



# Joseph Leckie Academy

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to remind you that the Academy **closes at 3.00pm Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2024** for the half term break. The Academy will re-open at the normal time (students to arrive by 8.28) on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024**.

In addition, we would like to inform you that there is a **Teacher Training Day later in the term, on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024** and students will not be in school on that day.

This has been a very positive half term with so much going on and so many new developments. We are delighted that the MUGAs are now fully operational and a great facility for our students to use particularly at lunchtime, after school and in PE lessons. These are very popular and in so much use we are considering an additional one in due course. We are also really pleased with our fantastic new multi-gym which we opened in September, with state-of-the-art gym equipment for use in PE lessons, other organized sessions and extracurricular. These were two major projects over the summer break and there will be more to come as we continue to develop and enhance our facilities for our students.

The changes to the Academy Day have worked well and the additional time in some of the core GCSE subjects will make a difference to students' learning and progress over time. The longer form time has enabled us to deliver PSHE with a form tutor who knows the students and further enhanced our assemblies. We have had a road safety assembly by external presenters for Year 7 students, some great citizenship assemblies and we are currently celebrating Black History month with some inspirational assemblies, to name but a few.

We have had a lot of enrichment opportunities for students, including a range of clubs and several football and netball fixtures. In addition, our Year 11 Geography GCSE students attended a field trip in Carding Mill Valley where over 100 students took part in practical exam preparation and developed key geographical skills. Our Geography teachers said behavior was exemplary and it was one of the best field trips they had ever led! This coming week we have all Year 11 out on their Careers interviews. This is an excellent opportunity for them to gain some valuable interview skills and they will be meeting volunteers from a wide range of local businesses as part of this event.

Many of our Year 11s attended our Sixth form Open evening, gathering information about their possible options for their Sixth form studies or wider apprenticeship



Learn together, lead together.



**Joseph Leckie Academy**

Walstead Road West, Walsall, WS5 4PG

Tel: 01922 721071

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

Chief Executive Office: Mr James Ludlow

Associate Principal: Ms Rachel Cook



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opportunities. If your child missed this event, then all the information is on our website or they can speak with the relevant heads of subject. Please do not hesitate to contact us at the Academy if you wish to find out more information.

Please can we take this opportunity to remind you that your child should **be in full Academy uniform**. Lanyards are compulsory, so if they have lost their lanyard, please ensure that you have ordered a replacement before we break up so it can be prepared for their return. In addition, please can we remind you of the following: there should be no hoodies, tracksuit tops or trainers worn. Please ensure your child has a warm waterproof outdoor coat ready for the winter months. Please refer to the jewellery policy and our policy on haircuts and colours. [Joseph Leckie Academy - Uniform](#)

As you are aware, we have made the move this year to a new management information system within the Academy called **Arbor** and we have been using Arbor since we returned in September.

We would like all parents to **download the Arbor App** as soon as possible if you have not already done so, and you can do so from the iPhone App Store or Android Apps or by searching for 'Arbor Parent App' and following the instructions. Similarly, the Parent Portal online can be accessed at the Arbor website at <https://login.arbor.sc> and selecting 'I'm a guardian' and following the instructions. There is also a link on our Academy website [Joseph Leckie Academy - Arbor](#). Please refer to letters on the website on 20<sup>th</sup> September and 9<sup>th</sup> July for more information on Arbor.

Similarly, we are using Arbor as well as our Class Charts App for messaging parents. This makes it essential that all parents and carers have both these Apps as these are our primary methods for sending out important messages. For example, all rewards, detentions for behaviour and lateness and logs of negative and positive behaviour will be shared with you through Class Charts. Arbor will be used for reporting the progress your child is making in their lessons and so much more. Therefore, it is vital that all parents and students ensure they are checking these regularly.

We know the majority of you have signed up on Class Charts and are using this but if you have not yet logged into Class Charts please click on the link and follow the instructions: [Joseph Leckie Academy - Class Charts](#)

For payments, including school meals, we are continuing to use the existing Parent Mail, however this will be phased out and integrated into Arbor and we will advise you when this is ready.



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Finally, we also ask you to support us to ensure everyone's safety and for the well-being of our community. We are constantly vigilant and regularly reinforce our safety messages however some parents are continuing to stop inappropriately and illegally to collect and drop off their child near to the Academy gates. If you come by car, please can you ensure that you do not park alongside where other cars are parked, on crossings or drop your child off in the middle of the road as this puts your child and other students, parents, pedestrians and road users at risk of serious injury. Can we also politely request that if collecting a student from school that you park considerately and respect our neighbours and do not block their drives.

Thank you for your on-going support and we hope that you have a safe and enjoyable half term break.

Yours faithfully

James Ludlow  
CEO

Rachel Cook  
Associate Principal

## Key Dates:

Week Commencing	
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 7 Parents Settling in evening 4pm-5pm
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	Break up at 3.00pm
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Year 12/13 Parents' Evening 5pm-7pm
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	Teacher Training Day
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 11 Study Skills evening 4pm-6pm
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Term Ends



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