



Joseph Leckie Academy

22nd June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, I would like to send you my best wishes and hope that you are all staying safe. These are exceptionally challenging times for us all and we know all too well how COVID-19 has affected and will continue to affect all of our lives over the coming days and weeks. I would also like to thank you for your prompt response to our request for information that has allowed us to start welcoming more students back into the Academy.

As I am sure you are aware, students in Y10 and Y12 are now able to access some schooling before the summer holidays. Whilst we look forward to welcoming all of our students back, we understand that the decision to send your child back into the Academy at this time is a very personal choice for parents/carers. The government have stated that there is no obligation to send your child back at this time, consequently the penalties that were previously in place for non-attendance have been suspended.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, schools are required to report to the DFE daily their attendance figures and the reasons for student absence. We understand that the main reasons currently for not wanting your child to return are one of the following;

- i) Your family is shielding a member of your household and therefore is unable to return.
- ii) Parents/carers have decided to keep their child at home for safety reasons.

This should have been communicated to the Academy when you responded to the Essential Parental Information request, when you confirmed whether you wanted your child to return.

In addition to the above, as a school we are required to report to the DFE if any students or staff are not in due to one of the following reasons, even if this was not the original reason for non-attendance.

- Suspected or confirmed case of COVID 19
- Illness not related to COVID 19
- Shielding for self or other house member
- Household isolation due to a member displaying symptoms

This applies to all Y10 or Y12 students including those who we are not expecting to return to the Academy. Therefore, if your child or any other members of your household develop COVID 19 symptoms it is imperative you contact the Academy to inform us of the change of status. This should be communicated through one of the following channels:

Email – JLAATTENDANCE@josephleckieacademy.co.uk

Telephone – 01922 721071

Via our Smart Phone App – MyEd

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



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Anyone with symptoms of coronavirus should ask for a test on-line or phone to arrange a test by calling 119 if the test comes back negative everyone in the household can go back to normal, if you are found to be positive, the NHS test and trace team or local public health teams will get in touch – via text, email or phone call to discuss who you have come into contact with or places you have visited. Any of those contacts deemed at risk of catching the virus will be emailed or texted with instructions to go into isolation for 14 days whether they are sick or not. They will be tested only if they develop the symptoms. The rest of their household does not have to isolate unless someone becomes ill.

Should a student in Y10 or Y12 who is due to attend develop symptoms of COVID 19, they should follow government guidelines and NOT attend. The student will only be allowed back into the Academy once they have accessed an NHS test and can prove a negative result. Should a member of a student's household develop symptoms, the student along with the rest of the household should self-isolate for 14 days and access an NHS test.

Should a student develop symptoms of COVID 19 whilst on site, they will be sent to an isolated holding room whilst parents/carers are contacted to collect the student asap. Students will not be allowed to travel home on their own in order to reduce the risk of potential transmission. Once a student has been sent home, they must access an NHS test and prove a negative result before they can return.

We understand that there is a lot of guidance being sent out by the Academy at this time and I am sure you can appreciate we are working through a rapidly changing situation for which there has been no precedent, as we continue to follow the government guidance, whilst working hard to ensure the safety of our students and staff. We thank you in advance for your cooperation and allowing the Academy to move ahead to the next phase of students returning.

If you have any general questions or concerns, please email postbox@josephleckieacademy.co.uk, call the Academy Reception on 01922 721071 (open between the hours of 9am – 3pm) or visit the Academy website for specific staff contact details.

Kind regards,

Mr Pochin
Assistant Principal

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