



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

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Inspiring Excellence Together

29th September 2021

Start of the new Academic Year

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we come to the end of September, I am writing to review the start of term under new Covid guidance allowing us to operate a lot nearer our old normality. So far, we have had no spike in cases; long may it continue.

We started the term with testing all students, where we had consent, twice on a Lateral Flow Test. Of the approximate 2300 tests only one returned a positive result, though we did have some students start the term self-isolating due to positive results over the summer. Over the first three weeks we have had a small number of positive student cases, but not reached the threshold of 5 linked cases in a year group that would warrant further restrictions.

A reminder that students identified as close contacts by NHS Test & Trace do not need to self-isolate unless they have symptoms, though it is strongly recommended to book a PCR test. Cases and hence transmission in school can be reduced through the twice-weekly home LFT testing (ideally Wed-Sun). Students were given new test packs a few weeks ago, but please let us know if you have run out. Nationally, a significant proportion of the daily cases are in the secondary student age group. Staff in school also continue to test twice-weekly.

You will have seen the government's decision to offer a Covid vaccination to all 12-15 year-olds. Any students aged 16 and over have already been offered a vaccination during the summer. Montgomery will not give a view on whether students should or should not take up the offer, though we have agreed to host NHS staff administering the vaccine to those that have chosen to take up the offer. We have been given provisional dates of 9th and 10th November.

Letters from the NHS and Consent Forms have been sent to all parents. Completed forms can either be given to Progress Tutor by the student or handed in directly to Main Reception. If you have not received one then please let us know. Potentially confusingly the NHS are also running the usual vaccinations for Years 9 and 11 next week plus catch-up vaccinations for Year 10. I stress that these are not Covid vaccinations.

In the first few weeks, our current catering contractor has struggled to provide the quality of food and service that we would expect for our students. They have been affected by staff absence and this week the catering team has been at 60% of its normal capacity. This has led to a poor service experience for the students and I sincerely apologise for this. It is not good enough.

I am happy to inform you that Blackpool Council Catering Services have won the new contract for Montgomery and are due to take over the running of our kitchens from Monday 1st November 2021. I am sure that there will be some teething problems in the handover, but I ask you to bear with us in the short-term as I am convinced that the students will experience better service, quality and most importantly value for money under Blackpool Council's management. In the last two weeks before, half-term we will monitor the existing provision and if needed will simplify the menu to ensure quality and speed of service.



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I would like to raise car parking for picking up and dropping off. At our Bike Sheds gate in both the morning and afternoon there are too many cars parked close to each other on the kerb, which makes the road potentially unsafe for students. There are yellow lines on the road near the gate yet cars are still being parked on them at the start and end of the school day. Around 720 students enter and leave by this gate within a 15-minute time period. Please could you, where possible, drop students off at either Bispham Village or near the Gala Field.

For parents of Year 7 students, we are running two Year 7 Information Evenings on 6th and 7th of October. Depending on your son or daughter's tutor group you will be invited to a 5 - 6pm session or a 6 - 7pm session. Information has been sent home - Please contact your child's tutor if you have not received it.

I would like to thank parents, students and staff for the positive start to term. We are very glad to be back and teachers are delighted to be back in their specialist subject areas.

Yours sincerely,

S. Careless
Headteacher