



## Joseph Leckie Academy

8<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of term, I wanted to write to you and let you know of the many exciting developments we are making here at Joseph Leckie Academy as well as celebrate some of the achievements of our students. This letter also contains some important information and reminders in preparation for the new term.

This term we have had many successes as an Academy and there have been a large number of positive events taking place. I would like to congratulate our Year 9 students who won the recent Lion Heart Challenge organised and sponsored by One Palfrey Big Local. This event involved our team competing against other local secondary schools to produce a community impact project. Both of our teams won awards at the event and one of our teams was the overall winner. It is hoped that this community project will be brought to life over the coming months, for the benefit of our local community members.

Our 6<sup>th</sup> form students recently visited the Houses of Parliament and were lucky enough to have a tour of both the House of Lords and the House of Commons with our local MP, Valerie Vaz. In addition to this our students were successful in winning the enterprise competition at Stourbridge Market where they made and sold high quality gifts. Another successful event, and a great celebration of the talent and diversity in our academy, was the recent Culture and Fashion Show that was organised by Miss Kumar and a large number of Year 10 and 12 students. The event was a huge success and it was a thoroughly enjoyable evening for the large number of staff and students who attended. Throughout the past few months, students have also benefited from an increasing number of trips and visits, including a very successful residential visit for Year 10 students to the Peak District in March.

This term has also seen the continuation of our formal examinations for all year groups, mock exams for Year 11s and 13s, our Parents' Evenings (face to face for the first time since Covid!) for Years 7 & 8 and a Study Skills evening for Year 11 students and their parents. All of these events reflect our increasing focus on the importance of being prepared for examinations and on ensuring the highest levels of achievement for all. Thank you to everyone who has attended one or more of these events in support of your child, it is much appreciated and makes a big difference.

Finally, this term we also held our memorial service at The Bescot Stadium for Mr Whittlestone on the second anniversary of his passing. This was a very poignant and special evening with many guests in attendance including ex-staff, students and colleagues who came along to pay their respects to Mr Whittlestone and to share stories and anecdotes in celebration of his life and his service to the Academy.

### Joseph Leckie Academy

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## Joseph Leckie Academy

This term we have welcomed a number of new trustees to our Trust Board. The details of our trustees can be found on our Academy website. Trustees play a hugely important role in the running of our Academy and make very important decisions on behalf of the staff and students. A trustee is a voluntary position, and I would like to thank all of our trustees, existing and new, for the time and effort they willingly dedicate to supporting the Academy.

We have also welcomed Mr Plant as a new member of the Academy's Senior Leadership Team. Mr Plant will be leading on Behaviour and Attitudes across the Academy and is an experienced senior leader who will bring additional capacity and experience to our leadership team. In addition to this, I am pleased to inform you that Miss Tranter and Miss Ravat have now become permanent members of the Senior Leadership Team. These appointments, along with Mr Banbery's promotion to the role of Vice Principal, will further strengthen leadership in the Academy and support us as we seek to become an outstanding Academy.

An important part of our journey to becoming an outstanding Academy, is our new vision, values, and Academy motto. This has been developed over the past 6 months with the support and input from staff, students, parents, and trustees. The motto, values and vision are integral to our future plans and will hopefully form the bedrock of our Academy and influence everything we do.

### Our Core Values:

- **Leadership** – we believe in taking positive action and leading others, doing what is right and taking responsibility for our actions
- **Empathy** – we believe in putting ourselves in the shoes of others and thinking carefully about how our actions will affect other people
- **Community** – we believe that everything we do should be done in partnership with and for the benefit of our community. We work closely together with members of the community towards a common purpose
- **Kindness** – we believe that being kind to others and to ourselves is essential for a harmonious and thriving community.
- **Integrity** – we believe in being honest, doing things properly, fairly and for the right reasons
- **Environment** – we believe that we have a responsibility to protect and enhance our local, national and global environment and are passionate about leaving things in a better way than we found them

Hopefully you will have spotted that these values spell out the word **LECKIE** and will be easy for everyone to remember!

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## Joseph Leckie Academy

### Our Vision:

*'We are a community with the courage to learn and lead together. We believe in equality of opportunity and support the achievement and wellbeing of all. We work to improve ourselves and each other, acting with integrity, empathy and kindness and celebrating one another's successes. We care for our surroundings and believe in our ability to inspire as well as achieve.'*

And then finally....

