



Joseph Leckie Academy

5th September 2023

Dear Families,

I hope you are well and have had a good summer. We are really looking forward to seeing our students once again on Wednesday morning. As we approach the start of the new academic year, I wanted to write to you with some important updates and reminders to make sure the new term goes as smoothly as possible.

First, I would like to mention how pleased I am with the wonderful examination results achieved by our students this summer. The vast majority of our Year 11 and 13 students are now making final plans to go away to university or begin an apprenticeship, having secured a place at their first choice institution or with their first choice employer. Equally, we have a record number of students getting ready to join us in our 6th form to begin the next phase of their education. We are very proud of everything that they have achieved, especially given the significant challenges they all faced throughout the Covid period.

Among many excellent sets of results, were individual students achieving multiple grade 9s and Distinction* grades at GCSE and students who achieved several grade As, A*s or Distinctions in their Level 3 examinations. Similarly, the Academy is hugely proud of those students who have found examinations more challenging but persevered to achieve results that will allow them to move onto the next stage of their studies. There were also some hugely impressive examination results for students who took some of their qualifications a year early! Well done to them all and we look forward to celebrating their success at our Awards afternoon later this term.

I would like to particularly thank the staff, parents and members of the wider community who have supported the students to achieve their success.

Returning to the start of term, I thought it would be useful to give some **clear reminders about some of our key rules and expectations to avoid any confusion**. We have high expectations of all members of the Academy community because we want everyone at Joseph Leckie to achieve highly and enjoy coming to school.

- **Piercings** - 1 plain stud per earlobe is permitted.
- **Mobile phones** – Mobile phones, including earphones (ear pods etc) should not be seen or heard at any time or under any circumstances on the academy site. This is a key part of our safeguarding strategy as an academy and will be reinforced robustly, including through confiscation of mobile phone devices and after school detentions.
- **Holidays in term time** – Absence for holidays will not be authorised and we expect all students to return for the start of term on Wednesday 6th September. Anyone who has not returned on this date will receive a visit from our Home School Liaison team and will automatically lose their place on our attendance rewards trips.
- **Hairlines/eyebrows patterns** – The academy does not permit any lines or patterns in students' hair. Any patterns or lines should be grown out so that they are no longer visible in time for the start of term.



Learn together, lead together.



Joseph Leckie Academy

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Tel: 01922 721 071

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Principal: Mr James Ludlow



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- **Water** – We are not allowing single use plastic bottles on site and would strongly encourage all students to carry a refillable water bottle in their bag, which they can fill up regularly from our various water fountains around the academy site.
- **Equipment for Learning** – Students are reminded that they need to have a full set of basic equipment at their disposal so that they can complete work without needing to ask the teacher. All students must bring a pencil case with a range of stationery items, including spare pieces of equipment.
- **Lanyards** – Students are expected to wear a lanyard at all times. If your child is going into Year 8 and above, they should continue to use the lanyard they have been issued with. Students who are joining us in Year 7 will be given a lanyard in their first week. Anyone in Year 8 and above who has misplaced their lanyard should order one online using Parent Mail.

Class Charts:

Students and parents have now all been issued with their details for logging into our behaviour monitoring platform, Class Charts. This will allow you as parents and carers to track and monitor the rewards and sanctions issued to your child during the academy week. It will support us all as we seek to work in partnership to ensure that all our students make the best possible progress and achieve the highest possible grades in their examinations. With their positive points, students will be able to earn virtual medals (Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum) and will be able to use their points to make purchases from our Class Charts shop! You, as parents and carers, will be able to see all of the positive comments and rewards that your children are receiving on a daily basis. Equally, all detentions and logs of negative behaviour will be shared with you through Class Charts. **You will no longer receive a text or a phone call informing you of detentions. Therefore, it is vital that all parents and students ensure they are checking the Class Charts App regularly.**

Lunchtime Arrangements:

Over the summer holidays we have encountered a slight issue with our kitchens and canteen which we have been unable to remedy in time for the beginning of term. As a result, **there will be a limited selection of food available for at least the first week of term.** As we are unable to use the kitchens, the menu choice will be limited to cold food only. This will include a sandwich, crisps, a chocolate bar and fruit as well as a drink. There will be a choice of sandwiches with both vegetarian and meat (Halal) options. The food will be served in our new canopy area. Hopefully we will be able to resume our full-service during the week commencing Monday 11th September.

Due to the limited options and with a view to ensuring there is an appropriate speed of service, **we are proposing to offer the food without charge to all students.** This will continue for as long as we have the reduced service. If students wish to bring their own food in from home, that is perfectly fine. They will be able to eat this in the canopy area or other designated area in their zone with all other students and will not need to queue. **If you do not wish your child to take up this offer and would prefer them to bring in their own food, we would be very grateful if you could complete the link below to let us know.**

[Lunch Survey \(Please click and complete if your child will be bringing their own lunch\)](#)



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This will enable us to have a clearer idea of how many students will require food and it will help us to avoid unnecessary waste. Our break time food service will continue to operate and students will be able to purchase food within their break time zones as usual, although there will be a more limited selection of food available.

It is your child's responsibility to inform members of the catering team if they have a food allergy. **Alternatives will then be provided.**

Due to the issues with our kitchen and canteen, our Academy Breakfast Club will not be running until Monday 18th September. I apologise sincerely for the inconvenience this will cause and please be assured that we are working as fast as we can to remedy the problems.

Finally, we have seen once again this year that students at Joseph Leckie Academy achieve some of the best exam results in the country. We believe that this success is something that can be built upon even further as we move towards becoming an outstanding Academy in all respects. A strong partnership between the Academy and you, as parents and carers, is absolutely vital to ensuring this. We are looking to further improve the levels of communication between the Academy and our families. This will involve the full roll-out of Class Charts as well as a weekly bulletin which will contain lots of important news, information, good news stories and updates.

I look forward to seeing you all very soon at one of our Parents' Evenings. The first parental evening of the year will be for Year 11 parents and this will take place on Thursday 19th October 2023. This is followed by a Year 7 'Settling in' evening on Thursday 26th October. We also have our 6th form Open Evening for new Year 11 students on Thursday 5th October. Our full academy calendar can be found on our website.

I hope you and your family enjoy the final day of the summer holidays and I look forward to seeing everyone for the start of term on Wednesday 6th September. As previously mentioned, this will be a staggered start with Year 7 and 12 students arriving at 8.30am and all other year groups arriving at 11.00am promptly. All details are also available on our Academy website.

Yours faithfully

James Ludlow
Chief Executive Officer, Joseph Leckie Academy Trust



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