



# Joseph Leckie Academy

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to let you know that the Academy **closes at the slightly earlier time of 12.20 (at the start of period 4) on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024** for the end of term. The Academy will re-open at the normal time (students to arrive by 8.28) on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025**.

Those students on Free School Meals will be provided with a packed lunch on the last day and will collect this from their break time zone. Other students will be able to purchase food at break time in the usual way. Please can we stress the importance of attending school on the last day as usual, as form time, lessons and Year 11 mock examinations will go on as normal in the morning.

This has been a very positive term with so much going on and so many new developments. We started with the MUGAs and a new Multi Gym which have been a wonderful addition for use by our students. The introduction of the revised Academy day is now well established and this will have impacts on learning through the additional time this has given in the curriculum for key subjects and some excellent assemblies which have benefitted from additional time.

We have coped with an early snow fall and some ice and we would like to say a massive thank you to our Site Team who did tremendous work to get the Academy open for our students to attend by 11am on those two days when other schools had to close. It is essential that wherever possible the Academy remains open for students to be able to access their education as they prepare for their Key Stage 4 and 5 examinations and we endeavor to maximise learning opportunities for your child(ren). If we do have any more days where severe bad weather may cause us to delay the opening, we will always let you know via our Arbor/Class Charts Apps messaging services, so please ensure these Apps are downloaded or review the Academy website.

There has been so much success and positivity to celebrate once again this term. We have seen the impressive attitude to learning with so many students being recognised through Class Charts and the success of our students in lessons and other learning events. In addition, there are so many events and trips that have taken place this term here are just a few of the highlights:

Our additional period 6 lessons for Year 11 continue to provide revision and catch up opportunities for students as they near their exams, including the extra sessions after school for early entry History groups from Year 10 and some students who have also started some additional Urdu lessons to support their Community Languages GCSE. We



Learn together, lead together.



**Joseph Leckie Academy**

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Chief Executive Office: Mr James Ludlow

Associate Principal: Ms Rachel Cook



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have had more sporting fixtures including Basketball fixtures, Year 7 and then Year 8 Football tournaments and there are plenty more to come. In addition to this, the PE department recently hosted a very successful Primary Girls football tournament.

There was a "Remembrance Day" Arts and Humanities Faculty performance with a number of students involved including a musical number, historical review and drama performance to commemorate this day. It was also lovely to see a number of parents attend this performance to watch their child perform. There have been several trips out of school including a Health and Social care trip to Harry Potter at Warner Bros Studios in London; a trip to Juniper Training for some of our SEND students to support with their transition from KS4 to KS5; a Year 10 Envision project group going to a savings bank; a Year 12 trip to IKEA for some project work for their coursework; and a Year 12 and 13 theatre trip to Stratford for a Royal Shakespeare performance of 'Othello', to name but a few of the extra opportunities that staff have organised for our students.

We joined with many others in raising money for "Children in Need", with students raising £1315 for charity. Thank you to Mrs O'Sullivan and the Heads of House who organized a great day, students were also allowed to be in non-uniform to raise money for those children less fortunate than themselves. As always our Leckie Academy values were on display with some wonderful acts of kindness, empathy and community spirit. There were some fun activities with one of the most popular ones being the wet sponge – several teachers volunteered to be soaked and this raised a lot of money and gave a lot of enjoyment to so many. Thank you also to Mr Giles and the Year 13 'Reducelt' team who raised over £1,100.00 through a variety of charity events including a "Splash the staff", food bank and Christmas Jumper day to support our local Acorns hospice.

Many of our Year 11's attended our Study Skills evening on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December, gathering further information about how to study and plan an effective revision programme and maximise their preparation for their mock and then their summer exams. Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Devey or Mr Greaves, if you missed this event and wish to find out more information.

As you are aware, we have moved to a new management information system within the Academy called **Arbor**. This is going really well and many of you are now signed up and receiving live data on your child's achievements and use this system to send your child's reports. This term this has included Year 10 and Year 8 reports and Year 13 and Year 7 are soon to follow.

