

# CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER

We are Montsaye.

## STEPPING UP

TO THE NEW

Montsaye WAY



### *Pledge Five...*

We aim for excellence in everything we do.

### *Pledge Four...*

We will complete our attendance jigsaw.

### *Pledge Three...*

We are a telling school, so we are never a bystander.

### *Pledge Two...*

We uphold the core values of Respect, Honesty and Compassion.

### *Pledge One...*

We do the right thing, at the right time, for the right reason.

Respect / Honesty / Compassion

THE NEW *Montsaye* WAY



Honesty



Respect



Compassion

# Celebrating Character

This year, we've been proud to celebrate character through our positive points system, with students earning points for consistently demonstrating our core values of Honesty, Respect and Compassion.

In addition to this, students have been recognised in their end-of-term assemblies, where Pledge Awards were presented to those who have shown outstanding character and fulfilled our Student Pledges (you can find these in full on the front page).

And of course, we couldn't forget this term's fantastic WOW Day.

## **WOW Day: A Celebration of Attendance, Achievement, and Joy!**

This term's WOW Day was another fantastic celebration of our students' commitment to attendance and achieving Pledge 4 – completing their attendance jigsaw. It also provided a wonderful opportunity to reinforce our core values of honesty, respect, and compassion.

These special days continue to grow in popularity and impact, bringing real joy to both students and staff. It's truly heart-warming to see the smiles, laughter, and sense of community they create across the school.



A definite highlight this term was the staff lip sync/karaoke performances, which were met with huge excitement in the hall. Standout moments included:

Mrs George, Mrs Childs, Miss Palmer, Mrs Thomas, and Miss Purvis as the Spice Girls

Mr Lyons channelling Maui from Moana

Mrs Mooney and Miss Beaton performing Umbrella by Rihanna

Mr Wiggins and Mrs Lopes delivering an energetic rendition of Happy by Pharrell Williams.

The energy was electric, and the joy on students' faces said it all!

We're proud to see WOW Days becoming a cherished part of our school culture, with one now planned for each half term. There's already a buzz about next term's event, which is rumoured to feature a "Battle of the Bands" lip sync showdown!

We're also excited to collaborate with our student leadership team to continue shaping and enhancing these days, ensuring student voices help guide the future of our WOW celebrations.



## Character Caught

Our Character Caught initiative has continued to thrive this term, and it's been especially heartening to see parents and carers getting involved by sending in nominations. What began as a school recognition programme has truly grown into a whole-community celebration of the incredible students at Montsaye.

Reading the thoughtful nominations and witnessing students being recognised for living out our core values of Respect, Honesty, and Compassion has been truly inspiring. We are so proud of the positive impact this initiative is having across our school.

This term, we're shining a spotlight on students who have shown exceptional leadership. There are many ways students can develop leadership skills at Montsaye, including becoming:

- Sports Leaders
- Club Leadership opportunities
- Library Leaders
- Members of the Student Council



### Sports Leaders:

In April, our amazing Sports Young Leaders were supporting in the KS2 Net/Wall festival which had around 100 young students in attendance!

Teachers in attendance commented on the professionalism, enthusiasm and compassion showed to all primary students and how much they enjoyed it.



### Club Leadership:

Hanna D and Millie D in Year 10 volunteered to take a leadership role in the Key Stage 3 Dance Club. Hanna and Millie both prepared a session teaching their own choreography. They were respectful and compassionate throughout the class, encouraging and motivating all students that attended. An incredible opportunity to demonstrate positive leadership and embody the core values of our school—showing how good character can inspire confidence, teamwork, and a love for learning in others.



## Student Council – Representing Every Voice

Our Student Council has continued to do a fantastic job this academic year, ensuring that every student's voice is heard. Committed to upholding our core values of honesty, respect, and compassion, the council carefully reviews all feedback submitted through the Student Communication Form.

They promote transparency by regularly updating the student body on their discussions and actions. This is done through the weekly Student Bulletin, which is emailed to all students, and highlighted in Mr. Baines' morning briefings.

Their dedication is helping to build a stronger, more inclusive school community where all students feel valued and heard. Our head students, King and Summer, then meet with the Senior Leadership Team once a term to update them on the student voice and the actions they have taken. For example, our Anti-bullying Ambassadors have created a video that was shared with all Year 7 to Year 11 tutor groups with details on how to use our online portal to report any bullying concerns.

We were proud to see our student council receiving their badges this term too.



*If you would like to share any Character Caught nominations directly, you can email [charactercaught@montsaye.org](mailto:charactercaught@montsaye.org) or contact your child's form tutor. Please ensure that you have permission for the information to be shared as part of our daily briefing with students and social media celebrations!*

# Character Taught

## Building Character Through Weekly Lessons

Each week, students take part in a dedicated one-hour lesson focused on character development—an essential part of their education that goes beyond academics. These sessions are designed to help students build key life skills, develop personal qualities, and embody our core values of Respect, Honesty, and Compassion.

