



Montgomery Academy

An Academy within the Fylde Coast Academy Trust

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Inspiring Excellence Together

15th May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to give you details of the end of term next week. Covid-related absence has hit Montgomery hard in the last two and half weeks amongst both the students and the staff. We had 7 cases in Year 10 over two weeks with the last case a week ago. This is why we closed Year 10 Population B, who are due to return on Monday.

Last weekend we had 7 cases in Year 7 in between the Friday and Monday, so we closed the whole of the Year 7 bubble. Those Year 7s who were not close contacts are due back on Monday with close contacts returning on the Tuesday.

Today we had 32 staff absent of which 27 were Covid-related. Nine were positive cases with the others including reasons such as self-isolating, their child is self-isolating, or their child's bubble had closed or shut completely.

Due to these staffing levels and unpredictable student attendance we had already decided to reduce our plans for the Sports Days to running different events in students' normal PE lessons. Mrs. Campbell will communicate to the students the changes in the arrangements.

We are all hoping that the change in guidelines over the summer will mean that we will not see this level of disruption next academic year and so many close contacts to cases. However, this level of staffing as we go in to next week is insufficient for all of Years 7-10 to be in school safely bearing in mind that both Year 7 and 10 Population B return next week.

Therefore, we have had to make a difficult decision that we will close a year group for the remaining two and half days next week. It is only fair given the differing levels of absence that each year group have had that the year group that has been least affected by cases should not be in school next week.

Year 8 have had the least number of disruptions, by far, so it is with regret that **Year 8 students' last day in school this term will be tomorrow, Friday 16th July**. Remote learning work will be set for the remaining 2.5 days as per usual on Google Classroom. Work can be accessed from the school's home page by clicking 'Remote Learning resources' followed by 'Year 8': Week 39.

I hope the parents/carers of Year 8 students understand why we have had to make this decision and agree with the rationale behind choosing their child's year group.

All other students will finish at **lunchtime next Wednesday 21st July**, unless staffing levels reduce even further.

Year 7 and Year 9 will finish at 12:20pm

Year 10 will finish at 12:30pm

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals and would like a packed lunch to take with them next Wednesday, then please let us know by Tuesday morning.

I will write to you again next week to clarify the arrangements for the start of term in September and how the next academic year's school day will run.

As ever, thank you for your continuing support in these testing last few weeks.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. P. Careless'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L' and a smaller 'P'.

Mr. Careless
Headteacher