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**Newsletter 3, Week Commencing 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

Dear Families,

I hope you enjoyed the extended Bank Holiday weekend. I know our Year 11 and 13 students (and early-entry GCSE students in Year 10!) will have spent the weekend revising and preparing for their upcoming exams. We wish them all the very best. As usual, I have included a short roundup of the key highlights from last week in the academy as well as some reminders regarding our expectations and important academy dates for your diaries.

**Key Highlights from Last Week....**

There was plenty going on in the academy last week including our assemblies to mark National Science Week, which were built around the theme of ‘time’. The assemblies were both enthusiastically delivered and informative, encouraging our students to become excited about the wider world and impact of science. Linked to this, we are also very excited to be running a special project where a Joseph Leckie time capsule is being prepared and then buried!

Last week saw the end of our GCSE language speaking exams. The exams started with French and then last week we moved on to other languages where students are taking a GCSE qualification. This included Polish, Gujarati, Urdu, Spanish, Italian, German, Arabic and Mandarin! Amazing! The exams involved a great deal of organisation and preparation from the staff and students but will hopefully lead to some incredibly valuable language qualifications being achieved by our students.

As I’m sure you’re aware, 2024 is an Olympic Year and we are planning on marking this in style. As part of our site development, we really want to improve the quality of our sporting facilities and hopefully the Olympic Games will provide a springboard for launching this project. Among a range of sporting events and activities planned, we have our annual Sports Day coming up in July. Students will receive more information about this very soon.

Last week we received some excellent feedback from the exam board regarding the quality of work produced by students following our Childcare qualification in Year 13. The report was incredibly complimentary of the standard of the work produced by our students and the outcomes of this work. Well done to everyone involved.

A group of Year 10 and 12 students visited the Birmingham City University (BCU) Product and Furniture Design department last week. Here, they took part in practical activities, using the university’s impressive facilities and resources. They also learned about higher education opportunities and career prospects within this sector. Our students clearly got lots out of this visit along with building collaborative links with BCU for the future. The lecturer from BCU who hosted the visited wrote to us afterwards and said:

*“It was fantastic to meet with the year 10 and year 12 pupils from Joseph Leckie on a Product and Furniture Design taster session. I was impressed with how they conducted themselves throughout the visit, and even more impressed by the various structures they produced! All students were a delight to speak with, they all demonstrated creativity, critical thinking, and excellent presentation skills. They truly are an asset to the school.”*

*Wishing you all the best for the remainder of the school term, and hope we can collaborate again in future ☺”*

I am sure you will agree this is fantastic feedback.

### Key Reminders and Academy Expectations...

This week's reminders focus on our expectations of students on the playground and when they are outside the classroom. As the weather gets warmer, I want to reinforce the expectation that drinks must not be thrown. A very small minority of students persist in engaging in throwing water (etc.) at other students and this will not be tolerated under any circumstances. The minimum consequence for throwing water will be that the student involved will not be allowed to go out on the playground at lunchtime for a set period of time and will receive an after school detention.

The other key issue we face is litter. You may recall we had to temporarily stop selling cartons of drink at lunchtimes because so many of the empty cartons were dropped in the playground, causing the amount of litter to increase significantly. After a short ban, we reintroduced the cartons. I am sorry to inform you that the litter has since increased again. I am therefore making it clear to students that the levels of litter are being monitored this week and if there is no improvement, the only drinks available to students at lunchtimes will be water.

I really value your support with both the water throwing and the litter dropping as they are two large issues we face as an academy at this time of year. Thankfully it is only a small minority of students who choose to behave in this way however it is impacting on all of us and must stop immediately. As the expectations below set out, we want our students to be 'sensible and safe' when they are on the playground.

The outdoor expectations are set out below:



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Outdoor Expectations

-  Remain in your allocated area during break and lunchtime.
-  Be sensible and safe; do not run across the yard.
-  All food must be eaten in the dining hall or canopy and not on the yard.
-  Report incidents of unacceptable behaviour to duty staff at the earliest opportunity.
-  Use the sports equipment appropriately; no vandalism.

Learn together, lead together. 

### Upcoming Events in the Academy Calendar...

Below are some key dates for your diaries – the only addition from previous weeks is the Sports Day date in July (highlighted in ***bold/italics***)

- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May – Year 10 Parents' Evening
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May – Academy closes for half term Holidays
- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June – Academy re-opens at normal time

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June – Year 9 Parents' Evening  
Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June – Staff INSET Day - academy closed to students  
Week Commencing 24<sup>th</sup> June – Year 10 Careers Week  
Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June – Pride of Leckie Awards Evening  
Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June – Cultural Diversity Day  
Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July – Year 6-7 Transition Days  
**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July – Academy Sports Day**  
Week Commencing 8<sup>th</sup> July – Year 12 Work Experience Week  
Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July – Academy closes for summer holidays

I hope you have a lovely week. Year 10 Parents, I hope you have the upcoming Parents' Evening in your diaries for Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May. Thank you all once again for your support. It is very much appreciated.

Best wishes

Mr Ludlow  
Chief Executive Officer