



Montgomery High School

An Academy within the Fylde Coast Academy Trust

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Mutual Respect, Ambition and Learning

June 7th, 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

As the academic year approaches its end we review our current standards and expectations for a school where mutual respect, ambition and learning is our aim. It is 12 months since expectations on uniform, appearance and behaviour for learning were reviewed and updated. 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. This we intend to address in our annual 'Montgomery Standards Day' on Monday 12th June. Last year, as new expectations regarding footwear, hair colour and mobile phones were set, time was given to students to address these issues with permission slips. This year there will be no need for this adjustment period as all policies regarding uniform and appearance remain unchanged. We do however intend to tighten our policies relating to mobile phones 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. Students are only allowed to wear trainers with a doctor's note. Since the change to shoes from trainers last August, we have provided shoes for students when they have arrived in incorrect footwear. We will continue to do so, yet they must be returned at the end of the day. As per our policy any student refusing to change in to a pair of our shoes will face a serious sanction.

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.

Enforcing the above rules from 'Montgomery Standards Day'

From Monday 12th 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.



Fylde Coast Academy Trust

Ambition Respect Resilience Integrity Pride Excellence

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Mobile phones/MP3 devices

Our policy on mobile phones has come a long way from a year ago and they are less of an issue in lessons where previously learning was being disrupted. Positively, the number of social networking issues brought in to school has been reduced. Our policy has been fairly reasonable this year, which states that if students were found using or checking their phone they would have to hand it over straightaway to the member of staff. If they did this, without question, they would get it back at the end of lesson or break. For the majority, this has been effective, yet a significant minority have abused the fact that they get it back almost immediately and not seen it as a reason not to use it in the first place. Students have been warned in assemblies of the consequences of too many students being caught with their phones, particularly at break and lunch times. Unfortunately, warnings have gone unheeded. Therefore, we will be moving to a policy where any phone seen or heard will be confiscated and then placed in a safe until the end of the day. Again, if there are no issues in handing the phone over they will be able to collect it at the end of the day. Repeated offences will result in a parent/guardian having to pick the phone up. This is the same policy as being applied at one of our FCAT partner secondary schools Unity Academy. Students refusing to hand over their phone will escalate up the consequence system quickly and face serious sanctions.

Identification/Ties

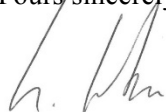
We have asked students to wear colour badges to identify their year group. We will continue to expect students to wear these until the end of term, however, we are looking at introducing a year group tie to replace the badges next academic year. The tie will follow them through, so ties will not need to be replaced each year. In light of this, I would suggest that you do not buy any new Montgomery ties until we inform you when we are changing to the new system. Year 10s moving in to Year 11 will shortly receive new ties funded by the school. The cost of any new ties for Years 7 to 9 will be partially subsidised by the school.

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.

Year 10 students are soon to become Year 11s and they face the first year of a significantly more demanding curriculum and GCSE grading system, across nearly all subjects. It is our job to prepare Year 10 for these exams and the other year groups going forward. 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. We are also currently revising our consequence system, reducing the number of chances students have to correct their behaviour for learning. We will write to you to fully explain any changes.

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