



The Featherstone Academy

NEWSLETTER

Summer Term 1 2026



Message from Julia McCluskey, Principal

As we reach the end of this half term, it is hard not to reflect on just how busy and productive the past weeks have been. Across the academy, our students and staff have demonstrated strong commitment, resilience and enthusiasm in their learning, enrichment activities, and wider contributions to school life. From classroom achievements to extracurricular successes, it has been a rewarding and fulfilling half term for all. A particularly significant moment came on Friday as we celebrated our Year 11 students during their Leavers' Assembly. This was a memorable and emotional occasion, filled with reflection, celebration and pride. We recognised not only their academic efforts but also the personal growth, friendships and contributions they have made to the life of the academy over the years.

Year 11 have shown great determination throughout their time with us, and especially during their final months of preparation for examinations. We are immensely proud of their achievements and the way they have conducted themselves. As they now move on to the next stage of their life journeys, we wish them every success and happiness. They will always remain a valued part of The Featherstone Academy community. We look forward to seeing them one last time on results day, Thursday 20 August 2026.

This half term has also seen a wide range of activities taking place across other year groups, including the Shakespeare and Song Festival, sporting events, and Young Poet Laureate celebration, all of which you can read more about in the newsletter. The strong participation of our students in academy life both inside and outside of lessons is a strong indicator of future success, so please encourage your child to get involved. There's lots on offer.

We would like to extend our thanks to parents and carers for your continued support. Your encouragement and partnership in our shared high standards play a vital role in helping our students succeed, and we greatly appreciate your ongoing involvement in academy life. A particular thanks to those of you who attended Parents' Evenings and passed on lovely messages to our teachers. Please also remember to sign up to our new communications portal, 'Arbor', which will be replacing 'Edulink One' very soon so that we can share important future updates with you.

As we break for the half term holiday, we hope that all members of our community have the opportunity to rest, recharge and spend time with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming students back refreshed and ready to continue their learning in the next half term.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

