



Montgomery Academy

An Academy within the Fylde Coast Academy Trust

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Inspiring Excellence Together

1st October 2025

Year 11 students out of lessons

Dear Parent/Carer,

Firstly, I would like to celebrate the positive way that Year 11 have started their final year at secondary school as we prepare them for their external exams that start in May 2026. We have seen increased maturity and a positive focus on their studies. This bodes well for the challenges to come this year, as students look to secure the qualifications they need to access their preferred next steps of education, employment or training.

The Year 11 of 2025 performed very well, achieving the best GCSE outcomes the school has achieved in recent years. Having reflected, we feel that the year group achieved so highly due to a fine balance between care and guidance matched with high expectations. We are confident that the Year 11 of 2026 can do even better with the high levels of support and standards set by our staff. For example, the attendance for the new Year 11 is already 1.4% higher than the previous year group. This is brilliant as students in school and in lessons means that they will learn more.

However, I am writing to express a growing concern about the amount of valuable learning time being lost due to students frequently leaving lessons to use the toilet. Both Mr. McArdle and I have addressed this issue with the year group on several occasions, but unfortunately, it has not had the desired impact.

Too many students are leaving lessons under the pretext of visiting the toilet, with some then using this time to go to the dining hall for a drink or to avoid returning to class for 10 minutes or longer. To illustrate the scale of the issue: since the start of term, Year 11 students have left lessons to use the toilet 562 times, compared with 332 visits from Year 7, the next highest year group. We acknowledge that girls may need to visit the toilet more than boys, though boys account for almost half of these visits.

It is important to note that there are five suitable opportunities during the school day for students to use the toilet without disrupting lessons—before school, during registration, at break, at lunch, and during lesson changeovers. Students with toilet passes are, of course, still permitted to go during lessons as needed.

This level of disruption is unsustainable and is having a clear impact on teaching and learning. Therefore, from **Monday 6th October**, Year 11 students will only be permitted to leave lessons to use the toilet if they have a valid toilet pass.

Despite having the same opportunities as every other year group to access the toilet outside lesson time, Year 11 students are leaving lessons over 70% more often than any other year group. This is not acceptable, and this new measure is necessary to protect valuable learning time - particularly in such an important academic year.

We greatly value the ongoing support of our parents, and we are confident that, together, we can give Year 11 the best possible chance of success this year.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Careless
Headteacher