community. It was a very positive and enjoyable day. We also held our first ever Pride of Joseph Leckie Awards Evening for Years 7-10 and Year 12 at the Bescot Stadium. This was a prestigious occasion at which over 130 students received awards including the coveted **Principal's Award** that was awarded to Ariana Naqvi in Year 9 and the Year 12 Joseph Leckie **Values Award** that was awarded to Zahra Kola. Congratulations to all our winners on the evening. We look forward to holding this event again next year.

As the term comes to an end, we still have many activities planned for our students. These include Sports Day, the Reward Trip to the seaside/theme park and Activities Week. We are also holding our induction and transition events for our new Year 7s and for Year 11 students who will be joining us in the 6<sup>th</sup> form. I am really pleased to say that, due to our continued success as an academy, our growing reputation for academic excellence and our caring and inclusive ethos, we remain oversubscribed and have record numbers of students joining us next year.

### **End of Term Arrangements:**

As you will be aware, the term ends for students on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July and, as usual, we will be closing early on this day. ***Students will be dismissed from 12.15pm and will be leaving via the gate they use in the morning.*** Any student who qualifies for a free school meal will be able to collect their lunch at break time.

### **Start of Term Arrangements:**

***The new academic year for all students starts on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September.*** There will be a ***staggered start for various year groups*** on this day any more details will be sent out nearer to the start of term.

### **Uniform Policy:**

The start of a new academic year is always a good time to reiterate our expectations regarding uniform standards. In general, standards are high however there is always room for improvement. The most up to date policy can be found on our Academy website. It is important to state clearly that piercings filled with hoops and bars are not permitted on the grounds of health and safety and nose studs continue to be banned across all year groups. As part of the uniform policy, students must have their lanyard and ID on them at all times. If your child has lost their ID or lanyard, they will need to order a new one before the end of term, this can be paid for on ParentMail. We are very clear about this and no exceptions will be made. Thank you very much for your support with this.

### **Start of the day – gates closing at 8.35am from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July:**

We are very keen to remind students that form time begins at 8.40am every day. In order to get to form time on time, students will need to arrive at the academy before 8.40am. The gates are opened at 8.30am and, from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July, will be shut at 8.35am so that all students have time to reach their form room at 8.40am. We would like to avoid students being late and having to enter the academy through the student and visitor entrance and therefore I would appreciate your supporting in reminding your child that they will need to arrive at school by 8.35am at the latest.



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## **Water bottles:**

As I have mentioned previously, we are no longer allowing students to bring single-use plastic bottles onto the academy grounds. This is mainly in response to our focus on protecting the environment. Our student council have been clear that this is something they value. We have installed a large number of water fountains around the academy site and there is at least one fountain in each building. Please can you support us with this and ensure that your child bring a reusable water bottle that they can refill at break and lunchtime.

## **Mobile Phones:**

A final reminder that mobile phones are not allowed to be seen, heard, or used in any way on the academy site. We are very clear about this policy and every student is fully aware that their phone will be confiscated, and a 1-hour detention will be issued if this rule is broken. Again, I am grateful for your continued support with the implementation of this policy which is in place for safety of all members of the academy community.

There are a number of activities taking place over the coming weeks. These include:

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July – Sports Day heats

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July – Sport Day finals

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July – Reward trip to the seaside

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July – Activities Week

As we approach the end of term, I would like to wish you all a happy, peaceful and safe summer break and to those who are celebrating Eid this coming weekend, I wish you 'Eid Mubarak'.

I will leave you with our new academy vision statement which we have developed throughout the year. The statement below reflects our new values and motto and sets out what we are all working hard to achieve across the Joseph Leckie Community. I would like to thank you all for the important part you are playing in this. It would not be possible without your support.

*"We are a community with the courage to learn and lead together. We believe in equality of opportunity and support the achievement and wellbeing of all. We work to improve ourselves and each other, acting with integrity, empathy and kindness and celebrating one another's successes. We care for our surroundings and believe in our ability to inspire as well as achieve."*

Yours faithfully,

James Ludlow  
Principal



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