



Montgomery High School

An Academy within the Fylde Coast Academy Trust

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Mutual Respect, Ambition and Learning

September 8th, 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

Firstly, I would like to welcome all the students back from their summer break and hope they have had a good rest and feel ready for the new academic year. I am writing to let you know about the first few days of term and of a few forthcoming dates of note.

Catering

My biggest concern over the summer was the new catering arrangements starting this term. As part of the Fylde Coast Academy Trust, Montgomery along with 3 other academies have transferred our catering to a national company, Chartwells, that deliver school meals across the country. This has meant refurbishment of both the kitchens and the retraining of staff on a new menu. As you will be aware, we have taken the opportunity to install a biometric system for payment at the same time. The reason for this is to eventually make the service quicker, but most importantly more secure for students, compared to the previous 4-digit codes. You are perfectly within your rights to not permit your child to be registered on the system and students will be able to still use a 4-digit code if you so wish. In case of any confusion the system does not take a copy of your child's fingerprint, but uses points on their thumbs to create a unique pattern.

The new equipment and processes in the dining halls has led to some teething problems, especially on the first day of term. Day 2 was better than Day 1 and Day 3 better than Day 2, so we are getting there. The menu has greater variety and there are healthier options available. It will take a few weeks to get in to the swing of things and I apologise if your son/daughter has experienced a delay in getting food. Students have been asked to give their feedback on the menu and changes will be made over the coming weeks. It would help the speed of service if they could put their cash on before school, or you could use the Parent Pay system. Any problems with this then please let us know. Also, the new cash machines only accept the new £1 coins. A reminder that the old pound coin ceases to be legal tender on October 15th 2017.

Investment in our premises

We have had a lot of refurbishment work completed over the summer with much painting, new carpets, new doors and a new library. The work totalling £50,000 has really brightened up some areas of the school that have been lacking investment for a long time.

Open Evening – early closure

It is our Open Evening on Wednesday 27th September and we will be closing slightly earlier on that day to make preparation for the prospective Year 5 and Year 6 students coming to have a look at what we do. Students will leave school at 2pm on that day, so please make any alternative arrangements required for that day. If this is going to cause you major problems then please let us know. We will be asking several students to help us on the night, though other students should not be on site, unless they are with a parent/carer and Year 5 or 6 sibling.

Year 7 Introduction Evening

Please can I take this opportunity to remind all Year 7 parents that our Year 7 Introduction Evening is on Thursday 21st September, starting at 6:15pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Montgomery standards and Values

We have launched several new initiatives this year to make student progress in lessons even better. Montgomery standards on uniform, appearance and mobile phones remain the same except for the new year group ties, which look fantastic. The mobile policy is that if a phone is seen or heard it will be confiscated until the end of the day. The policies on hair, jewellery and shoes have not changed. Advice for buying shoes is, as last year, available on the website under: Information → Uniform → Correct Footwear Guidelines.

This year we are concentrating upon the key values of Respect, Resilience and Pride. Students need to demonstrate self-respect, respect for other students and staff and respect for their environment. To perform to their best in the new harder and longer GCSE exams, students will need to not give up and keep trying when it gets difficult. It is important therefore, that they are challenged regularly to build their resilience further. Finally, we want our students to show pride in their uniform and appearance, their work and their achievements. A significant proportion of our students demonstrate these values on a daily basis and we are very proud of them as role-models and ambassadors for our school.

We have strengthened our Consequence system by putting more responsibility on the students for their conduct and reducing the number of opportunities to disturb lessons before they are removed. If a student disturbs a lesson 3 times after an initial warning they will be removed to a buddy room to continue their work and receive a 30 minute after-school detention. If they refuse to go to a buddy room for any reason they will be removed to isolation for a period of time yet still get the 30 minute after-school detention. Students will not be collected for this detention and are expected to get themselves to it. If they fail to arrive they will be put in a 60 minute detention with the Senior Leadership Team the following day. There are more levels to the system and we will put a flowchart on our website in the next few weeks.

To further improve the student work-ethic in lessons we are introducing Silent Time and PRIDE monitoring. A minimum period of 15 minutes silent independent study will be part of almost every lesson in Years 7,8 and 9 and used significantly in Years 10 and 11 where appropriate.

PRIDE monitoring is an acronym for Presentation, Rulers used for titles, Independent study, Diagrams in pencil & ruler and Excellent work. Progress Tutors, Progress Managers, Curriculum Area Leaders and SLT will be monitoring students' work for PRIDE to ensure that they take pride in their work and have revision-ready books.

Congratulations to the Year 11 of 2017

I would like to congratulate all Montgomery Year 11 students on their many successes in their GCSEs exams this year. In this period of change, with new harder GCSE exams in both Maths and English, standards have been maintained. We are delighted with the superb improvement in our Science results along with significant increases in French, Geography, Graphics, Food Technology and Resistant Materials.

The new grade 9 has set an extremely high standard nationally for the brightest students to aim for. Our students achieved 11 grade 9s across English and Maths. Forty-eight percent of our students achieved at least one A/A* grade or equivalent.

This success is the reward for the Montgomery Family of staff, parents, governors and students working together to create brighter futures for our young people. It also challenges the new Year 11, setting a benchmark to aspire to.

Regards,



Mr Careless
Principal