



Joseph Leckie
Academy

June 26th 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers,

Re: Proposal to change the structure within the Academy day

We are writing to inform you of some proposed changes to the structure of the school day here at Joseph Leckie Academy due to COVID-19. These will be introduced from our return to school in September 2020. We are proposing a change to the times of lunches during the day. This is to allow for separation of students on the yard at lunchtime to reduce the numbers of students at lunch at the same time. This will help with social distancing as well as general safety, but will also improve the opportunities available to have time to eat their food at lunchtimes.

The advantages of the proposed model are:

- By reducing the numbers on the yard we can ensure students remain further apart to reduce gatherings and prevent the spread of COVID-19. We take the safety of students and staff very seriously.
- In addition, this proposal will help with reducing the numbers of students in the canteen at any one time, to reduce queuing and pressure on canteen staff. This will be essential whilst COVID-19 remains a concern but will also improve the opportunities for students to have time to sit and eat their food without overcrowding in our canteen areas.
- The proposed changes do not alter the Academy start and end of the day. There will be no need to change any travel arrangements or collection times for your child.
- Students will still start the day at the same time with Form Time and will still have five hours of teaching with 5 one hour lessons in their school day. This change will not affect the number of subjects or amount of curriculum time for each subject that we currently have.
- There are a number of schools using similar models and this has worked very well in these schools.
- Research suggests that students learn better in the mornings and this model maximizes this learning advantage.
- All students will still get a break in the middle of the morning and we are working with our Catering provider to further develop the number of outlets and provision to ease pressure at this time and give students more choice.
- We will continue to offer a breakfast club available for students first thing in the morning prior to school start time and are looking to develop this provision further.

We have reviewed a number of models and they have been discussed by staff and governors and we feel the following model would be preferential:

The proposal is that lunches will start during Period 4 and be split into three parts: Year 8 and 10 will have lunch between 12.30-13.00, Years 7 and 9 will have a split lesson with lunch between 13.00-13.30 and Year 11, 12 and 13 will have lunch between 13.30-14.00. The older students will have the later lunch as they are more mature and also may have Period 6 lessons so this will break their day up more evenly into three blocks of teaching.

Joseph Leckie Academy

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Should the changes be approved, they will come into force from 2nd September 2020 when we expect all students to return to the Academy. At the time of writing, we are still uncertain of the arrangements for students returning as we await further guidance from the Department for Education due out shortly. From current government suggestions, it appears that the majority of year groups will return in September. However, regardless of this, we know that COVID-19 guidelines and safety measures will still need to be in place and we will need to take measures to reduce the number of times when all students are on the yard to protect students and staff.

We believe that these changes will be beneficial to the Academy community, staff and students and will have a positive effect on your child's safety during this challenging time. We will work together to make sure that there is minimal disruption. We will ensure that when students return, they are clearly briefed on the changes and revised expectations and this is fully explained.

These changes should not affect you, in terms of childcare or working arrangements, and in terms of your child's education. However, we believe these changes are needed during the current climate. They will be reviewed during the Academic year and as restrictions lift we will decide whether this model will become permanent or we may revert to an alternative model, but we will consult with you again if we make any further changes.

We would like to invite you to give any feedback or ask any questions that you have to postbox@josephleckieacademy.co.uk. Please title your correspondence "Revised Lunches" and we will endeavour to answer any questions that you may raise. If you do have any views or questions on this, please contact us by 12.00 on Thursday 9th July.

We will confirm all arrangements with you outlining the actual times of the school lessons so that all students are clear along with more information on the start of the new term, before we break up for the summer break on July 17th. You will receive this information in a letter and on the website in addition to students receiving an email.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Rachel Cook
Acting Principal

Lisa Ingram
Chair of Governors