



The Featherstone Academy

16 September 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

USE OF FACE COVERINGS

As you may be aware, the decision to ask staff and students to wear face coverings has been left to the discretion of Head teachers.

Initially, I had hoped that at Featherstone we would not wear them. However, given the rising cases of Covid in Leeds and Wakefield, following discussions with colleagues in other schools across the district and listening to the concerns of staff, I have decided, in consultation with the CEO, that students and staff at The Featherstone Academy should wear face coverings when on corridors and at other communal times. This includes entering the building each morning and leaving the building at the end of the day; at break times and lunch times; and when the students are in their year group bubble and moving to and from the Dining Hall for break time and lunch time. Our main priority is movement in and around the school, when it is not always possible for students and staff to maintain social distancing. **Given the other safety measures in place, masks are not permitted in lessons and must be removed safely on entering the classroom. Hand sanitisers are outside every classroom and should be used as required.**

I appreciate that not all students may have a face covering at this time, and in order to ensure you can obtain a supply, we are asking that all students have one with them by **Monday 21 September 2020**, however, should students wish to wear one from tomorrow, then they are welcome to do so.

It is recommended that face coverings are for single use and should be washed or replaced regularly. **Face coverings must be plain, suitable for a school environment with no logos or motifs and should be worn sensibly.** We do not expect that any Featherstone student would misuse or behave inappropriately with a face covering. Students should have a sealable plastic bag to keep their face covering in when not wearing it. Students are advised to carry a spare face covering in the event that their original one becomes damp/damaged. **The guidance about how to wear your face covering safely is noted on the reverse of this letter.**

We understand that some students will have health conditions which means that they cannot wear a face covering. Any student who has a pre-existing medical condition that prevents them from wearing a face covering should contact the Academy so that a health care plan can be put in place or updated and communicated with relevant staff.

Thank you again for your understanding and support which will help to keep our school community as safe as we can.

Yours sincerely

Mr W Bush
Principal

How to use a face covering correctly

Face coverings should be placed in a sealed bag each time they are taken off

A face covering should:

- cover your nose and mouth while allowing you to breathe comfortably
- fit comfortably but securely against the side of the face
- be secured to the head with ties or ear loops
- be made of a material that you find to be comfortable and breathable, such as cotton
- ideally include at least two layers of fabric (the World Health Organisation recommends three depending on the fabric used)
- unless disposable, it should be able to be washed with other items of laundry according to fabric washing instructions and dried without causing the face covering to be damaged

When wearing a face covering you should:

- avoid wearing on your neck or forehead
- avoid touching the part of the face covering in contact with your mouth and nose, as it could be contaminated with the virus
- change the face covering if it becomes damp or if you've touched it
- avoid taking it off and putting it back on a lot in quick succession (for example, when leaving and entering shops on a high street)

When removing a face covering:

- only handle the straps, ties or clips
- do not give it to someone else to use
- if single-use, dispose of it carefully in a residual waste bin and do not recycle
- if reusable, wash it in line with manufacturer's instructions at the highest temperature appropriate for the fabric

Hand sanitiser points are located throughout the academy and should be used at the beginning and end of every lesson