

18th December 2020

Letter to all parents at Montgomery Academy from Sean Bullen (IDOE) regarding the latest Government decisions for the re-opening of schools in 2021

Dear Parent /Carer,

I am not wanting to make any political comments, but at about 1p.m yesterday we heard about plans that affect the return to school after Christmas. The Government has issued new guidance for students of Secondary school age regarding a staggered return after Christmas.

Montgomery Academy will be **open as normal for all Year 11 students on Monday 4th January** and also for the children of key workers and vulnerable students, in a similar way that we were open for those students at the start of the pandemic.

Therefore, we would expect the vast majority of our Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 students to be completing remote learning at home, using Google classroom, Hegarty Maths and Seneca, as usual. These year groups will return to school on **Monday 11th January**.

The Government has made these decisions for 2 reasons. The first is to help control the spread of the virus. The second reason, which is not as yet a certainty, is to help schools plan for more regular testing of students and staff. If that does happen, we will clearly communicate thoroughly about that in the New Year. I think we cross that bridge when we come to it, let us all try to have as safe a Christmas as possible, but also share Technological moments with our friends and families.

Can we once again apologise for the late notice of this announcement, but we are responding as quickly as we can to Government announcements.

On that subject we acknowledge your patience and support with this unprecedented situation. Both with this, and the recent decision to finish normal learning on Thursday 17th December, we have looked to follow Government guidance to help control the spreads of the virus and be as

safe as possible. Of course if guidance alters, then we will be in touch again.

You might also wish to keep an eye on the school website.

Thanks again for working in partnership with all our schools. Once again we wish all our parents/carers and students a happy Christmas and a much better 2021.

Handwritten signature of Sean M. Bullen in black ink.

FCAT Interim Director of Education

Handwritten signature of L. Khan in black ink.

Headteacher of Montgomery Academy