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Newsletter 8, Week Commencing 17th June 2024

Dear Families,

I hope you are well. It was lovely to see so many of you at our Year 9 Parents' Evening last Thursday. I hope those of you who are celebrating Eid Al-Adha have had a peaceful and enjoyable time with your families over the weekend. As you know, the academy is closed to students today (Monday) for a Training Day and we will re-open to students tomorrow (Tuesday) at our usual time.

Key Highlights from Last Week....

Our Year 11 Leavers assembly on Tuesday was a particular highlight of the week. With the exams almost over, we have allowed our Year 11 students to come in only for their remaining exams and our organised pre-exam revision sessions. The assembly was excellent with everyone leaving peacefully and in very good spirits. The ice-cream van went down well once again and the assembly was a good mix of serious messages, reflection on the future and some comical references to the students' time at Joseph Leckie. I want to thank Mrs Devey, Mrs Iddles, Mr Greaves and everyone else in the Year 11 team who supported with the arrangements for the assembly.

Some of the awards given out in the leavers assembly were for our GCSE Pod prize winners in Year 11. The winning students had completed over 700 'check and challenge' quizzes and over 900 GCSE Pods (equating to over 30 hours each!) between them. Each of the four winning students received a £50 Amazon voucher. The introduction of the GCSE Pod for revision has been a real positive of the revision programme this year and has also been rolled out to younger year group. In fact, 98% of Year 9 students have now registered and we are having a drive to register all Year 10 students before the end of the academic year. Parents of students in Years 9 & 10, please ask your child whether they have registered for GCSE Pod.

Our morning assemblies last week were led by the whole of the History team. The theme was feminism and the message was very clear and well received. Thank you to the History team for such a great effort on such an important theme. I know it gave the students, and me, a lot to think about!

Well done to our Year 12 Politics group who have themselves organised a 'Food Drive' over recent weeks. This is a brilliant initiative for the students to raise money and provide food for good causes. On Thursday last week, the students involved organised for a charity and food bank to come and collect the food donated by staff and students. They raised an impressive £210.27 in five days. This is part of the project called 'Inspire US,' an educational charity within The Talent Foundry that is offering Year 12 students, with a passion for politics, the opportunity to win a trip-of-a-lifetime to follow the US Presidential Election in Washington D.C. in November. The project the students are working on is how to reduce and help with the cost-of-living crisis. Well done to all our students involved in organising this and good luck to them with their bid to win a trip to America.

It was good to see all the preparations that have been put in place for the Year 10 mocks which will take place this week. Students are taking these exams really seriously which is great. I wish Year 10s all the best in these exams. They will be excellent preparation for next year and a good chance to showcase the progress they have made so far.

Key Reminders and Academy Expectations...

I would be very grateful if you could check your child's punctuality record at school. Most of our students arrive in good time and are never late to school or to lessons. Punctuality is extremely important and it's good

for our students to learn the importance of timekeeping, especially as they prepare themselves for the world of work.

Unfortunately, a significant number of students arrive late to the academy or arrive late to lessons across the school day. Lateness is monitored carefully, and sanctions are put in place, however there are a number of students who continue to arrive late, and this is meaning they miss out on elements of their education including assemblies or the starts of lessons where important learning is taking place. It also causes an unnecessary interruption to the lesson and wastes time for everyone in the classroom.

You can check your child's punctuality record through the Class Charts App. Just as a reminder, form time starts at 8.40am each morning and **students are expected to be on site by 8.30am**. Across the school day, students must walk directly from one lesson to the next, taking the shortest route possible. Being 5 minutes late to lessons and form time means that students are missing almost 1 day of education per fortnight or 20 days of education per year. We aim to make the most of every minute of lesson and form time each day and this is why we focus so heavily on the importance of punctuality.

I am grateful for your support on this matter. I know the majority of our students take pride in being punctual and this is really appreciated. Hopefully we will see all students supporting one another, and their teachers, by taking the same approach.

Upcoming Events in the Academy Calendar...

Below are some key dates for your diaries. There are no additions this week.

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 have some great events coming up including our Pride of Leckie Awards Evening on Thursday 27th June. Invitations to the families of awards winners will be coming out very shortly. Please look out for these and we look forward to seeing you on the evening to celebrate your child's achievements. We look forward to seeing all students in school on tomorrow (Tuesday) morning at the usual time of 8.30am.

Best wishes

Mr Ludlow
Chief Executive Officer