



Montgomery Academy

An Academy within the Fylde Coast Academy Trust

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Inspiring Excellence Together

17th November 2021

Dear Parent/carers,

I am writing to inform you that we have had a rise in Covid cases in the last few days since Monday. There are currently 22 students at home who have tested positive with either a Lateral Flow Test or a PCR test, and 5 students awaiting results. As you may remember from previous letters, the threshold in schools now for further Covid restrictions is either

- 10% of the school community or
- five or more connected cases

Currently, less than 1% of the school is currently positive with Covid-19, but we do feel that we are close to five or more connected cases in Years 8 and 10.

Therefore, it is essential that all parents/carers supervise their child completing a Lateral Flow Test **this evening or before school tomorrow morning**. This will help us ensure that students in school are safe to be in school. These tests should be completed whether or not students have been vaccinated. There is clear scientific evidence that a person can still contract and transmit the virus even if they have been vaccinated. I have discussed the current situation at length this afternoon with Public Health and we agree that we should introduce the following from tomorrow:

- Any student that has any of the three main Covid symptoms of a loss/change of smell/taste, a recurring cough or a temperature **should not come to school and book a PCR test**. We have had students arrive to school with Covid symptoms
- On top of this, as was the policy last year in Blackpool, **we would not expect any student with possible minor symptoms of Covid such as diarrhoea, stomach upset or any flu-like illness to be in school** and they should also book a PCR test to rule out Covid. If a student's PCR test is negative then they can return to school
- Until the number of cases in Year 8 and Year 10 start to fall then we will not hold full assemblies with those year groups

If parents rely on a LFT when their child has symptoms, then their child could face an unnecessary 10-day isolation whereas going straight for a PCR test could result in a negative result, meaning a quick return to school.

We will consider over the next few days and into next week whether to reintroduce face masks for communal areas or other measures, dependent on how case numbers change. Of course, as it has been since September, if any student or member of staff wishes to wear a face-mask in class or elsewhere they can do so.

Unfortunately, following the advice of Public Health, these measures have been reinstated to prevent further transmission. These are actions that we did have in place last year during previous lockdowns. The alternative to putting these measures in place may have been to switch to remote learning for all pupils.

We will liaise closely with Public Health to try to limit any further spread of the outbreak, and hope that any inconvenience from these additional measures will be effective and of short duration. They will hopefully allow the school to continue to be open and teach the children who are well, which I am sure is everyone's priority.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'S. Careless', is positioned above the printed name.

Stephen Careless
Headteacher