



Montgomery Academy

An Academy within the Fylde Coast Academy Trust

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Inspiring Excellence Together

September 11th, 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Today brings us to the end of the first full week back after the summer holidays and for some of our students 23 weeks since they were in school. We have been delighted with overall attitude and maturity of our students this week. They have had a lot of new expectations to get used to, such as:

- wearing face masks,
- new start/break/lunch/finish times
- one way systems
- new year group bases
- coming in their PE kit on the day of their PE practical lessons and
- designated playgrounds for break/lunch

Student organisation

They have not only adapted well but have clearly been happy to be back. Our new systems were tested properly on a thoroughly soggy Monday. At break or lunch if they are not in the Dining Hall then they are outside. It has been good to see that most students have coats for the poor weather. We would like to thank all parents for supporting their child in being organised with their own equipment and their school bags. We will be giving all students mini-whiteboards shortly. We also thank parents who have credited Parent Pay accounts to reduce the use of the cash machines in the dining halls. We have had some technical issues regarding the biometric system, though the situation is improving with students getting through the queues more quickly.

Face masks

All students in Years 10 and 11 were given 3 black plain masks this week and Years 7, 8 and 9 were given two yesterday. We were hoping to give the younger students three masks each but had a supply problem, so hopefully will be able to give them an extra one in the next couple of weeks. 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 masks if they are plain and black. I would also like to mention that now students all have masks they should be wearing them when they go in to shops in Bispham village before and after school.

Siblings with different arrival and finish times and parents dropping off/picking up

We have managed to organise early arrivers at the front of school in the car parks, but we will not be able to let students in to school before their time slots, even in poor weather. This also means that parents or taxis cannot drop off or pick up by driving in to the car parks. If you have two or more children at Montgomery that have different start times then please contact the Progress Manager/Pastoral Manager of your child that starts the latest and we may be able to arrange something in the morning. We will be able to arrange a holding room for Year 7 students who need to wait for an older sibling at the end of the day.

DfE guidance we are following on any students displaying Covid symptoms

The Department for Education guidance states that:

“If anyone in your school becomes unwell with a **new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)**, they must be sent home and be advised to follow the **Guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection**. This sets out that they must:

- self-isolate for at least 10 days
- arrange to have a test to see if they have coronavirus (COVID-19)

All other household members need to stay at home and not leave the house for 14 days. The 14-day period starts from the day when the first person in the household became ill. If anyone else in the household starts displaying symptoms, they need to stay at home for at least 10 days from when their symptoms appear, regardless of what day they are on in their original 14-day isolation period.”

Testing

Getting tested is not straightforward at the moment. The free NHS Covid – 19 test is only available through the Government's test and trace scheme and not through local GPs.

People are able to choose to take a test at a site near to them, or ask for a testing kit to be delivered to their home. To access these tests they need to **visit <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>**

Please be aware that children under 5 will not be able to attend testing sites. Parents should be advised to visit <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19/> for further help and advice. Anyone who has difficulties accessing the on-line service can call 119. Tests should only be booked for people that are showing symptoms.

Remote learning - if students have to self-isolate or year groups are moved to a rota system

We have seen already at other schools that have reopened in the last week that due to positive cases, staff or students showing symptoms or being contacted by NHS Test and Trace Service, disruption to on-site learning has been unavoidable. Therefore, I am taking this opportunity to draw your attention to our “REMOTE LEARNING RESOURCES” link on the home page of our website.

Remote work is being set, predominantly through Google Classroom, each week in line with what students are learning in class. This means that if students have to switch to remote learning at a short notice, whether it be individual students or whole year groups then the work will be immediately available to avoid further disruption to students’ progress. Please take a moment to take a look at the resources in case your child needs to access them over the coming months.

It has been great to see smiling students back in school this week and the first full week has been a very positive one. I would like to thank my staff for their massive efforts in getting the school open and ready for learning again.

Please have a great weekend and stay safe.

Yours faithfully



Mr. Careless
Headteacher