



Inspiring Excellence Together

Montgomery Academy

An Academy within the Fylde Coast Academy Trust

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End of half-term letter to parents

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you all as we complete a half-term, I can honestly say, like no other. What we thought we were returning to on January 4th changed that evening as Lockdown 3 was announced. We went from expecting all students back on January 18th to everyone working from home, except children of critical workers and vulnerable students. Our remote learning provision has developed at a rapid pace, though I am honest enough to say that we have had to change tack a couple of times to get the best out of new technologies. We have learnt a lot in a very short time meaning that we have had to focus on quick solutions which might not be the best solution long-term.

Parental feedback has raised the number of different ways that we communicate. We are currently using email, text, our website, Xpressions and Class Charts. I understand that it would be good to reduce this number, though we are working with limitations of various systems. It would be ideal to focus on the zero-cost email and we are working through the list of parents for which we do not have an email address. The letters placed on our website and texted links have been an invaluable way of communicating quickly over the last year.

Year 7-10 Reports

Yesterday we sent out Progress reports to all Year groups, other than Year 11, using email for the first time. There were some students, who are new to the school, that will not get a report and some where reports will be posted due to being educated off-site or we do not have a parent/carer email address for. This new system will save the school postage and printing costs.

Year 9 Parents' Events

Letters and instructions went out this week for our next virtual Parents' Event on the Tuesday (Population 9A) and Wednesday (Population 9B). The booking system is now open and about 25% of parents have booked appointments since it opened yesterday. I will remind you that you need to visit

<https://montgomeryacademy.schoolcloud.co.uk>

to book your appointments. The full letter and user guide are on our website under 'Letters to Parents'. The deadline for making appointments is **6pm on Monday 22nd February**. This Parents' Event will be important for informing decisions regarding Option choices in Years 10 & 11. The Options Booklet was posted out this week and the process is explained with all the information on our website via the link

<https://montgomeryschool.co.uk/year-9-options-process>

Vulnerable students and children of critical workers

Please can I remind parents and carers of vulnerable students and children of critical workers that our in-school provision is closed next week and reopens at the normal time of 8:45am on Monday 22nd February.

Year 11 Careers Interviews

Letters went out to all Year 11 parents yesterday explaining how we intend to run Careers Interviews via Google Meets. These are all with an independent Careers Advisor and the 25 minute meeting will produce a Careers Plan for each student. Some of these appointments are tomorrow and some are over half-term. We are trying to get as many of these out of the way as soon as possible so that when students return they and we can concentrate on resuming face-to-face teaching.

Use of Class Charts

I would say that the first week of using Class Charts went well and the system maybe one that we consider continuing even when students return. There has been a couple of queries about when engagement points are put on by teachers. I have indicated to all staff that they should put on their engagement points for all their students by Friday at 4pm. I have also suggested that for their wellbeing they allocate a set time in the week to put their points on the system. This means that both students and parents will have to wait until after Friday 4pm to see their weekly points, as most staff will leave their points until the end of the week. I realise that for the especially enthusiastic students this is a change they will have to get used to. Also, some work set or submitted on the Friday will be carried over to the following week to allow students time to do it and staff to check it.

Next half-term

The earliest date that the main student body will start to return is Monday March 8th. Trying to predict the future guidance is an ever-changing picture, but based on the current infection rates I would expect that at least year 11 would return on March 8th with plans for other groups soon after. I am completely second guessing however and we all await the government's next review date for the re-opening of schools due on Monday 22nd of February. As soon as the government announce their plans we will communicate to you our next steps for students returning.

Lastly, I would like to thank all parents and carers for their unwavering support for moving forward in this pandemic. I know that supporting your child will have meant, like us, that you have had to upskill yourself in various ways such as maybe subject knowledge from way back when you were at school and almost certainly ICT skills. Following Google Classroom, Hegarty & Seneca will not come easy. Luckily, normally the young people are good teachers!

I hope you and the students have a great and safe half-term break and we see them all sometime very soon.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Careless
Headteacher