



## Joseph Leckie Academy

5<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **KEEPING OUR STUDENTS SAFE – KNIFE CRIME**

I am sure that you will be aware that knife crime and youth violence have become depressingly regular features in the national and local news / media. Week after week we hear about another young life taken, a family heartbroken and a community shattered. All over the country, young people are under threat because of individuals carrying knives.

Schools across Walsall are taking part in initiatives collaboratively in order to educate and protect their students. As an Academy, our approach is to be proactive rather than reactive, to provide young people with the information they need to keep themselves safe and to reduce the risk of harm. Therefore, the following interventions will take place throughout October in partnership with Walsall Police:

**13<sup>th</sup> October 2021** – A Knife Arch will be in the Academy to raise awareness of knife crime. Police will be positioned in the Academy corridor and students will be asked to walk through it. I appreciate that some students may find the experience upsetting however, it is essential we are pro-active to protect our students from the threat of knives while they are in the Academy as well as educating them about the dangers of carrying a weapon.

**14<sup>th</sup> October 2021** – Walsall Police will be in the Academy to deliver a One Knife/One Life session to Year 9.

**18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> October** - The Saltmine Trust team will perform Switch Up, a performance followed by a 60-minute workshop.

- Year 7 – 18<sup>th</sup> October
- Year 8 – 19<sup>th</sup> October

**21<sup>st</sup> October 2021** – A trained sniffer dog will be on school premises with Walsall Police. The dogs will sit if any substances are detected.

I hope that you will agree that our approach to keeping our students safe is one that you are able to support. Please take the opportunity to discuss the interventions with your son or daughter and impress on him/her the dangers of carrying a knife and the importance of not associating with anyone else who may do so. Should you have any questions or need any further information please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

James Ludlow  
Principal

### **Joseph Leckie Academy**

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