



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

13th December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to inform you of our plans for the start of term in January and a couple of changes to the school day affecting some year groups. As you already know, secondary schools have been requested to test all students once on site with an LFT on their return, where we have consent. There is little point in completing this exercise if students are in lessons before their year group have been tested. Therefore, we will use a staggered return as in September, to achieve this. The start of the Spring Term in January will be as follows:

Wednesday 5th January

Year 7 students will arrive at the Bike Shed Gate for their LFT from 9am in their tutor groups at the following times and then join their normal lessons:

7LKO Mrs L Kozakiewicz & Mrs R Walmsley	Group 1	9:00am
7SWO Mr S Woodruff	Group 2	9:15am
7CFE Mrs C Fernandez	Group 3	9:30am
7RMI Mr R Mistry	Group 4	9:45am
7JEN Mrs J Ewing	Group 5	10:00am
7SKI Ms S Kinsey	Group 6	10:15am
7JWA Mr J Wade	Group 7	10:30am
7CVA Ms C Vallee	Group 8	10:45am

Any Year 7 students where parents have not given consent for testing, should arrive between 11:15 – 11:30am at the Bike Sheds gate to join Year 7 break and **start lessons from 11:35am**

Year 11 students will arrive for their LFT at the Science Gate from 2pm in their tutor groups at the following times (they do not need to wear uniform)

11A1 Mr R Fernandez	Group 1	2:00pm
11A2 Mr J Quinn	Group 2	2:15pm
11A3 Ms L Barrett	Group 3	2:30pm
11A4 Miss C Rogers & Mr R. Dunn	Group 4	2:45pm
11B1 Mrs C Boyce	Group 5	3:00pm
11B2 Mr R Gilmour	Group 6	3:15pm
11B3 Mr L Clayton	Group 7	3:30pm
11B4 Mr R Bradley	Group 8	3:45pm

Year 11 students will return home after their LFT and all year 11 students will return to start the term the following morning between 8:35am – 8:45am due to new start time.

Thursday 6th January (Normal school day for Years 7 & 11)

Year 10 students will arrive for their LFT at the Science Gate from 9am in their tutor groups at the following times and then join their normal lessons:

10A1 Mr P Leyden & Mrs Walmsley	Group 1	9:00am
10A2 Mr A Mason	Group 2	9:15am
10A3 Miss A Hall	Group 3	9:30am
10A4 Miss N Mudge	Group 4	9:45am
10B1 Ms D McGuirk	Group 5	10:00am
10B2 Mrs C Smith & Mrs M Cox	Group 6	10:15am
10B3 Miss K Elliott	Group 7	10:30am
10B4 Ms J Lee	Group 8	10:45am

Any Year 10 students where parents have not given consent for testing, should arrive between 11:25 – 11:35am at the Science Gate to **start lessons from 11:35am**

Year 8 students will arrive for their LFT at the Bike Sheds Gate from 2pm in their tutor groups at the following times (they do not need to wear uniform)

8A1 Mr A Lees	Group 1	2:00pm
8A2 Mr S James	Group 2	2:15pm
8A3 Mrs A Funnel & Mrs E. Houlihan	Group 3	2:30pm
8A4 Mr D McNiven	Group 4	2:45pm
8B1 Mrs L Taylor	Group 5	3:00pm
8B2 Mr D Young	Group 6	3:15pm
8B3 Mrs J Farnworth	Group 7	3:30pm
8B4 Ms R Edwards & Mr A Woodhouse	Group 8	3:45pm

Year 8 students will return home after their LFT and all year 8 students will return to start the term the following morning at 8:35am

Friday 7th January (Normal school day for Years 7, 8, 10 & 11)

Year 9 students will arrive at the Bike Shed Gate for their LFT from 9am in their tutor groups at the following times and then join their normal lessons:

9A1 Mr J Houlihan & Miss R Robinson	Group 1	9:00am
9A2 Mr M Frew	Group 2	9:15am
9A3 Ms K McIndoe	Group 3	9:30am
9A4 Ms A Cirelli & Mrs M Cox	Group 4	9:45am
9B1 Mr L McMullan	Group 5	10:00am
9B2 Mr A Diver	Group 6	10:15am
9B3 Ms M Healey	Group 7	10:30am
9B4 Mr D Johnston	Group 8	10:45am



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Any Year 9 students where parents have not given consent for testing, should arrive between 11:25 – 11:35am at the Bike Sheds Gate to **start lessons from 11:35am**

The order of this return prioritises both the younger year groups and Year 10 & 11 some of whom have an external exam on the Monday 10th January.

