

# The Interview with Joe Godwin- Director of the BBC Academy and of the BBC Midlands

*By Holly - Year 7 student reporter*



On December 2<sup>nd</sup> Year 7 student reporters: **Holly, Jack, Darren, Leo, Chase, James, Ellis and Destiny** interviewed Joe Godwin. For your information, Joe has been the Director of the BBC Academy and BBC Midlands for two years, before that he was the Head of BBC Children's.

Some days ago we spent time after school to plan for this opportunity. It was a bit difficult to stay after school in this autumny/ wintery weather; but we did it after all!

**1pm...**

As soon as the first tutor time bell went, our phone rang and it was Joe at the other end of the phone line. Wow!



***We all were very excited to wait for our turn to talk to Joe 😊***

Outside in the corridor and in the school quad it was very busy as lunch time came and the rowdy year seven and eight were hanging around talking and shouting! It was lunchtime after all!

The reporters rushed through the long queue of students and quickly had their short lunch break in the canteen and dashed back to the Learning Resource Centre so they didn't miss their opportunity to talk to Joe.



**Ellis asked Joe about The BBC Sports Personality of the Year hosted in Birmingham.**

Facts were shot at the reporters as soon as they started asking Joe the questions. In about 25 minutes of conversation, these are our findings...

### **BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2016**

This year it is going to be on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2016 at the Genting Arena at the NEC in Birmingham.

From Joe, we understand that at the beginning of the preparation there was a small number of people working on the show throughout the year, but by the time the show is coming to an end, there are hundreds of people working on it. It would surely take a lot of time to organise everything as we found out that the star-studded event of last year in Belfast was watched by nearly 10 million viewers. It was obvious to understand that it has meant a lot to Joe to have the show hosted in Birmingham this year.

### **Joe's personal life**

It is fascinating to find out that Joe went to a school in Leamington Spa named the Trinity School where the students unusually called the teachers by their Christian name (or first names) and his preferred subjects were Drama and History as he adored putting on plays and studied history at university.

He joined BBC Children's as a trainee in 1989. Joe said he wanted to work for the BBC when he was at school. He didn't know what jobs the BBC had when he was 11 or 12 but he was very lucky to be doing what he wanted to do as a child. How amazing!

In a 'challenging' question from us, Joe revealed his first BIG crush was ..... back in primary school days; but he did have a crush on a girl in his class. Interestingly they are still friends now.

Some other favourite things from Joe are: dogs, football, chocolate, Nandos, drama, and television shows.



*Joe was talking to us from his office.*

### *Our own thoughts...*

Later on we spent more time researching about Joe's life as a BIG BOSS of the BBC Academy and BBC Midlands and we realised how passionate Joe has been to bring high-profile events to Birmingham and the West Midlands. We feel connected with his passion.

We still remember Joe's advice that ***to succeed in life you got to work hard, be clear about what you want to achieve and always be curious.***

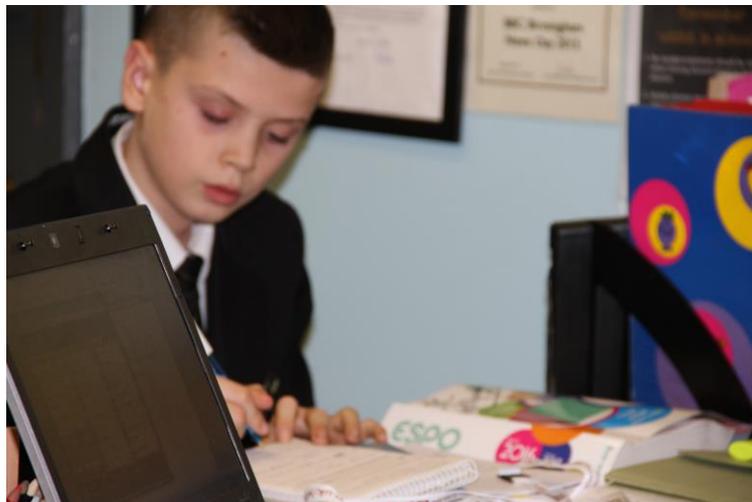
*Thank you for reading my first blog.*

*Holly*

*Year 7 Student Reporter*



**Darren and Holly were waiting to talk to Joe.**



**Leo was taking notes of the interview.**



**It's now James's turn to talk to Joe**  
😊