



Montgomery Academy

An Academy within the Fylde Coast Academy Trust

Exec. Headteacher: Mr S. Cox BSc Hons MA (Ed) NPQH

Headteacher: M S. Careless BSc MSc NPQH

Senior Deputy Headteacher: Mrs C. Montgomery BSc MSc NPQSL

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Inspiring Excellence Together

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to give you details of our plans for September 2021. We hope the new academic year will see most elements return to the normality of pre-pandemic times. However, after evaluating the impact of some strategies we introduced for Covid, we see the benefits of keeping some of them. In summary we will be returning to:

- Teachers teaching predominantly in their usual areas meaning that students will not be taught in bubbles and will be able to access the full facilities such as Science, Design Technology and Expressive Arts classrooms
- PE classes will be able to use the changing rooms again meaning that students will not need to come to school in their PE kit or remain in clothes they have worn during PE all day
- Lunch sessions will return to the two lunch-time sessions meaning that one and a half year groups will use the dining rooms at once
- Weekly assemblies for each year group

We will be keeping the following:

- Staggered start and finish times will ensure safe entry/exit to the site and lining up outside will give us a formal start to the day. Start and finish times will be
 - **Years 8, 9 & 10 will start the day at 8:45am and finish the day at 3:00pm**
 - **Years 7 & 11 will start the day at 9:00am and finish the day at 3:15pm**
- Staggered breaks as this significantly reduces the number of students using the dining halls at the same time. We used to have all students on the same break.
- Year groups will have their tutor bases all in the same block which will allow pastoral staff to circulate all classes at the start of the day
- Students for most lunch and break sessions will be in their own Year group area when outside

The main difference will be that students will be moving around the site and teachers will not, though this will mean that teachers will be able to receive their classes making for a more structured start with our EXCEL Entry tasks. In terms of Covid bubbles, year groups will mix in the corridors between lessons as they walk from between blocks though will be mostly kept apart at break and lunch.

The new guidelines state that from 16th August face masks will not need to be worn in school. Given that Blackpool is still one of the 12 high risk areas in England, and social distancing is still recommended, we will continue to wear face mask until the end of term on Wednesday. I would like to thank the students and staff both their adherence to these policies, particularly recently in the warmer weather.

At the present time, we are not intending for students to be required to wear masks in classrooms in September. Due to the complete uncertainty regarding Covid both nationally and locally as we look ahead to the summer break, we cannot rule out that students will still be wearing masks in corridors and dining rooms in September. We will communicate on this issue nearer to the start of term when we can assess the situation at the time. Our feeling at present, is that students and staff who still wish to wear masks should be able to.



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From Monday 19th July the responsibility for contract tracing close contacts from a positive case in school will move from the school to the NHS Test and Trace system. As we have done this all year we will continue to do this until the end of term this week on Wednesday. However, **after 12:30pm on Wednesday 21st July please do not contact the school to inform us of a positive case and instead follow the guidance given by the NHS.**

Start of term in September

The new guidelines published by the Department of Education states that,

“All secondary school pupils should receive 2 on-site lateral flow device tests, 3 to 5 days apart, on their return in the autumn term.”

We will use the parental consent information for Years 8, 9 and 10 that we used when students returned in March. We will organise this by staggering the start of term in September as outlined below.

Wednesday 1st September

New Year 7 students will come for their first test between **2pm and 4pm**. Students will return home **with their parents/carers** after they have been tested.

Thursday 2nd September

- **Year 7 first full day in school starting at 9:00am.** Please be here from 8:50am and they finish at 3:15pm
- **Year 8 will come to school for their first test between 10am and 12pm.** Students will return home after they have been tested
- **Years 9 and 10** do not attend school
- **Year 11 will come for their first test between 2pm and 4pm.** Students will return home after they have been tested

Friday 3rd September

- **Year 11 first full day in school starting at 9:00am.** Please be here from 8:50am and they finish at 3:15pm
- Year 7 attend their second day in school
- Year 8 do not attend school
- **Year 9 will come to school for their first test between 10am and 12pm.** Students will return home after they have been tested
- **Year 10 will come for their first test between 2pm and 4pm.** Students will return home after they have been tested

Monday 6th September

All year groups in school with start/finish times as follows:

- **Years 8, 9 and 10 start at 8:45am and finish at 3:00pm**
- **Years 7 and 11 start at 9:00am and finish at 3:15pm**



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Throughout the academic year:

- **Years 7, 8 and 9** will enter school and leave through the **Bike Sheds gate**
- **Years 10 and 11** will enter and leave school through the **Science Arches gate**

Changes to Covid-19 guidance for schools from September

A new system will thankfully replace the guidance for close contacts that has operated this year. When a student has been identified as a close contact of a positive case, then they will not be required to self-isolate but to take a PCR test instead. From 16th August, adults who have been fully vaccinated will not be required to self-isolate after contact with a positive case. This will mean significantly less staff having to self-isolate going forward.

It will still be essential that students continue to regularly sanitise their hands in September. We will still be ensuring our many hand-sanitising stations are used to help reduce the transmission of Covid as well as other winter viruses.

I realise that there is quite a lot of information in this letter, but felt it was much better to have all the relevant information in one place. I sincerely hope that next year is less disrupted for our students and their parents as well as less demanding on our staff. This has been a year like no other and throughout and to quote from our 'Summer Newsletter':

The resilience of the Montgomery Family in these unprecedented times has been humbling. We have stuck together, persevered and endured. The students have coped with everything thrown at them and have continued to show their maturity, humour and respect for each other.

I hope that your summer is a good one, as the whole country deserves some rest and recuperation. We look forward to seeing everyone back safely in September.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Careless

Headteacher