

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> August 2025

## Letter to Parents – August 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are enjoying the summer break and making the most of the lovely weather we've been having.

We ended the term on a very positive note, with a wide range of trips and activities taking place right up to the last week. It was also a nostalgic time as we said goodbye to Rachel Cook, who has retired after 25 years of dedicated service to the students, staff, and families of Joseph Leckie Academy. Her fitting send-off included a special reception with the Mayor of Walsall in her parlour. We wish Rachel a long, happy, and healthy retirement.

As you know, the end of term also marked my final weeks as Principal of Joseph Leckie Academy, as I move into my new role as Chief Executive Officer of the newly formed Forge Brook Trust. The Trust currently includes Joseph Leckie Academy, Hillary Primary School, Delves Junior and Infant Schools, and Palfrey Infant School.

This change means that I will no longer be based at the Academy and am officially employed by the Trust. It also means that the role of Principal will be handed over to Andrew McNaughton from 1<sup>st</sup> September. Many of you may have already met Andrew during transition events last term. He is an experienced Headteacher, having successfully led a school in Telford for the past eight years. There are exciting times ahead for Joseph Leckie Academy and all the schools in the Trust, and I look forward to seeing the Academy continue to go from strength to strength under Andrew's leadership.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported me during my time as Principal. It has been an absolute pleasure and a privilege to serve the Academy. While I am sad to be leaving this role, I am confident that the school is in very good hands.

As we approach the new academic year, we are seeking a **Parent Governor** to join our newly established Local Governing Board. Local Governors play a vital role in the leadership of the Academy. It is a rewarding and varied role, with training provided, mentoring from experienced Governors, and support from our dedicated Clerk. If you are interested in applying, please complete the form on the link provided below and a member of staff will contact you to discuss the next steps.

<https://forms.office.com/e/ryuKedkgvR>



Learn together, lead together.



## Joseph Leckie Academy

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Chief Executive Office: Mr James Ludlow

Associate Principal: Ms Rachel Cook



# Joseph Leckie Academy

As a reminder, Ms Cook sent a letter at the end of term outlining all the details for the start of the new academic year:

- **Tuesday 2nd September** – Year 7 and Year 12 students return
- **Wednesday 3rd September** – All students in school for a prompt start

I wish you the very best for the remainder of the summer. Please take care and remember to check our Academy website for full details on start-of-term arrangements, uniform requirements, and other key information.

Best wishes,

**Mr J. Ludlow**  
CEO, Forge Brook Trust



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