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**Newsletter 10, Week Commencing 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024**

Dear Families,

I hope you are well. As we enter the last three weeks of the school year there is so much going on within the academy. It's a very busy time of year and there are lots of opportunities for all of our students as well as some really important end of year exams for Years 7 & 9!

**Key Highlights from Last Week....**

Last week was a very busy week indeed! It was good to see the sunshine out and the start of a real summer (hopefully!) – I know we had a few days where we allowed students to leave their blazers at home! Thankfully this week it's a little cooler which makes things a lot easier, especially for our students when they're working hard!

On Friday last week we had Cultural Diversity Day. This was a superb day. Students and staff made a real effort to dress up in clothes that reflect their culture. There was a great atmosphere around the site throughout the day and it was lovely to see so many students staying after school to take part in activities. I would like to say thank you to our brilliant Head of House team for pulling it all together. Students really do look forward to this day and it is a fixture now on our calendar. The music, dancing and cultural food at lunchtime were great and the activities after school were a big hit too.

On Friday afternoon I had the pleasure of giving out certificates to students who took part in the National Poetry Society's, 'Poetry By Heart' Competition. The students had managed to learn and recite a poem totally from memory and have received a certificate to reflect their achievement. Congratulations to them all.

Last week also saw the latest Primary school visit to Joseph Leckie. We welcomed pupils from Whitehall Junior School for our Year 5 Language, Art and Drama morning. It was lovely for the Year 5 pupils to come over to us and have such a positive morning. Linked to this, I know our Business Studies department are also preparing to work with Whitehall Junior School on the Enterprise Project once again this year! I am sure it will be just as good as it was last year! Thank you.

And on the theme of community, we held our first community forum last Thursday morning in our academy library. This was attended by around 8 different local organisations including places of worship, local groups, schools and businesses. There was a really good discussion about how each organisation can support our students and how we can support each other. As part of the event our 6<sup>th</sup> form students also gave a fabulous presentation all about their 'Reducelt' campaign. They were very impressive indeed! There are plans to widen the community forum group, meet regularly throughout the year and plan joint activities in school and across the community. Thank you to all the representatives from local organisations who attended.

I have to mention our wonderful 'Pride of Leckie Awards Evening' that took place last Thursday evening. I'm sure those of you who attended will all agree it was such an important evening and one that was a real success. It was great to see the students receive their awards. It was also great to have so many of you parents in attendance who were justifiably proud of your child's achievements. The musical performance was excellent, as was the photography, sound, lighting etc. etc. It all just worked so well and made for a very special and memorable evening. The ice-cream van was the icing on the cake! It was the best Pride of Leckie yet and I was very proud to be a part of it. We were joined by best-selling author, Mike Gayle, who gave a speech on the evening and presented the awards. The names of the trophy winners will appear on our new honours boards in Reception in the very near future. Congratulations again to all our award winners.

In what was an incredibly busy week, we also had our Year 10 Careers Week last week! A large number of students were out of school on work experience placements. Those who were in school for the week attended careers events and took part in careers-related lessons and activities throughout the week. Hopefully all students in Year 10 will now have a clearer idea of what they do (and possibly don't!) want to do for their careers!

### **Key Reminders and Academy Expectations...**

This week I have held special 'standards' assemblies with all students in Years 7-9. The focus was on raising standards of behaviour, especially in the remaining three weeks of term. We have seen a significant improvement already this week and it has been made clear that the improvement must continue all day, every day. I went through our positive behaviour expectations with students and reinforced the types of behaviour that we **don't** want to see. Below is the (non-exhaustive) list of the types of behaviour we see on occasions from students:

- Lateness to lessons
- Not attending lessons
- Slowness to settle and disruption to learning
- Defiance – not following instructions (e.g. seating plans), talking, disrupting
- Not being equipped for learning
- Getting out of seat without permission
- Not attending a detention and expecting it to 'go away' (it doesn't – it escalates to a longer detention)

I must stress (and I did make it clear to students) that we are talking about a minority of students who display these unwanted behaviours. The vast majority of our students set themselves high standards in terms of behaviour and work ethic. This is really appreciated, valued and recognised. We want all students to reach this standard as we strive to become an outstanding academy. Thank you for your help and support with this.

### **Upcoming Events in the Academy Calendar...**

Finally, the buzz for sports day and activities week has started. Sports Day is taking place next Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> July and promises to be a very special occasion this year as we move to a new venue. Spaces for the activities week trips are filling up quickly. Students eligible for the trips have received a letter with all the relevant information.

Below are some remaining key dates for your diaries.

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July – Year 6-7 Transition Days

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July – Academy Sports Day

Week Commencing 8<sup>th</sup> July – Year 12 Work Experience Week

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July – Academy closes for summer holidays

[Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August – A Level Results Day](#)

[Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August – GCSE Results Day](#)

It certainly is a busy time of year but also a very positive one too. hope you have a lovely week and thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes

Mr Ludlow

Chief Executive Officer

