



Joseph Leckie Academy

5th January 2021

Dear Parent/Guardians/Carers

Once again I am sorry to have to write to you with last minute changes although I am sure that you are aware from the briefing by the Prime Minister that we now find ourselves in a national lockdown due to the rising Covid-19 infections.

We were not informed of these changes ahead of the government press announcement yesterday evening and only received the updated guidance from the DfE late last night.

Following this government advice, the **Academy will remain open for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers**. These students have been in school since Monday 4th.

All other students will learn remotely until February half term, based on the current guidance.

The Government has advised that in the circumstances, they do not think it is possible for all exams in the summer to go ahead as planned. They will accordingly be working with Ofqual to consult rapidly to put in place alternative arrangements that will allow students to progress fairly.

A selection of vocational examinations for Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 students in January and early February will still go ahead at the moment, whereas some may be cancelled. Further information will be posted for these year groups once we know more.

For all students in Years 11 and 13, despite the government announcement yesterday and the lockdown that we now find ourselves in, can I remind you that **GCSE, BTEC and A-Level exams for June 2021 are not necessarily cancelled**, but will not go ahead in the way that was originally planned. For all of these qualifications that students are completing, there will still be some kind of testing which will lead to the grade they receive in August.

It is now more important than ever that students are engaging with their lessons, completing coursework and homework as well as revising and preparing for exams in these subjects. While it is not clear how they will be assessed, they **MUST** make sure that they are pushing themselves towards achieving the best possible grade.

Students have been messaged directly regarding this but we ask you to please reinforce this with your children. If students have any questions or issues regarding their subject studies, please ask them to contact their subject teachers who are best served to help them stay on track.

Joseph Leckie Academy

Walstead Road West, Walsall, West Midlands WS5 4PG
Acting Principal: Rachel Cook
Tel: 01922 721 071 Fax: 01922 641 497
email: postbox@josephleckieacademy.co.uk
website: www.josephleckieacademy.co.uk

For more information on how the Lockdown will affect you and your families please see the attached link for details of the restrictions and what remains open.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/949536/NationalLockdownGuidance.pdf

Remote Learning:

As stated in my letter on 31st December:

Week commencing 4th January, all students in Year 11, 13 and students sitting examinations as listed below are expected to complete remote learning week commencing 4th January.

All remaining students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 are provided with some on-line learning via SharePoint for their subjects and some pastoral work or in the post to complete.

From 11th January all students will be provided with remote learning and on-line lessons. They are expected to complete the work set online or sent in the post. This requirement has been set by the government so we expect all students to engage with their on-line work and any work packs that have been sent home where there is limited access to remote learning or where you request this.

We have a variety of methods of learning so some can be accessed on tablets and phones as well including the use of SharePoint and tasks set via Ruler and emailed documents as well as Teams lessons. In addition, some subjects may send links to other on-line materials for activities for students to do within their timetabled lessons.

Your child is expected to complete the lessons at the same time as they would have done so if they were in school so they should know their timetable. You can access this via your MyEd app.

Some reminders:

- If your child has any technical issues (including forgotten passwords) they should contact: JLAITSupport@josephleckieacademy.co.uk
- Remote learning information is available from [Joseph Leckie Academy - Online Working From Home](#)
- Remote learning resources available from [Joseph Leckie Academy - Remote Learning Resources](#)
- If they are not sure about any of their work in a particular subject, they should contact their teacher via their email address or via the Teams lesson
- We will be checking that they have accessed work during this period and there will be various forms of assessments, which they will be expected to complete to demonstrate their understanding.
- We strongly advise you support them in returning any work they produce, this can be uploaded via Ruler, email or bring into the Academy the following week. Guidance is available within the [Student Noticeboard](#) on how to do this.
- Your child should expect to receive activities or work from all of their subjects.

Further details for parents and guides for students are also available on our website:

<https://www.josephleckieacademy.co.uk/RLinfo>

May I thank you in advance for your support in ensuring your child completes these.

Please note that if you have your child has had a positive test, regardless if they have been on site or not, you must still notify the Academy via postbox@josephleckieacademy.co.uk

For those students in school, as previously if your child does develop symptoms, please do not send them to school and arrange them a test and report these results to the Academy on the email above.

Parents/Carers of pupils who are eligible for free school meals will be contacted shortly to advise you how the Academy will be providing food parcels during the lockdown period or alternative arrangements, depending on Government guidance.

Wherever possible we try to communicate everything with you well in advance, however, with the government's announcement yesterday, unfortunately once again these changes have had to be put in place very much at the last minute. I am sure you can appreciate once again that we have had no choice in this due to the latest government changes.

As the government is monitoring the rate of infection, there may well be further changes to what is planned, but we will keep you informed as and when we are given further guidance.

May I thank everyone for their understanding and support during these difficult times.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us on the email above.

Thank you for your continued support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Cook'.

Rachel Cook
Acting Principal