



Montgomery Academy

An Academy within the Fylde Coast Academy Trust

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Inspiring Excellence Together

9th September 2024

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 have just completed their first week of secondary school.

Open Evening – Thursday 19th September – Early closure for students

We have a full year group of 250 start last week in Year 7 with a list of over 20 students waiting for a place. This is a great validation of the positive work at Montgomery over the last five years that was rewarded with an 'GOOD' overall judgement in recent OFSTED inspection in May of this year.

This year our Montgomery Open Evening is on **Thursday 19th 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 students that day at **12:40pm**. The morning will run as usual until the end of Period 3, then students will go to their tutor groups to register before being dismissed at **12:40pm**.

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

<https://forms.gle/rybbtdEbfmVW3knD7>

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

Year 7 first impressions

It has been an extremely positive first week. They have had a great start and we have seen high standards of uniform, politeness and growing independence; long may it continue. One of the many new things that our new students have to come to grips with in the first couple of weeks at Montgomery are the dining room systems. What is on the menu? What are the prices? Whether to eat at break or lunch or both? Whether to bring a packed lunch? How do I pay? and how do I put money on?

I think considering all this, the new Year 7 have coped with this admirably. Nearly all students have had their fingerprint scanned and know how to put money on and pay for their food. We will sort out any teething problems this week and parents should let us know if they are having any problems using the

Parent Pay system to add funds to their child's account. Free school meal students have a credit on their account each day to buy food and will pay with their fingerprint ideally or PIN code. Please speak to your child about managing their money over the two breaks as often students buy something at break leaving them insufficient funds for what they want to buy at lunchtime.

Changes to the Consequence system

We have made minor changes to the Consequence system as to when detentions are completed in the day and extended the detention for multiple disturbances to lessons during the day. Firstly, C3 detentions and now all after school. A student reaching a C3 consequence has disturbed the lesson three times and is moved to a different class. If this happened then the student will complete a 30 minute detention after school that day, unless it happens close to the end of the day. These were previously completed at lunchtime and it was difficult to ensure that students could complete their 30 minutes and get their lunch. C2 detentions, which are 15 minutes long, are completed at break, lunch or after school.

Last year we introduced an hour detention when a student reached C2 or higher in more than one lesson. This was successful in reducing the number of disturbances to lessons. However, there were a very small number of students who disturbed three lessons out of the five in their day. This is unacceptable, and those students will now receive a longer 90-minute detention at the end of the day.

All of these changes are designed to further reduce disturbances to lessons and were explained to students in their first day back assemblies. We have decided to stagger the introduction of the 90-minute detention for disturbing three or more lessons in a day as follows:

YR9 – Week beginning 9th Sept
YR8 – Week beginning 23rd Sept
YR7 – Week beginning 7th Oct

YR10 – Week beginning 16th Sept
YR11 – Week beginning 30th Sept

Uniform reminders & new mobile phone policy

Generally, students have been really smart in their uniforms in their first week back, but a reminder to parents that students should have no long or coloured nails, no fake eyelashes, no facial piercings, have one piercing per lobe and be wearing school shoes only.

As described in the end of academic year letter in July, we have also tightened our mobile phone policy. Mobile phones should be switched off and in student bags out of sight. If fall foul of this rule, their phone will be confiscated until the end of the day. This has been the rule for the last 7 years at Montgomery. An addition to this, this year, is that if this happens then for the next four days after the day of confiscation the student will need to hand their phone to their Progress Manager at the start of each day and collect it from them at the end of the day.

Summer work and our remodelled Reception

Every Summer break we look to improve the school site and the learning environments and 2024 has seen much investment in improving both. Firstly, School Reception has been completely remodelled to enhance safety for both our students and staff. We are really happy that the work was completed both on

time and to a really high standard. Secondly, our ten Humanities classrooms have had a complete refurbishment and are excellent learning environments. This work was much needed and students and staff were amazed with difference made by our fantastic site team over the holiday. Lastly, you may

notice that we currently have scaffolding up on both L and S block. This is to replace roofs that we have been patching up for the last 10 years. Work is already 6 weeks in and will continue to Christmas.

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 last week was 95.4%. Year 7 attendance was 99.2%, which is brilliant. We need our other year groups to match this level, so let us keep up this positive start!

Fire Drill and Lockdown Practice

Finally, I wanted to make you aware that this week 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. We will also complete a Lockdown practice on Wednesday 25th September. This is again to familiarise staff and students with what they would need to do in an emergency situation.

I apologise for the long letter in the second week back, but wanted to communicate regarding the superb start that Year 7 have made, the Open Evening early closure and clarify changes to the consequence system for parents.

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

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Careless
Headteacher
Montgomery Academy