



Montgomery Academy

An Academy within the Fylde Coast Academy Trust

Headteacher: Mr S. Careless BSc MSc NPQH
Senior Deputy Headteacher: Mrs C. Montgomery BSc MSc NPQSL

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Inspiring Excellence Together

22nd July 2026

End of Summer term/Start of new academic year in September 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to inform you of the arrangements for the start of term in September, to say a few goodbyes and be up front in clarifying our expectations for the new academic year.

Start of term arrangements for September including start times

The first day of the new academic year for all students is **Thursday 3rd September 2026**, though we are staggering the start times to allow us to have assemblies and tutor periods with all year groups.

- **The new Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 will need to arrive by 8:45am**
- **The new Year 7 and Year 9 will enter through the Bike Sheds Gate (as per Transition Day)** and Year 8 through the Science Arches
- **The new Year 10 and Year 11 will need to arrive by 9:15am**
- Year 10 will enter through the Bike Sheds and Year 11 through the Science Arches
- **All students will finish at the usual finish time of 3pm**
- **From Friday 4th September, all students will need to arrive by the usual time of 8:45am**

To help make the transition as smooth and enjoyable as possible, on **Thursday 3rd September** all **new Year 7 students will be provided with a complimentary snack and juice at break time**, followed by a **free lunch**, which will include a hot or cold main meal, a side, and a drink. Your child is welcome to bring a packed lunch if they prefer, but there is no need to worry about providing food on the first day – we've got it covered. From **Friday 4th September onwards**, students will need to bring a packed lunch or have funds on their MCAS account to purchase food from the school canteen at break and lunchtime.

MCAS

Thank you to those families who have already activated their MCAS account and completed all of the required information. If you have not yet done so, please complete this as soon as possible to ensure all of your child's details are up to date before they join Montgomery in September.

MCAS is an essential part of school life and will be your main platform for receiving school communications, making payments for school meals and trips, updating your child's information and staying informed throughout their secondary school journey.

During your child's first two days at Montgomery, we will also complete their biometric registration for our cashless catering system. This enables students to purchase food and drinks quickly and securely using fingerprint recognition. If you have not completed the relevant consent section on MCAS before September, we will be unable to register your child for this service, which may delay their access to the cashless catering system.

Completing your MCAS account now will help ensure your child has the smoothest possible start to life at Montgomery.



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Thank you to all members of the Montgomery Family

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff, students, parents, carers and governors for their contribution to making this another successful year. We have had an average attendance by parents and carers to Progress Evenings of 78%, which is the highest it has been in my 10 years here. This typifies the strong parental support both staff and students benefit from. I have highlighted some of our achievements this year in our Summer Newsletter which will be available on our website shortly.

Goodbyes

As we come to the end of the academic year, we say goodbye to the following staff. We thank them for their superb work, long service and each one will be greatly missed:

- Mrs Montgomery - Senior Deputy Headteacher retiring after 30 years, but returning in a part-time different role
- Mrs Smith - Head of Music relocating after 26 years at Montgomery
- Mrs Hughes - Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead retiring after 22 years at Montgomery
- Miss Ryan - Head of Drama
- Miss Hall - Assistant Curriculum Leader of Science
- Mr Johnson - Teacher of Science
- Mr Sinnett - PE teacher

One term secondment to support Armfield Academy

I have been asked by FCAT to help support Armfield Academy in an interim period before they appoint a new permanent headteacher in January. I have agreed to support for 2 days a week in the Autumn term. I will be in Montgomery 3 days a week up until Christmas and Deputy Headteachers Mrs Morton and Miss Smith will cover the day to day operational running of the school on the days I am at Armfield. They will be supported by Mrs. Montgomery, who has agreed to stay on a further term in a slightly different role.

Student Organisation

A reminder that we have now moved away from the traditional school planners. All homework will be recorded on Class Charts so parents/carers can access what is due/has been submitted. Log in details will be provided within the first week of joining Montgomery, this will include log in details for both students and parents/carers.

Standards/Uniform Information & Reminders

As we prepare to move into the new academic year, it is essential that all students are organised on their return to school in September. At Montgomery Academy, we pride ourselves in being SMART: Safe, Mature, Ambitious, Respectful and Thoughtful. With this in mind, we have made adaptations to our set **standards** to ensure that all students are prepared, ready for school, ready for learning and presented in a professional and smart manner. Whilst standards refers to uniform and how students are expected to present themselves in school, it will also now include elements of school life that are required to support a student's engagement with their learning.

From September 2026 onwards, the following items are **compulsory** items as part of **standards**:

1. School bag
2. Pencil case, 2x pens (black/blue), pencil, ruler, rubber
3. PE Kit



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Whilst these items have always been required as part of everyday school life, including them as part of our daily set standards sets a precedence for students as to what we expect.

With regards to equipment, students are also recommended to have a green pen, highlighter and scientific calculator (Casio FX-83GT-CW or Casio fx-85GT-CW).

Every morning, starting in the lines outside and then continuing in tutor time, there will be a standards check. Students who arrive to school in the morning without a school bag will receive 1 x Incorrect Standards mark. This will also be the case for students who arrive without correct equipment. Students who fail to bring in correct equipment will be required to leave a valuable personal item as a temporary deposit, where they will then be provided with spare equipment to return at the end of the school day (this equipment will be returned to their Progress Manager). We will not be able to loan school bags; it should be noted, however, that students who repeatedly attend school without a suitable bag will have contact made home by a member of their Pastoral team to discuss the matter. Students who attend PE without a suitable kit will now receive 1x standards mark.

