



Montgomery High School

An Academy within the Fylde Coast Academy Trust

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Mutual Respect, Ambition and Learning

Rds June 6th, 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

As the academic year approaches it's end we review our current standards and expectations for a school where mutual respect, ambition and learning is our aim. Our expectations on uniform, appearance and behaviour for learning were reviewed last year with new ties introduced and a slight change to our policy on mobile phones, where confiscations are now until 3pm. Over the year there has been a definite improvement in uniform from where it was, yet the standards of a small minority of students has slipped since Easter, particularly for footwear. This we intend to address in our annual 'Montgomery Standards Day' on Monday 18th June. We do however intend to tighten our policies relating to the wearing of skirts and behaviour for learning.

From 'Montgomery Standards Day' onwards we will reinforce our uniform and appearance rules. In particular:

Shoes

Students must wear black shoes that conform to the expectations set on our website under "Information → Uniform → Correct Footwear Guidelines". This link illustrates what is acceptable footwear for Montgomery. I would strongly suggest that you check carefully the published guidelines before purchasing a new pair and do not rely on your child's opinion of what is acceptable. This could save you time and extra money if a wrong pair is bought. Shoes can be purchased for under £20 and we will look to support those in genuine financial difficulty where possible. **Only students who have brought in a doctor's note will be allowed to wear trainers.** Since the changing to shoes from trainers in 2016, we have provided shoes for students when they have arrived in incorrect footwear. This has cost the school a significant amount of money that in these times of austerity we can ill afford. It is an expectation that parents provide uniform for their child including shoes. We will still provide shoes in exceptional circumstances.

Hair colour

Just a reminder that our policy states that 'hairstyles which are extreme in style or colour are not acceptable. Hair colour has to be natural looking. Sanctions will be used when unacceptable hair colour or hairstyles are displayed'. This has not been a problem at all this year and I thank you for supporting us in this area.

Piercings

One stud or sleeper per ear is permitted. Facial piercings have never been permitted. It is not acceptable that a student has had a facial piercing over a week or two-week break and then tells us that he/she needs to keep the sleeper in for a long period of time as it will close or become infected. If you allow your child to have a facial piercing I would suggest that they have it done at the start of the summer holiday, so that it has time to heal and can then be taken out for school when we return in August. Again, this has not been an issue this year and parents have been extremely supportive.

Skirts

The length of skirts worn by some girls is unacceptable. The length of skirts should be just above the knee and none should be rolled up at the waist. We have asked our suppliers to stop stocking the straight skirt due to those being the ones worn inappropriately. We are also looking at samples for a new Montgomery skirt.

Enforcing the above rules from 'Montgomery Standards Day'

From Monday 18th June, any student who is refusing to adhere to any of the above will not be in their normal lessons. Students will be given one day in which to rectify the situation. If they come to school the next day not having addressed the issue, they will be placed in a supervised study area, given independent work to do and expected to work in silence.

Mobile phones/MP3 devices

Our policy on mobile phones is extremely clear. If we see it or hear it then we confiscate it and the student will get it back at 3pm that day. There are no grey areas on this and excuses such as checking the time, etc This is the same policy as being applied at both our FCAT partner secondary schools. Students refusing to hand over their phone will escalate up the consequence system quickly and face serious sanctions, yet nearly all have done the right thing this year and complied and learnt not to do it again.

Identification/Ties

The coloured ties have been very successful this year and will continue next year. Students currently in year 8 and 9 will be keeping their colour ties. Students in Year 7 moving in to Year 8 will need to purchase the blue coloured tie. We will have some second-hand ones for sale from the current year 10.

A copy of the Uniform Policy is available on our website. The intention is that our policies are extremely clear and if you unsure about anything please contact us first to minimise any potential problems.

Consequence/Sanctions

We are coming to the end of the first year of the new consequence system introduced last September. It has worked extremely well with students having less chances to get things wrong before removal from their class to a 'buddy' room. This will not change next year as we look to embed the system further. There are a couple of areas that we want to tighten, starting from the 'Montgomery Standards Day'

- Any student that walks out of isolation will be placed in another school for a minimum of one day. This day will need to be completed before the student returns to Montgomery. This could be Millfield, Hodgson, Unity, Aspire or a school that is close to home.
- Any student that walks away from a member of patrol staff will spend a day in internal isolation with a senior member of staff.

Year 10 students are soon to become Year 11s and it is our job to prepare them for the new harder GCSE exams introduced in the last couple of years. We will be focusing hard next year on the work ethic of students, the pride they take in their work and classroom routines. There can be no distractions from focused learning. Reinforcing and tightening our policies on uniform, appearance and mobile phones is just the start to achieving this.

From September students will have their books looked at either once a fortnight or once every three weeks. Indeed from September we will be tightening things up as we have done each year. The school has improved, but we want it to improve even quicker.

I would like to finish by thanking you all, on behalf of myself and the rest of the staff for your unwavering support this academic year in making Montgomery a place of mutual respect, ambition and learning. Working together as part of the Montgomery family serves the best interests of your son or daughter in preparing them with the skills, attitudes and flexibilities for the challenges of their future careers.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Careless
Principal



Mr Bullen
Executive Principal