



Joseph Leckie Academy

Friday, 28th May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of my first half term as Principal at Joseph Leckie Academy, I wanted to write and say thank you to you all for the warm welcome I have received and to update you with some important information. I have enjoyed finding out more about the school over the past 6 weeks and am now certain that I have made an excellent move in coming to join the team at Joseph Leckie.

Parent Forum:

It was a pleasure to meet several of you at the first online Parent Forum this week. I would like to thank those who attended for your positive feedback and suggestions for how we can further improve as a school. It is clear how much passion and enthusiasm you have for the school. Strong parental partnership is the key to ensuring that the young people in our school thrive and achieve the best possible outcomes. There will be a follow up meeting in July so please look out for the details when they are finalised. Those of you who were able to attend have been sent a link to a survey for any further feedback and comments. I would encourage you to complete this and I look forward to hearing your views.

Year 11 and 13:

This half term our Year 11 and 13 students have been completing their assessments which will provide the evidence required for their GCSE, A Level and BTEC grades this summer. I would like to commend all of our students in these year groups as well as their subject teachers, for their hard work and positive attitude. After the half-term holidays, students in Year 11 will spend the next 3 weeks taking part in a series of in-school and home-based learning activities. For the week commencing Monday 7th June, students in Years 11 and 13 will be working from home, focusing on work set by their teachers based on their Year 11 subjects. From Monday 14th June to Friday 25th June students in Year 11 will be coming into school at set times to complete 6th Form taster lessons and take part in wellbeing and careers workshops. Year 13 will also be coming into school for some careers support, wellbeing sessions and preparation modules for university and career choices. A personalised timetable will be in place, setting out when students should be in school.

Covid-19 Risk Assessment and Testing:

Whilst there has been some good news regarding the Covid-19 infection rate and the vaccination roll-out on a local and national level, we are continuing to take appropriate precautions in order to keep everyone safe. You will have noted that we have recently reviewed our guidance regarding the wearing of face coverings in classrooms and that this remains 'strongly recommended'. We intend to continue with this, and all of our existing Covid-19 measures, over the coming weeks and we will review them towards the end of the summer term. Thank you to everyone who has supported us with the implementation of our risk assessment strategies.

On a similar theme, please can I ask you to remind your child to continue home testing over half term and to continue to log the results on both the NHS and Academy systems. Please continue to make us aware of any positive results in line with the Department for Education guidance, this includes during

Joseph Leckie Academy

Walstead Road West, Walsall, West Midlands WS5 4PG

Principal: Mr James Ludlow

Tel: 01922 721071 **Fax:** 01922 641497

email: postbox@josephleckieacademy.co.uk

web: www.josephleckieacademy.co.uk



Joseph Leckie Academy

the half term holiday as the Academy is required to still complete track and trace during this time. Please use the Academy postbox email to do this during the break (postbox@josephleckieacademy.co.uk). Can I also remind you that should your child or anyone in your household start displaying symptoms of Coronavirus, please do not send them into school. Instead you should self-isolate and arrange for them to take a PCR test at a Covid-19 testing centre.

Israeli-Palestinian Conflict:

We are aware that many students in school have been moved by the very serious events that have taken place in the Middle East over the past few weeks. As a school, we are aware that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a sensitive issue, an ongoing, lived conflict, and that some students may feel very strongly about it. Feeling empathy with others or frustration at injustices is perfectly normal. We are very keen to support our students with any questions they may have about this issue and would like to direct you as parents and carers to some online sources of information that may be useful.

At Joseph Leckie Academy, we know that there are many different perspectives on this conflict and are very keen for students to be as informed as possible so that they may draw their own conclusions. As with all conflict and matters of a political nature, we are unable to pick a side and will remain neutral in our conversations and actions regarding the conflict. We will also continue to take a 'zero tolerance' approach to racism, islamophobia or antisemitism of any kind, written or verbal, in our school community. Taking a neutral approach does not mean that we do not care and we certainly don't want to discourage our students from finding out more and opening up their minds to ways of tackling injustice and supporting those in need around the world. We will seek to offer guidance and reassurance to students and feel that it is very important that we point them towards other people and organisations with more knowledge on the situation who will provide balanced and accurate information.

