



Autumn 2023

Message from Principal Diana Townshend



Welcome to our October edition of our Featherstone newsletter. As we approach our Autumn break, it is good to be able share with you all our students' activities and achievements during the first half term.

At the beginning of the term we were celebrating our fabulous GCSE results in the summer which were the best that Featherstone Academy have ever gained, which demonstrates again the hard work and commitment that our students show, and the dedication of the staff who ensure our students gain the best possible outcomes to increase their post-16 choices.

We are continuing to grow as an academy, and are now oversubscribed. We welcomed our 120 new Year 7 students at the beginning of the Year. They have impressed us enormously with their enthusiasm and work rate in the classroom, proving that they have gained Featherstone Resilience, when the entire year group camped in the Lake District for a week.

Our exciting new Applied Resilience curriculum for Years 8 and 9 are providing a wide range of opportunities to gain new skills. Students have the opportunity to take part in gardening, Skiing, making clothes, cooking, crafts, community work, become sports leaders, computer programming and take part in the netball and rugby academies.

Year 10 and Year 11 are already preparing for their GCSE exams in 2024, and have taken part in revision conferences where they have learned how to revise in different ways. They are already demonstrating their amazing resilience in the ways they are approaching their GCSEs.

I wish you all a very good half term and look forward to welcoming all students back on Tuesday 7th November.

Dates for your diary:

7 November 2023

School reopens for students

7 November 2023

Y9 Parents Evening

23 November 2023

Y11 Parents Evening

27 November 2023

Student Flu Vaccinations

14 December 2023

Y10 Parents Evening

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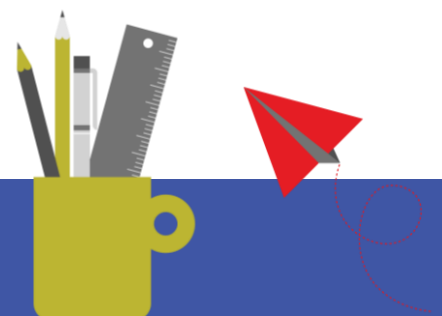
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Year 7 UK Resilience Camp

Transition to secondary school can be a significant challenge for some students. Teaching resilience at this stage is essential in helping students to adapt to this new environment, where they may encounter different teachers, academic challenges, and social dynamics. This is where the Featherstone Resilience Camp comes in! Resilience Camp has been at the core of our Year 7 curriculum for a number of years, and it plays a huge role in helping to equip our students with coping strategies and problem-solving techniques in a fun way in the great outdoors. And of course, being so early in the school year, it is a fantastic way for students to build new friendships and gain social confidence.

We are so proud of how our students demonstrated resilience throughout the trip and they have made some fantastic friends in the process.





Rugby Achievements

The Year 8 rugby team ran out 69-0 winners against Brayton in their first Rugby Union game of the year! Some students were playing in their first ever rugby game, also joined by two Year 7 students.

The students performed excellently in their tackling and ball carrying, with some outstanding strength shown in their drives to the try line!

Throughout November and December each year group will be taking a team across to Minsthorpe to take part in a 5-a-side football tournament. Dates and teams to be announced in first week back.

Finally, keep an eye out for letters which will be coming home with students for some trips which will be running in the new year! Exciting times ahead for The Featherstone PE Department!



Sporting Success

Jacob T has been entered for the Yorkshire Swimming Championships this month. This is a huge achievement... Good luck Jacob !

Ava S – has recently competed in the Gymnastics Championship in Paris, her team finished 3rd place. Well done Ava.

Kyra T – Our British Gymnastic Champion recently competed in America coming a fantastic 3rd place. Her next competition is in Australia in January. Good Luck Kyra !

Please share your child's sporting successes with us
– email us with any news and photos

Mock GCSE Exams 2023

A huge congratulations to all Year 11 who took their mock exams in the second and third week in October, and to all the Year 10 students sitting their first GCSE Option mock. Conduct during the exams was exemplary and students showed good focus and a mature attitude throughout the exam period.

The next set of GCSE mocks will take place from January 8th 2024, on our return from the Christmas holidays, and finish 26th January 2024. These will be a full suite of exams and mirror their terminal exams in Summer 2024.

