

29th August 2024

Dear Families,

We hope you are well and have had a good summer. We are really looking forward to seeing our students once again on Tuesday morning (3rd September). See below for more details.

As we approach the start of the new academic year, we wanted to write to you with some important updates and reminders to make sure the new term goes as smoothly as possible. First, we would like to mention how pleased we all are with the wonderful examination results achieved by our students again this summer. We are all very proud of everything that they have achieved, especially given the significant challenges they all faced and have overcome following the disruptions they have faced in recent years.

Our Year 13s are now making their final plans to go away to university or begin an apprenticeship and we are really pleased to so many students secured their first choice destination. The majority of Year 11 students are now enrolled in our Sixth form, at a college or on an apprenticeship. Once again, we have a record number of students getting ready to join us in our 6th form to begin the next phase of their education.

Among many excellent sets of results, were individual students achieving multiple grade 9s and Distinction* grades at GCSE or Vocational courses and students who achieved several grade As, A*s or Distinctions in their Level 3 examinations. Similarly, the Academy is hugely proud of those students who found their examinations more challenging but persevered to achieve results that will allow them to move onto the next stage of their studies. There were also some hugely impressive examination results for students who took some of their qualifications a year early with record numbers of entries in History in Year 10 and those who did a Modern Foreign Language early in Year 10. Well done to you all.

We would also like to thank the staff, parents and members of the wider community who have supported the students to achieve their success and with their progression choices.

As well as the very positive exam results, we have also been busy over the summer improving and upgrading many of the facilities across the Academy. When students return next week they will notice quite a few positive changes including the installation of two brand new sports pitches on our playground and a fully-equipped, state of the art gym and fitness suite which students will be able to use in their PE lessons and as an extracurricular opportunity. We are also very pleased that our Honours Boards have been installed, showing the names of our Head Boys and Girls from recent years along with the names of the winners of the major trophies at our Pride of Leckie Awards Evenings.



Learn together, lead together.



Joseph Leckie Academy

Walstead Road West, Walsall, WS5 4PG

Tel: 01922 721071

Email: postbox@josephleckieacademy.co.uk

Chief Executive Office: Mr James Ludlow

Associate Principal: Ms Rachel Cook

As we rapidly approach the start of term, this is a useful time to give **some clear reminders about some of our key rules and expectations as well as some key changes, to avoid any confusion.** We have high expectations of all members of the Academy community because we want everyone at Joseph Leckie to achieve highly and enjoy coming to school.

- **Equipment for Learning** – Students are reminded that they need to have a full set of basic equipment at their disposal so that they can complete work without needing to ask the teacher. All students must bring a pencil case with a range of stationery items, including spare pieces of equipment.
- **Lanyards** – Students are expected to wear a lanyard at all times. If your child is going into Year 8 and above, they should continue to use the lanyard they have been issued with. Students who are joining us in Year 7 will be given a lanyard in their first week. Anyone in Year 8 and above who has misplaced their lanyard should order one online using Parent Mail.
- **Hairlines/eyebrows patterns** – The Academy does not permit any lines or patterns in students' hair. Any patterns or lines should be grown out so that they are no longer visible in time for the start of term. Hair colouring needs to be in line with our Uniform and Appearance policy which states that 'excessively bright or unusual colours are not allowed.'
- **Piercings** - 1 plain stud per earlobe is permitted.
- **Uniform** - There should be no hoodies, tracksuit tops or trainers worn. We will be reinforcing this on return, making calls home and issuing consequences where students do not have the correct uniform. If there are any exceptional circumstances it is important that you liaise with your child's Head of Year to discuss these.
For full clarification of our Uniform and Appearance Expectations, please refer to the policy on our website: [Joseph Leckie Academy - Uniform](#)
- **Mobile phones** – Mobile phones, including earphones (ear pods etc) should not be seen heard, or used at any time or under any circumstances on the Academy site. This is a key part of our safeguarding strategy as an Academy and will be reinforced robustly, including through confiscation of mobile phone devices and after school detentions.
- **Holidays in term time** – Absence for holidays will not be authorised and we expect all students to return for the start of term on Tuesday 3rd September. Anyone who has not returned on this date will receive a visit from our Home School Liaison team and will automatically lose their place on our attendance rewards trips.
- **Lateness** – students need to ensure that they are on the Academy site by 8.28 at the latest in the morning and be in form groups or lined up for their assembly by 8.30. Parents should ensure that their child has set off early enough to get onto site via the correct entrance for their year group. Students are also reminded that they should arrive to lessons on time. There are consequences for lateness in the morning and to lessons.



