

21<sup>st</sup> May 2020

Montgomery Academy

An Academy within the Fylde Coast Academy Trust

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you for being so patient with us as we have taken the time needed to carefully plan our phased return of children to school. No doubt you will have seen some of the local and national press coverage on this issue and of the concerns raised by various groups, but also of the strong sense of support for children returning to schools in a phased and safe way. Much detailed discussion has taken place in recent days and the position taken by the academy and FCAT is that specific cohorts of children should begin the return to school in the week beginning June 8<sup>th</sup>. The government's ambition of June 1<sup>st</sup> has proved to be too soon for us to make all the necessary arrangements and to consult on and complete all the required Health and Safety risk assessments.

We will be following the government guidance published so far and only opening for Year 10 students. Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June will be a staff training day and then for the following four days students will be invited in for a one day assimilation and training day, the purpose of which is to get them ready for a fuller return to learning in the week beginning June 15<sup>th</sup>. For Year 10, we will be only be offering provision for half year groups at any given time thereafter.

We will contact you with more details will reach you in the week beginning June 1st. I stress that the first we will see of any Year 10 student, other than children of key workers and vulnerable children, will be for one day between Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June and Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June.

To all parents/carers of Year 10 students, you will receive a link via text or email in the coming days to a short form asking you some questions about your son/daughter returning to school in June. It is essential that this is completed as soon as possible so that we can plan our provision. We will not allow any student back in to school where this short form has not been completed.

Our approach will be to work with your child/children in 'bubbles'. These will be defined groups that will not change and will have the same attached staff. This will help secure a COVID safe learning environment. Again, more details on all the above will follow in the week after half term.

It is also important to stress that the current provision for vulnerable children and children of key workers will continue as it has operated so far and is unaffected by these additional plans.

I do really feel for our Year 7, 8 and 9 students who, under current guidance, would not be due to return until next academic year. Therefore, it is very important for you to know that we will continue with all the support for the children at home and not initially identified for the phased return. It is critically important that they continue to study and to learn in the home environment and we will continue to support this process fully.

I would like to thank you for your continued support in these very difficult times. Yours faithfully,

