



Montgomery Academy

An Academy within the Fylde Coast Academy Trust

Headteacher: Mr S. Careless BSc MSc NPQH
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Inspiring Excellence Together

11th September 2025

Welcome back, Open Evening arrangements and new expectations

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to welcome back all members of the Montgomery Family. It has been fantastic to see existing students return well rested, smartly dressed and raring to go. I would also like to welcome all our new students and parents of Year 7, who are just completing their first full week of secondary school.

We had an almost full year group of 250 students starting last week in Year 7 with a list of over 30 students waiting for a place. This is a great validation of the positive work at Montgomery over the last five years.

Open Evening – Thursday 18th Sept

Early closure for students, except Year 10 COMPASS students

This year our Montgomery Open Evening is on **Thursday 18th September, from 4:30pm to 7:30pm**. If you know any parent of a Year 5 or Year 6 student that is considering Montgomery for their child, please could you let them know the date of our Open Evening.

Due to the setting up time required to facilitate the evening, we are **closing early to all students, except Year 10 COMPASS students**. This is because the Year 10 COMPASS students will only be in their 3rd week of learning at the colleges, and will get behind in their work as students from other FCAT schools will be attending as normal. The morning will run as usual until the end of Period 3, then

- Students, other than Year 10 COMPASS, will go to their tutor groups to be registered before being dismissed at **12:40pm**
- Year 10 COMPASS students who go to Blackpool & Fylde College will have a normal lunchtime and leave as normal at 1pm to walk to the college and **finish at 4:15pm**.
- Year 10 COMPASS students who go to Myerscough College, **will leave at 12:20pm** as usual and return at approximately 5:00pm.
- Year 10 COMPASS students who go to Blackpool Sixth Form **will leave at 12:40pm** as usual and return at approximately 4:45pm.

If your child receives a Free School Meal, is going home early and needs a packed lunch to take home with them on this day, then please complete the following google form by Tuesday next week and we will be happy to arrange this.

<https://forms.gle/XwyD2T6XjYubqH9W6>

Please note, that if students in receipt of Free School Meals, do want to order a lunch then they will not be able to use their daily allocation at break earlier in the day.

If this early closure causes you or your child any difficulty, particularly Year 7 parents, then please let us know by emailing the address below, stating clearly your child's name and year group.

admin@montgomery.fcat.org.uk



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Year 7 first impressions

We've had a truly fantastic first week with our new students. It's been great to see them make such a strong start, with their uniforms looking sharp, their manners polite, and their independence growing every day. We hope this continues!

For many of our new Year 7s, getting used to the dining hall has been a big change. There's a lot to figure out: what's on the menu, what things cost, whether to eat at break or lunch, and how to pay using the new system. It's a lot to take in, but they've been amazing and have handled it all with ease.

The good news is that nearly all students have already scanned their fingerprints and are comfortable with adding money and paying for their food. We'll iron out any small issues this week. If you're having any problems adding money to your child's account through My Child at School, please let us know. For students on free school meals, a daily credit is automatically added to their account, and they can pay with their fingerprint or a PIN.

Finally, a quick tip: you might want to have a chat with your child about budgeting their money for the day. We've noticed some students spend most of their funds at break time, which can leave them short for lunch.

Changes to the Consequence system

We have again only made minor changes to the Consequence system, which are summarised below with a few reminders:

- A Double consequence detention is for two C3s, lasting 60 minutes after school
- A Triple consequence detention is for three or more C3s, lasting 90 minutes after school
- 1 truancy = 60 minutes after school
- 2 or more truanies = 90 minutes after school
- Refusal to attend a buddy class = 60 minutes after school
- Our consequence detentions are based on a period from Lesson 5 the previous day to Lesson 4 of the current day, giving us time to give parents sufficient notice of the detention.
- Multiple C2s mean you lose social times – break, lunch and after school.
- With Year 8 and Year 9 students we are expecting students who receive a C2 to make their own way to Isolation to serve their detention instead of being collected/reminded. Otherwise, they will receive 60 minutes after school. This is working well and we may extend this trial to other year groups at a later date.

Summer work and new toilets

Every Summer break we look to upgrade the academy buildings and learning environments and 2025 has been no different. All MFL and English classrooms in L-Block have been refurbished with new tables, chairs, projectors and in some places heating. School Reception has been completely repainted and the roof upgrading on the Main Block has been completed. The most pleasing refurbishment has been the



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main toilets which were 20 years old. They are now fit for purpose and brand spanking new, with multiple positive comments from the students. They are now far better than the staff ones!

Attendance/Punctuality

Pleasingly, student absence reduced again last year. Our overall attendance figures and the proportion of students classed as 'persistently absent' were in line with national averages yet we are still not at the levels of attendance that we saw pre-pandemic. Therefore, attendance will again be a big focus for the school this year.

Yet again, the combination of high levels of both effort and attendance were a golden recipe for success for students last year. Attendance so far for all year groups has been 94.6%. Year 7 attendance has been 98.8%, which is very encouraging. We need our other year groups to match this level, so let us keep up this positive start!

Fire Drill

Finally, I wanted to make you aware that in the next couple of weeks we will complete our usual Fire Drill to ensure that everybody knows what is expected of them if we were to have a real fire situation. This is again to familiarise staff and students with what they would need to do and where they would need to congregate in an emergency situation.

I apologise for the length of this letter, but I wanted to provide an update on several important topics: the fantastic start our Year 7 students have had, details about the upcoming Open Evening and early closure, and clarification on changes to the consequence system.

Thank you to all parents for helping us to make the return to school run so smoothly.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Careless
Headteacher
Montgomery Academy