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**Newsletter 9, Week Commencing 24th June 2024**

Dear Families,

I hope you are well. It seems as though summer has finally arrived, and we are able to enjoy the sunshine at last! We have a number of trips and outdoor events planned for the last few weeks of the school year and so we're hoping this fine weather continues!

**Key Highlights from Last Week....**

The GCSE and A Level exams have now finished, and I have to say it was one of the most positive exam seasons I've ever known. I am so proud of how our students conducted themselves in the exams and am sure this will help to ensure the results are just as positive. I'd like to thank the examinations team in the academy for everything they have done to ensure the exams went as smoothly as possible. Our minds now turn to the results days in August. For A Levels this will be Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August and for GCSEs, the results will be available to students on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August.

With Year 11 and 13 finishing their exams, last week was Year 10's turn to have an exam week. I hear this went very well and hopefully the results and feedback from these exams will help the students know what they need to do to secure even higher grades in the real exams next year.

It was great to see many of the students from Year 9 taking part in a trip to Alton Towers last Friday. The trip went well and there was an amazing buzz about the trip throughout the week. A big thank you to all the staff who organised and attended the trip. I know it was a very long day for everyone but worth it for the students.

It was lovely to meet a range of pupils from some of our feeder primary schools last week. This included 3 pupils from Delves Junior School who came to work with Mr Radburn and the DT department for the morning. They had won a competition in their school to design a logo/badge for the Year 6 leavers and were able to come and use our 3D printer to bring their designs to life! Congratulations to the winning pupils – the designs were amazing!

We also hosted a primary netball competition on Wednesday last week with 4 local primary schools taking part (Hilary, Whitehall, Cauldmore and Palfrey). The weather was perfect for the event (thank goodness!) and the teams had a great time. It was good to see them improving as players as the tournament went on, as well as enjoying the spirit of competition. I know that most of the pupils who took part in the tournament will be joining us in September in Year 7 so this was a good introduction to Joseph Leckie. Thank you to the PE department for hosting and running this event.

It was lovely to receive a very positive email from a parent of a Year 9 student, telling me how much she had appreciated the feedback about her daughter at the Year 9 Parents' Evening. It is good to hear - a strong partnership between school and home is more important than ever.

I mentioned in my newsletter last week that students on the Year 12 Politics course had been successful in raising money and holding a collection for causes they feel passionately about. I also mentioned that this was part of a wider competition through the Talent Foundry and 'InspireUS.' Our Year 12 Students were very grateful to parents, teachers and students for the donations and support for their campaign. They require all the support possible to have a chance of being successful to make it to the US. They have a number of events planned for the next couple of weeks, which is great to hear.

The students received an email from the Talent Foundry this week to say that they have made it to the next stage of the competition that they are in. This will involve a full day in London in July which sounds exciting.

It's great that our students have made it through to the next stage and, although there will no doubt be very stiff competition, I'm sure they will do really well. The competition is split into various stages, with the final 4 teams winning an all-expenses paid trip to Washington during the height of the Presidential election in October/November. We wish them all the best of luck with this and if you can support them in any way that would be greatly appreciated.

## Key Reminders and Academy Expectations...

This week I have dedicated this section to some important safeguarding information, designed to keep all our young people safe, especially when they are using the internet. The information below has been taken from some recent research undertaken on behalf of the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF).

### Tips for helping children stay safe online

'Self-generated' child sexual abuse material (CSAM) has been the subject of some recent research on behalf of the Internet Watch Foundation. 'Self-generated' CSAM are images and videos which are taken by children and then shared either:


- willingly, usually with a boyfriend/girlfriend, or
- unwillingly, through coercion, or
- shared by a third party without their consent.

Some of these images end up being distributed, sometimes sold, on the open and dark web by those with a sexual interest in children.

Just over 300 children took part in the IWF research and talked about their experiences of growing up in a digital world, where they talk to their friends, game and do their schoolwork online. Many described receiving unwanted sexual images and some commented that it has become normalised and part of their lives. The Apps they use, such as Snapchat and TikTok are also used by perpetrators to talk to children and groom them into sharing sexual images. This is a serious safeguarding issue, with wide-reaching consequences that we all need to learn more about.

The IWF research has been written up into a blog post for parents about how they can better understand their children's online world and its risks. The blog post can be found here:

<https://www.iwf.org.uk/news-media/blogs/tips-for-helping-children-stay-safe-online/>



[Tips for helping children stay safe online.](https://www.iwf.org.uk/news-media/blogs/tips-for-helping-children-stay-safe-online/)  
A brief overview of what parents, teachers and children told us about sexting, nudes, dick-pics, 'self-generated' images and what you can do to help to keep children safe online.  
[www.iwf.org.uk](http://www.iwf.org.uk)

This is a serious safeguarding issue, with wide-reaching consequences that we all need to learn more about. So, what can we do?

**Talk to your child about online sexual abuse.** Start the conversation – and listen to their concerns and ensure that your children are not blamed or shamed if this happens to them.

- **Agree** on ground rules about the way you use technology as a family.
- **Learn** about the platforms and Apps your child loves. Take an interest in their online life.
- **Know** how to use tools, apps and settings that can help to keep your child safe online.

Please visit the Academy website for further resources and don't hesitate to come and speak to us at the academy if you have any concerns or further questions about this or any other safeguarding topic.

## Upcoming Events in the Academy Calendar...

Below are some key dates for your diaries. I have added the dates of the exam results days in the summer holidays. More information will be sent directly to families of Year 11 and 13 students as well as Year 10 'Early Entry' students, with arrangements for the day.

Week Commencing 24<sup>th</sup> June – Year 10 Careers Week  
Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June – Pride of Leckie Awards Evening  
Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June – Cultural Diversity Day  
Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July – Year 6-7 Transition Days  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July – Academy Sports Day  
Week Commencing 8<sup>th</sup> July – Year 12 Work Experience Week  
Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July – Academy closes for summer holidays  
[Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August – A Level Results Day](#)  
[Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August – GCSE Results Day](#)

We're certainly looking forward to our Pride of Leckie Awards Evening this coming Thursday. The event is so popular that we are having to split the event into two sittings! The Awards Ceremony for Year 7-9 will begin at 4.30pm and the Awards Ceremony for Years 10 and 12 will begin at 6.15pm. We are expecting a large turnout so please ensure you arrive in good time! As usual, the Awards Evening will be a great chance to celebrate and recognise the achievement of some of our highest achieving students and those who have shown great commitment and dedication this year. We also have important staff long service awards to give out and a community award too.

And then the following day, Friday this week, we are looking forward to our annual Cultural Diversity Day. There are some great things planned and I know students are looking forward to dressing up in clothes which reflect their culture. With over 40 countries represented across our staff and student body we are an extremely diverse academy and Friday is a real opportunity to celebrate this. I have decided to get involved a little more this year and will be running the Half Marathon on the day around Walsall to raise money for our chosen charity, Acorns Hospice. I didn't get to complete the Birmingham Half Marathon in May due to having Covid and thought, therefore, I'd run my own 'race' on Cultural Diversity Day to make up for it. I'll be attempting to help the fundraising by asking people to guess the time it will take me to run 13.1 miles around Walsall. There will be cultural activities during the day and after school for students to try out. It is all part of a really positive and vibrant day and a chance for us to celebrate the amazing diversity across our academy. I will report back in next week's newsletter!

In the meantime, I hope you have a lovely week and thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes

Mr Ludlow  
Chief Executive Officer