

September 9, 2023

Dear Parent/ Carer

## End of week 1 Academic Year 2023-24

We are hoping that this letter finds you safe and well, and that you have been managing the incredible heat we have experienced this week. At Montsaye Academy, we have enjoyed a hugely positive week, welcoming back our wonderful students.

### Attendance and arriving at school

As we have already shared, and will be reminding families of regularly, the school day starts promptly in line-ups at **8.35am** with tutors and pastoral teams so students are appropriately equipped for a successful day. Gates close at 8.40am; if a student is late, they must call into Student Reception and a member of the pastoral team will speak to them about lateness during the week. Thank you to everyone for starting the year in a positive mindset and being in school every day. Our school attendance percentage for this week is 92%.

### Dress Code reminders

Students will need to be wearing the Montsaye Academy uniform/dress code:

- Grey blazer with Montsaye logo, which students have been, and are permitted to remove if this heat persists
- Tie
- White long or short sleeved shirt
- Full length straight grey trousers or grey knee length skirt to be worn with plain black tights or black socks
- Black leather or leather like shoes

We have talked a lot about pride this week and how coming to school well-presented shows that you are ready for school and keen to meet expectations. We will continue to insist that shirts are tucked into skirts/trousers, that ties are worn and shoes are appropriate.

Over the next few weeks, all students in Years 7-11 will be issued with a lanyard and identity card, like students in Years 12 and 13. Lanyards are expected to be worn at all times and allow us to ensure safeguarding is our first priority. Thank you in advance for supporting your child to have their bag and equipment, and lanyard with them every day.

### Student Learning Agreements

So that we can work in partnership with you, and our commitment to you and your child is clear, you will receive a partnership agreement between, home, school and your child; thank you in advance for returning a signed copy (please simply add your name and signature next to your child's), to your child's tutor.

## **Lunch and break times**

Our lunch time is 1.20-2.00pm with detentions for students whose behaviour choices have fallen short of our expectations. There is a wide variety of food available in our café and restaurant, and menus will be changed regularly to ensure availability of choice; please ensure your child has a water bottle so they have access to water during the day to stay hydrated. At social times and during the day, staff will be on duty and checking key areas, especially toilets, so that students go to the bathroom, wash their hands and be on their way either back to lesson or social spaces.

## **Montsaye expectations**

In assemblies this week, I have shared with all students the Montsaye mantra, so that we can ensure a calm and purposeful learning environment, and we can teach our students how to be good scholars. Please do have a watch of the brief video clip where you will see the same slides shared with students and staff: <https://youtu.be/turk8oo7IZc>

We all LEARN at Montsaye	So that all young people can receive a good education and be the best version of themselves, we need to create the right environment for this happen. We expect all of our pupils to: Lean in and listen Equipment at the ready Annotate and take notes Respond like a scholar Never interrupt
Mobile phones should be <b>switched off</b> and be stored <b>out of sight</b> .	We will be firm with this expectation, and should a phone be out and seen it will be confiscated and a lunchtime detention issued. The mobile will be returned at the end of the day. If, however, students consistently fail to meet the expectations we will kindly request that as parent/carer you come to school to collect your child's phone.  Our Post 16 students will be permitted to use their mobile phones but only in our dedicated Sixth Form Centre.
Show me your best	Montsaye pupils work hard and are ambitious, they take responsibility for their actions and have the courage to face new experiences, demonstrating resilience and determination. As a Trust we will all, aim high, play our part and be brave.

## **Reading – National Literacy Day: Friday 8 September**

*'The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go' Dr. Seuss.*

I have shared with students the power and huge benefits of reading as much as they can, whether that be novels, a magazine on their favourite topic or a newspaper; reading, not only brings a great source of rest and relaxation and escapism, it also improves children's vocabulary, oracy and the quality of their written work.

All students in Years 7-11 will be reading a book with their tutor at the start of every day. We have carefully chosen the following books which will be complimented with lively dialogue between the tutor and students.

Year 7: My Sister Lives on the Mantlepiece

Year 8: The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

Year 9: Noughts and Crosses

Year 10: I am Malala

Year 11: Where the Crawdads Sin

**Key dates**

Please find again our key dates document [here](#), and term dates on our website [here](#).

Thank you again for your continued support; it has been wonderful to have the opportunity to see some of you on the school gate and hear the positive experiences students are having at Montsaye. Wishing you a lovely weekend ahead.

Yours faithfully



Deb Wilson  
**Principal**