



# Montgomery Academy

An Academy within the Fylde Coast Academy Trust

Exec. Headteacher: Mr S.Cox BSc Hons MA (Ed) NPQH

Headteacher: Mr S. Careless BSc MSc NPQH

Senior Deputy Headteacher: Mrs C. Montgomery BSc MSc NPQSL

e-mail: [admin@montgomery.fcat.org.uk](mailto:admin@montgomery.fcat.org.uk)

Web: [www.montgomeryschool.co.uk](http://www.montgomeryschool.co.uk)

All Hallows Road  
Bispham  
Blackpool  
FY2 0AZ

Tel: 01253 356271

Fax: 01253 352305

Inspiring Excellence Together

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Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you in regard to England's first Football World Cup game on Monday 21st November, kicking off at 1pm. This is obviously a school day and I have considered whether we should show the game for students who want to see it.

If we did show the game, we would have to accommodate a mixture of both students and staff, with some wanting to watch it and others not. We would, of course, want students who choose not to watch the game to be taught the two hours of planned learning with their normal teachers. This means that we would not have the capacity to run normal lessons and supervise areas to watch the game. We have also seen a rise in both staff and student absence this week and this would reduce our capacity further.

Year 11 students are about to start their mock exams, and it would not send the right message if they were to miss two hours of their Options subjects on Monday afternoon.

We also cannot rely on the technology working to show the game. Last time I was in a school that showed a match, England vs Wales, BBC IPlayer just gave us the circle of doom.

In conclusion, this is England's first group game at the start of a 5-week tournament, rather than a quarter or semi-final. The potential disruption to the school is too great. The kick off time is in the middle of our staggered lunches. We are looking to improve our attendance levels as we look to regain pre-pandemic levels. Students have missed too many lessons over the last few years.

I realise that my decision will not be popular amongst some, including some of my staff. I am a fairly big football fan myself, but believe this is the right decision. Ironically, I have drawn 'England' in the staff sweepstake, so I will be cheering them on for hopefully their six other games.

Regards

Mr. Careless