



# The Featherstone Academy

11 September 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

## **ACADEMY EXPECTATIONS**

I would like to thank all parents and carers for their support in allowing our students to return to the Academy after such a long period away due to the coronavirus. We as staff have been blown away with students' attendance and hard work whilst in the building; we are so very proud to have them all back and willing to learn. However, during this pandemic we are constantly learning how best to manage the risk of the virus whilst managing to return to some sort of normal. Following our first full week back in the academy we want to adapt some of our practices to refine the efficiency of school life for you as parents and carers, for students and for teaching staff.

At The Featherstone Academy, we believe in setting high standards and expectations for all students. After careful consideration, we have decided to review some of our procedures to ensure we can also uphold and maintain the standards of the Academy more effectively.

### **Planners**

We will be allowing all students to take their planners home from Monday 14 September. The planner is such a key way of the academy and home communicating and we feel we have now created a system to ensure students' planners can be taken home, signed and returned to be used in the academy.

### **Staggered Start Times**

You will be aware we have a staggered start to reduce the chances of students in different bubbles mixing on their way to the academy. Therefore, we can only allow students to enter the building at their set start times. We ask all parents and carers to please be mindful of this when dropping students off or sending students on foot or by public transport each morning.

### **PE lessons**

At the start of the term, we asked students to come to school in their PE kit when it was timetabled. We understand this change has caused some additional planning and preparation for students and after a full week of trialing this, we have decided that we would like to revert to the standard procedure of students coming to school in their uniform. Students should bring their PE kit in their bag so they can get changed using the changing rooms before and after the lesson. We are confident that we are able to ensure the PE changing rooms will be cleaned fully in between lessons in order to comply with the health and safety requirements set out in our risk assessment and the government guidelines.

### **PE Kit**

As you will be aware, the indoor facilities we are able to use at The Featherstone Academy are limited; therefore, PE lessons will predominantly run outside unless the weather is extreme. In this case, we will try to facilitate an indoor space, wherever possible, to ensure students still have access to regular physical activity.

The expectations for appropriate kit can be found on the School Rules – Equipment page, page 7 in the student planner and on our website, which states the following is acceptable:

- **Academy-logo reversible rugby top**
- **Academy-logo polo T- Shirt**
- **Plain navy blue shorts or tracksuit bottoms**
- **Navy blue socks**
- **Trainers**
- **Football/rugby boots**
- **Shin pads**

In addition to the above, and given the circumstance we are facing with reduced indoor facilities and the fact that PE will predominantly take place outdoors this year, we have extended the PE kit options and have decided to allow students to wear the following:

- **Plain black or blue leggings and plain black or blue hooded jumpers.**
- **Plain navy, black or white base layer/skins can be worn underneath the students' kit**

I must reinforce that ALL forms of PE kit that can be worn MUST have a school badge/logo or be plain with NO sports logos or motifs. Failing to comply with this will result in students not being able to wear them and an equipment comment issued.

### **School Uniform**

We are proud of how our students take pride in their school and wear their academy uniform too, during and from school. With this in mind, we would like to remind you of the expectations for school uniform as noted in the student planner on page 6 and on our website.

We realise that following lockdown many students may have items of uniform that still fit them and are in good condition due to lack of wear during lockdown. However, we would like to draw your attention to ensuring that items fit correctly, particularly plain black footwear for all students and for girls the length and material of the school skirt – they should be knee length and tailored, not stretchy, fitted material. Any student who is wearing our uniform incorrectly will be issued with a comment and asked to correct their uniform. If their uniform cannot be corrected immediately then a further sanction will apply.

Thank you for your continued support with the information above by ensuring the high standards at the academy are upheld by all.

Yours sincerely



Mr W Bush  
Head of School