

## 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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February 10<sup>th</sup> 2021

## Careers guidance interviews via 25 minute-Google Meets for all Year 11 students

Dear Parent/Carer,

During the course of a 'normal' year each student would receive a Careers Education and Guidance meeting with our Level 6 Careers Advisor and many visits from the local Post-16 providers, such as the Sixth Form and Blackpool & Fylde College to inform and support the students in making their next step choices in either education, employment or training.

The pandemic, including lockdowns and periods of self-isolation have made this very difficult to achieve. On the Year 11 Google Classroom we have posted links to information and virtual events from some of the local Post-16 providers. We recently posted login details for START Blackpool and how they can help our students in looking into the variety of industries, skills and interests that may inform their decisions about next steps when they leave Montgomery later this year. In addition to this we have been posting Apprenticeship offers, contact details for education providers and information that will help the students make necessary decisions for September 21.

Over the last few weeks, if students have not submitted applications to a local Post 16 provider we have had a team of staff dedicated to calling home and helping students through the application process. We have made sure that they all have access to our Careers Leader through the dedicated email address <u>careers@montgomery.fcat.org.uk</u> to answer any questions they may have.

As a school we have felt that it is even more important this year that we offer one to one support to students in helping them make those next steps. To ensure we do that, we have taken the decision to run the Careers Education and Guidance meetings on Google Meets over the course of the next few weeks. This means that when Year 11 students do return to school, hopefully on March 8<sup>th</sup>, then this will be one thing that will be out of the way and they can concentrate on completing their courses.

Traditionally we have not invited parents to join this discussion, as they have taken place during the school day with our onsite Careers Advisor. In the current circumstances the only way we can deliver this support is through a Google Meet. A benefit of using Google Meet is that we will also be able to offer parents access to these meetings in appreciation of the difficulties you may be facing in making these decisions. Parents can be with their child for the interview at home or can login separately if they are at work.

Meetings will run between the dates of 12<sup>th</sup> February and 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021, though the first few happened today. Please note that in order to meet with all our students as quickly as possible some appointments will be in the half term week. Your child will receive an email invitation with a link to a Goggle Meet. These invites will be going out over the coming days. Where we have an email address for the parent, you will also receive an invitation and an offer to join the Careers meeting.

At the correct time and date, just click onto the link in the email and it will take you to a virtual meeting with an independent Careers Advisor. The use of the camera will be optional for both the student and any parents that join the meeting. Meetings will be recorded for safeguarding purposes.





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Inspiring Excellence Together

Your appointment will be with one of three dedicated independent careers advisors specialising in personal guidance for students moving between secondary school and Post 16 education, employment or training.

This meeting will be for 25 minutes and following the meeting the careers advisor will provide the school with an individual careers plan, which we will pass on to your child in due course.

Any careers-related questions you may have following the meeting or further advice you wish to seek, please do not hesitate to contact our Careers Leader on <u>careers@montgomery.fcat.org.uk</u>.

Thank you in advance of your support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Careless Headteacher

