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Newsletter 6, Week Commencing 3rd June 2024

Dear Families,

Welcome back to the start of the final half term of the academic year! I hope you all had a good break last week. Students have returned to school in a very positive frame of mind and hopefully a lot will be achieved over the next 7 weeks. There are certainly plenty of events and activities for everyone to get involved in as we approach the end of the academy year.

Key Highlights from Last Week....

The external GCSE and A Level exams continued to go very smoothly for all concerned. It is impressive to see how well prepared and organised our students are. They are taking their exams incredibly seriously, as we would expect, and are being very well supported by our examinations team and staff across the academy. It's great to see.

Our Year 13 students enjoyed their final official day in school on the Monday before half term although many of them have been back in school several times since for exams and revision lessons etc. There was a really positive atmosphere as they shared memories of their time at Joseph Leckie over 7 years! Thank you to Mrs Field, Mrs Wood and the 6th form team for all the effort they put into making the send-off a memorable and enjoyable one. I know this was much appreciated by students and will be remembered by them long into the future.

Key Reminders and Academy Expectations...

As the weather improves and we have some warmer days, it is important that we maintain our high standards of uniform and appearance. If there are any particularly hot days over the coming weeks, a decision will be made by the senior leadership team to allow students to remove their blazers for the whole of part of a day. In exceptional circumstances, we may even say that blazers can be kept at home. Otherwise, we expect all our students to be in school with their blazers on. Similarly, we expect students to adhere to all aspects of our uniform and appearance policy which can be found on the academy website. I am pleased to say that the vast majority of our students take a real pride in their appearance and look very smart. Thank you for your support with this.

Another couple of important reminders, linked to the warmer weather, involve students taking food out of the canteen and the throwing of water. We have made it very clear to all students that no food or drink should be taken out of the canteen or the canopy area at lunchtime. This is to ensure we don't have any food substances dropped on the playground which will then encourage vermin. It also ensures that we don't have issues with litter.

In addition, we are very clear that water should not be thrown as it is extremely disruptive and a waste of a precious resource. Students have been reminded of this on several occasions. The points about the throwing or water, dropping of litter and eating food outside link very neatly to our academy value of the 'Environment' and our assemblies in the week before half term were focused on World Environment Day which is on Wednesday 5th June. We are constantly looking at ways of improving both our academy environment and the wider global environment, in any way we can. We are hoping to do more in this respect over the next few years. As ever, our student council will play a big role in shaping what we do as an academy.

Thank you for reinforcing the above points with your child. We will be reminding all students that the sanction for taking food and drink out of the canteen or throwing water will be the issuing of an immediate after school detention. Again, we are very grateful that the overwhelming majority of our students follow the academy's rules all the time.

Upcoming Events in the Academy Calendar...

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

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

Thank you as always for your support. We look forward to seeing Year 9 parents at our Parents' Evening on Thursday 13th June. In addition, students who have been chosen for an award will be receiving notification of this along with an invitation to our Pride of Leckie Awards Evening on Thursday 27th June. I look forward to seeing many of you there on that evening.

Best wishes

Mr Ludlow Chief Executive Officer