



Joseph Leckie Academy

11th February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to inform you that the Academy will close at **3:00 pm on Friday, 14th February**, for the end of half-term. The Academy will reopen on **Monday, 24th February 2025**, at the usual time. Students should arrive by **8:28 am**.

The start of this term presented some challenges due to the heating and hot water failure in some of our blocks. However, thanks to the tremendous efforts of our staff—including the Site Team, timetabling staff, and our flexible and creative teaching staff—lessons continued despite room changes. Ensuring that students could follow the curriculum, especially those preparing for coursework exams, remained our top priority. We are pleased to report that heating has now been restored, and with the installation of a new water boiler in Food Technology, the **Year 11 Food exams** successfully took place. Over the past two weeks, students have produced some fantastic dishes for their coursework, and we extend our gratitude to the staff who facilitated these exams.

Now that heating has been restored, we would like to remind you of our **uniform expectations**. Students must be in full Academy uniform. **Hoodies, tracksuit tops, fashion jackets, and trainers are not permitted**. Additionally, we ask that all parents and carers refer to our **jewellery policy** and guidelines regarding haircuts and hair colours. We will be reinforcing these expectations both this week and upon students' return after the break. Calls home will be made, and appropriate consequences issued for students who do not adhere to the uniform policy. If there are exceptional circumstances, please liaise with your child's **Head of Year** to discuss them. **Our uniform policy can be viewed on our website, alternatively, please click on the following link.** [Joseph Leckie Academy - Uniform](#)

We also wish to remind you of our **mobile phone policy**. Phones should **not** be used on the Academy site. If a student is found using a phone or if a phone is heard, it will be confiscated, and the student will receive a **one-hour after-school detention**. This rule also applies to other mobile devices, earbuds, and headphones. Our policy is in place to safeguard all members of our Academy community, and we appreciate your support in ensuring students follow these guidelines.

Academic Updates & Events

We began the term with our **Year 8 Options Evening**, which had an excellent turnout. Students have been engaging in a range of support activities to help them make informed decisions ahead of the **Year 8 Parents' Evening on 6th March**, when they will receive their options forms.



Learn together, lead together.



Joseph Leckie Academy

Walstead Road West, Walsall, WS5 4PG

Tel: 01922 721071

Email: postbox@josephleckieacademy.co.uk

Chief Executive Office: Mr James Ludlow

Associate Principal: Ms Rachel Cook



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Meanwhile, our **Year 11 students** continue to work hard in preparation for their final exams, balancing coursework, intervention classes, and **Period 6 lessons**. They recently had a **Parents' Evening**, and we are pleased to see them settling well into their final phase of exam preparations.

This half-term has also been filled with many **exciting events and achievements including the following:**

- A **Drama trip** to the Birmingham Rep to see the play *Community*
- Sporting events, including **Boccia, indoor cricket, basketball fixtures**, and a **Music trip** to a live concert
- Funding from the **Orlik Foundation**, which supported our **STEM events**, including our first **"Formula 1 in Schools"** day in Technology
- Our **annual Fashion Show**, which was a fantastic event for students and staff alike
- **Enterprise Challenge events** for Year 9 and Year 12, organised by the **Business Studies Team**—our **Year 9 students** have now reached the next round of the **Regional Enterprise Challenge**

We have also provided a series of very successful Careers-related events, including:

- **Year 11 Careers appointments**
- **Sixth Form interviews**
- **Apprenticeship events**
- The **Year 10 Envision programme**, where students are competing against four other schools
- A **More Able coffee morning** featuring a visitor from **BCU**
- A **"Career in Law"** conference at **Holly Lodge High School**, where a prominent lawyer spoke to students

We are incredibly grateful to all the staff who invest time and effort into organising these enriching experiences for our students.

Important Update: Arbor

As you may be aware, we recently transitioned to **Arbor**, our new management information system. We are pleased that **78% of parents** have already signed up and are receiving live updates on your child's achievements and reports through Arbor.

From **Monday, 24th February**, we will no longer send text messages regarding **student lateness**. Instead, this information will be sent via **Arbor and Class Charts**, including notifications about late detentions.



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Additionally, all payments from **Saturday, 25th January 2025**, must now be made through **Arbor Payments**. If you have not yet signed up, please visit our website for a **step-by-step guide** or click on the following link: [Arbor Guide - Joseph Leckie Academy](#)

Detention notifications and other key messages are sent via the **Class Charts App**, making it essential that all parents and carers have access to both **Arbor and Class Charts**. These platforms are now our primary methods of communication, so please ensure that you check them regularly.

We are delighted to share that our application to establish a new **Multi Academy Trust** has been **successfully approved by the Department for Education in December 2024**. As part of this process, **Mr. Ludlow has now officially taken on the role of CEO** of the new Trust. We have also begun the process of appointing the next **Principal of Joseph Leckie Academy**, who will take up the position in **September 2025**. This marks an exciting new chapter for the Academy as we strengthen our collaboration with local partner schools to further enhance the quality of education for children and young people in our community. We will be sharing more information about the new Trust in due course, but please be assured that we are fully committed to appointing a **strong and dedicated Principal** who will work closely with Mr. Ludlow to ensure the Academy continues to thrive. We look forward to updating you on a successful appointment soon.

We appreciate your continued support and look forward to working together as we move into the second half of the academic year. Exciting times lie ahead, and we look forward to celebrating further successes with you.

Yours faithfully,

James Ludlow
CEO

Rachel Cook
Associate Principal

Key Dates

Week Commencing:	
Friday 14 th February 2025	Half term ends at 3.00pm
Monday 24 th February 2025	School starts
Thursday 6 th March 2025	Year 8 Subject Parents' evening with an earlier time of 3.30-5.30 pm due to Ramadan This is an important parents evening to discuss your child's option possibilities with their teachers.
Thursday 3 rd April 2025	Year 7 Parent's evening at 5-7pm
Thursday 10 th April 2025	End of Term for students at 3.00pm
Friday 11 th April	School Closed to Students – Staff INSET day.
Monday 28 th April 2025	Start of Term 8.28am



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