



Joseph Leckie Academy

20th March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to remind you that the Academy closes at 2.50pm on Friday 22nd March 2024 for the Easter break and will re-open at the normal time on Monday 8th April 2024.

It was wonderful to see so many Year 8 parents attend the recent Parents' Evening. Students in this year group have now had a series of careers events to support them in choosing their KS4 options.

Year 11 interviews for the Sixth form have now been completed and offer letters will be issued shortly. These are conditional offers based on students' achievement in their actual GCSE grades and will also be based on viability of courses. It is important that Year 11 students continue to work hard and stay focused towards their exams. The results from recent mock exams are very promising indeed which is great to see.

Highlights of the Half Term:

We have had another busy half term with so many events going on, here are a few highlights.

Some of our Year 7 students went on a residential visit to Mount Cook in Derbyshire and not only learned many useful skills but also had a fabulous time and were a credit to the Academy and their families. In addition, 50 Year 7 girls attended an 'Opening Doors' day at KPMG in Birmingham and had a great day learning about a range of job opportunities and career opportunities for women.

90 students from Year 8 attended a "Drone Workshop," learning how drones are programmed to fly - they had an excellent day. Year 9 Business Studies students attended an Enterprise Day with the Prince's Trust and have qualified for the regional final in May. Some of our more able Year 10 students recently attended a workshop from Oxford and Cambridge universities.

A number of students also attended an outstanding Year 11 revision and intervention residential at Conover Hall in Shropshire in February and spent the weekend engaging in a wide range of activities to prepare them for their GCSE exams. Additionally, Year 12 Politics students visited the University of Birmingham (UOB), for some very well received seminars and masterclasses.

This half term could not end without mentioning the Fashion and Talent Show which once again was a fantastic and successful event with students and staff displaying a range of fashion and a great deal of talent! The event was a great success and enjoyed by all who attended.

There are so many events going on each week at Joseph Leckie Academy. Far too many to mention them all! These would not happen without the dedication and support of our fantastic staff who spend hours behind the scenes organizing numerous events and activities.

Changes to the Academy day



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



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In our last letter we outlined the **proposed changes to the structure of the academy day at Joseph Leckie**. This was proposed to meet the Government's White Paper of March 2022 and Department for Education's "Minimum expectation on length of the school week", which stated that schools should be open a **minimum of 32.5 hours per week** which should be implemented by September 2024.

We have now evaluated the parental survey, held a parental forum on 4th March, reviewed feedback from our staff survey and the proposal has been approved by Trustees.

As we outlined in the letter on February 6th, the rationale for this was not only to meet the Government expectations to increase our Academy day to a minimum of 6.5 hours per day (32.5 hours in a week) but for also for several educational and well-being benefits.

Some parents did express some concern over the start and finish times changing (with dropping off other children) but we either have to add on 20 minutes in the morning or 20 minutes at the end of the day and we chose to balance this with 10 minutes at both ends of the day to try and minimise the effects as much as possible.

Following the review of the proposal and feedback, the Trustees have made the decision to proceed with the revised start time of:

New school day from September 2024: Start Time: 8.30 am. Students must be in their form rooms by 8.30am at the latest.

Finish time: 3.00pm. Period 6 lessons and extra-curricular activities will then take place after this, as usual.

Students **should arrive in school at 8.20am so that they can get to forms on time.**

We believe that these changes will be beneficial to all students, both academically ~~and pastorally~~ and from a wellbeing perspective. The changes and anticipated benefits are set out below:

- **Increasing the time in the curriculum to enhance your child's learning and progress in key subjects.** Science (Y9) and Maths (Y10) will gain additional time along with option subjects in Year 11. This will enhance the development of key skills and subject content in these subjects, allowing students to increase progress and attainment and open up wider opportunities for future pathways.
- The delivery of our Personal, Social, Health and Economic programme (PDP) during form time will be undertaken by form tutors who know the students very well. This will **enhance the effectiveness of our PDP curriculum**. It will also release additional curriculum time for subjects as mentioned above.
- Increasing the length of form time in the morning will allow longer for assemblies and presentations, including those delivered by external speakers. Increasing form time also means that there is more scope for pastoral support and to deliver the form time programme and monitor mental health and wellbeing even more effectively.



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- For Year 11, the longer form time will allow more dedicated revision time each morning.
- 5 minutes longer at break time will allow longer for food to be eaten and toilet breaks to ensure all students are punctual to lessons and reduce the need for toilet breaks during lesson time.
- Slightly longer lunchtimes will allow more time for eating lunches, reduce split lessons for certain year groups and enable more time for recreation which is beneficial for improved mental health and well-being.

The changes will **come into effect from 1st September 2024** allowing you plenty of time to make any necessary arrangements.

This information will also be sent to the Local Authority and we have informed the bus companies. We will work together to minimize this change and we feel there are some excellent benefits for your child(ren).

Uniform Reminders:

In preparation for the new term on Monday 8th April, this will be a good opportunity to remind students about some of the academy rules that must be followed by everyone.

Students should be in **full Academy uniform** (please see our Academy website for details - [Joseph Leckie Academy - Uniform](#)). Please can you ensure that your child has full uniform, including PE kit ready for the start of the new term including purchasing a new lanyard where students have lost this. Can you remind your child to review the jewellery section, particularly in relation to earrings and piercings.

We would also like to draw your attention to our policy on **mobile phones which states that they should not be used on the Academy site** and that they will be confiscated if students are found to be using their phones or if the phones are heard. This also includes other mobile devices, ear buds and head phones. This is a very clear policy and one which is designed to safeguard all members of the academy community.

You may have noticed that the latest government guidance ([Mobile phones in schools - February 2024 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)) which sets out the government's view that all schools should prohibit the use of mobile phones throughout the school day. We are pleased that this guidance reinforces the policy we already have in place here at Joseph Leckie Academy.

We ask that you to reinforce with your child that whilst they can bring their phone to school for safety reasons travelling to and from school, **they MUST NOT be seen with their phones out or using them at any time on the school site. The message we must give to students, in line with government guidance is that mobile devices should be: "never seen, never heard."**



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The Term Ahead:

We look forward to continuing to work in partnership and sharing further successes with you as parents and carers as we move into the summer term. This is an important term, especially for our Year 11 and 13 students (and some Year 10 early entry students) as they prepare for and sit their examinations.

Upcoming dates for the diary:

Monday 8th April - Summer term begins at the normal time

Friday 12th April – **INSET Day – academy closed to students**

Thursday 18th April – Year 7 Parents' Evening

Friday 19th April – Year 9 reports sent out to parents

Monday 6th May – Bank Holiday Monday – academy closed to everyone

Monday 13th May – Summer external exams begin

Thursday 16th May – Year 10 Parents' Evening

Friday 25th May – End of half term

We thank you very much for your support this term, it is much appreciated. We wish you all a relaxing Easter break and we look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you during the summer term.

Yours faithfully,

Mr J Ludlow

Chief Executive Officer

Ms R Cook

Associate Principal



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