



Montgomery Academy

An Academy within the Fylde Coast Academy Trust

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July 16th, 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to confirm arrangements for our return in August. The new academic year starts for students on Wednesday, 28th August at the normal time of 8.40am. There are some slight changes to school systems and expectations that I need to make you aware of before returning in August.

Uniform

As we have moved to our new name of Montgomery Academy we are starting to introduce a new uniform for students. This has been devised by working together with students and parental feedback. The new year 7 students joining our Montgomery family will begin the academic year in the full, new school uniform with the new blazer, pe kit and skirts (if they choose to wear a skirt). Students in all current year groups do not need to replace their uniform or pe kits until August, 2020. However, if their current uniform does not comply with our uniform policy they will need to change their uniform. For example, students wearing skirts that are shorter than the agreed 2inch above the knee, will need to have a skirt of the correct length. Students wearing the old style pleated skirts may continue wearing white socks. However, all students wearing the new style skirt with the Montgomery Academy logo must either wear black socks or plain black opaque tights.

Student Ties: If your son/daughter is in Year 9 or 10 next year, then please keep your child's current tie as they will need it next year as the colours will run through. Students currently in Year 7 and moving in to Year 8 will be provided with a SMART tie in year 8. Students are to return to Montgomery in August wearing their year 7 tie and we will replace these in our first assembly. Our SMART system works on rewarding students that are **Safe, Mature, Respectful, Ambitious and Thoughtful** if a student is not SMART they will have their SMART tie removed and they will not be able to queue up at breaks and dinner times until 15 minutes into the sessions; they will however, be able to earn their tie back showing that they can be SMART and share our school values.

The majority of the current Year 10 students will be given their new Year 11 blue tie, free of charge, and several have applied to be prefects, meaning they wear a gold one. We will ask students receiving a new tie free of charge to allow us to keep their old ties for spares. Some students will continue to wear the Year 10 tie until they meet our expectations of a Year 11 student in terms of behaviour and work-ethic.

Footwear: There are no changes to our current footwear policy but just a reminder that footwear must be all black and must not be trainers or resemble pumps. They must not have white/coloured soles, no stripes, piping or logos. A student wearing other footwear for medical reasons should provide a doctor's note. We regret that a letter from parents is not acceptable. Further guidance is available under uniform on the school website.

Nails: On our previous policy nails were not mentioned, but unfortunately this year we have had nails that are not conducive to learning and can be a health and safety issue. Therefore, we have put the following guidelines in place which have been communicated with students in assemblies and tutor time. Nails must appear natural with no coloured nail varnish. If students have acrylic nails they must: be short in length, be natural in colour and have a rounded tip. Students arriving to school with a coloured nail varnish or inappropriate acrylics will be asked to remove them.

Attendance

This year we have had a huge emphasis on student attendance and have worked hard to establish clear goals and expectations around attendance with students. With this in mind I have put together a clear attendance guide for students, parents and carers available on our website with clear support strategies and useful contacts of staff available to support you and your child.

With this in mind I would like to take the opportunity to remind you that the education regulations make clear that Principals may not grant leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. In exceptional circumstances the school will consider a request for a leave of absence for one period of absence during the academic year. Weddings, holidays and family events are not classed as special or exceptional circumstances. Penalty Notices can be applied for when a student has 10 sessions (5 days) of unauthorised absence in a term or 14 sessions (7 days) over two successive terms this includes holidays during term time. Please be mindful of this when planning your holidays and events. Term dates are available on the website and in the attendance guidance.

Lates to school: We are committed to ensuring that students set excellent standards of punctuality and attendance and therefore students that are late to school will complete a detention on the day of the lateness. From August this will be worked on a graduated system, students arriving from 8.45am-9.00am will receive a 30-minute detention. Arrivals between 9.01am-9.20am students will receive a 45-minute detention and those who arrive after 9.21am will incur a 1-hour detention. Students who fail to attend detention or are persistent in their lateness will complete a senior detention and may lead to placements within isolation.

Lates to lessons: It is essential for learning that students arrive to their lessons on time. If students are late to numerous lessons, without a note from a member of staff, they will receive a detention for the number of minutes they have missed. The detention will be completed with their Progress Manager after school and families will be notified before the detention takes place.

Mobile Phone Reminder

Mobile phones have been banned in school for two years. Students that arrive to school before 8.30am may use their phone in the dining rooms. After this time phones should not be seen onsite. This includes after 3pm. Students should not get their phone out until they leave the school premises.

Anti-Bullying

This year I have had the privilege of working with some outstanding students who have developed and co-produced an effective anti-bullying strategy. We have a number of anti-bullying ambassadors which is increasing every year. To support students and families, I have created a student and parent guide, copies of the guide and the policy are available at main school reception and on our website in our anti bullying section. We have a zero tolerance approach to bullying at Montgomery and it is essential that students feel safe and alert us to any incidents that occur. With this in mind and our proactive approach we have been working with Headstart Blackpool and are aiming to be the first school in Blackpool to be awarded the Blackpool Beating Bullying Charter mark.

Blackpool Beating Bullying is a campaign organised and run by young people for young people. Using the resilience framework young people have developed a charter mark, the first to be co-produced across the country. Our young people have co-produced their own charter mark, looking at what really makes a difference within their schools, and what they feel will truly change the culture of bullying in Blackpool schools. Using the #BlackpoolBeatingBullying, we aim to end bullying within our schools and encourage schools to strive to reach this charter mark!"

In order to achieve the charter mark, I would ask that parents complete the short questionnaire using the link: <https://tinyurl.com/montgomeryantibullying>

I would like to thank you for your continued support throughout the year. All systems have been put in place to further our ongoing improvements and raise the standards even further for your child. If you have any queries or I can support further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs E Cumming
(Assistant Leader of personal development, behaviour and welfare)