



## Joseph Leckie Academy

12<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are well and are managing to keep safe and well in spite of the on-going Covid-19 pandemic. We are nearing the end of the academic year and I wanted to write and update you with some important news and information.

I am extremely grateful to the whole Academy community for the warm welcome I have received since I took up post in April. I have really enjoyed finding out more about Joseph Leckie Academy and having the opportunity to meet with staff, students and parents.

### **End of Term Arrangements:**

As you will be aware, the term ends for students this coming Friday (16<sup>th</sup> July) and, as usual, we will be closing early on this day. ***Students will be dismissed from 12.15pm and will be leaving via the gate they use in the morning.*** Any student who qualifies for a free school meal will be able to collect their lunch at break time.

### **Start of Term Arrangements:**

***The new academic year starts on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021.*** We will however, be undertaking a programme of lateral flow testing and so there will be a ***staggered start to the new Academy year for all students***, including our new Year 7 students. A separate letter giving full details will be sent out very shortly. Please read this very carefully as it contains a lot of information about our start of term arrangements. All students (with the exception of our new Year 7s) have an academy email address and we will use this to send information including student timetables, updates and other important information. Therefore, it is important that they continue to check their emails and especially before they return in September. Important general information will also be posted on the Academy website.

### **Lateral Flow Tests Over Summer:**

I would also like to reiterate that students are encouraged to continue to take a twice-weekly lateral flow test over the summer holidays, especially as they prepare to return in September. This is an additional safety measure to ensure that we limit the spread of Covid-19 as much as possible. In September we will have new health and safety measures around the Academy and details of these will be sent out to you nearer the start of term and will also be placed on the Academy website. Test kits for this will be available to collect from your local pharmacy or available to order on-line.

### **Uniform Policy:**

The start of a new academic year is always a good time to reiterate our expectations regarding uniform standards. In general, standards are high however there is always room for improvement. The most up to date policy can be found on our Academy website and this now includes a few minor amendments, relating to ear studs and trouser length, that have recently been made in consultation with our student council. It is important to state clearly that piercings filled with hoops and bars are

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not permitted on the grounds of health and safety and nose studs continue to be banned across all year groups. We are very clear about this and no exceptions will be made. Thank you very much for your support with this.

### **Transition Evening and Summer School for New Year 7s:**

We look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 students and their parents to our online Transition Evening on Wednesday this week. This will be an opportunity to find out more about your new school. We are also running a Summer School for our new Year 7 students and have over 80 students signed up for this.

This has been another challenging yet successful year for Joseph Leckie Academy. I am so pleased that some of the usual Academy activities have been able to take place once again over recent months. This has included visiting speakers and guest authors coming into school, our fantastic Sports Day where so many students participated and our Activities Week for Years 7 & 8 which comprised a range of exciting and innovative activities for our students.

There are definitely signs that normal life is starting to resume and we all hope that this continues over the coming weeks and months. As an Academy we will continue to prioritise the safety, enjoyment and achievement of everyone and we have lots of exciting plans for the next year and beyond as Joseph Leckie Academy enters a new era. I look forward to working in partnership with you as parents and carers, and am always keen to hear your thoughts, views and suggestions.

As we approach the end of term, I would like to wish you all a happy, peaceful and safe summer break and to those who are celebrating Eid on Tuesday or Wednesday, I wish you 'Eid Mubarak'.

Yours faithfully

James Ludlow  
Principal

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