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Reminder - Start of term arrangements:

Students will return on **Tuesday 3rd September 2024**. The **new Year 7 and 12 students will start at 8.20 am** where there will be further induction activities and then **all other students will arrive at 11.00am via their year entrances below**.

New Year 7 morning entrance - Lord Street gates

New Year 8 morning entrance - Lord Street gates

New Year 9 morning entrance - KWB2 student path next to reception

New Year 10 morning entrance - KWB2 student path next to reception

New Year 11 morning entrance - Walstead Road West End gates

6th Form morning entrance - Entrance gates closest to form room

Students will leave school via the nearest exit to their period 5 lesson or at a gate that you have pre-arranged. Please note that school now ends at 3.00pm. Parents should collect students from outside the relevant gates but **should not park on double yellow lines or in the 'no parking' zones by the zebra crossings**. This is for the safety of all students and local residents.

Please can I remind all parents that there has been a change to the Academy day so as of Wednesday 4th September students must arrive by 8.28 through the correct entrance.

Timetables for the start of term.

Students in Years 8-13 will receive their **new timetable on Monday 2nd September via Class Charts** so it is important that they check on Class Charts before they return on Tuesday as this will have their form tutor details which may have changed from last year. All students will also receive a hard copy on Tuesday morning when they return during Period 3 but wherever possible it is important to check these for changes to forms and equipment they will need on the first day for their lessons as this might include a PE lesson.

If your child is in Year 7 they will receive their timetable on their first day from their form tutor.



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New Academy timings for the day.

8.20am - 8.28am	Enter school site via the designated year group morning entrance gates. All morning entrance gates locked at 8.28am
8.30am - 9.00am	Form / assembly
9.00am – 10.00am	Period 1
10.00am – 11.00am	Period 2
11.00am – 11.15am	Morning break
11.20am - 12.20pm	Period 3
12.20pm - 2.00pm	Period 4 (Including lunch)
12.20pm – 1.00pm	<i>Lunch 1 (Years 7/9/11)</i>
1.20pm -2.00pm	<i>Lunch 2 (Years 8/10/12/13)</i>
2.00pm – 3.00pm	Period 5
3.00pm	Enrichment opportunities

We will be launching a new App in September called “Arbor.” Please look out for a letter, further information and log in details. This App will be essential for all parents as it will include all other vital information about your child, including their attendance, timetables, progress data, reports etc. This will be launched early in the new term. We will inform you when this is launched and provide you with more information and your log in details and this will replace a number of other Apps we currently use to simplify and improve parental communications and information. However, we will continue to use Class Charts for behaviour as this is a very effective and useful App.

Class Charts Reminder: Students and parents in Years 8 and above should already be using the Class Charts App for logging into our behaviour monitoring platform. Over 70% of parents are already using Class Charts on a regular basis to track the progress of their child in the Academy. If any parent is unsure about how to log in and wants a reminder, please contact your child’s Head of Year and they will be able to help you. Students and parents for students in Year 7 will be issued with log in details early in the new term. This allows you as parents and carers to track and monitor the rewards and sanctions issued to your child during the Academy week. It continues to support us all as we seek to work in partnership to ensure that all our students make the best possible progress and achieve the highest possible grades in their examinations. With their positive points, students earn virtual medals (Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum) and many have been using their points to make purchases from our Class Charts shop and some enter these into prize draws for even bigger prizes! Parents already using the Class Charts App will have been able to see all of the positive comments and rewards that their children have received on a daily basis. Please can we remind you that all detentions and logs of negative behaviour will be shared with you through Class Charts. Therefore, it is vital that all parents and students ensure they are checking the Class Charts App regularly.



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Finally, we are really looking forward to working in partnership with you all again during this new Academy year. Our regular weekly parent newsletters will continue and we will be creating a new Parent Forum which we hope many of you will take part in. It would be great to hear your views and suggestions about how we can work to make the Academy even more successful. We hope you enjoy the remainder of the summer break and look forward to seeing you soon.

Yours faithfully

James Ludlow
CEO

Rachel Cook
Associate Principal

Some Key Dates:

Monday 2 nd September	Late enrolments for the Sixth Form 1pm to 3.30pm
Tuesday 3 rd September	Students return with specific times for years (as above)
Wednesday 4 th September	Students in at new Academy times – normal Academy day
Thursday 26 th September	Open Evening - Early Closure from 12.20pm
Friday 27 th September	Teacher Training Day – Academy closed to Students
Thursday 3 rd October	'Into the 6 th Evening' for Year 11 students and parents - Post 16 courses and careers advice – more details to follow
Thursday 24 th October	Year 7 Settling in Evening – more details to follow



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