



MONTsaye ACADEMY NEWS

April 2022



Yet another busy last half term at Montsaye, full of varied and interesting activities.

As I write this, Year 11 and Year 13 are preparing for their forthcoming exams and working hard on revision, it is incredible how quickly the time goes.

I would like to say a special thank you to all staff who stepped up once again, to ensure that the quality and standard of our provision has remained high.

We have big future plans and are currently looking at our assessment system and developing our ERA learner traits for our pupils. We have also announced a number of student ambassador roles, they include; wellbeing, community, equality, aspiration and resilience ambassadors. We look forward to pupil applications and the development of pupil-led work, to further improve our school.

Student leaders are also working with leaders in our MAT schools to develop anti-bullying ambassadors who we think will have an incredible impact across all of our schools.

Meena Gabbi - Principal



The Borders, Boundaries and Barriers Performing Arts Festival

Thursday 10th March dawned; the day we were able to welcome back a live audience to the academy.

The event was split into three unique performances, the first of which was our KS3 drama group and their unusually titled **'Shakespeare's Super Snowy Seasonal Sleigh Ride Stage Show'**. This was a vignette play (a collection of short scenes based on a theme) which saw several very famous Shakespeare characters appear in Christmas situations with some surprising results.

Up next to the stage was a selection of dance performances from the various extra-curricular groups which the academy runs (including examination groups). Over fifty students had the opportunity to showcase their wonderful talents.

The final segment of the night was from the music department, which gave KS4 groups, plus five additional students, the opportunity to perform their examination work. For this particular segment, our A-level cohort was in charge of the technical aspect of the show. It was a wonderful event and we look forward to being able to perform our work again soon.

On the subject of performing, work is well under way on our academy production of Roald Dahl's **'Matilda the Musical JR'**. Students have been working exceptionally hard since the middle of January. The production is due to take place in July...watch out for further information on dates and ticket sales. We look forward to seeing you there.

Tim Shea - Head of Performing Arts

Students enjoying taking part in rehearsals



Empowering Poetry



This term, all of our Key Stage 3 English classes took part in the Young Writers Empowered Poetry Competition.

All students in Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 wrote a poem about what empowerment means to them. A tremendous effort was made by all, clearly showing just how brilliant and creative our students are.



Year 7

Winner: Louis H. Runner-Up: Noah S.



Year 8

Winner: Hayden H. Runner-Up: Jia Xi C.



Year 9

Winner: Chelsea N. Runner-Up: Michael F.

The official competition winners will be announced at a later date but we wanted to announce our very own teacher nominated Montsaye Empowered Poets of 2022.

EMPOWERED

Year 8 students get involved in their ERA day

Friday 11th March was the turn of Year 8 to participate in an ERA day. We are proud of our unique ERA days which support the development of our ERA values of **Excellence**, **Resilience** and **Aspiration**. Now, more than ever, it is important that we prepare our students for the varied challenges which they may face in life.

Our key note speakers on mental health were X-Factor contestants 'He Knows, She Knows' who have collaborated with us before. Students also undertook a range of activities designed to build their emotional resilience, looked at tools for wellbeing, career aspirations and the skills needed to work together as a team. One of the highlights of the day was an inflatable obstacle course where students competed against each other for the fastest run through the course.

There was a question and answer task, a PSHE session on 'Banter vs Bullying' and a deeper exploration of mental health struggles, looking at where students should go to find support.

It was an engaging day for our students. ERA days are enjoyed by all and are always ones to remember. They are an important part of our students' development into adulthood.



Year 9 look at politics through their English lessons

Students in Year 9 spent last term working hard on their transactional writing, through their study of politics. At the end of term they were given the opportunity to take part in the Montsaye Campaign Trail 2022.

The cohort presented their very own political parties, which involved putting forward their party names, logos, manifestos, leaflets and speeches.



Students were armed with questions on education, the economy and the environment. They set about putting their questions to the various different parties. The political parties put their persuasive skills to the test, each one campaigning to get as many votes as they could.

After having debates about the voting age in their English lessons, the whole year group were given the opportunity to use their democratic right to vote a few years early.

