



Montgomery Academy

An Academy within the Fylde Coast Academy Trust

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Inspiring Excellence Together

4th May 2021

Montgomery Academy Standards Day - Monday 17th May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to let you know that we will be holding a Standards Day on Monday 17th May. This will apply to Years 7-10 only as Year 11 only have a few weeks left in school. Over the 13 months of the pandemic we have been understanding of issues that some families have faced regarding school uniform. We acknowledged that new uniform and other items such as shoes were difficult to get hold of, especially when non-essential shops were shut in the most recent lockdown.

However, we now feel that it is the right time to fully reinstate our expectations with Years 7-10, as we begin to return to an environment closer to the 'old normal'. Other schools have decided to do this earlier, though we felt it was important to wait until non-essential shops had reopened (April 12th) and infection rates had lowered even further, which they now have.

From **Montgomery Standards Day' (Monday 17th May) onwards** we will reinforce our uniform and appearance rules. In particular:

Shoes: Students must wear black shoes that conform to the expectations set on our website under Acceptable school footwear-

https://files.schudio.com/montgomeryhighschool/files/Acceptable_shoes_guidance.pdf

This link illustrates what is acceptable footwear for Montgomery. I would strongly suggest that you check carefully the published guidelines before purchasing a new pair and do not rely on your child's opinion of what is acceptable. This could save you time and extra money if a wrong pair is bought.

Shoes can be purchased for under £20 and we will look to support those in genuine financial difficulty where possible. Only students who have brought in a doctor's note will be allowed to wear trainers. We will still provide shoes in exceptional circumstances. Footwear must not be trainers or resemble pumps.

Skirts: The length of skirts should be just above the knee and they should not be rolled up at the waist.

Nails: Nails must appear natural with no coloured nail varnish. If students have acrylic nails they must: be short in length, be natural in colour and have a rounded tip. Students arriving to school with a coloured nail varnish or inappropriate acrylics will be asked to remove them.

Hair: Hairstyles must be suitable for the academy environment.

- Only black, brown or blonde dyed hair is acceptable - no other dyed colours or streaks
- Tramlines or shaved head designs are not acceptable
- Plain simple hair bands or hair slides (no flowers/ no scarves). Hijabs should be plain black or maroon

Jewellery: Jewellery is restricted to:

- 1 pair of plain gold/silver coloured studs
- 1 wristwatch
- No facial piercings are allowed

Additional jewellery may be confiscated for collection at the end of the school day.

Make up: Make up must be minimal and natural, with no false eye lashes. Any students not conforming to this will be asked to remove their make-up.

Face masks: Students have been given three face masks each at the start of the year. Please ensure they have at least one mask with them each day and that they are washed regularly. Students are fine to wear their own face masks if they are plain and black. If your child has lost their face masks please purchase one for them to wear. We will continue to supply disposable masks where necessary, however this has significant costs for the school and the environment.

PE kit: Students arriving in PE kit this term has meant that students have a longer lesson and therefore a better learning experience. Please can I remind you that students, where possible, must be wearing their Montgomery PE kit or plain black clothing. Branded clothing, grey tracksuits for example are not appropriate and should be refrained from being worn. If girls choose to wear a skirt they must be of an appropriate length. Students need to be organised when they are wearing their PE kit and remember to place their equipment and mask into their bags. It may be, at some point before the end of the academic year, that students will be able to return to using the PE changing facilities, so they would not need to wear their PE kit all day.

Mobile Phone Reminder: Mobile phones have been banned in school for four years. Phones should not be seen, or heard, onsite. Students should not get their phone out until they leave the school premises.

Headphones: Headphones are banned in school and should not be seen onsite.

Phones and headphones will be confiscated if seen or heard for collection at the end of the school day.

We will be speaking to students in the run up to the Montgomery Standards Day, so they are clear if any parts of their uniform or appearance is not correct. Any students falling below our expectations in their efforts in regard to uniform and appearance from 17th May will be isolated until the situation has been resolved.

Vaping

Over the course of this year, we have caught a small minority of students using electronic cigarettes (vapes) on the premises. All vaping equipment found in school, irrelevant of value, will be destroyed. Also, students found using the equipment on site will spend a period of time in isolation. Vaping equipment is banned in school and therefore classed as a 'prohibited item' in the 'Behaviour for Learning' policy meaning that the, "Screening, searching and confiscation" section of the policy applies.

Toilets

In September, we deliberately changed our policy to encourage students to use the toilet during lesson time when they needed it. This was to avoid long queues forming at toilets at both break and lunchtime. This worked well, though now some students are starting to take advantage and going too often in lessons, therefore missing valuable learning time. There are currently little or no queues at break or lunch. With infection rates now far lower, we would like to return to our previous stance that students should ideally go to the toilet in their breaks. Obviously, students who are in desperate need of the toilet will be allowed to go. However, we are recording names of students who go during lessons to see if any student is abusing the system. As always, students who have a medical or toilet pass can go during lesson time as normal.

Attendance

Attendance in the remainder of this year is vital as we look to recover lost learning. We therefore need to maximise the time students spend experiencing EXCEL in class. With this in mind it is essential that all students attend school on a daily basis with a positive attitude to their learning.

We need to push to be in school every day, therefore we now ask that if your child is feeling unwell with minor symptoms such as headaches or a sore throat that you still try to send them to school. Please continue to supervise your child completing the twice-weekly Lateral Flow Tests at home and obviously if a student has any of the three main Covid symptoms (high temperature, persistent cough or a change/loss of the sense of taste or smell) then they should stay at home until they have had a negative PCR test.

Students also need to be punctual to lessons and students that are repeatedly late to lessons will receive a detention with their progress manager.

We have a number of attendance initiatives running this term.

- Anyone with 98% attendance plus this term will be entered into our very exciting end of term draw which involves a number of prizes, including the chance to win an Ipad!
- Students that improve their overall attendance this half term will have the chance of winning either a £100 grocery shopping voucher for their family or a £50 Amazon voucher for themselves!

As always, we will work to 'Inspire Excellence Together' to ensure that standards at Montgomery Academy are as high as possible to ensure that students learn well and have the best opportunity to recover from any academic or developmental learning lost during the last year.

Regards,



Mr. Careless