12 JUNE 2026

SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR HALF TERM

22 JUNE 2026

INSET - SCHOOL CLOSED TO STUDENTS

23 JUNE 2026

SCHOOL REOPENS

25 JUNE 2026

IMMUNISATIONS MOP UP SESSION

30 JUNE - 1 JULY 2026

YEAR 6 TRANSITION

8 JULY 2026

YEAR 11 PROM

10 JULY 2026

REWARDS TRIP

14 JULY 2026

SPORTS DAY

17 JULY 2026

SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR SUMMER

20 AUGUST 2026

GCSE RESULTS DAY

24 AUGUST 2026

INSET - SCHOOL CLOSED TO STUDENTS

25 AUGUST 2026

SCHOOL OPENS TO ALL STUDENTS

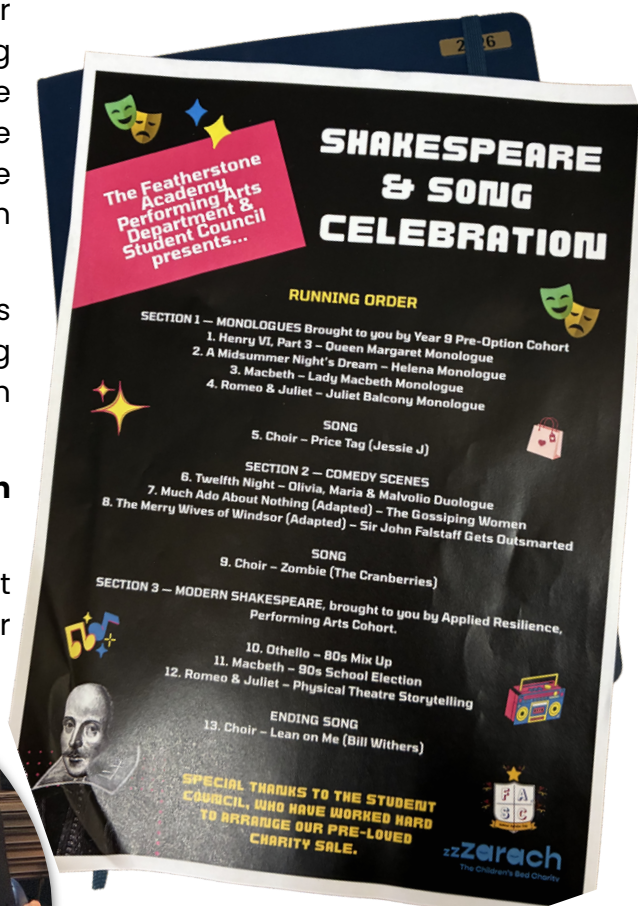
NEWS ROUNDUP

Students from across all year groups came together for our second **Annual Shakespeare & Song Festival**, showcasing their talents through a wide range of performances. The audience enjoyed monologues, duologues, and ensemble scenes spanning comedy, tragedy, and history, alongside creative physical theatre pieces and modern interpretations of Shakespeare's work.

The event was a **true whole-school effort**, with students contributing not only as performers but also through singing in the pop choir and supporting behind the scenes with lighting and sound.

Ahead of the performances, a **pre-loved sale raised an impressive £100** for our chosen charity, Zarach.

A huge **well done to everyone involved**, and a heartfelt thank you to all who attended to celebrate and support our talented students.



Pop Choir



info@featherstone.academy

NEWS ROUNDUP

RUGBY NEWS



Year 10 boys played in the semi final of the Yorkshire cup against Castleford Academy. Featherstone **started strong** with the game in the balance early – the score at half time being 8-12 to Castleford.

In the second half, fatigue set in but the boys showed a **resilient effort** to continue **fighting to the final whistle**, with Alfie J scoring in the last play of the game.

Although Nikola was not selected for the Young Poet Laureate role on this occasion, we want to emphasise just how impressive her achievement truly is. Reaching the final 120 students out of hundreds of entries is an **extraordinary accomplishment** and a testament to her **creativity, dedication and talent**.

Her poem stood out during the judging process and the panel greatly **valued the craft, individuality and thoughtfulness** in both her writing and performance. In their feedback, the judges commented:



“

This is an important poem that captures a complex range of emotions with crystal-clear honesty. The ideas feel strong, thoughtful, and meaningful, and the voice behind the poem feels powerful and of its moment a voice many people can recognise and connect with. The performance was confident and clear, helping the poem land well with the audience. Your poem was significant and memorable. Keep writing and sharing your voice.

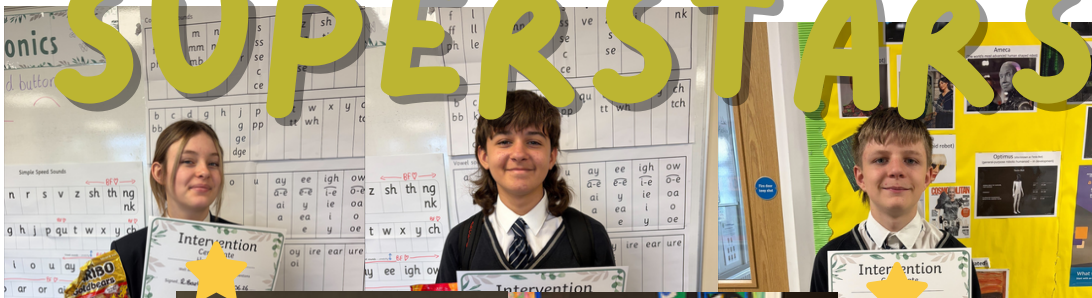
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NEWS ROUNDUP

INTERVENTION SUPERSTARS



LITERACY



SAFEGUARDING

WATER SAFETY

Water claims the lives of more than 50 children a year in the UK. Drowning is among the leading causes of accidental death. Under-estimating the dangers of water can have tragic consequences. You may be able to swim well in a warm indoor pool, but that does not mean you will be able to swim in cold water. **The key to staying safe is making the right choices to avoid getting into difficulty in the first place.**

BE AWARE!

