

5<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to remind you that the Academy **closes at 2.50pm on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February** for the half term break. The Academy will re-open at the normal time on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February**.

It was wonderful to see so many **Year 8 parents** attend the recent Year Options evening and can we remind Year 8 parents that your child will have their mock examinations later this week before half term. In addition, we hope that your child is taking every opportunity to find information about what options that would suit their interest, needs and career aspirations. **Year 8 Parents' Evening is on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March** to meet with subject teachers and also another chance to ask key questions about our Key Stage 4 curriculum and choices. They will also receive their options forms on that day.

We also had a very successful **Year 11 "Study Skills evening"** which so many parents and Y11 students attended to support your son/daughter in the remaining time in preparing for their GCSE examinations. We do hope that you and your son/daughter found this event useful and that they will make the most of all the remaining opportunities for revision and preparation for their GCSE and vocational courses.

We are **currently holding Year 11 interviews for the Sixth form** following the applications we have received. So if your child has applied for the Sixth form they should have their interview very shortly and then will be sent a letter with their provisional offer on. Please note that all offers made are subject to students gaining the required grades in subjects, as indicated in their offer letter, as well as viability of courses.

#### **Proposal to change the length of the school day:**

There are **some proposed changes to the structure of the school day at Joseph Leckie Academy**. This is in line with the Government's White Paper of March 2022 and Department for Education's "Minimum expectation on length of the school week", which stated that schools should be open a minimum of 32.5 hours per week which should be implemented by September 2024.

We have carried out a lot of research and reviewed our times of the day alongside a review of our curriculum model and we believe that these changes below will be beneficial to all students and will have a positive effect on your child's education, both academic and pastoral as well as meeting these Government expectations:

- Increasing the time in the curriculum to enhance your child's learning and progress in key subjects in Year 9 and 10, including enhancing the development of key skills and subject content as well as some revision time for Y11 option subjects
- Increasing our form time in the morning to give further support as well as more time to deliver assemblies whilst minimizing the impact on your child's first lesson of the day with some assemblies which take longer than the current time allocation



Learn together, lead together.



**Joseph Leckie Academy**

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Chief Executive Office: Mr James Ludlow

Associate Principal: Ms Rachel Cook

- The delivery of our Personal Development Programme during form time by tutors that know the students well and releasing curriculum time for subjects
- For Year 11 some more dedicated revision time in form time
- 5 minutes longer at break time for food to be eaten and toilet break to ensure all students are punctual to lessons
- Changes to lunch arrangements to allow slightly longer at lunchtime for eating lunches and more time for recreation

Following consultation, the changes will **come into force from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024** allowing you plenty of time to make any necessary arrangements.

To ensure we comply with this expectation, we are proposing to extend the school day by 20 minutes (to meet the six and a half hours per day).

#### **Proposed new school day from September 2024:**

**Start Time: 8.30 am. Students must be in their form rooms**

**Finish time: 3.00pm.** Period 6 lessons and extra-curricular activities will take place after period 5 as usual.

Students should **arrive in school at 8.20 so that they can get to forms on time.**

We have tried to balance the change with 10 minutes at the start and end of each day so that it minimises disruption to you and our staff. As we need to add 20 minutes, if we did this all at the end of the day this may cause more problems for students and staff at the end of the day as this would have a greater knock on effect to those who collect siblings from local Primary schools and our Period 6 and extra-curricular activities which would finish quite late and especially when it gets darker in the winter.

This information will also be sent to the Local Authority and we will inform the bus companies. We will work together to minimize this change and we feel there are some excellent benefits for your child(ren).

We appreciate that these changes may affect you in terms of childcare or working arrangements, and you may have questions related to your child's education. For this reason, we would like to invite you to please share any feedback that you have by sending it to the form link below. Please ensure you send your feedback to us **by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 at midday.**

Alternatively, you may wish to attend a consultation forum for **Q&A session to respond to any concerns on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March at 4.30pm held in the West Hall in the Academy.**



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Once we have received and reviewed the results of the consultation we will get the proposal or any modifications ratified by the Trustees. We will release the actual start times before the Easter holidays and this will be communicated in the end of term letter to parents.

Parental Survey Link: <https://forms.office.com/e/9v9H1t374p>

Yours faithfully,



Mr J Ludlow

**Chief Executive Officer**



Ms R Cook

**Associate Principal**



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