



Joseph Leckie Academy



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Newsletter 1, Week Commencing 9th September 2024

Dear Families,

Welcome to a brand new Academic year, a fresh start and a new chapter. We hope everyone was able to enjoy a break over the Summer, despite the less than Summer like weather!

While it has not been the start back we had initially planned and anticipated, I would like to thank all families and students for their support and understanding with the last minute changes regarding returning to school. It was not an easy decision, unfortunately due to delays in some of the building work over the Summer.

Speaking of the building works, some exciting new features have been added to the Academy over the Summer and continue to add to the improvements we are making for our student learning environment. You may have seen the work that has been completed in our Reception area, including our new Honours Boards, and we have also completely refurbished our Hall and installed a brand new fully-equipped gym among many other smaller improvement projects. We look forward to sharing these improvements with you when you visit us.

Congratulations to all our students, staff and parents on a very positive start to the new academic year, it was good to finally have all students back in the Academy on Monday. We have high hopes for this year as we look to build on the outstanding exam results achieved by our students this summer. I am sure you will hear more about their success over the coming weeks. Your cooperation and support with uniform, punctuality and attendance are key to starting each day off in the right way.

Key Highlights from Last Week....

Normally, in this section of my parent newsletter, I would be running through some of the key highlights and students' successes from the previous week, however as last week was an 'unusual' week, there is not a great deal to report on! I know that will change from this week onwards! Last week we welcomed 20 new members of staff to our team here at Joseph Leckie. A real sign that we are growing as an academy having welcomed record-sized year groups over recent years. I am pleased to report that our new staff have made an excellent start.

As well as our very positive examination results - some of the best ever achieved in the history of Joseph Leckie - we also returned to the news that we have been successful in achieved 'TEEP Ambassador' status which reflects our focus on high quality teaching and learning across the academy. This award was achieved through the hard work and dedication of a wide team of staff who have ensured that TEEP (Teacher Effectiveness Enhancement Programme) is embedded in all areas of the curriculum. Our newly gained status means that not only are we a recognised centre of excellence for teaching and learning but we are also able to support teachers from other schools to improve their teaching. Congratulations to everyone involved.

It was lovely to see Mr Taylor and everyone in his Year 7 team welcoming our newest and youngest students last week. There was a lot of great work from the whole team in welcoming our new students and, if your child is in Year 7, I sincerely hope that had a great first week too! The same applies to some of our oldest students, those who have joined us in Year 12. Again, it was great to see Mrs Field and her team welcoming so many Year 12 students back to the academy to begin their Post-16 courses.

We have started the year as we mean to go on. We set high standards and expectations in terms of both appearance and conduct and are completing daily checks to ensure these standards are met by everyone. This is not something we will do at the start of term and then forget about, it is **the** standard that we expect at all times. Thankfully almost all of our students have come back with a very positive mind-set, determined to make this their best ever year in school. That's great to see. Thank you to you as parents for your support with this.

Key Reminders and Academy Expectations...



If you haven't already, please can I remind you to download the Class Charts app. This will be used daily to communicate your child's positive behaviour points and also to notify you if your child has been issued a detention. It is an excellent way of tracking your child's behaviour (positive and negative) on a lesson by lesson basis. Your ongoing support and engagement in your child's learning journey is paramount to us working together successfully and we thank you in advance.

Don't forget, Breakfast Club resumed from today, Monday 9th September from 8am in the canteen!

Upcoming Events in the Academy Calendar...

Below are some key dates for your diaries.

- Thursday 26th September from 5.00pm – 8.00pm **Open Evening for Year 6** (the academy will close early to students on this day – at 12.20pm)
- Friday 27th September – **Staff Training Day** – the academy is closed to students on this day
- Thursday 3rd October – **'Into the 6th' Evening** – Our **6th Form Open Evening** for Year 11 students and their parents
- Tuesday 22nd October – Practice Interviews for Year 11
- Thursday 24th October – **Year 7 'Settling in' Evening** – a chance for parents of Year 7 students to meet their child's form tutor and discuss how Year 7s have settled into their new academy.

Plus, looking ahead, we also have our Open Events coming up soon, so if you have or know a child in Year 6 and are currently looking at choices for their next steps, we have our open events taking place on the following dates and times:

- Thursday 26th September from 5.00pm – 8.00pm
- Monday 30th September from 9.00am – 11.00pm
- Tuesday 1st October from 9.00am – 11.00pm

Pop the date in your diary now, we are really looking forward to welcoming as many of you as possible to the Academy.

Best wishes

Mr Ludlow
Chief Executive Officer