Many students have said that they feel helpless at the situation and would like to do something to help and support. As we are unable to support one side over the other in this conflict for reasons outlined above, we will be working with the student council to look at how we can raise money for the medical teams who support those who are caught up in the conflict. Finally, I am sure that we are all united in our hope that calmness and peace prevails in this area of the world and that there is an end to the violence and tragic loss of life. The websites below provide a good deal of further reading and information that may be useful to students.

- Tell Mama is a confidential support service for those suffering from Islamophobia across the UK. Their website features a number of different ways to report anti-Muslim hate or Islamophobia, including via phone or WhatsApp: [Report in Anti-Muslim Hate or Islamophobia \(tellmama.org\)](https://www.tellmama.org). The site also hosts useful [resources](#), including on mosque security.
- Solutions not Sides is a programme aiming to tackle antisemitism, Islamophobia, and polarisation around the issue of the Israel-Palestine conflict in the UK by promoting critical thinking and open discussions to encourage a solutions-focussed approach. The group have published a number of [blogs](#) on the current situation, as well as a teachers' handbook and resources on fact-checking. Resources can be found here: [SNS Resources on Israel-Palestine for Students & Teachers | SNS \(solutionsnotsides.co.uk\)](https://www.solutionsnotsides.co.uk)

Joseph Leckie Academy

Walstead Road West, Walsall, West Midlands WS5 4PG

Principal: Mr James Ludlow

Tel: 01922 721071 **Fax:** 01922 641497

email: postbox@josephleckieacademy.co.uk

web: www.josephleckieacademy.co.uk



Joseph Leckie Academy

- The Forum for Discussion of Israel and Palestine runs a 'Tough Options' programme for 14-19 year olds', which looks at how difficult issues impact communities here in the UK. Their website has a number of useful resources, including information on how to engage with Tough Voices and their other programmes: [FODIP | Forum for Discussion of Israel & Palestine](#)

Uniform Expectations:

Having been the Principal at Joseph Leckie for almost 6 weeks now, I have seen that the vast majority of our students set very high standards for themselves and take pride in their appearance and their conduct. There are a small minority of students who are failing to meet our uniform expectations including a small number of students who are wearing trainers or are not wearing their blazers and school lanyards. The half term break, with the shops now fully open, is an ideal time to resolve any of these uniform issues in time for the start of the final half term of the year on Monday 7th June. Thank you all for your support in helping us to maintain the highest of standards.

Parent Consultation Evenings:

I will leave you with a reminder of some key dates for the last half term of the school year. These include online Parents' Consultation Evenings for Year 10 and Year 9 and we would love to have a really high parental turnout at these very important evenings. It will be a great opportunity for teachers to share positive news about the progress that your child is making and to discuss how they can improve further to ensure the highest level of engagement and achievement.

Key Dates for the Summer Term:

10/06/21	Y10 Parents' Consultation Evening
24/06/21	Y9 Parents' Consultation Evening
06/07/21 - 07/07/21	Y6 Induction days
07/07/21	Y6 Parents' Evening for Y7 Form Tutors
12/07/21 - 15/07/21	Activities Days – details TBC
16/07/21	Last Day of Term

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very happy, safe and peaceful half-term break. We look forward to seeing students in Years 7-10 and Year 12, on time and in full school uniform, on Monday 7th June.

Yours faithfully

James Ludlow
Principal

Joseph Leckie Academy

Walstead Road West, Walsall, West Midlands WS8 4PG

Principal: Mr James Ludlow

Tel: 01922 721071 **Fax:** 01922 641497

email: postbox@josephleckieacademy.co.uk

web: www.josephleckieacademy.co.uk