

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to let you all know some very sad news relating to a student in our academy community. Unfortunately, we have been informed that Mohammed Ali in Year 11, passed away suddenly overnight. As an academy community, we are all devastated and in total shock. We send our sincerest condolences and our thoughts and prayers to all of his family and friends.

We have spoken to students in the academy today and informed them of the sad news. As you can imagine there was a great sense of shock, sadness and bewilderment at the news, particularly among our Year 11 students and staff, several of whom had known Mohammed as a friend, student and classmate for many years.

In the academy today, there have been many staff on hand to support our students and we have also been supported by our academy counsellor as well as the Walsall Bereavement Support service. This support will continue over the coming days and weeks for all students and staff.

I informed students this morning via a whole academy assembly and then form time was extended by 10 minutes in order to allow students time to reflect or discuss their feelings. Following this, we have run with a normal academy day for students and hopefully this sense of routine has been helpful and supportive for everyone. Equally, we are aware that some students have found it difficult to focus and we have given them time and space to reflect and be supported.

I wanted to let you know this afternoon so that you are aware and can further support your child if necessary. We are aware that grief can affect people in many different ways and some students may be feeling very sad or overwhelmed. Additionally, we also recognise that any death can bring back memories for anyone of the loss of a loved one in their life and we would like to offer and signpost support for your child if this is the case. If they are struggling and would like to access some extra support, including outside of school hours and over the weekend, then please remind them of the following areas of support:

- Chat Health - Text a school nurse (07480635363 or contact the main duty line on 01922 423349)
- Kooth - Online counselling service - www.kooth.com
- Mind - <https://www.mind.org.uk/>
- Cruse Bereavement Support - <https://www.cruse.org.uk/>
- [Childline | Childline](http://www.childline.org.uk) 0800 1111 www.childline.org.uk
- If you are concerned and want to contact someone from the academy pastoral team at Joseph Leckie Academy, then we have set up a dedicated email address for you to contact us directly if you are concerned about your son or daughter and would like us to support them further. The email address is: keepintouch@josephleckieacademy.co.uk

Learn together, lead together.



Joseph Leckie Academy

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Principal: Mr James Ludlow



Joseph
Leckie
Academy

Finally, we hold Mohammed and his family in our thoughts and, as an academy community, we are here to offer support to the whole community in any way we can. I have been so impressed today with the way in which our students and staff have come together to support one another. I have certainly seen our new academy values of **empathy, community** and **kindness** on full display. Please do get in touch with us if you have any concerns or if there is anything we can do to support you and your child.

Best wishes

Mr J. Ludlow
Principal

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