Uniform – New Government Guidance

From September 2026, we will be implementing an updated uniform policy in line with new Government guidance. This will follow a rolling programme; if your child will be in Year 8-11 for the 2026/27 academic year and their uniform still fits, there is no requirement to replace it immediately (e.g., a Year 8 student may still wear their maroon branded jumper if it still fits but will then need to purchase the plain dark grey V neck jumper when they grow out of it). However, if you do need to purchase new items, particularly our upcoming Year 7 cohort, please see the following uniform changes under 2026/27 Academic Year School Uniform / PE Kit. Please click the link below for an overview of these changes:

https://files.schudio.com/montgomeryhighschool/files/documents/September_2026_Uniform_Information_-_Overview.pdf

Uniform Rules & Clarification

From September, we will be addressing the following areas of uniform to ensure that all students are encouraged to look their best and present themselves in as professional a manner as possible:

Skirts – skirts will be expected to be at an appropriate length at all times, with the **Montgomery Badge** below the bottom edge of a school blazer. Those students who choose to wear skirts will be expected to follow the “Badge Below Blazer” expectation at all times.

Shirts – shirts must be tucked in at all times with top buttons done up.

Blazers – blazers must be worn at all times (lesson transitions, canteens, lessons unless given permission to remove).

Socks – socks must be plain and black with no bows and/or frills (students who do not meet this expectation will receive 1x standards mark in the morning, but will not be loaned socks for the day).

Chewing gum – students must not have chewing gum in school at any point.

Hair clips/accessories – clips and bands must be plain, simple and black or maroon (we ask for no flowers, bows etc.)



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These are reinforcements that will be in force from September onwards. All other aspects of uniform remain the same:

Shoes - students must wear black shoes (no training shoes, no white/coloured soles, no stripes, no piping, no logos, no boots) that conform to the expectations set on our website under acceptable school footwear. The link below illustrates what is acceptable footwear for Montgomery Academy. 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 medical letter/evidence will be allowed to wear trainers. We will still provide shoes in exceptional circumstances. Footwear must not be trainers or resemble pumps.

https://files.schudio.com/montgomeryhighschool/files/Acceptable_shoes_guidance.pdf

Please make sure you have read all uniform guidance, in particular the guidance on suitable footwear.

Jewellery – a reminder about our jewellery expectations:

- 1 pair of plain, small gold or silver studs (ear lobes only)
- 1 wristwatch (excluding exams)
- No facial piercings (including nose, lip, tongue or eyebrow piercings)
- No rings, bracelets or necklaces
- No plastic/see through temporary piercings/retainers or covering plasters

If you wish for your child to get a facial piercing during the summer holidays then please ensure that it is done at the very start of the holiday, so that they will be able to remove it on their first day back of term on Thursday 3rd September.

Nails – students are expected to have no fake nails of any kind (e.g., acrylic, gel) and no form of nail varnish

Make up – make up must be minimal and natural, with no false eyelashes. Any students not conforming to this will be asked to remove their make-up

Hair – hairstyles must be suitable for the academy environment.

- If hair is dyed, only naturally coloured dyed hair is acceptable - no other dyed colours or streaks (this includes bright colours and unnatural hair appearances)
- Tramlines or shaved head designs are not acceptable
- As detailed above, clips and bands must be plain, simple and black or maroon (we ask for no flowers, bows etc.). Hijabs should be plain black or maroon

Thank you for continued support in this area.

Changes to Mobile Phone Policy and food in the dining rooms

Given the recent change of the law that now makes schools legally responsible for ensuring they are 'mobile free zones', from September we are tightening our expectations further. Our current policy states that if we see or hear a mobile phone, it is confiscated until the end of the day. This is also followed up by the Progress Manager



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taking in the student's phone each day for the next 5 days after it was confiscated. We are adding to our expectations in the following ways:

- Students must ensure that their mobile phones are switched off and in their school bags for the duration of the whole school day. Only when they have left the school site at the end of the day can they take out their phone and switch it on.
- Staff will conduct random checks to ensure that their phones are not on their person or switched on. Staff may use metal detector wands to achieve this.
- Students who request to go to the toilet will need to confirm that their mobile phone is off and in their bags before they are allowed to go.
- Students found to have their phones not in their school bags or switched on will receive a detention and have to hand in their phones for the next 5 days.
- We are also currently considering the potential use of a pouch system as used by other schools.

In recent weeks we have trialled restrictions on where food bought in the dining rooms can be eaten. Any food bought from our dining rooms now has to be eaten in the dining room itself. This is because we have had regular incidents where food has been dropped and walked into carpeted areas as well as outside. Pleasingly, students have responded to this change positively.

Attendance & Punctuality

Excellent attendance is vital and the link to successful academic progress is very well evidenced. With this in mind it is essential that all students attend school on time on a daily basis with a positive attitude to their learning. Students need to be punctual to both school and their lessons. Students who are late to lessons or over five minutes late to school will receive a 1-hour detention. Students who are slightly late on three occasions will also receive the same detention. Therefore, we now ask that if your child is feeling unwell, that you do your best to send them to school. All holidays in term time will be unauthorised. Fixed penalty notices will be utilised for requests of 5 days or more, even if attendance is 100%. In FCAT, we expect parents to utilise school closure times for holidays. In very exceptional circumstances, holidays may be authorised by the Headteacher.

Student reward events run at the end of each term, these celebrate the ambition of students who have shown consistently good effort, including the consistent completion of homework. Students who score an average effort grade of 3.75+ are invited to join their year group in various events throughout the year.

As last year, I apologise for the length of this letter, but it is best for everyone involved to be crystal clear about our expectations from the start of the new academic year.

Have a great Summer break.

Kindest regards,

Mr. Careless
Headteacher

Mrs. Campbell
Assistant Headteacher