

Message from Mr Bush, Principal

As we come to the end of the first half term of this academic year I would like to thank each and every one of you for your support in ensuring the young people in our community attend the academy and work hard whilst here.

As it seems to be the way during this pandemic, we are learning all the time. We have been learning about the best way to ensure our students can attend the academy in a safe and secure manner that continues to reduce the risk of infection to both staff and students. I have been really pleased with staff and students who have demonstrated a strong sense of responsibility of wearing face masks when in social areas and when social distancing is impossible. This small measure along with regular hand washing or sanitising can help reduce the chances of the virus spreading.



The senior leadership team at The Featherstone Academy are constantly reviewing our practices (i.e. now bringing PE kit separately for practical lessons instead of coming dressed in it) and looking at how we can maximise the time students are learning with our members of staff. **From Monday 2nd November all Year 7 students will start the academy day at 8.20am.** This change brings the Year 7 cohort back in line with the normal start time of the academy day; Year 7 will continue to finish at 2.20pm. This will also allow the academy to begin to deliver our Rise and Read program for all Year 7 students. You can read more about our Rise and Read program below.

We are working hard behind the scenes to ensure that should we go into a partial or full closure over the winter period we are able to supply all students with a strong, interactive and progressive education package. It is very important that the academy has up-to-date email addresses and telephone numbers of all parents and carers so we can support you and update you on our plans for education and your children's progress. Please contact the academy through info@featherstone.academy if you have yet to pass on those details.

I wish you a relaxing and safe half term.

Coronavirus Information

The Government has announced that additional local restrictions will be in place for the Wakefield district from Wednesday 14 October 2020.

May we re-emphasise that **face coverings for all our students and staff are required in all public areas within the academy: entering and exiting the building, moving between classrooms, and at break and lunch times** — the exception to this is when a student is seated in the Dining Hall and they are eating or drinking. Face coverings do not need to be worn when a lesson is taking place.

Any student that arrives at the academy without a face covering will be given one to wear; those with medical exemptions will not be required to wear a face covering.

All face coverings must be plain, suitable for a school environment with no logos or motifs and must be worn sensibly.

Over half term, if your child tests positive for covid, it is still absolutely vital we are informed in order that we can notify students or staff who may have been in close contact with them. This is especially important over the first few days after we have broken up. If your child starts self-isolating for 14 days and they cannot return to school on Monday 2 November, then you must inform us immediately.

In all instances please telephone **07809301970** and leave a message or email:

attendanceteam@featherstone.academy.

Rise and Read — Year 7

From Wednesday 4 November 2020, our Year 7s will be starting Rise and Read. This is an exciting initiative used to inspire and encourage students to read for pleasure. It is expected for all students to attend Rise and Read and arrive promptly for a 7:35am start, every Wednesday. The students will be split into small groups and will be given opportunities to read aloud, discuss their reactions and explore some engaging themes. We hope to build your child's confidence in reading aloud. We aim to take students on an adventure through different eras and expose them to a wide variety of challenging, good quality and exciting literature. Next term we will be exploring and delving into the world of Greek heroes and myths. We hope to see you all next term!

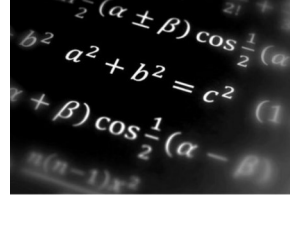
English



This half-term, our KS3 students have been studying descriptive writing. We have been very impressed by the high quality of our students' creative and imaginative work. A special mention needs to go to our new Year 7s, who have written beautifully and carefully crafted dystopias. Well done!

Our KS4 students have hit the ground running with Year 10 studying their first GCSE text, 'An Inspector Calls,' and Year 11 revising 'Macbeth.' A special mention needs to go to all the Year 11 who have embraced revision skills and made flashcards in their form-time revision sessions. It is amazing to see you all so focused on your revision and working to achieve your goals. Well done!

Mathematics

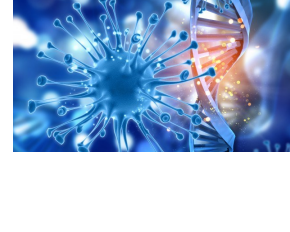


Featherstone's Mathematicians have been working very hard this half term.