In addition to character education, these lessons incorporate elements of Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), and Health Education, offering a well-rounded approach to personal development and well-being.

This term, our focus has been on exploring each of our school values in depth. Students had the opportunity to reflect on real-life role models who exemplify Honesty, Respect, and Compassion, encouraging meaningful discussions and personal reflection.

Below is the Character Curriculum for next term. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact your child's form tutor in the first instance.

Year 7	Introduction to First Aid Introduction to fire safety Personal Safety in everyday life Making healthy choices Evaluating influences
Year 8	Future thinking – Job Vs Career First Aid and Fire Safety Personal Safety Safety in the community
Year 9	Future thinking – Careers Personal safety – drug and alcohol related emergencies Making Healthier choices Managing peer pressure
Year 10	First Aid – CPR, AEDs, Wounds and Choking Making healthy choices Creating influence Careers - Transition to year 11

### **Virtual Visiting Speaker:**

On Tuesday 19th May our Carnegie Book Club met online with author Luke Palmer. Luke wrote one of the shortlisted books, called 'Play.' He answered our questions about this story, as well as how to get ideas for writing and the process of getting a book published. A fascinating opportunity for all of the students involved.



### **Thank You for Your Feedback!**

A big thank you to all the parents and carers who took the time to complete our recent Parent Survey. We truly appreciate your valuable feedback on our current Character Curriculum and your suggestions for how it can be further developed to better serve our school community.

Looking ahead to next term, we're pleased to invite parents to join us in person as part of our ongoing consultation. This will be a great opportunity to continue the conversation and help shape the future of our character education.

This will take place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June in the Library 4-5pm. If you would like to attend, please confirm your place by completing the following Microsoft Form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/7wWcu5aSzB>



# Character Sought

At Montsaye, “Character Sought” is all about encouraging students to actively seek out opportunities to grow and demonstrate positive character traits. Whether it’s through classroom learning or co-curricular involvement, we’re proud to see our students consistently embody our core values of honesty, respect, and compassion

## Extra-curricular Clubs

Our wide range of extra-curricular activities offers valuable opportunities for students to develop these traits further—whether through teamwork, leadership, creativity, or service to others.

Timetable of Activities KS3											
Day of Activity											
	Break/Lunchtime					After School					
	Mon	UNO Club 1:20 - 1:50pm Library Mrs Palmer	Table Tennis Club 1:20 - 1:50pm L3 Mr Severn			Dodgeball Club 3 - 4pm Sports Hall Mr Garner	Arts & Crafts Club 3 - 4pm D3 Mrs Guy				
	Tues	Gaming/Coding Club 1:20 - 1:50pm CS Mr Fernandes	Maths Surgery 1:20 - 1:50pm CM Mr Darnbrook	Crochet Club 1:20 - 1:50pm H5 Lopes/Purvis/Ellis	Yr 9 Acting Skills Club 1:20 - 1:50pm Drama Studio Mrs Childs	Dungeons & Dragons 3 - 4:30pm H6 Miss Purvis	Music Ensemble 3 - 3:30pm PA2 Mr Turnbull	Badminton 3 - 4pm Sports Hall Mr Wing	Athletics Club 3-4pm Field Mr Levett/Mr Jordan	KS3 Fitness Club 3 - 4pm Fitness Suite Mr Wing	STEM on Track 15:00 - 16:00 DT Mr Chandler
	Weds	Table Tennis Club 1:20 - 1:50pm L3 Mr Severn	Content Creation Club 1:20 - 1:50 E7 Mr Lyon			Girls' Fitness Club 3 - 4pm Fitness Suite Miss Lauder	Girls' Cricket Club 3pm-4pm Field CC Coach/Mrs Hodges	British Sign Language 1:25 - 2pm H2 Chrys/Mr Miola			
	Thurs	Tap Club (Week B) 1:20 - 1:50pm Dance Studio Mrs George	Chess Club 1:20 - 1:50pm Library Miss Palmer			Dance Club 3 - 4pm Dance Studio Mrs George	STEM on Track 15:00 - 16:00 DT Mr Chandler	Yr 8 Acting Skills Club 3 - 3:30pm Drama Studio Miss Purvis	Athletics Club 3-4pm Field Mr Levett		
	Fri	Vocal Group 7:30 - 8:20am PA2 Mrs Thomas	Yr 7 Dramarama 1:20 - 1:50pm Drama Studio Mrs Childs			Stage School/MDC 3 - 4pm Main Hall Performing Arts Staff	Year 7/8 Free Swimming Session 3 - 4pm Sign up in Sports Centre				

