



Montgomery Academy

An Academy within the Fylde Coast Academy Trust

Exec. Headteacher: Mr S.Cox BSc Hons MA (Ed) NPQH

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Inspiring Excellence Together

7th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

What a week of changes we have had, from a focus on mass testing to a new lockdown and a switch to remote learning. I am writing to let you know our plans going forward regarding remote learning over the next 6 weeks or so. All students can access their remote learning through Google Classroom, Seneca and Hegarty.

As a reminder, the codes to access Google Classroom are

Year 7: btyg652

Year 8: q6qlmrl

Year 9: 54vkjfv

Year 10: qfiyeod

Year 11: ngoohkd

Each day there will be a link on Google Classroom under the 'Stream' tab to an electronic form for your son or daughter to register that they are up and ready to start the day's work. Yesterday, on the first day of this system we had about 66% percent register, which was good for the first day.

We will contact you next week to check to see if everything is going ok with the remote learning. Parents of students that have not registered this week will be the first to be called, in case access is an issue. If you have any password or login issues then please contact our helpdesk

remotelarningitissues@montgomery.fcat.org.uk

This email address is for ICT issues only, and Google Classroom should be accessed through your child's school Google account.

The government guidelines stated that schools only had to provide remote learning for Year 11 students in the first week of term, but we have set work for all years. From Monday 11th January, all work will be based on the same content that students would have been doing if they were in school as normal and this will continue until students return to school.

Whilst the majority of students are at home, we have over 100 students registered as vulnerable or children of critical workers. These students in school will be doing the same work as students at home, using one of our computer rooms. This means that the supervision of these groups involves teaching staff and pastoral staff being on site on a rota. We also need staff to organise Free School Meal provision, welfare phone calls and we will also be running weekly Covid testing for staff and for students in school. These activities mean that we do not have the capacity to provide Loom videos for each individual lesson. We are prioritising Year 11 lessons and Year 10 Core for which all will have a recorded Loom lesson. Other year groups will have introductory Loom videos for each subject at the start of the week.

We have had requests for Zoom or live lessons. The Education Endowment Foundation's research says there is no evidence to suggest that live lesson segments are any more effective than recorded video segments. Loom video lessons mean that lessons can be watched back at different times and paused and bits rewound to check understanding. Our teaching staff in school on the rota would not be able to supervise vulnerable/children of critical worker groups and deliver live lessons within the school day. It would also not be fair to our many families that have more than one child at the school and only one device in their household. Siblings in different year groups could not watch their live lessons at the same time.

As the FSM provision, Covid testing and in-school provision settles down we may be able to offer more regular Looms for the lower year groups.

Year 11 students

I feel very sorry for our Year 11 cohort who have been messed about by unclear government guidance, yet yesterday the correct decision was made regarding the cancelling of the summer exams as it would have been incredibly hard to address the imbalance between Year 11s at one school that had been in school the majority of the time and another Year 11 cohort that had had their teaching regularly disrupted by themselves or their teachers having to self-isolate.

It is really important that Y11 students do not think that they can switch off as they will not be sitting exams. It is crucial that they continue studying for the following reasons:

- They will need to demonstrate the progress they have made since the mock exam in December to give us the evidence to put a higher Centre Assessed Grade if that is what OFQUAL uses as the methodology
- There may be other forms of assessment for students to do in school when they return that will allow schools to build evidence towards a Centre Assessed Grade
- And most importantly, it is crucial for whatever the students want to do next, whether it be college, apprenticeship or sixth form that they **keep learning** as they will need that knowledge for their next steps of their education

Therefore, students should stick to their timetable and complete their work each day at home to the best of their ability. This means getting up at a reasonable time, accessing Google Classroom, registering for the day, watching the Looms for each lesson, completing the tasks set, submitting the work to their teachers and attending the weekly GMeets as required.

Covid Testing

By the end of this week we will have rapid flow testing up and running at school for staff weekly and students attending as vulnerables or children of keyworkers. When restrictions start to be eased and students are allowed to return to school then we will aim to test as many students as we can before or as they return. This will mean that we will need consent forms completed to record whether parents give permission or not for their child to be tested as they return. We will use the time up to February half-term to confirm this parental decision. **Montgomery is not putting any pressure on any parent or member of staff to give consent, it is a free choice.** Students, whose parents have not given consent will still be able to return to school when lockdown eases. There will be a difference though if and when a student or a member of staff is identified as a close contact as those who have given consent will be able to stay in school/work if they have consented to the 7 days serial testing and have no symptoms. More information will be given on this at a later date.

As ever, we thank you for your continued unwavering support.

Yours sincerely,



Headteacher
Montgomery Academy



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