



# The Featherstone Academy

3 July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

## HEAD OF SCHOOL UPDATE

As you are aware, the Government has now released new guidance to schools and Trusts regarding the further opening of schools. The Government's intention is that all children should be able to return to school safely, full time, in September. They have provided detailed instructions and some key principles that we will need to apply in the context of each school so we can keep everyone as safe as possible. All our Trust academies are keen to see all children back and welcome this next stage in the recovery from the pandemic.

We will now be working together to understand the guidance fully and plan to be ready to open as expected in September. This will not be straightforward, and it will take some time for us to be ready to communicate the details to you regarding how all this will work in the new term. Each academy will consider how it will operate safely and be risk assessed by the Trust to ensure we are operating in accordance with the guidance.

Our intention is to get back to as 'normal' as we can but sadly, this will not be the same as we had before. Social distancing and infection control will have to be in place, and this will include special arrangements for accessing the academy and movement in and around the academy. Each academy will look at how best to operate with the buildings and staff they have available to them.

We are delighted that we can look forward to life returning nearer normal at The Featherstone Academy and we know that as parents you will be relieved to hear that your children can get back to learning and seeing other children outside the home. We must however continue to be cautious; there is a lot that can happen between now and September in regards to the virus. Plans may have to change again if the Government imposes further local or national lockdowns in response to 'spikes' in infection.

I know you will have many questions, but I would ask that you give schools some time and allow them to develop their plans and communicate with you when they are ready to do so. You should expect some initial communication before the end of term and further, more detailed information, towards the end of August when we are all clearer regarding the effect of the virus control measures nationally.

What is clear is that the intention is to bring all children back to The Featherstone Academy for the start of the new term, full time, and you should make plans with that in mind.

Yours sincerely

Wesley Bush  
Head of School