Following voting sessions, the ballot box was sealed, and all the votes counted (monitored by Mrs Lantz at all times). The much anticipated results were as follows:

The top two parties from Y band:

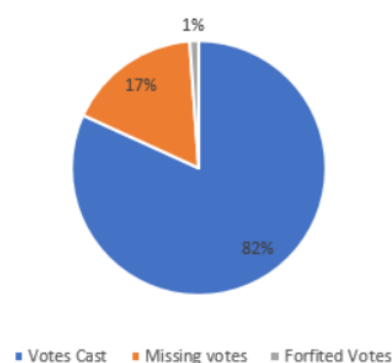
Winner: TEP
Runner up: Rise

The top two parties from X band:

Winner: ROCL
Runner up: Next Generation Party

Voter turnout was: 82%

Overall election turnout



This was a wonderful opportunity for our opinionated, persuasive students to demonstrate their ERA values in every way. Perhaps we have some aspiring politicians in the making.

Well done to the elected parties and all that took part.

Another ERA day...and the turn of our Year 9 cohort

Friday 18th March dawned and it was the turn of Year 9 to experience an ERA day.

There were opportunities for our students to reflect further on the GCSE and option subject process which they have already been working on. Our Prospects school careers advisor, Mr Ian Doherty, was on hand and students were able to delve further into the range of subjects which we offer and which they have been looking at in taster sessions over the last few weeks.

The key note speaker was from 'Hope not Hate', an organisation which helps to build skills and resilience across communities; the main focus of our workshop was on communication and healthy relationships. The day started with a whole year group lecture in the main hall, followed by individual form group workshops throughout the rest of the day, looking at building positive relationships.



Celebrating British Science Week

Discussing future plans

Inflatable Team Games

Beer Goggles

Medical Mavericks

Students also undertook a range of activities designed to help build emotional resilience, tools for wellbeing, career aspirations and the skills needed to work together as a team. There were reflective Q&A sessions and also time for some fun in the form of an inflatable obstacle course. We acknowledged British Science Week with an interactive assembly and some brilliant sessions from the organisation, 'The Medical Mavericks'.

Students thoroughly enjoyed spending the day off-timetable, building deeper relationships with their form tutor, and creating closer friendships with their form group.

Emma Lopes - SMSC Coordinator and Jon Roberts - Year 9 Progress Leader

County Finalists



Wednesday 2nd March saw another remarkable performance from our Year 7 and Year 8 students.

Our teams competed at the Northamptonshire Sport School Games County Finals at Kettering Leisure Village.

Students took part in three track events and two field events, competing against other schools from across the county.

Coming home in 8th place, which is an amazing achievement, every single one of our students represented not only the academy, but also the county.

Everyone showed exactly what it means to be an ERA learner.

Sophie Collins - Teacher of PE

Year 10 Football Team Win the Match

Our Year 10 boys' football team are going from strength to strength, recently winning an away game against Wellingborough School with a very strong team performance.

A fantastic pin-point cross from left back, Jack, led to the goal of the match.

The final result was 3-0 to Montsaye, with two goals from Ellis and one goal from Logan.

The boys put on a true display of the academy ERA values of **Excellence**, **Resilience** and **Aspiration**; keep up the fantastic work boys.

Tim Wing - Head of PE



Rugby Trip to Northampton Saints



Our extra-curricular Rugby club is open to students in Year 7 to Year 11 and takes place every Tuesday after school. The group were recently rewarded with a trip at the weekend to watch a match at the Saints' Franklin's Gardens ground in Northampton.

Students received a training session from some of the coaches. They all received a goody bag which contained lots of merchandise. They then had the opportunity to hold the flag on the pitch as the players ran out, before watching the match against Exeter. It was a fantastic day out, enjoyed by all.

Alex Jordan - Teacher of PE

Life is better with (netball) goals...

On Tuesday 8th March, Year 9 students Maja, Olivia and Millie helped to host the Year 8 Netball Friendly Games at Montsaye.

The girls welcomed some local Kettering schools to the academy. They helped with the set-up of the event and with the running and time-keeping of the games.

This fixture was the first one for our Year 8 students (due to previous COVID-19 restrictions). They performed exceptionally well and we are very proud of them.

A very special mention goes to Callum in Year 7 who has been attending regular netball practice every Monday after school since the start of September. He stepped up to help his fellow peers who had lost a few players due to injuries and other commitments. Thank you Callum, for being a wonderful team player and upholding our ERA values.



