

20<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you all had a restful Easter break and welcome to our very first remote summer term!

We've all had to adapt to new ways of working, so I wanted to take the chance to say what an amazing job you're doing supporting your child's wellbeing and learning during this time. I hope that you have found plenty of activities on SharePoint and via the website for your child to be doing to help them with their mental health and well-being over the holiday period.

As an Academy we are still trying to come to terms with the sad loss of our Principal, Mr Keith Whittlestone and we understand that this will have impacted on many of the staff, students, parents and wider community, of which Keith was a valued member. We also understand that many families are also facing their own personal losses and difficulties at the present time and this is only adding to pressures on us all at this difficult time. We would like to remind you that we are all here to support you in whatever way we can. It is understandable if you and your child may feel anxious, upset and frustrated at the moment. We are here for you every step of the way as we figure this all out together.

If you have any concerns about helping your child learn or need any other support from the Academy, please contact their teacher, tutor or Head of Year, who will do all they can to help. If you have an issue that they cannot resolve, please contact a member of the Leadership Team so we can help. All email addresses are on the Academy website along with other useful information for you as parents. Please go to the "Communication" section, COVID-19, and there is a wealth of information and up to date advice.

We miss having the students in school, but we must continue to follow the government's guidance to keep everyone in our community safe, therefore we will continue to provide resources for curriculum and health and well-being activities via our SharePoint site. If your child is unable to access SharePoint they should receive printed copies of new material during this week. For any other problems, please contact us via <u>postbox@josephleckieacademy.co.uk</u>

Please can I remind you that if your child is eligible for Free School Meals, we are operating the government voucher scheme and if you have not already provided us with your email address for these vouchers to be sent to, then please go to the Academy website and click on the Free School Meals section, click on the information button and submit your details for verification.

Our teachers will be setting plenty of tasks for students to get stuck into over the summer term. There is of course a balance between curriculum work and mental health and well-being activities, therefore fun tasks and competitions are also being set for example by the House coordinators. Please remind your child that they should wherever possible stick to a routine as they would if they were in school but to take breaks away from screens, and make time for having fun and connecting with friends and family.

Whilst we are unable to say yet when we'll be able to open the Academy fully, rest assured that we'll continue doing our utmost to keep students learning and the Academy connected.

Warm regards,

Miss Rachel Cook Acting Principal.

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