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Newsletter 5, Week Commencing 20th May 2024

Dear Families,

This is the last week of the summer 1 half term. We break up on today for the half term holidays and return at the usual time on Monday 3rd June. I'm sure those of you with children taking exams will need no reminding that the exam season is in full swing! There's also a lot going on for students in other year groups including plenty of end of year exams coming up as well as some more exciting events and activities such as our Pride of Leckie Awards Evening and our annual Sports Day. See the list of calendar dates below for more details.

Key Highlights from Last Week....

It was great to see that many of you were able to attend our Year 10 Parents' Evening last week. Ideally all parents would attend the evening as it is such an important occasion and a chance to have positive conversations about each students' progress. The turnout was somewhere around 50%, which is lower than we would have hoped for, but at least this meant there were quality conversations with around 130 sets of parents which should be really beneficial. If there are any reasons why you were unable to attend the Parents' Evening or any steps we can take to make the evenings more accessible to all parents, then please let us know. We would be really pleased to hear your feedback.

Last week was a busy week for making staffing appointments ready for the new academic year in September! Teacher recruitment is becoming increasingly challenging across the country due to a national shortage of teachers however we are really hopeful that we have appointed some excellent teachers who will join us in September. We have a few vacancies left to fill and the details are on our academy website. Sometimes the best appointments are made through word of mouth so if you do know of anyone who is interested in, and would be suitable for, any of our current vacancies, then please do let them know and encourage them to apply!

Well done and thank you to the maths department who held a Saturday revision session for Year 11s last weekend. Over 65 students attended and hopefully, the hard work really paid off in the first Maths paper! From the feedback, it seemed to go reasonably well which is encouraging. Hard work really does pay off! I know that revision sessions are being offered across all subjects for Year 11s and it is good to see so many students making the most of the opportunities that are provided.

Last week was Wellbeing Awareness Week and this involved a form time focus for all students, including daily guides, slides and video segments on talking about issues, eating healthily, exercise for wellbeing, resilience and being aware of your mental health. All of the slides have been added to the Wellbeing SharePoint page and we hope they have been useful.

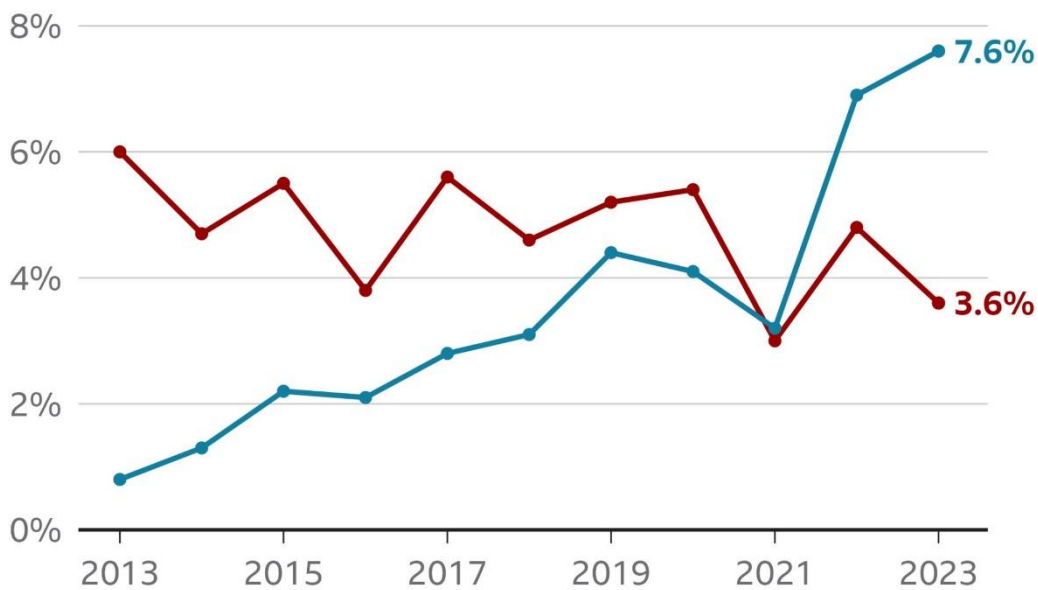
Key Reminders and Academy Expectations...

This week's focus is on safeguarding and issues around the use of vapes both within and outside the academy. There is currently a lot of information in the news about the risks of vaping and it is important for parents to be aware of these risks to guide your children appropriately.

Children's doctors say **vaping may cause long-term damage to young people's lungs, hearts and brains**. The graph below shows that whilst the percentage of young people who are smoking has reduced over the past 10 years, the number of young people who are using vapes has increased significantly.

More children now vape than smoke

Percentage of 11 to 17-year-olds using **e-cigarettes** compared with **cigarettes**



Source: Ash Smokefree GB Youth Surveys, 2013-2023

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Vaping can pose significant risks to health. Short-term effects include vomiting, nausea, coughing, shortness of breath, mouth irritation, and asthma. Long-term, it may cause lung damage, heart disease, and potentially lung and mouth cancers. It's also linked to depression and anxiety in young people.

We are also becoming aware that some students are gaining access to vapes that do not come from a reputable supplier. Such vapes can contain very dangerous chemicals that can have an instant harmful effect on a person. If we suspect that a young person is using vapes, we will inform you as parents and carers and offer support through our academy nurse or wider safeguarding services where appropriate. The carrying and/or use of vapes on the academy premises also carries a serious sanction under our behaviour policy.

If you have any concerns about your child possibly being involved in vaping, please don't hesitate to get in contact with a member of the wellbeing team at Joseph Leckie, including, as a first port of call, your child's Head of Year.

Upcoming Events in the Academy Calendar...

Below are some key dates for your diaries (there are no additions this week)

[Friday 24th May – Academy closes for half term Holidays](#)

[Monday 3rd June – Academy re-opens at normal time](#)

Thursday 13th June – Year 9 Parents' Evening

Monday 17th June – Staff INSET Day - academy closed to students

Week Commencing 24th June – Year 10 Careers Week

Thursday 27th June – Pride of Leckie Awards Evening

Friday 28th June – Cultural Diversity Day

Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd July – Year 6-7 Transition Days

Monday 8th July – Academy Sports Day

Week Commencing 8th July – Year 12 Work Experience Week

Friday 19th July – Academy closes for summer holidays

I hope you have a lovely week and a relaxing half-term break. We look forward to our students returning on Monday 3rd June at the usual time for a positive and very busy final half term of the year. Thank you as always for your support.

Best wishes

Mr Ludlow
Chief Executive Officer