Low water temperatures can cause the body to go into **Cold Water Shock** and can claim your life in minutes, even if you are a strong swimmer!

Learn the Water Safety Code

Stop & Think
Stay Together
Call 999
Float

Drowning is the **THIRD** most common cause of death in young people.

The risk increases significantly from age 15



HIDDEN dangers

There is no way of knowing what lies **beneath** the water

It's difficult to estimate the **depth** of the water

Reeds and other plant life can get **tangled** around your limbs

Mud makes it difficult to walk even if you can stand up

Litter and waste can **trap** your feet as well as cause injury

There may be **underwater machinery** for example sluices

Swimming in open water can expose you to **serious diseases**

There may be **hidden currents**, especially in locks



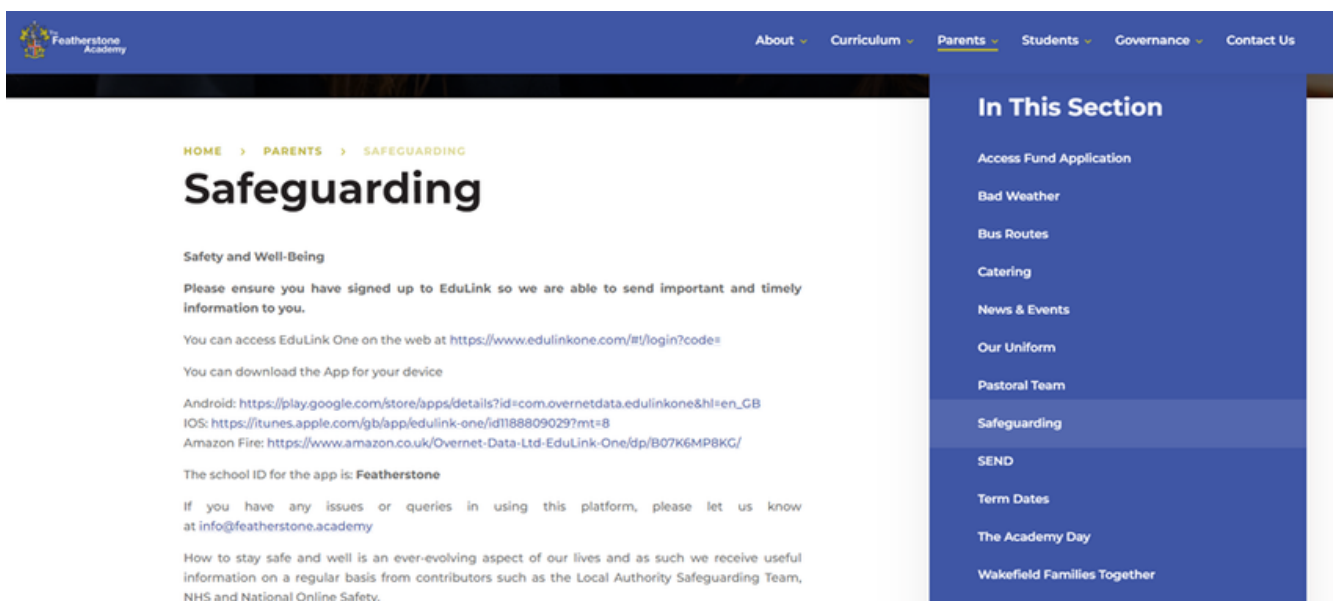
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SAFEGUARDING

Although the school building is not staffed over the half term holiday, parents and carers can still contact **Wakefield Social Care directly on 0345 850 3503** with any concerns. Social Care will then contact the academy's Safeguarding Team directly during the holiday period. Additionally, if you are looking for some general help and advice there are numerous links available directly on the academy website – please use the link below.



CLICK HERE
FOR MORE
INFORMATION



The screenshot shows the Featherstone Academy website. The top navigation bar includes links for About, Curriculum, Parents, Students, Governance, and Contact Us. The main content area is titled 'Safeguarding' under the 'PARENTS' section. It includes a 'Safety and Well-Being' section with instructions on how to access EduLink One and download the app. A sidebar on the right titled 'In This Section' lists various links such as Access Fund Application, Bad Weather, Bus Routes, Catering, News & Events, Our Uniform, Pastoral Team, Safeguarding, SEND, Term Dates, The Academy Day, and Wakefield Families Together.