Changes to the school day start and finish time from January affecting Year 11 students only

Following discussions with both staff and the Year 11 student leadership team we have decided to make a change to the registration period for Year 11 from January. Currently, due to the staggered start for year groups, based on our Covid model for the school day last year, Year 11 tutor periods are split with 15 minutes in the morning (9:00 to 9:15) and the afternoon (3:00 to 3:15). Movement around the school particularly in the afternoon has foreshortened the afternoon tutor period and limited its impact.

Tutor periods are used for assemblies, developing study/life skills and specific subject catch-up/intervention. Consequently, to increase impact for Year 11 students preparing for their GCSEs, we are moving the start time for Year 11 to 15 minutes earlier at 8:45am. This will mean that daily tutor periods will be a 30 minute session from 8:45am to 9:15am. So to be clear:

Year 11 students from January should arrive at the Science Gate between 8:35am and 8:45am.

Arriving after 8:45am will mean that they are marked as late. Regular lateness to school will mean that they will be unlikely to be able to attend the Year 11 Prom at the end of the year. The school day for Year 11 students from January **will finish at 3:00pm rather than 3:15pm**. We realise that students will need to leave their houses earlier or get an earlier bus, but we feel this will mean that tutor periods will be more effective in preparing them for their summer exams. If there are any student-specific issues that this change causes then please let us know before the end of term.

Changes to the school day start and finish time from January affecting Years 8 and 9 only

Currently our staggered school day model, used to ensure that year groups do not mix at break or lunch means that Year 8 students have both a split break and lunch. This affects their Periods 2 & 4 each day which are split in to two 30-minute sessions. We feel that it would not be fair for Year 8 to have their lessons affected all year so have decided that we are going to change the split sessions to Year 9 from January. We will probably look at Year 7 having this in the Summer Term.

To summarise from January:

- Year 8 students' lessons periods 2 & 4 will no longer be split for break/lunch
- Year 9 students' lessons periods 2 & 4 will be split for their lunch and break

A reminder about the end of term on Tuesday 21st December

On the last day we are finishing early with:

- Years 8, 9 and 10 students finishing at 12:00pm
- Years 7 and 11 students finishing at 12:15pm

Christmas Jumpers on the last day

To raise money for a school charity we are running a Christmas Jumper day on the last Tuesday of term. Students who want to wear a Christmas jumper can do so if they donate £1. Students must wear the Christmas Jumper instead of their blazer and with their normal uniform. Please let me be clear that this is not a non-uniform day.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers for how well they have supported us over the extremely challenging year of 2021. The response to our requests for testing, offers of vaccinations, virtual parents' evenings and supporting us through the regularly changing guidance from the Department of Education and Public Health advice on such things as face-masks and 'minor symptoms' has been truly humbling. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our amazing staff, who have been absolutely superb in ensuring a quality education is offered to all students at Montgomery within the current restrictions.

If you would like to tell us how you think we have done this year, then please follow the link below to Parent View on the OFSTED website. You will need to register your email address on their website first, but this should take no longer than 15 minutes to do and will help us improve further.

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/login?destination=give-your-views>

I am extremely proud that we have managed to stay open for all year groups so far this term with 6.5 days left. This pride is matched in equal measures when I reflect on the way the students have dealt with everything thrown at them this year. The majority have kept their attitude positive, their manners polite and their work-ethic strong. They deserve an opportunity to rest and relax over the festive period as we do, whilst helping their parents at home of course! So please have yourself a great Christmas break and let us all hope that 2022 proves to be a little bit easier for everyone.

Regards,



Mr. Careless