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Headteacher: Mr N. Walters



Featherstone High School

Founding Member of the Grand Union MAT



17th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: End of Term – Christmas 2025

I would like to begin by offering my sincere thanks to you. I am very aware that being a parent or carer is a demanding role, and never an easy one. This term has brought its own challenges, as the lighter days of summer have swiftly given way to the long, cold evenings of winter. We are deeply appreciative of the continued support you provide in ensuring that students arrive punctually, appropriately dressed, well prepared and ready to engage with their learning. Your commitment plays a vital role in making Featherstone such a successful school and enables our staff to focus fully on teaching and supporting our young people without unnecessary interruption.

Over the past term, I have, once again, been particularly struck by the number of new colleagues and visitors who have remarked on the positive attitudes, behaviour and strong work ethic of our students. We recognise that these qualities are fostered through the shared expectations and values upheld both at home and at school.

It has truly been a remarkable term. It began with the celebration of outstanding examination results over the summer and has continued with the sustained effort, resilience and personal growth that underpin such achievements.

This term has also seen the continued expansion of our annual Arts Week, giving many students the opportunity to immerse themselves in the creative world through in-school workshops as well as theatre visits across London and the surrounding areas. Alongside this, students have taken part in university workshops at SOAS and the University of West London, enjoyed exciting sporting fixtures, and participated in a range of impressive performances, culminating in this week's vibrant and high-energy Winter Concert. It has been the term of a Culture Day; a visit to PWC headquarters; the STEM workshops and so very much more.

Our assemblies too give a good sense of what we are focused on. This term has seen assemblies on Mental health; the European day of languages; Black History; Anti bullying; the Armistice and Human rights. Once again, it is a privilege to see the care and planning that goes into these presentations and the focus of our students as they embrace the ideas and issues.

At times, it feels as though Featherstone is a school that never rests, with clubs, teams and societies setting off and returning throughout the day and evening. It is a privilege to witness the dedication and enthusiasm shown by both our students and staff.

Developments

It could almost be missed but every day at Featherstone, the building work on A block continues apace. It has been over two years since the discovery of RAAC concrete in the roof structure closed A block and we are delighted that the restoration work has begun and is broadly on course to be finished on schedule. Certainly, we expect to be back in that part of the school by next September if not earlier.

This has also been the term of the new caterers, and they have received much positive feedback on their service and offering. Every day the queues of students going to eat speaks volumes about the success of this aspect of school life.



The **quality of education** at Featherstone has been judged by **Ofsted** to be **outstanding** - 2025

Earlier this term we welcomed the Mayor of Ealing and the local MP as well as other dignitaries and the students who have played such an important part in the planning for the official opening of our school garden. This is another developing part of school life.

Uniform

As we progress the school year into 2026, I would like to remind parents of our high expectations regarding uniform.

On returning to school on the 5th January (week B) at a later start time of 10.15am it is expected that all students will return with full and correct uniform. Please take the opportunity, of the Christmas break, to ensure your child is fully equipped to return to us with **all** items of clothing, including; appropriate shoes, blazer, tie, trousers/skirt and shirt.

The Exam Years

The Christmas break offers an important opportunity for students to rest, take time for their wellbeing, and to spend time with family and friends celebrating the festivities. We encourage them to enjoy a well-deserved pause after a busy term. However, we do recommend that exam year students spend some time revisiting key content to ensure a strong foundation as they move into the more demanding months ahead, to prepare well for any upcoming January BTEC exams and to complete any missed work.

A reminder that some students will be sitting their BTEC external examinations in January starting on the first day back, and our Year 13 mock exams begin on the 12th January. Preparation over the break - balanced with time to recharge - will help your child return confident and ready for the term ahead.

Happy Christmas

I hope you have a very peaceful holiday filled with all the joy of the season. I hope all our pupils and students will use their holiday to be good, to be helpful and to stay safe and we will all look forward to seeing you in the new year. Thank you again for your continued support.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Walters', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr N. Walters
Headteacher