For payments, including school meals, uniform and trips, we will be launching the new Arbor payment system soon after we return in the new year and all payments will then be done via Arbor. We will send a letter with instructions and with the date this will transfer will take place in the coming weeks. Parent Mail, will then be phased out and integrated into Arbor and any money on your child's account will be transferred over when this happens.



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Therefore, if you haven't had chance to sign up already then it is really important that you do so before this transfer takes place. There is a link and explanation on our Academy website [Joseph Leckie Academy - Arbor](#).

Similarly, we are using Arbor as well as our Class Charts App for messaging parents. This makes it essential that all parents and carers have both these Apps as these are our primary methods for sending out important messages. Therefore, it is vital that all parents and students ensure they are checking these regularly.

Please can we take this opportunity to remind you that your child should **be in full Academy uniform** when they return from the Christmas holidays. Lanyards are compulsory, so if they have lost their lanyard, please ensure that you have ordered a replacement before we break up so it can be prepared for their return. In addition, please can we remind you of the following: there should be no hoodies, tracksuit tops or trainers worn. Please ensure your child has a warm waterproof outdoor coat for the colder winter months. Please refer to the jewellery policy and remind you that your child should not have any extreme hair-cuts or colours over the holiday period so please refer to our policy on haircuts and colours. [Joseph Leckie Academy - Uniform](#)

At the end of this term we are also saying goodbye to Mr D Smith. He has only recently joined the Academy to be the Subject Lead for Food and in his 18 months at the Academy he has tremendous impact, not only in Food lessons but also in his role as Head of House and then more recently in his role as Assistant Head of Year 10 where he has really supported the Year 10 students. He does not really want to leave us but for personal reasons he is returning to his home in Cornwall. We thank Mr Smith for his support to so many students and his support for colleagues.

We are excited by new roles in the Academy, and new staff who have joined us or will be joining us in the near future. We have appointed a new Academy Estates Manager, Mr Brown will be joining us to expand the capacity of the Site Team following the early retirement of his predecessor to lead and further develop and improve the site. We have also appointed an additional caretaker, Mr Woolley who has just stated with us and we are expanding the team further in the new year to ensure we continue to develop and improve our facilities. We have recently appointed a new Data and Examinations Manager, Ms Murray with oversight of our data, examinations and timetabling systems. She is experienced in Arbor and will support in the development and use of this to enhance how we develop the use of reports and data on Arbor. We also welcomed a Careers and Curriculum Co-ordinator, Mrs Mayers who started with us just before half term to support and further develop careers opportunities and apprenticeship opportunities in particular. Other newly appointed staff include a Teaching Assistant in Maths, Mrs Sarwar who herself is an ex Joseph Leckie student who recently stated with us, and we also have some more staff joining us shortly including a new Bi-lingual Teaching Assistant and a new Learning



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Mentor to add further capacity to supporting students in the Academy. There are always opportunities to join the Academy as a member of staff so if you know someone who might be interested and including parents, please do keep your eyes on our Academy website for opportunities as they arise.

We look forward to continuing to work in partnership and sharing further successes with you as parents and carers as we move into the new year with some exciting times ahead. Thank you very much for your support this year, it is much appreciated.

We wish you all a peaceful and relaxing Christmas break and we look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you during 2025.

Yours faithfully,

James Ludlow  
CEO

Rachel Cook  
Associate Principal

## Key Dates:

Week Commencing	
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Start of Spring Term. Students arrive through their Year gates by 8.28am
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Year 8 Options Information Evening for parents and students 4pm-5.30pm (this will be divided into J and L half so you will be notified of a time in your letter)
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2025	Year 11 Parents' evening 5pm-7pm
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Half term ends at 3.00pm
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	School starts
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Year 8 Subject Parents' evening with an earlier time of 3.30-5.30 pm due to Ramadan This is an important parents evening to discuss your child's option possibilities with their teachers.



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