



## Joseph Leckie Academy

4<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **KEEPING OUR STUDENTS SAFE – KNIFE CRIME AWARENESS**

I am sure that you will be aware that knife crime and youth violence have become depressingly regular features in the national and local news/media. Week after week we hear about another young life taken, a family heartbroken and a community shattered. All over the country, young people are under threat because of individuals carrying knives.

Schools across Walsall are taking part in initiatives collaboratively to educate and protect their students. This intervention is in conjunction with the arrival of the Knife Angel in Walsall and the #LifeOrKnife campaign.



As an Academy, our approach is to be proactive rather than reactive, to provide young people with the information they need to keep themselves safe and to reduce the risk of harm. Therefore, the following interventions will take place week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> December in partnership with Walsall Police:

**11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> December** Years 7 and 8 will have a guest speaker in their Assembly from the organisation **Fearless**. Fearless is a part of Crimestoppers that educates young people on how they can report information to the police anonymously. They have a website if you want to take a look - [Give information about crime 100% anonymously | Fearless | Crimestoppers \(crimestoppers-uk.org\)](#).

**13<sup>th</sup> December**- Year 9 students will visit Bescot Stadium to watch a theatre production Terriers 2 - Eve's story which highlights issues around CSE, grooming, knife crime etc. More information to follow.

### **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](mailto:postbox@josephleckieacademy.co.uk)

**web:** [www.josephleckieacademy.co.uk](http://www.josephleckieacademy.co.uk)



## Joseph Leckie Academy

**Precious Lives presentation- on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> December** Years 10 to 13, a 60-minute workshop delivered by guest speakers who will share their lived experiences and the impact of knife crime. Thursday's presentation will be delivered by Gary an ex-offender who was groomed and exploited as a child and drawn into a gang. Friday's presentation will be delivered by Natalie she was significantly injured in a knife attack in 2016.

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December** selected small groups of Year 8 students will take part in a Virtual Reality Headset workshop. **VIRTUAL\_DECISIONS** is a "choose your own path" experience whereby wearing a VR headset, participants are faced with a simulated real-life scenario in which they must make choices. Each outcome for each participant is different. The themes that run throughout our VIRTUAL\_DECISIONS film are risk-taking behaviour, peer pressure, gang culture and anti-social behaviour. Each choice the participant makes throughout has an impact on how the story plays out and also sparks various responses from the characters in the piece - some negative and some positive.

I hope that you will agree that our approach to keeping our students safe is one that you can support. Please take the opportunity to discuss the interventions with your son or daughter and impress on him/her the dangers of carrying a knife and the importance of not associating with anyone else who may do so. Should you have any questions or need any further information please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

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](mailto:postbox@josephleckieacademy.co.uk)

**web:** [www.josephleckieacademy.co.uk](http://www.josephleckieacademy.co.uk)