



## Joseph Leckie Academy

16th July

Dear Parents/Guardians/Carers

### September 2020 Return to School and Key information

I am writing to you to explain how the Academy will reopen safely in September following Government guidance being released. I appreciate that this letter is lengthy, however I need to provide you with the necessary information you will need to plan for September 2020.

#### Government Guidance

It is the government's plan that all children and young people, in all year groups, will return to school full time from the beginning of the autumn term. Scientific evidence shows that coronavirus (COVID-19) presents a much lower risk to children than adults. Of course, there will still be risks while coronavirus (COVID-19) remains in the community, and that is why we will be putting in place a strict range of protective measures. In order to effectively manage the risks, things will need to be a bit different when children return to school for the new academic year.

I wanted to update you all on our planning for full re-opening of the Academy in September, this is still being finalised but I am aware that you will need to be making plans regarding your own work arrangements, childcare and what to purchase over the summer holidays.

To help with your planning, I am pleased to confirm, we are aiming to achieve the following structure but please keep an eye on the website for further updates and any necessary changes.

- The Academy will be open full time from September and the times of the Academy day have not changed. A copy of the Academy Day is attached.

## Joseph Leckie Academy

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· However, there will be a staggered start to the new school year with different year groups on different days. This will help us to support your child's return and ensure they are fully aware of all the changes we have made. Arrangements are in place for everyone's safety and also to support students after such a long period of absence. Please ensure that you read these arrangements carefully at the end of this letter.

· In addition we have changed the lunchtime arrangements as explained in my previous letter in order to separate year groups. Please see the Academy Day attached. All students are encouraged to eat a healthy breakfast before arriving in school, however there is a breakfast club available from 8am and food will be available to purchase at break time if they wish. Breakfast club will resume on Monday 7th September. A selection of hot and cold lunch items will be available in the canteen at lunchtime for purchase or for free school meals.

· From September 1st we will operate a completely cashless system for all students and it is essential your child has credit on their ParentMail account prior to purchasing food. More details are on the Academy website under catering or Academy Apps.

· We will be returning to the usual uniform policy in the autumn term. Uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, or in any different way to normal due to coronavirus (COVID-19). Although, they do need to be cleaned on a regular basis as usual. Please see the attached uniform poster or refer to the Academy website.

· Your child will be issued with an Identity Badge on their first day back which they will be expected to wear at all times on the lanyard provided. This is important for ease of identification to ensure their safety and to keep their year bubbles separate.

· We will be using a number of different entrances for drop off and pick up so please ensure you know which gate your child will enter from and check their timetable so you know where they will depart from. Where siblings arrive together, please ensure they have enough time to walk around to the correct gate as they will not be allowed to enter together. They will also exit from different gates at the end of the day.

· You can drop your child off at the designated gate but will not be able to come onto school site and you should ensure you maintain social distancing from other parents and students.

· Students will operate in year group bubbles and they will have designated areas at break and lunchtimes and they must not mix with other years in other areas.

- Students must maintain social distancing of 2m from all adults and at least 1m distance from each other.
- There will be enhanced cleaning throughout the Academy but all staff and students must regularly clean their hands, including when they arrive at school, when they return from breaks, before and after eating, using soap and water or hand sanitiser.
- They must ensure good respiratory hygiene, we promote the ‘catch it, bin it, kill it’ approach.
- Please ensure that you have read the student expectations and protocols. Your child must follow these rules in addition to the usual Academy rules in the Positive Behaviour Management Policy for everyone’s safety. Both of these are on the Academy website.

## Curriculum

We know that most of our students have worked incredibly hard to sustain their studies during lockdown and so we feel confident that they will pick up their studies again quickly; we look forward to getting back to near normal in September and will address any educational concerns in the usual way as and if they arise.

Changes we have made will not reduce the teaching time and we will continue to provide an ambitious and broad curriculum whilst acknowledging that some catch up will be necessary. We will also make plans for the continued provision of remote education where needed, to ensure that if your child is off ill or is instructed to self-isolate again in the future they are given the support they need to continue learning.