A special mention must be made to all of our Year 11 students for getting back into their Maths lessons in September and giving their all. We have been super proud of them all for their commitment to their studies and their great attitudes to learning.

Year 7 have had a great start and have impressed us within the Maths department.

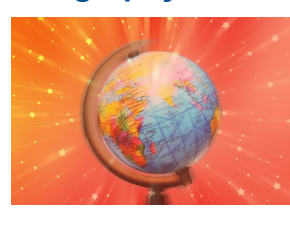
Science



These are the topics we have been learning this half term:

Year 7	Induction to Science and Scientific skills
Year 8	Biology - Food chains and sampling environments
Year 9	Biology - Cells, organs and organ systems
Year 10	Biology - Organ systems, disease and defence against disease
Year 11	Biology - Evolution, classification and sampling techniques

Geography



KS4: The students have started with their physical Geography topics and have completed their work on Tectonic Hazards and Atmospheric Hazards. The Y11 Geography award this term has been won by Shelby C and the Y10 award by Calum D.

KS3: Y9 are currently working on their Galapagos Islands unit of work and will have an assessment next term. Y8 are identifying what Conflict is and where it is located in the world. Y7 have completed an introduction to geography unit and have completed their assessments during the last week of this term.

History



It has been a very productive start to the new academic year in History. Key Stage 3 have been focusing on a range of topics including History Skills, Contextual Curriculum and World War One.

In Key Stage 4, Year 10 have focused on the creation of the Weimar Republic and medieval medicine. Year 11 have been developing their understanding of Nazi Germany, and how medical knowledge developed in the industrial period. Students have demonstrated a positive attitude to learning, but special mentions go to Kattina W and Nathan F for their approach to Year 11.

French



Miss Claringbold would like to congratulate the following students for showing resilience when learning another language. Their positive attitude continues to shine and they are striving to become great linguists.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Holly J	Francisco A	Holly W	Millie H	Al I
Logan M	Dion W	Lewis H	Mackenzie W	Kattina W
Logan C	Libby G	Jamie B	Harley S	Aleks D
Eroni U	Taylor B	Ronnie W	Jasmine R	Macey S

Art



Well done to the following Art superstars this half term from Mrs White and Mrs Broxholme:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10/11
Evie H	Freya D	Charlie C	Lewis G-B
Lily H	Dion W	Caleb D	Louie F
Sam D	Beth W	Holly W	Tia G

Food (KS3) / Child Development (KS4)



Well done to the following superstars this half term from Mrs White and Mrs Broxholme:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10/11
Beth D	Jack P	Kendal P	Hollie W
Lily H	Franchesca P	Jack C	Chelsea R
Madison B	Emily G	Nelli P	Ria H

PE



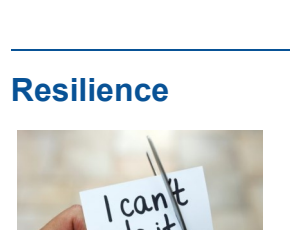
In PE this term both boys and girls have worked on improving their overall fitness after a long lock down. We have worked on our endurance and introduced some fun activities to improve our sprinting and agility techniques.

The girls have then started to play netball, looking at the core skills of the game, understanding teamwork then putting their skills into some small sided games.

The boys have started with football and again we have focused on the core skills and understanding the game. We have worked in small groups so we can develop our passing, control of the football and shooting. We have then managed to finish off with some small sided games.

A very productive and positive start to the year with all year groups.

Resilience



This term in our resilience lessons with Mr Benton we have been working on getting to know our new friends and understanding how The Featherstone Academy works. We've been through the rules and expectations and spent time reflecting on our first half term at high school. In some of our lessons we have spent time learning how to be resilient when learning a new language focusing on the application of sound-spelling links, using French as a starting point, building independence and practical vocabulary knowledge, as well as developing strategies for learning with Mrs McCall. We have also introduced 'skills builder' into our resilience lessons and students have been working on their listening and presenting skills with Mrs Robinson. We have had a very productive and fun start to the new academic year and many students have received certificates this week as they have demonstrated extremely good listening skills.

Keep up the good work - keep demonstrating resilience - You can do it!