Y7 Rise & Read

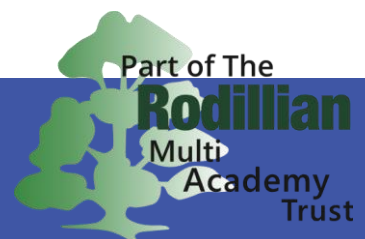
Our Rise and Read Programme will commence on **Wednesday 8 November 2023**. Students are expected to arrive at the Academy **no later than 7.35am** for a 7.40am start. Students should not arrive before 7.15am.

These invaluable sessions, which have been proven to raise our students' reading ages, are a vital part of our strategy to support your child's progress. We use these sessions to build reading confidence, build enjoyment of reading and to develop your child's decoding skills.

Please be aware that this programme is a compulsory element of the Year 7 Curriculum and a detention will be set for any absences.



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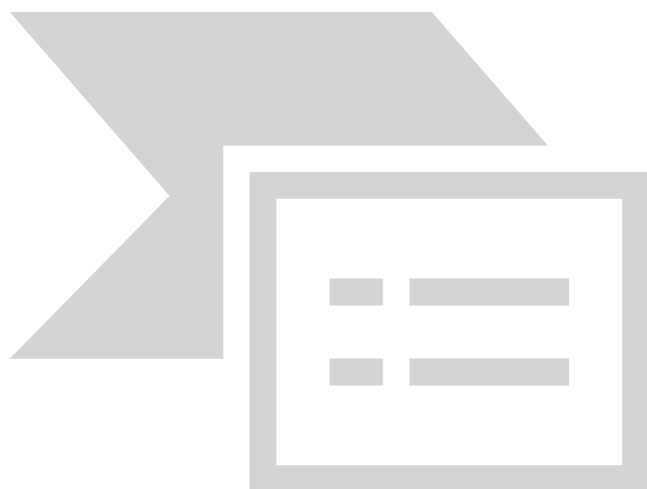
RESTART A HEART DAY 2023



Year 9 students took part in the annual Restart a Heart Day. Students were taught the life-saving skills of CPR and were able to learn from a trainee paramedic, a paediatric nurse and an advanced critical care doctor. As well as learning CPR skills, students were able to ask questions to the staff that joined us about their experiences as well as how they got into their roles. The team gave great feedback about how well our students had done and each child that took part received a certificate. Huge thank you to the fabulous team from Yorkshire Ambulance.