### Our new motto:

***"Learn Together, Lead Together"***

Hopefully you will see how our **values** underpin our **vision** and, in turn, how this feeds into our new **motto**. We have already launched this with our students through assemblies. Hopefully we can use this as a guide for everyone as we move into a new era for the Academy.

Looking ahead to next term, there is much to look forward to. Our senior students in Year 11 and 13 have their GCSE and A Level examinations coming up. We wish them all the best as they go through the final preparations for these. There are a range of revision classes taking place over the Easter holidays – details have been sent out in a separate letter.

Focusing on our new value of the 'Environment', from next term, we are no longer going to be selling or allowing single-use plastic water bottles on the Academy site. We have installed high quality water fountains and bottle fillers in each of our buildings and therefore students can have access to drinking water at breaks and lunchtimes when they need it. We would like to encourage every student to bring their own water bottle from home so that this can be filled up and used to keep them hydrated. Not only will this be much cheaper for students, it will also help to save the environment by cutting down on the amount of single-use plastic. A number of students, particularly during the warmer weather, have been involved in throwing water over one another. I would like to make it clear that this behaviour is not acceptable as it is highly wasteful of a precious resource and potentially dangerous to other members of the Academy community. I would be very grateful for your support in reinforcing this message, and our expectations, with your child.

The guidance around isolations linked to Covid-19 has changed recently. A copy of a letter from the Director of Public Health for Walsall to parents and schools, has been posted on our Academy website. It gives lots of advice and guidance about what to do if you or someone in your family has the symptoms of Covid-19. We are aware that while the focus is very much on 'living with Covid', we are still doing a lot within the Academy to limit the spread of the virus and to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Please could you take the time over the Easter break to ensure that your child has all the correct uniform they need including a blazer, tie and school shoes. Additionally, every student must have their own lanyard. This is required for a variety of reasons, including for paying for lunch. If your child has misplaced their lanyard, then a replacement can be ordered online via Parent Mail.

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And on the subject of lunches, the catering team will become official employees of Joseph Leckie Academy after Easter and, as such, we will be enhancing our menu offer to include a wider variety of high-quality meals. This is in response to some excellent and very helpful feedback from the Academy council. The new menu looks very good – a copy can be found on our Academy website.

And finally on lunches, please note that from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May there will be a slight change to the order of lunchtimes to allow Year 11 and 13 students to be ready for their afternoon exams. From this date onwards, Years 8 and 10 will be on the last lunchtime slot (1.15 – 1.45pm) and Year 11 and the 6<sup>th</sup> Form will move to the first lunchtime slot (12.15 – 12.45pm).

Our Academy student council is comprised of over 150 students. Not only have they been responsible for inputting into our new vision and values and our catering arrangements, they have also made suggestions for increased playground equipment which was ordered and installed over the February half term break. This includes 3 table tennis tables and two basketball posts. Over the past 6 weeks these have been well used and seem to be really appreciated by students. There have also been some friendly staff Vs student competitions taking place from time to time which is good to see!

I would like to wish everyone a peaceful and Covid-free break over the next few weeks. We break up for the Easter holidays on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April as Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April is a Teacher Training Day. We return on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April at the usual time ready for an action-packed summer term. Please can I remind everyone that students should arrive at the Academy at 8.30am ready for an 8.40am start with their Form Tutors. Lateness to the Academy will not be tolerated and will result in a lengthy after school detention. Persistent lateness will trigger a referral to our safeguarding and welfare team for further investigation as this is a serious cause for concern. Thankfully the overwhelming majority of our students arrive at the Academy in good time, every day.

The Easter holidays marks one year since I took up post as Principal at Joseph Leckie. In that time a lot has been achieved and there have been many positives and some very sad times, including the passing of Mrs Small and Mrs Glover. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year as Principal and have been made to feel very welcome indeed. It is a pleasure working in such a positive, friendly and caring Academy. I would like to thank you, as parents and carers, for the support you have given me.

I look forward to seeing you at an Academy event in the near future. Our Awards Evening for Year 7-10 and Year 12 will take place in the summer term where we will celebrate the academic success of our students and recognise those students who have consistently demonstrated our new Academy values.

Yours faithfully

Mr James Ludlow  
Principal

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