



# The Featherstone Academy

9 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this letter finds you and your family all safe and well.

As this first half term of 2021 draws to a close, I wanted to thank all staff, students, parents and carers for your continued hard work and support during lockdown 3. Remote learning presents numerous new challenges for us all to overcome. I have been so proud of everyone's efforts and contributions to ensure our young people can access and remain engaged with home learning. I have been so impressed with the innovative work staff and students have produced which enables us all to demonstrate learning and progress. The positive feedback that we have received from both students and parents/carers has been overwhelming and greatly appreciated by all colleagues within the academy. I am so proud of how us, as a community, in how we have come together to ensure students are both safe and learning.

The government stated last week that schools will not be expected to open over the February half term therefore we wish to confirm that the academy will close to all students at 2:30pm on Friday 12 February and will reopen to vulnerable children and children of critical workers only on Monday 22 February 2021.

We await more information from the government regarding all students returning to the academy. Monday 8 March is the date the government have set out and as soon as we have more information on what that will look like we will share our plans with you.

## **Lateral Flow Testing**

The Academy has been successfully testing students and staff, using the government's Lateral Flow Testing kits and the NHS test-and-trace system, since January. Whilst we await more information on re-opening, we would like to use the time to begin planning for a larger-scale testing programme. The Lateral Flow Tests are carried out on a voluntary basis only so if you do not wish for your child to be tested in school, they will not be tested and this will have no implications for them returning. If you would like your child to be tested as part of their return to school, please take a few minutes to complete the digital consent form which can be found on our website.

## **Covid-19 Contact Tracing**

We have a responsibility to continue to monitor contact tracing up to Wednesday 17 February 2021 for those currently attending school. Could we therefore ask that if your child tests positive for Covid-19 up to and including Wednesday 17 February 2021 you must report this to us. Please email [admin@featherstone.academy](mailto:admin@featherstone.academy) with the following information:

- Date of the start of symptoms (if there are no symptoms present, then please ignore).
- Date the test was taken.
- Date of the result.
- The student's last day in school.

## Free School Meals

Please note that students eligible for free school meals will not be receiving vouchers to cover the half term, vouchers will resume again after the February break. However, during the half term holiday, support is available for families through the Covid Winter Grant Scheme.

## EduLink One

As noted in our Christmas newsletter, we are launching a new application to improve communication between parents/carers and school called EduLink One, this will replace the existing application - MyEd. We are pleased to announce this will be live from Monday 22 February 2021. More information can be found on our website.

## Internet Safety

It has been noted that during lockdown there has been an increase in school age students using a number of chat sites designed at connecting users to other users at random. There are obviously potential issues with the nature of these sites as they encourage anonymous interactions with strangers. With this in mind we wish to share the following information in supporting you and our students with regards to internet safety.

At 1:00pm on Tuesday 9 February, Safer Schools Officers will be going live on the West Yorkshire Police Facebook page to discuss with parents and carers how your child can stay safe when online. They will also be answering any questions that you might have. The West Yorkshire Police Facebook Page can be accessed by visiting: <https://www.facebook.com/westyorkshirepolice>. A video explaining this event can be accessed by visiting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FM391loX73E&feature=youtu.be>

In addition to this there are other resources which you may find helpful in supporting your child online, these are:

- Advice for parents and carers from Childnet.
- Tips, advice and guides for parents and carers from the UK Safer Internet Centre.
- Guides on popular apps and games from NetAware.
- Reviews and information about games, apps, TV shows and websites from Common Sense Media.
- Help on using parental controls and privacy settings from Internet Matters.
- Information and reporting of online grooming or abuse from CEOP.
- Parent/Carer family activity sheets from ThinkUKnow.

If you have any concerns or questions about keeping your child safe online, please do get in touch with a member of our pastoral team.

Yours sincerely



Mr W Bush  
Principal