Applied Resilience

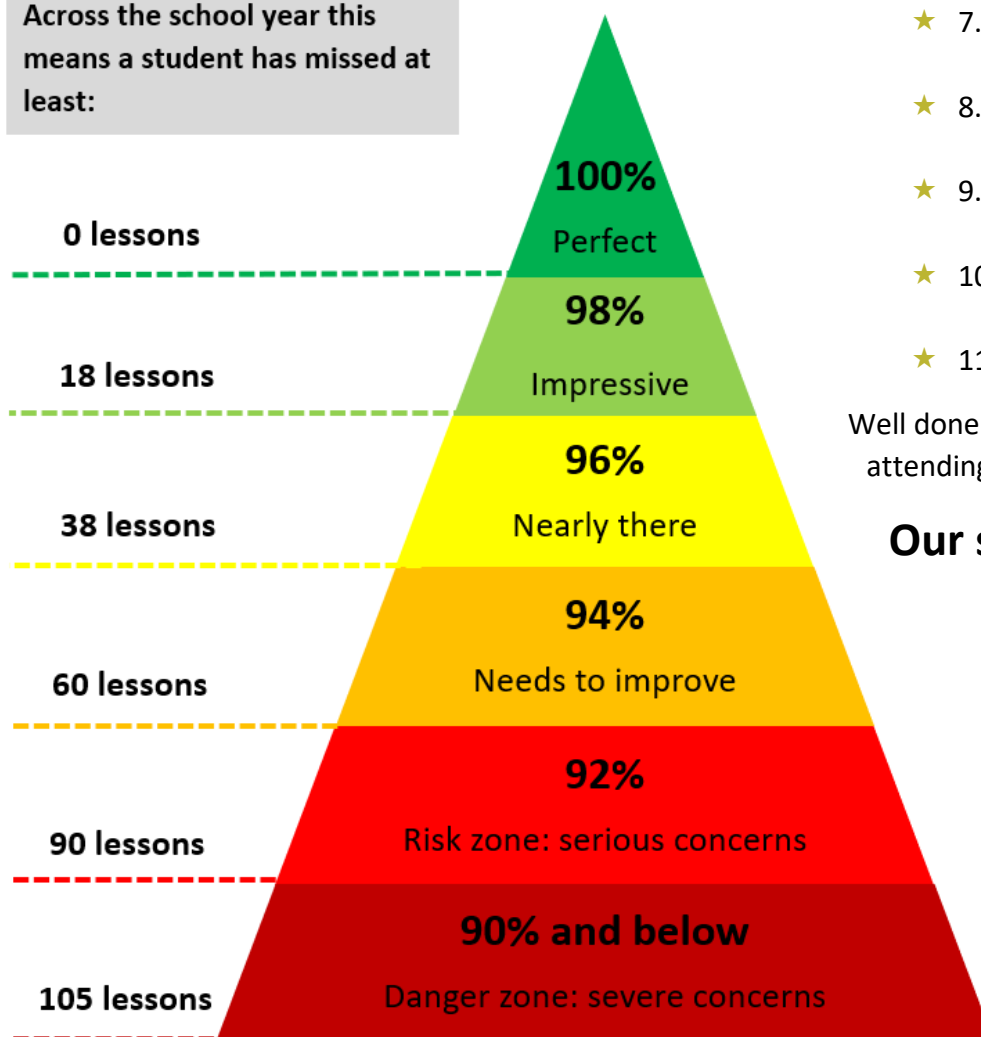


This half term students have worked incredibly hard on digging out four beds to grow their vegetables in through the coming months. Through our partnership with Notcutts Victoria, we have started to plant our winter growing vegetables for a spring harvest. In addition, the students have contributed to the upkeep of the large planter at the front of school, the small planters in the quadrant area and have begun planning designs for the second planter that they will tackle in the near future. Their effort has been phenomenal, and the students are really enjoying being in the great outdoors.



Attendance matters

Across the school year this means a student has missed at least:



Top Attending Forms



- ★ 7.4 Mrs Ellis
- ★ 8.1 Mrs White
- ★ 9.3 Mrs Champagnon
- ★ 10.1 Miss Robinson
- ★ 11.1 Mrs Backhouse

Well done to Years 7 and 9 who are the top attending year groups across the school!

Our school target is 98%

Attendance at school is a priority for us. We want to give all our student's the best start in life, and we know that education and support from school can help to do this. All students should strive for 100% attendance and 0 lates. Their attendance should not drop below the school target of 98% for each academic year.

Our attendance pyramid shows the impact that attendance can have on your child's progress. Those students that have less than 98% are less likely to achieve their target and ultimately less likely to go on to further education and study something they enjoy. Every lesson counts and every lesson is just another piece to the jigsaw in enabling your child to reach their potential and become the successful adult they can be.

Punctuality is equally as important. Form time is used to ensure students are calm and equipped to be successful during their school day. Year 10 and 11 are expected to be in school for 8.15am and Year 7, 8 and 9 are expected to be in for 8.25am.

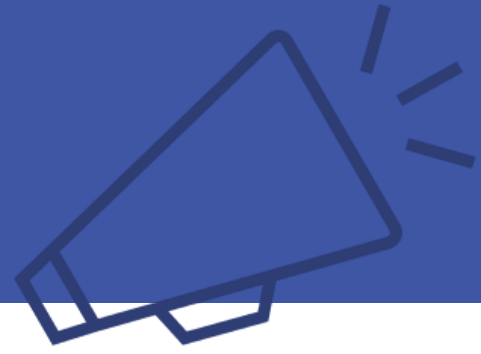
To report a child's absence please call 01977 722812 before 9:00am on the first and every day of absence.



