



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

Senior Deputy Headteacher: Mrs C. Montgomery BSc MSc NPQSL

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23rd January 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you to inform you that we will be focusing upon Standards over the coming weeks up until at least half-term. Over the course of the pandemic, due to various reasons we have deliberately been more flexible on certain uniform rules, such as the wearing of PE kit instead of uniform on PE days last year (now not in place) and an understanding that during lockdowns, items such as new shoes etc have been harder to buy as shops have been shut or had supply problems.

As we seem to have got through the Christmas period without another lockdown period and case numbers nationally are starting to fall again we feel that the remainder of this term is an appropriate time for a focus upon uniform standards across the academy. Since we have returned, we have seen too many students in trainers and some without ties. Whilst there are a few students that do have medical exemptions for wearing different footwear, the overwhelming majority of our students should be in the correct footwear. Make-up, inappropriate nails and jewellery have also been too prevalent this academic year. Finally, during the period that students have been wearing face-masks, the wearing of facial piercings have been on the rise. Therefore, we intend to work hard in the next 3 weeks to ensure that our well published uniform policy is followed by every student in our mainstream provision.

The Uniform Policy has not significantly changed for years and the 2021-22 version has been on our website since July. I include it at the bottom of this letter. Please read the whole policy carefully, but I would like to draw your attention to some particular elements of it.

Footwear

All black flat footwear – not trainers (No white/coloured soles, no stripes, no piping, no logos). Boots will be allowed only if worn under trousers. (No backless shoes or sandals). A clear guide to what shoes are and are not unacceptable is available on our website. Here is the link:

https://montgomeryschool.co.uk/files/Acceptable_shoes_guidance.pdf

A student wearing other footwear for medical reasons should provide a doctor's note. WE REGRET THAT A LETTER FROM PARENTS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE. If a student is not in correct footwear, then they will be expected to borrow some black shoes from our stock in Isolation. All shoes borrowed from Isolation will be sterilised before loaned to students.

Hoodies

Our current policy states that, "*Hoodies are not allowed in school and should not be worn instead of a suitable outdoor coat.*" We do acknowledge that for some students that their hoodie is their only coat.



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However, we would recommend that students bring a suitable ie waterproof coat to school. Hoodies should be worn outside their blazer. Jackets and hoodies are not allowed to be worn in classrooms or dinner halls. Hoods must be worn down when in the school buildings.

Ties

No student should be in school without a tie. If for any reason they do not come to school with a tie they will be expected to borrow one for the day.

Jewellery is restricted to:

- 1 pair of plain gold/silver coloured studs
- 1 wristwatch
- No facial piercings are allowed
- Any additional jewellery may be confiscated for collection at the end of the school day

Facial piercings have become more of a problem in school since students have been wearing face masks. Nasal piercings have always been banned. If students want to get their nose pierced, it should be booked at the start of the summer holidays giving the full 6 weeks for the piercing to heal so that it can be removed from their first day back in September.

When the rules are relaxed on face masks in corridors, possibly on the 26th January, we will expect any student who says that they cannot take their nasal piercing out due to it healing to wear a clear plastic retainer. This will be for a maximum of 6 weeks. No student should get their nose pierced from this point onwards until the Summer holiday.

Nails

Nails must appear natural with no coloured nail varnish. Acrylic nails must be short in length, be natural in colour and have a rounded tip. Students arriving to school with coloured nails or inappropriate acrylics will be asked to remove them.

Hair

Hairstyles must be suitable for the academy environment.

- Only black, brown or blonde dyed hair is acceptable - no other dyed colours or streaks
- Tramlines or shaved head designs are not acceptable
- Plain simple hair bands or hair slides (no flowers, no scarves)



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Parents and students are urged to note and follow the spirit as well as the letter of the School Uniform Policy. Our aim is simply to give all students the opportunity to look smartly and appropriately dressed for the workplace, in a style that is of reasonable cost and durability. The school will take action when students do not adhere to our school uniform code. This reflects the fact that in the adult world appearance is important. We also wish Montgomery students to be the smartest in the area. If parents are in a difficult financial position and need help providing the uniform for their son/daughter, **they must contact the school.**

Uniform expectations

We are conscious that the current times are challenging financially with some industries hit hard during the pandemic and recent cost of living rises, such as energy bills. We will therefore keep in school a stock of shoes, ties and a small amount of blazers, trousers & skirts.

From this week students who, for any reason other than a medical exemption, do not arrive at school in the correct uniform will be directed to our Standards Room and expected to borrow items of uniform for the day. In return, they will leave their phone (or equivalent) in Isolation for when they return the borrowed item at the end of the day. Any student who refuses will not be permitted to go to lessons until the situation has been resolved. This will also apply to students refusing to take piercings out or replace them with retainers.

Lateness to lessons & the Toilet Policy

Currently, our toilet policy is that any student can go to the toilet at break, lunch, at lesson changeovers or during lessons if required. The toilets are only closed during Period 1, except for students with a medical pass. Toilets are open during Registration time before Period 1. A minority of students are abusing this privilege and going at most lesson changeovers as well as at break or lunch meaning they are regularly late to lessons. This missed learning cannot continue, therefore we are changing the policy from Monday 24th January to the following.

Students will not be allowed to go to the toilet at lesson changeover and should ensure that they get to their lesson first and register as present and on time with their teacher. They can then request to go during their lesson. The teacher will not allow more than one student to go from their class at a time and will consider how often the student has requested to go. We will contact parents of students regularly requesting to leave lessons and discuss how we can minimise missed learning. All students will have access to the toilet at both their break and lunch and, as always, students with medical passes will have access to the toilet whenever they need it.

Walking from one part of the school site to the other takes at most 3 minutes. Students finishing their break or lunch period have 5 minutes to get to their lesson on time. Those moving from one lesson directly to another have 5 minutes to get there. Students who are regularly late to lessons will be kept



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after school by their Progress Manager to make up the time and persistent offenders will attend a weekly SLT detention. Students will be set work to do in these detentions to make up for the valuable time lost.

I realise that the majority of elements of this letter on standards will only apply to a small minority of students. The overwhelming majority of both students and parents accept that the rules are there for everyone's benefit and realise that high expectations in all areas of the school will ultimately benefit our wonderful students to achieve their full potential.

Regards,

Mr. Careless