



Montgomery Academy

An Academy within the Fylde Coast Academy Trust

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Inspiring Excellence Together

5th December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing with an update of the current situation at Montgomery in regards to Covid cases and associated restrictions. Also, I have included our end of term arrangements later in the letter.

At the end of school on Friday we had 14 current positive cases, half of which were in Year 7; down from 45 cases two weeks ago. This is a much-improved situation and down to students, parents and staff working together on face masks, Lateral Flow Testing and adhering to the 'minor symptoms' guidance introduced from 23rd November.

I discussed our current restrictions with Public Health on Friday. In particular the 'minor symptoms' policy in place at the moment, which is having an impact on the attendance of some students. Another factor to consider is the prevalence of the norovirus in the community, which has led to the closure of one local school this week. In light of this, we agreed that we would **continue** with our current restrictions, which are clearly having a positive impact in maintaining face-to-face learning as much as we possibly can at the moment.

We are using a sizeable amount of disposable face masks each day, creating a huge amount of waste. Therefore, we have purchased more fabric masks to reduce the waste. Each student will be issued with a fabric mask on Monday morning, if they do not have one themselves. Please ask your son or daughter to keep it in their school bag or uniform, so they have it each day and don't require a disposable one.

Today is the next day for supervising your son or daughter to complete their latest Lateral Flow Test.

Notify any **positive result** via admin@montgomery.fcat.org.uk

Negative results should be registered using the following link <https://forms.gle/jr4Poi4LtZ6h4GQEA>

End of Term Arrangements

This term finishes with a half-day on **Tuesday 21st December**

Years 8, 9 and 10 finish at 12:00pm

Years 7 and 11 finish at 12:15pm

The last half-day will be a Christmas Jumper day, with students being able to wear a Christmas Jumper, should they wish to over their normal uniform, instead of their blazer, for a £1 contribution to one of our school charities.

Return in January

You will have seen in the media that schools are being asked to again test students for Covid on return in January. We will achieve this with a staggered start to the term as in September. We feel that students coming in to school before having been tested defeats the object of the process. We are still making final decisions in regard to the start of next term, so will communicate again before the end of term.

Letter from Sean Bullen (FCAT Director of Education)

Please read the letter from the FCAT Director of Education. The link was sent via the same text link sent for this letter. It expresses thanks to parents for their continued support, states clearly our face-mask policy for visitors and asks for understanding in relation to current levels of unavoidable staff absence.

Omicron variant isolation period

You may have seen that there are different government guidelines in place for any identified cases of the Omicron variant. The first few cases of this new variant have already been found in the North West. Unlike the guidance for other variants, **any close contact of a positive Omicron case do need to self-isolate for 10 days, whether or not they have been double vaccinated.** This is similar to the situation earlier in the year with the previous variants. If this new variant spreads quickly, as is expected, this could have a further impact on both student and staff attendance levels in the new year or possibly before. This is why adhering to all the Covid-secure restrictions currently in place are so important in maintaining your child's education.

As ever, thank you for your fantastic support in keeping the majority of students learning in school, as well as the small proportion who are not learning remotely.

Regards



Stephen Careless
Headteacher