CELEBRATING GCSEs

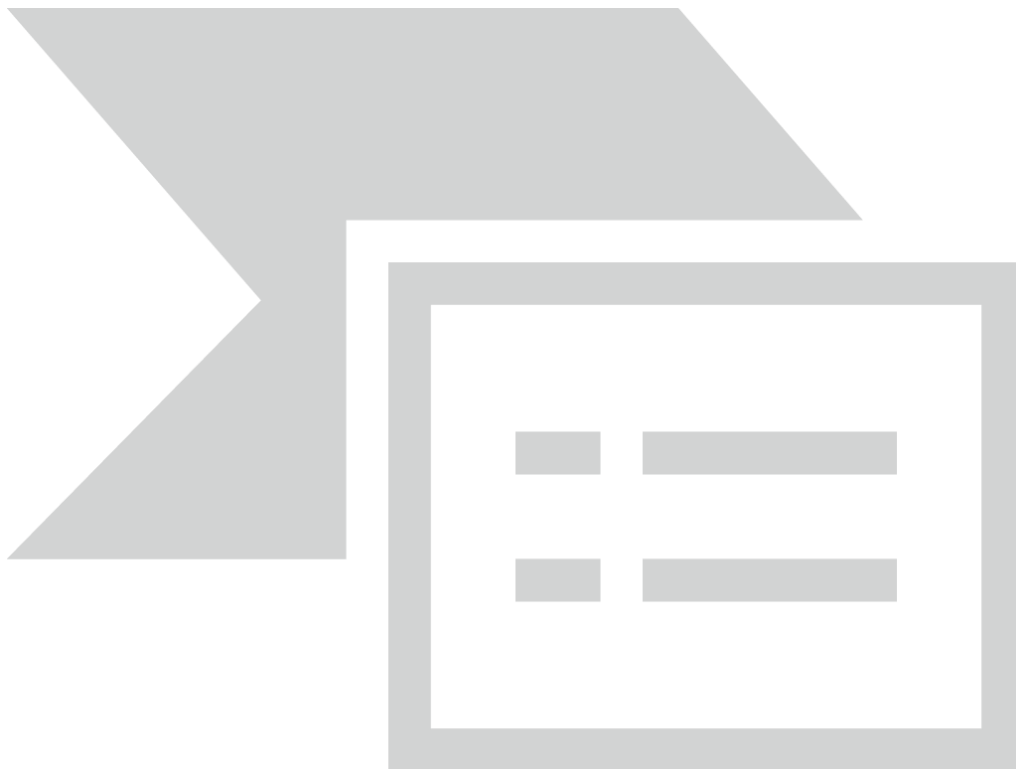
We were celebrating again in August when our fabulous Class of '23 gained the best ever results The Featherstone Academy have received: 59% 4+ and 43% in English and Maths with an average attainment score of 44 points. Their hard work, great attendance and resilience paid off and as a result they have been able to access the best courses and training. We are incredibly proud of them and wish them all the best for their future !





REWARDS TRIP'S 2023

It was great to see so many of our eligible students from across the Rodillian Multi Academy Trust attend this year's rewards trips. Students this year were able to choose to go to either Alton Towers, Flamingo Land, Yorkshire Wildlife Park or Xscape at Castleford. All students had a wonderful day!

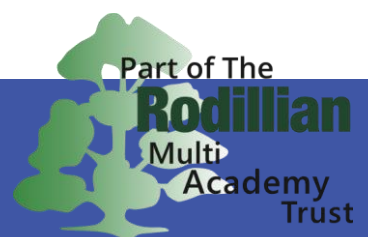


Criteria for Rewards Trip 2024:

- 96% attendance
- No Principal Detentions
- No isolations
- No suspensions



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Uniform Reminder



School shoes need to be a **plain black shoe**.

Some retailers sell trainers that look 'shoe-like', but that aren't shoes. They are often more expensive than a black shoe. Trainers, pumps and 'heavy' boots, are not permitted.



Trousers

The trousers modelled below are from the same 'school range' of a well-known retailer. The pair on the left would not meet our uniform expectations as they are 'tight-fitting, clingy'. They are fashion-fit trousers. The pair on the right would be acceptable.



A Guide to Colour

Not acceptable	Acceptable			Not acceptable
Black	Charcoal grey	Slate grey	Primer grey	Pale grey
X	✓	✓	✓	X

School skirts must **not** be tight-fitting. They must **not** be too short. **What we mean by this:** The skirt must not be designed to cling tightly to the body and when a young person is stood upright with the waist band of the skirt in the correct position, the hem of the skirt should reach the knee **without having to be pulled-down**.



SHORT SKIRTS

School trousers must be smart trousers (**not** casual wear) made from loose-fitting fabric and designed **not** to cling to the body. Try to avoid trousers or skirts with a Lycra content as the Lycra will mean the clothes are designed to stretch.



Tight-fitting, clingy or stretch-fabric trousers or leggings



'Combat'-style trousers with pockets or features on the leg. Trousers made from denim.



Loose-fitting, smart trousers



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