## Behaviour Policy & Student Expectations & Protocols

There will be amendments to the Academy behaviour policy which will reflect the rules that are required from the autumn term. Students will sign a behaviour contract when they return. Full details of the Protocol and the amended policy will be available from September on the website.

## Health

Please ensure that if anyone in your household has COVID-19 symptoms, your child does NOT attend school. Any child or staff member who develops symptoms in the school day will be sent home immediately. You must follow the Government guidance ‘stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection’ If anyone in your household is displaying any

symptoms of COVID-19, or has tested positive, you **MUST** inform school by telephone. See full details at the bottom of this letter.

## Attendance

The government has advised that attendance will become mandatory again from the beginning of the new academic year. This means that the legal duty on you as a parent to send your child to school regularly will apply from September 2020. We are grateful for the ongoing support that our parents give us throughout the year and we are proud of our levels of attendance, but we are also mindful of the challenges some families have faced through this period of lockdown. If your child falls into an extremely clinically vulnerable category or remains under the care of a specialist health care professional, you should discuss their care before returning to school in September and talk to your Head of Year about the situation. Where children are not able to attend school, as parents are following clinical and/or public health advice, they will not be penalised – we will work with you to try to maintain your child's education throughout the time they are away from lessons within the restrictions of any health issues. If your child falls into one of these categories, please do not hesitate to contact the Attendance Team or your child's Head of Year for further guidance.

## Return dates in September

As part of our risk assessment process it is important that we stagger our return to school over the first few days. Please take a note of when your child will be returning.

### **Tuesday 1st September:**

Staff Training Day – **No Students in school**

### **Wednesday 2nd September: Only the following year groups are in school:**

Year 7 to arrive at 8.30am arrive via Lord Street entrance.

Year 10 arrive for 10.10am via New Building Reception, Walstead Road West

Year 11 arrive for 10.10am via path by side of Car Park (next to MyPlace)

Year 13 arrive for 10.10am via the Old Building Reception

### **Thursday 3rd September:**

**Year 10, 11 & 13 are not in on this day.**

Year 7 to arrive at 8.30 via Lord Street entrance

Year 8 arrive for 10.10 via Lord Street entrance

Year 9 arrive for 10.10 via West Bromwich Road gate (PE)

Year 12 arrive for 10.10 via Old Building Reception

**Friday 4th September:**

Year 7/8/9/10/11 arrive at 8.30 through the entrances listed above. Form starts at 8.40.

Year 12/13 are not in school today and will work from home until Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September.

**Monday 7th September:**

All year groups return at 8.30 for form time to commence at 8.40.

As the Academy receives updates during the summer, we will continue to keep you informed. Although, school is closed over summer staff are still working hard during the holidays to ensure a smooth start in September. Please be aware that all of our decisions are subject to any imposed localised or wider restrictions or further information from the government.

Although it feels like this situation has lasted forever, in fact, most students have lost, at worst, only 62 school days of face-to-face learning to date and very many of them have worked incredibly hard using online resources and lessons provided by our hardworking and dedicated teachers. We will work together in September to move forward to make sure your child gets the great and safe education they deserve.

Yours sincerely

Rachel Cook

Acting Principal.



## Joseph Leckie Academy

COVID advice:

What are the Symptoms:

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal
- In addition, however, Public Health England have advised us that we should also be aware of the following symptoms: D = Diarrhoea, V = Vomiting, ST = Sore Throat, H = Headache, N = Nausea,

If you have one or more of these symptoms, you must self-isolate straight away for 7 days – or longer if you still have symptoms other than cough or loss of sense of smell/taste.

If you become ill in school or at home, you **MUST** book a test. You will not be able to return to school until you have been tested. The attendance team will advise you on this.

If anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they must be sent home and advised to follow 'stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection', which sets out that they must self-isolate for at least 7 days and should arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19). Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.

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