



# Montgomery Academy

An Academy within the Fylde Coast Academy Trust

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

12<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to welcome back all parents and students of Years 8 to 11 as well as welcoming all our new parents and students of Year 7, who have just completed their first week of secondary school. It has been a very positive week all round, with high standards and high temperatures to match. It has been fantastic to see our students return well rested, smartly dressed and raring to go.

## Culture

The culture at Montgomery is already securely positive amongst both staff and students. This is evident in the most recent OFSTED report and from other external evaluations. However, we recognise further improvement can be achieved as we look to achieve excellence in all areas of our work. Therefore, academy culture is a running theme throughout our school improvement plan for the next two years. We believe that academy culture consists of how people work together towards a shared goal and that is summarised concisely by our well-established academy motto,

“Inspiring Excellence Together”

Much of our work will be based upon our SMART model for attitudes & behaviour which stands for SAFE, MATURE, AMBITIOUS, RESPECTFUL and THOUGHTFUL.

There are a few notices and reminders that I need to give you regarding expectations and dates for your diary.

## Open Evening – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September

Last September was the first time in 3 years we were able to run a full Open Evening following the pandemic and it was very successful. We have a full year group of 250 in Year 7 with a 20+ waiting list of students waiting for a place. This is a great validation of the positive work at Montgomery over the last five years.

This year's Montgomery Open Evening is on **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September, from 4:30pm to 7:30pm.** Due to the setting up time required to facilitate the evening, **we are closing early to students that day at 12:40pm.** The morning will run as usual until the end of Period 3, then students will go to their tutor classes to register before being dismissed at **12:40pm.**

If your child receives a Free School Meal and needs a packed lunch to take home with them, then please complete the following google form and we will be happy to arrange this.

<https://forms.gle/teTCDcBUpDDBtGjS7>

If this early closure causes you or your child any difficulty, particularly Year 7 parents, then please let us know by emailing the address below, stating clearly your child's name and year group.

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

## Effort grades

Parents, other than those of the new Year 7 students, will remember our move to a strong focus last year on effort grades. We revised our reporting system and rewards systems to reflect this and selection for the termly rewards events were based upon students' effort grades. As we look to embed this focus I will take this opportunity to remind you of the 0-5 grading system that combines effort in class and at home.

- 5 Goes above and beyond to further develop their knowledge and skills in the subject
- 4 All homework completed on time and to a high standard. Excellent effort in class and with all tasks (including Entry Tasks). Completes Challenge Question work
- 3 Homework completed (may be after deadline or not to standard). Pays attention. Good effort with all tasks attempted (including Entry Tasks and Challenge Questions). Asks for support
- 2 Homework submission variable. Inconsistent effort with tasks (including Entry Tasks and Challenge Questions). Variable standard of work and focus
- 1 Most homework is not completed or done to a poor standard. Little/no work done in class. Lacks focus and appropriate attitude to learning
- 0 Very poor effort

Our Year 11 results in the Summer proved yet again the strong link between consistent effort and achievement. **Students with an average effort grade of 3.75 or higher did very well in their exams**, so this is our benchmark that we expect all students to be above. Every student in the academy can achieve through showing AMBITION in working hard in class and consistently completing their homework. High levels of effort will be rewarded in both the short and long term.

## Changes to the Consequence System

To parents of students that were at Montgomery last academic year: In order to continue our drive to promote levels of engagement in learning, we have reviewed our consequence system. Therefore, we have made the following changes:

- The 'Warning' before a student is issued a C1 has been removed completely
- 15-minute detentions previously issued at C3 are now issued at C2
- Any student receiving more than one C2 or higher in a day will serve a 60-minute detention that day
- Any student disturbing a class where they have been 'buddied' to another class, will also serve a 60-minute detention that day

These changes have been made to ensure that every student RESPECTS other students in their class and allows them to learn. More detailed information will be given for Year 7 parents on this at the Year 7 Information Evening in early October. (An infographic will be emailed in the next few days to all parents to clarify the changes.)

## Attendance

High levels of attendance is another key factor in the academic progress of our students and a way they can show their AMBITION for success. Our attendance levels last year increased and were in line with national averages, though they were still well below pre-pandemic levels. Thirty percent of our students



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missed more than 10% of their time in school last year, which is very disappointing. A student in this situation would have missed 19 days or 4 weeks of school and over 5 years this would be the equivalent to missing half a year of their secondary school learning.

Yet again, the combination of high levels of both effort and attendance were a golden recipe for success for students last year. Attendance last week was 1.5% above the first week in September 2022, so let's keep up the positive start!

## Uniform

I would like to thank parents for their support in helping us set a good standard of uniform in the first week, despite me putting too much reliance on the BBC Weather forecast for the hottest day of the week! If there are any minor issues due to the new uniform not arriving yet we can support through our Standards Room until they arrive. Please can I also take the opportunity to remind parents and students that facial piercings and unnatural hair colours are not permitted.

## Year 7

It was great to meet our new Year 7s and some of their parents on the first day of term and the year group have been very well behaved, polite and full of enthusiasm for their new school.

One of the many new things that new students have to come to grips with in the first couple of weeks at Montgomery are the dining room systems. What is on the menu? What are the prices? Whether to eat at break or lunch or both? Whether to bring a packed lunch? How do I pay? and How do I put money on? I think considering all this, the new Year 7 have coped with this admirably. Nearly all students have had their fingerprint scanned and know how to put money on and pay for their food.

We will sort out any teething problems this week and parents should let us know if they are having any problems using the Parent Pay system to add funds to their child's account. Free school meal students have a credit on their account each day to buy food and will pay with their fingerprint ideally or PIN code. Please speak to your child about managing their money over the two breaks as often students buy something at break leaving them insufficient funds for what they want to buy at lunchtime.

Finally, I would like to say on behalf of all the staff and governors at Montgomery, that we are all looking forward to another positive and successful year.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Careless  
Headteacher