



Joseph Leckie Academy

31st December 2020

Dear Parent/Guardians/Carers

Once again I am sorry to have to write to you with last minute changes to the start of term. I'm sure you will almost certainly have heard the latest change from the government with regard to delaying the return of secondary school aged students. This is as a result of the increased COVID19 infection rates and the government wanting to provide schools more time to prepare for mass testing.

We were not informed of these changes ahead of the government press announcement yesterday and only received the updated guidance late last night.

Week commencing 4th January only vulnerable children and children of critical workers will be in school. They should enter through the normal gates and go to their form rooms for further instructions.

Vulnerable students are those students have been notified by Mr Wallworth or Mrs DeRome of the expectations to be in school.

Those students who are eligible for Laptops for remote learning have received a text last term. Those who have received the text but have not collected their Laptops, should arrange to collect them from the main reception. You will receive a reminder text and/or call on Monday 4th January for you to arrange this.

Children of Critical workers who have completed the on-line application (on the Academy website) should attend school on the days requested.

PLEASE NOTE THAT VOCATIONAL EXAMINATIONS SCHEDULED FOR THE WEEK COMMENCING 4TH JANUARY WILL GO AHEAD AS PLANNED. Students will be sent further instructions as to where to arrive and have already been given details of rooming and times.

Arrangements for all other students, week commencing 4th are as follows:

All students in Year 11, 13 and students sitting examinations as listed below will expected to complete remote learning week commencing 4th January.

12G SP 1/ 12G BS1 and 12G IT 1 and Year 10 students who are entered for your ICT Exam in the New Year 10A IT1; 10C IT1; 10D IT1 and 10E IT1. These students will receive remote learning lessons.

Joseph Leckie Academy

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All remaining students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will be provided with some on-line learning via SharePoint.

Walsall, like many areas of the country is now in Tier 4 therefore, students **must not be found out of the house**. All family members must **stay at home and follow the TIER FOUR advice**. This is essential to reduce the spread of infection. [Tier 4: Stay at Home - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/interactions/tier-4-stay-at-home)

Week Commencing 11th January 2021 the Academy will be starting the programme of testing, prioritising staff, students of critical workers, vulnerable students and examination students – mainly Year 11 and 13 and those sitting exams in January/February.

Once Year 11, 13 and other examination classes (who have vocational exams in January/February) have been tested they will return to school for face to face teaching from 11th January and we will provide more details next week.

You will be sent a letter with more details of testing and consent forms, early next week. Please read this information carefully and we encourage all students to participate in this testing so they are safe to return to school.

From 11th January all remaining students will be provided with remote learning and on-line lessons. They are expected to complete the work set online or sent in the post. This requirement has been set by the government so we expect all students to engage with their on-line work and any work packs that have been sent home.

Based on the current government guidance the intention is that **all other year groups will return to school on 18th January 2021** (unless isolating). Further guidance will follow and I will send another letter with more information soon.

Remote Learning: Please refer to my previous letter dated 18th December regarding remote learning. Further details for parents and guides for students are also available on our website: <https://www.josephleckieacademy.co.uk/RLinfo>

Reminders RE: COVID Safety were given in the letter on 18th December.

It is essential that your child follows the Academy's COVID protocol when they return, this is available on our website. Please note that if you have your child has had a positive test result during the Christmas holiday period, you must still notify the Academy on postbox@josephleckieacademy.co.uk As previously if your child does develop symptoms, please do not send them to school and arrange them a test and report these results to the Academy on the email above.

Wherever possible we try to communicate everything with you well in advance, however, with the government's announcement yesterday, unfortunately these changes had to be put in place very much at the last minute. I am sure you can appreciate once again that we have had no choice in this due to the latest government changes.

As the government is monitoring the rate of infection, there may well be further changes to what is planned but we will keep you informed as and when we are given further guidance.

Thank you for your continued support. We wish you a happy and safe new year.



Rachel Cook
Acting Principal