Timetable of Activities KS4											
Day of Activity											
	Break/Lunchtime					After School					
	Mon	UNO Club 1:20 - 1:50pm Library Mrs Palmer	Table Tennis Club 1:20 - 1:50pm L3 Mr Severn		Law Club 1:20 - 1:50pm SF3 Mrs George	Dodgeball Club 3 - 4pm Sports Hall Mr Garner	Y10 BTEC Drama 3 - 4pm DST Mrs Childs				
	Tues	Choreo-Lab 1:20 - 1:50pm Dance Studio Mrs George	Maths Surgery 1:20 - 1:50pm CM Mr Darnbrook	Crochet Club 1:20 - 1:50pm H5 Lopes/Purvis/Ellis	Gaming/Coding Club 1:20 - 1:50pm CS Mr Fernandes	Dungeons & Dragons 3 - 4:30pm H6 Miss Purvis	History Workshop 3 - 4pm Library Mr Ronald	Badminton 3 - 4pm Sports Hall Mr Wing	STEM on Track 15:00 - 16:00 DT Mr Chandler	Athletics Club 3-4pm Field Mr Levett/Mr Jordan	Music Ensemble 3 - 3:30pm PA2 Mr Turnbull
	Weds	Table Tennis Club 1:20 - 1:50pm L3 Mr Severn	Content Creation Club 1:20 - 1:50 E7 Mr Lyon			British Sign Language 1:25 - 2pm H2 Chrys/Mr Miola	Girls' Fitness Club 3 - 4pm Fitness Suite Miss Lauder				
	Thurs	Tap Club (Week B) 1:20 - 1:50pm Dance Studio Mrs George	Chess Club 1:20 - 1:50pm Library Miss Palmer		Content Creation Club 1:20 - 1:50 E7 Mr Lyon	Dance Club 3 - 4pm Dance Studio Mrs George	STEM on Track 15:00 - 16:00 DT Mr Chandler	Athletics Club 3-4pm Field Mr Levett			
	Fri	Vocal Group 7:30 - 8:20am PA2 Mrs Thomas				Stage School/MDC 3 - 4pm Main Hall Performing Arts Staff					

**Don't forget:** students can earn Golden Tickets by completing their Enrichment Rewards Card. Cards can be collected from tutors or directly from Mr. Lyons.

Let's continue to celebrate and grow the good character that makes Montsaye so special!



### **Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE)**

We're excited to announce that the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) will be launching this September for our Year 9 students!

As a nationally recognised youth development programme, the DofE Award is a fantastic Character Sought opportunity—encouraging students to actively grow their character by taking on new challenges and responsibilities.

Through volunteering, physical activity, skills development, and adventurous expeditions, students will have the chance to demonstrate and strengthen key values such as honesty, respect, and compassion, while building resilience, confidence, and leadership.

This is a truly exciting opportunity, and we can't wait to see our students take on the challenge and thrive!

### **Coming Soon: Our First-Ever Character Week!**

We're excited to announce that the final week of term will mark Montsaye's first-ever Character Week—a dedicated time to support students in developing their character and strengthening essential life skills.

Throughout the week, students will take part in a range of engaging sessions designed to help them grow as individuals, while continuing to reflect our core values of Honesty, Respect, and Compassion.

One of the key activities will be "The Game of Life," where Year 10 students will explore financial literacy and real-world decision-making through a series of thought-provoking scenarios.

In addition to the focused activities, students in Years 7 to 10 will have the opportunity to take part in a reward trip to Thorpe Park. While this is a chance to enjoy a well-earned day out, it's also a valuable opportunity for students to demonstrate and develop positive character traits outside the classroom. From showing respect and patience in busy environments to practising responsibility, teamwork, and kindness throughout the day, the trip encourages students to live out our core values in real-world settings.

We're also delighted to confirm that this year's Sports Day will be a key part of Character Week. It's a fantastic opportunity for students to show teamwork, determination, and school spirit—further reinforcing the qualities we aim to nurture during this special week.

Experiences like this help to highlight the importance of strong character, not only in school but in everyday life. Character Week promises to be a fun, meaningful, and memorable way to end the term—and we can't wait to see our students shine!

More details and information about this will be released in the new term – including how to reserve your child's place on the trip.

### **Our Culture Day**

We're excited to announce that Culture Day will take place on Friday 4th June.

The idea for this event was proudly proposed by our Student Council, who presented Mr Baines with a thoughtful and detailed plan outlining how the day will run. Their vision is to celebrate and explore the rich diversity within the Montsaye community, offering all students a chance to learn about the many cultures that make up our school.

Culture Day is also a valuable Character Sought opportunity, allowing students to demonstrate and develop key traits such as respect. By engaging with different cultures, students are encouraged to celebrate what makes us unique while strengthening the values that bring us together.

Next term, the Student Council will be sharing more about what's in store—including a Culture Performance Event, language clubs, and the opportunity to wear traditional cultural dress as part of the celebrations.

It promises to be a vibrant, inclusive, and character-building experience for all!

### **United Learning Magic Flute Performance**

On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 49 students will be taking part in UL Regional Magic Flute performance at Cambridge Corn Exchange.