COMMUNICATIONS ARE CHANGING!

As previously communicated, **from Tuesday 23 June 2026**, we will move away from Edulink One to send communications to you. Instead, **we will be using Arbor**. This will enable you to see messages in the app or via your emails as well as information about how your child is doing in school including their attendance, stamps for great work, behaviour points and detentions. You will also be able to **update contact details and consents, book parents' evening appointments and more** as we roll out the various functions through the year. To receive communications, you will need to login to your Arbor account on the portal and set up the app before Tuesday 23 June 2026.

Please ensure we have the correct email address for you!



What you will need

- **Arbor Parent App** or access to the portal
- Access to the **ParentPay** website to top up accounts and provide consent for trips & visits



What you won't need

- Edulink One



Arbor

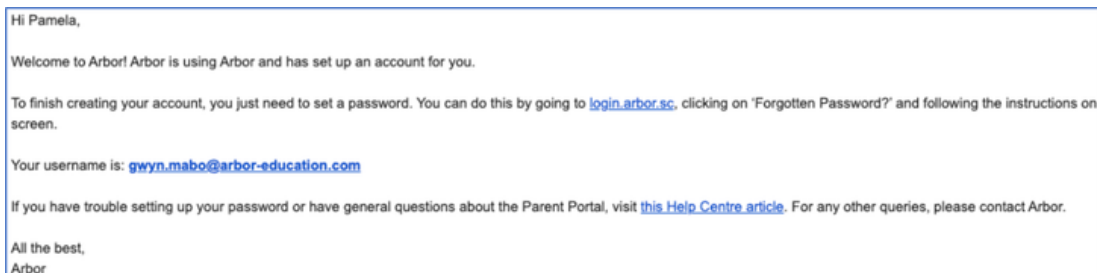


ParentPay

A. First-Time Login (Setting Your Password)

If this is your first time logging in, you'll need to set your password. Your school will send you a **welcome email** with a link to do this.

1. Find the Welcome Email: Look for an email from Arbor in your inbox.



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COMMUNICATIONS ARE CHANGING!

- **Tip:** If you can't find it, check your junk or spam folder!
- 2. **Click the Login Link:** Inside the email, click on the unique login link provided. This link will take you to a secure page to set up your account.
- 3. **Set Your Password:**
 - Enter your chosen password into the **Password** field.
 - Enter it again into the **Confirm Password** field.
 - Make sure your password meets the criteria (e.g., length, characters) shown on the screen.
 - Click the **Set Password** button.
- 4. **Log In:** You'll then be redirected to the login page. Enter your **email address** (the one your school has for you) and your newly **set password**, then click **Log In**.

Logging in on the Parent App

Save your password and fill it in automatically using your phone's built-in Face ID, fingerprint scan or pin entry.

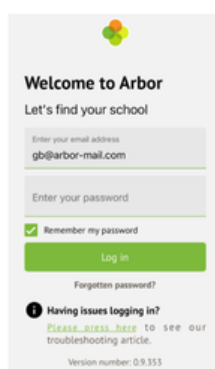
Top Tip: You will need to download the latest version from the app store to use biometric login:

- The version number for iOS for biometric login is 24.1
- The version number for Android is 35 (24)

Logging in for the first time

When you open the app for the first time, you'll be prompted to add in your email address and password.

The **Remember my password** box will be ticked by default but you can untick it if needed. This allows Arbor to remember your password the next time you log in.



Arbor app login screen showing fields for email address (gb@arbor-mail.com), password, and a 'Remember my password' checkbox. It also includes a 'Log in' button, a 'Forgot password?' link, and a 'Having issues logging in?' link with a 'PLEASE CLICK HERE' button. The version number 0.9.353 is displayed at the bottom.



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