



Inspiring Excellence Together

Montgomery Academy

An Academy within the Fylde Coast Academy Trust

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

Headteacher: Mr S. Careless BSc MSc NPQH

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15th March 2022

Year 8 Parents Evening this Thursday 17th March 4:30pm – 7:30pm

IMPORTANT: We are changing to VIRTUAL appointments

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to inform you that we have made the decision today to move this Thursday's Year 8 Parents' Evening to VIRTUAL appointments. This has not been an easy decision to make, but I feel that it is the right one.

We had been keen to try our first face-to-face parents' evening since the beginning of the pandemic for Year 8, as we know that most parents have not been able to visit the school for Open Evening or our usual information or induction evenings. This has made the decision even more disappointing to make.

Two weeks ago, Covid cases both locally and nationally had fallen to the lowest levels we had had for months and this face-to-face event looked a great opportunity to speak in person to Year 8 parents as many visited the site for the first time.

Unfortunately, in the last week Covid cases have started to rise again with both staff and students now having to isolate. Today, our staff were really stretched in terms of covering absent staff and tomorrow looks even tighter. Therefore, Thursday seems a risk too far in ensuring that we keep parents, staff and students safe. We do not want to get to a point where we need to close the school for particular year groups due to staffing shortages.

We currently have 67% of parents who have made appointments on the School Cloud system and really hope that all of those are able to access the system online to meet their son or daughter's teachers remotely using the same appointment times. To access your appointments on Thursday, all you need to do is logon to the School Cloud website using a mobile phone, tablet or laptop at:

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

With the logon details that you used to make the appointments and then use 'Join Video Appointments' to access your appointments. If someone made the appointments for you then use the helpsheet link below to logon to the system. Several parents received phone calls today from staff, including from myself to help you with booking your appointments. Let us know tomorrow if you need any more help. You can test that you can logon to the system before the event and let us know if you have any problems.

https://www.montgomeryschool.co.uk/files/documents/covid/Virtual_Parents-Evening_helpsheet_-_making_appointments.pdf

The original appointments were 3 minutes in length plus 1 minute movement time as they were going to be face-to-face. Now we are using the virtual system, the appointments will be 3 minutes plus 1 minute swap over time between appointments. This means the teacher will bring the conversation to a close around the 3 minute mark to allow some time for both you and them to ready themselves for the next appointment. Some teachers are fully booked the full 3 hours.



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Acknowledging that most of our Year 8 parents have not been around the school and seen all our facilities, we intend later in the year to offer guided tours at the end of the school day. If you would be interested in such a tour, please could you complete the very quick online form to register your interest and then we will contact you after Easter about booking you in for a tour.

<https://forms.gle/hmDGJonzMrzdnGPBA>

I would like to finish by apologising again for this late change, which is due to concerns about a large gathering of staff, students and parents in an enclosed space with the current rates of transmission.

Kindest Regards

Mr. Careless