



Montgomery Academy

An Academy within the Fylde Coast Academy Trust

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Inspiring Excellence Together

September 28th, 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to update you on how this term is progressing with three weeks left until half-term. We had our first disruption due to 2 positive cases last week, with approximately half of Years 8 and 10 now working remotely. They are due to return on Tuesday 6th October. Most schools have already faced similar episodes of disruption and I expect there will be more as cases rise in the community, indicative of the decision over the weekend to bring local restrictions to Blackpool to match Lancashire.

It is important that we learn from each experience and as I have said in previous letters our processes will depend on when we are informed of a positive test and whether it affects a student or a member of staff. Last week the parent was informed of the positive result late in the afternoon and notified us immediately. The timing of this meant that we were able to inform parents in the evening that students were to isolate from the next day. If we found out earlier in the day, this would mean that we would try to contact affected parents whilst students were in school. When we sent the text messages, there were approximately 15 families that we did not have full or up to date contact details for. If you did not get the message then please contact us, so we can update your details. It is very important that we have correct details and you have your phone on during school hours in case we need to contact you if your son or daughter is feeling unwell at school.

I will take the opportunity to remind you that if anyone in your household is showing the main Covid symptoms of a high temperature, a loss or change of your taste/smell or a new and persistent cough then your whole household should self-isolate for 14 days and the unwell person should get a test. We are also asking if a student has the minor symptoms of aches & pains, sore throat, headache, feeling tired or exhausted, diarrhoea/vomiting or rashes they should stay at home until they are better. If any student shows any of these symptoms, main or minor, then we will contact parents to arrange collection of their child. There is a COVID Guidance Flow Chart for Parents/Carers to help with decision making on our website at

<https://www.montgomeryschool.co.uk/Information/covid-19-montgomery-academy-information>

Please can I also ask that if there has been a member of your household that has been displaying symptoms, resulting in the household self-isolating and then has subsequently tested negative, then please could you inform us of the negative result before your child returns.

Free school meals for students when students are self-isolating

Any student who has been told to work remotely and is eligible for Free School Meals will be sent a text message asking if they require a food parcel for the duration of their child's self-isolation. If you send an email to the specified email address then we will order a food provision that will need to be collected from school.

Remote learning

Students already have their Google classroom codes in their student planners; please ask your child to show you the system and check that they can log on when and if required. If you are struggling with internet access through a lack of an internet-enabled device or lack of a broadband connection then please let us know as we can provide paper-based resources in such situations. Thank you and well done to all the students in Years 8 and 10 that have been working remotely since last week. Remember the work set is based on the topics that you would have been being taught in class if you were in school, so you will fall behind if you do not do it.

Maintaining attendance during these difficult times

Following our enforced decision to move half of Year 8 and Year 10 to remote learning attendance levels of the other half of the year groups fell. It is understandable that as a parent you will be concerned of positive cases in school. However, I will reassure you that all control measures have been implemented through our Risk Assessment which is available to read on our website. It is constantly being updated as new guidance is released by the government and the local authority. According to the national guidance we did not need to introduce face masks in communal areas from day 1, yet we did. We did not need to supply all students with masks, yet we did. In other schools Year groups have not been completely separated, yet all 5 at Montgomery have their own block for lessons, their own set of toilets and their own timings for start/finish/break and lunch. We have erred on the side of caution from day one to mitigate the risk and we will continue to do so.

As we continue to provide education and support through the challenging months ahead we remain steadfast that if students can come to school, under the local and national guidance, **they should do**.

Our safety-first blocking system has caused an issue for Year 10, who are sitting on stools all day in the 10 newly refurbished Science rooms and we will look at how we can resolve this issue as fast as we can.

I would like to finish by saying thank you for your continued support of the school's work in providing an education for our young people. We face these challenging times together and we will come through them.

Yours sincerely



Mr. Careless
Headteacher