



## Joseph Leckie Academy

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **New Academic Year 2021/22**

I hope you are well and that you have enjoyed the summer despite the lack of sunshine! We are very much looking forward to seeing your child at school next week for the start of the new term.

Congratulations to all of our Year 11 and 13 students who received their examination grades this summer. There were many happy students who achieved fantastic results and who are now all set to return to our 6<sup>th</sup> form or move on to further studies elsewhere. If your child is joining us in Year 7 this September, we are really looking forward to seeing them as they start their seven-year educational journey with us.

I would like to inform you that Mrs Smith, one of our Vice-Principals is retiring after more than 15 years of service to the academy. I know that many of you, particularly those with older children in the school, will have met Mrs Smith on occasions and seen what a huge difference she has made to the lives of students here at Joseph Leckie Academy over many years. We wish her all the best for the future and thank her for her dedicated and distinguished service to our academy over such a long period of time.

As we return to school it is important for us all to remember that the Covid-19 pandemic is far from over. Sadly, the number of positive cases across the country appears to be on the increase and, if evidence from Scotland is anything to go by, there is a risk that cases could increase further once all schools return in England next week. With this in mind, we have decided to retain many of the safety measures that we had in place last term, including the strong recommendation to wear face coverings in areas where social distancing cannot be maintained such as corridors and in classrooms. We will also be continuing with our increased cleaning and hygiene measures that we have had in place since the pandemic began. A full version of our academy risk assessment can be found on our website. We are very grateful for your support in reinforcing our expectations with your child. In general, our students have been excellent in adhering to the Covid-19 safety measures that we have put in place.

I understand that vaccinations are now being offered to everyone over the age of 16 and would strongly encourage anyone who is eligible to take up this opportunity. The rules for test and trace have now changed and anyone under the age of 18 years and 6 months will now no longer be required to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact of a positive Covid-19 case. They will however be asked to see a PCR test to confirm whether or not they are positive and will also be required to take extra caution to ensure that they maintain social distancing until it is clarified whether or not they have tested positive.

### **Joseph Leckie Academy**

Walstead Road West, Walsall, West Midlands WS5 4PG

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Next week sees a staggered start to the term for all year groups. A separate letter and email has been sent individually out to all year groups explaining when they should come into school. Information has been on our website since the end of the summer term and this sets out clearly the full arrangements for students in all year groups next week. Please could I ask you to check this carefully and ensure that your child knows when they are expected to come into school next week and the full programme for the first week of term?

As the new term begins, I would like to remind everyone of the high standards we expect from everyone here at their academy. In terms of uniform we expect all students to adhere to our uniform policy which you can find on our website. The timings of our school day will remain the same as last year and it is essential that students arrive at school on time, ready for form time to begin at 8.45am. It is also now more important than ever that your child attends school regularly unless, of course, they have Covid-19 symptoms, in which case they should take a PCR test as soon as possible.

On the theme of expectations, we continue to expect all of our students to come to school fully equipped for learning. They should have all the resources they need in order to complete their work and this includes a range of pens, pencils, a ruler and an eraser as a minimum. Again, please see our academy website for full details.

Finally, as we approach the new academic year, I would like to remind all of our students about our expectations in terms of personal behaviour. The vast majority of our students display exemplary conduct at all times and this is valued and recognised. Poor behaviour will not be tolerated and serious sanctions will be imposed for anyone who is in breach of our academy behaviour policy. In particular, we will take a very tough stance on anyone who is found to be disturbing the learning of others or jeopardising the safety of themselves or others. As you would expect, abuse of any description towards members of the academy staff will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

For parents of Year 7 students who wish to accompany their child to school at the start of term, please can I ask you not to enter the building unless it is strictly necessary. This is to reduce the number of people inside the school building and ensure that social distancing can be maintained. Year 7 students should enter the academy through the green gates on Walstead Road West and come into school via main Reception. Please do not hesitate to phone or email us if you have a question regarding the start of term and we do look forward to seeing you in school in the very near future.

We are really looking forward to seeing all our students again as our academy enters a new academic year and a new and exciting era for everyone.

Yours faithfully

James Ludlow  
Principal

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