



Joseph Leckie Academy

12th December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are well and managing to keep safe and warm during this particularly cold spell of weather. As we approach the end of the autumn term, I wanted to share just a few of the many positive things that have happened at the academy over the past few weeks. As well as this, there is some important information about arrangements for the end of term, in particular, the last day of term on Friday.

We have continued to build on the successes that were identified in our Good Ofsted report from last year and this includes the outstanding exam results achieved by our students this summer. With the publication of the official performance tables, we can now confirm that Joseph Leckie Academy is, once again, one of the top performing schools in the borough with students performing well above local and national averages.

We celebrated the achievements of last year's Year 11 and 13 students at our annual Celebration of Achievement Evening at the Bescot Stadium last week. The evening was very prestigious with subject achievement awards being given out for every subject offered by the academy. The number of students presented with awards for achieving the very highest GCSE (9) and A level and vocational grades was a joy to behold. In addition to this, there were some major trophies awarded on the evening for all round high performance and achievement. This year's awards went to the following students:

- Year 11 – Achievement Award – Jahin Rahman
- Year 13 – Achievement Award – Reeya Sehgal
- Year 11 – The Special Recognition Award – Kyle Welsh
- Year 13 - The Special Recognition Award – Chloe Cassell
- Year 11 – Principal's Award – Harman Malhi
- Year 13 – Principal's Award – Sehr Javed

The evening of rewarding success and achievement was topped off this year with something different but equally as special. The academy was also honouring and recognising the special service and dedication of many staff who received long service awards on the evening. In total, 18 staff were awarded long-term service awards, each of them having given over 20 years of service to the Joseph Leckie Academy community. Between them, the 18 members of staff have worked a total at the academy for a total of 443 years and have been an integral part of the academy's success over many years.

The star of the event was 84-year-old, Audrey Hughes who, as well attending the academy as a student herself, has worked as both as a lunch-time supervisor and cleaner at the academy for an amazing 47 years, since 1975! Audrey is a hardworking and dedicated member of staff who always goes the extra mile for the students. She takes pride in the work she does and is a cheerful and supportive person who makes a difference to the lives of the young people at Joseph Leckie Academy every single day.



Learn together, lead together.



Joseph Leckie Academy

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Principal: Mr James Ludlow



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The evening was attended by many staff, parents, students, and trustees who all came together to celebrate and recognise the achievements of fellow members of the academy community. Among other highlights of the evening were musical acts from the academy's talented students and an extremely engaging and inspiring speech from our guest speaker, Ellie Chowns who is a charity spokesperson and former Green Party MEP.

We look forward to sharing further in the success of our students in younger year groups with our annual Pride of Joseph Leckie Awards Evening in June 2023. The names of the winners above will be displayed on special boards in the Reception area of our academy along with the trophies they received.

At the end of term, we are saying goodbye to a few of our colleagues who are leaving for new challenges and opportunities. We are saying goodbye to Mr Chopdat, a teaching assistant in our bilingual learners department, who is leaving the academy after 8 years as a student and 14 as a member of staff! Mr Chopdat will be taking up a new challenge working within a primary school setting and is looking forward to broadening his experience.

We are also saying goodbye to Mr Bradshaw who has worked at Joseph Leckie for several years, supporting students as a teaching assistant and more recently as an academy mentor. He is leaving to develop his career as a teacher, something he has long had an ambition to do. Additionally, we say farewell to Mr Rose who has worked as a teaching assistant in the science department for a number of years, Mr Plant who has been a highly valued temporary member of our senior leadership team since April this year and Mrs Howard who has worked closely with several students and their families as our deputy safeguarding leader.

Whilst we are also very sad that a number of staff will be leaving us at the end of term, we are delighted that they have all been successful in their applications for career development and we wish them all the very best for the future.

I know the whole academy community has been affected by the sudden passing of Mohammed Hashim just a few weeks ago. Our thoughts and prayers as an academy community remain with Hashim's friends and family. I have been so impressed at the way the whole community has come together to support one another and know that Hashim's friends and staff are planning a number of ways in which we can raise money for good causes in his memory as well as ways in which we can remember and celebrate his life. There will be more information about this in the New Year, including ways in which the wider academy community can get involved.

As we enter the last week of term, I just wanted to let you know that on **Friday this week, students will be finishing at 2.05pm**. Students will follow their normal timetable and will be expected to wear full academy uniform. If this slightly earlier finish for students on Friday presents and difficulties for you as parents and carers, then please do let us know and we will endeavour to make alternative arrangements. **The spring term begins for all students on Tuesday 3rd January 2023 at the usual time.**



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Finally, despite all the challenges that we have faced as an academy this term, there has been so much success and positivity to celebrate once again. We have seen the impressive attitude to learning of a record number of students being recognised through our rewards trips to Drayton Manor and Tamworth Snow Dome, a wide range of trips and visits such as to the theatre in London and the Houses of Parliament, the excellent work of our academy council, the amazing production of our Leckie News channel, and our own Leckie Elections to name but a few.

In addition to this, we remain committed to educating our students on the importance of keeping safe and making sensible and informed decisions. To this end, over recent weeks, students from all year groups have experienced a range of assemblies and presentations on topics such as knife crime, road safety and hate crime awareness. In the new year, we will be focusing even more on the importance of healthy living and fitness as we seek to enable all our students to lead successful, healthy, and fulfilling lives.

I look forward to continuing to work in partnership and sharing further successes with you as parents and carers as we move into the new year. Thank you very much for your support this year, it is much appreciated.

I wish you a peaceful and relaxing Christmas break and look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you during 2023.

Yours faithfully

James Ludlow
Principal



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