Back row from left to right: Ava, Daisy, Lauren, Katie and Sky
Front row from left to right: Callum, T-Jay and Samantha

Sophie Collins and Rosanne Hodges - Teachers of PE

Testing times in science...



As part of our GCSE science course (the biology part), scientists in Year 9 have been testing foods to see if they contain any of the four nutrient groups:

Sugar
Starch
Protein
Fat



Donning lab coats and safety goggles, Jessica and Lauryn acted as food technicians for the lesson. They checked to see if the food groups contained the nutrients which they claimed to have. Amongst the foods tested were milk, bread and biscuits.



Stephen Chandler - Teacher of Science

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mchattaway@montsaye.northants.sch.uk



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Cadet Force**

combinedcadetforce.org.uk

Our popular CCF are recruiting for new instructors.

If you would like to make a positive impact on the lives of the children in our community, whilst learning new skills at the same time, then Montsaye CCF would love to hear from you.

Full training is given, along with remuneration from the MOD.

Gain qualifications in first aid, earn your British Parachuting Licence and become a qualified paddle board instructor.

Interested? Please contact:

mchattaway@montsaye.northants.sch.uk



CCF Sponsored Parachute Jump

As part of our community engagement and affiliation with Rothwell Royal British Legion, our senior cadets will be undertaking a sponsored parachute jump on 1st May 2022. Cadets will take part in advanced training at the Army School of Parachuting at Netheravon, learning how to parachute via a static line at 3,500ft. Cadets will gain the British Parachuting License and the coveted Parachute Badge.

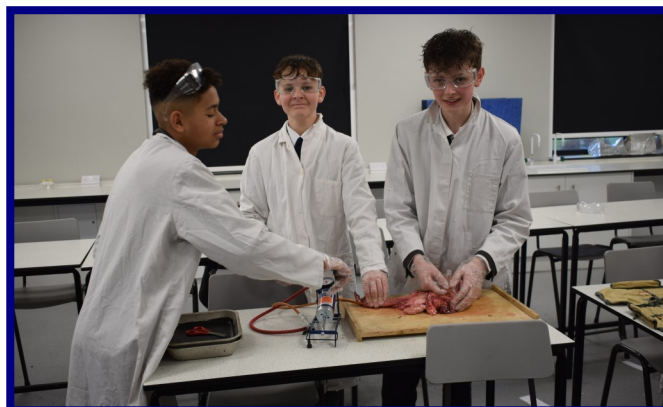
Sponsor forms may be collected from the Learning Resource Centre, should anyone wish to sponsor our brave cadets.

Mark Chattaway
CCF School Staff Instructor



KS4 STEM Club

Continuing with the theme of dissection in our KS4 STEM club, students have looked at lung function.



Students worked on a set of sheep lungs and were able to identify the different blood vessels and regions of the lungs.



Zan Rashid - Teacher of Science

Sixth Form visit to The University of Exeter

As part of our new partnership with The Elephant Group, we were delighted to be able to offer some of our Year 12 students the chance to visit the University of Exeter.

After a 6.00am start from Montsaye Academy, and a four-hour coach journey down the M5, our students finally arrived at the beautiful Streatham Campus.

The day started with a welcome and introduction, followed by lunch – a choice of hot dog or pizza. Students then got the chance to walk off their lunch on a campus tour, led by current University of Exeter students.

During the afternoon, the group were able to select a subject lecture of their choice. Subjects on offer included humanities, business, English and natural sciences. After the subject talks, it was back to the main lecture hall for a talk on the university, including a Q&A session and information about the costs involved with going to university.

Despite it being a very long day, all of the students involved found it to be a very valuable experience.

Kylen said:

"The most useful part of the trip was the taster talk, as it really gave me a powerful insight into what my life at Exeter could be like. I went to the life sciences taster, as one of the options I am thinking about studying at university is sports science. I had already been thinking about the University of Exeter as one of my choices, and the visit helped me make up my mind that I will definitely be putting it as one of my preferred universities. Exeter has the perfect blend of city life and countryside. The trip has made me more ambitious to make sure that I get into university".



Year 13 UCAS Update: March 2022



Following on from an article in our December edition of the newsletter, we are delighted to be able to update you on some university news from our Year 13 cohort.

Highlights:

- 86%** of our Year 13 cohort have submitted a university application (37 out of 43 students).
- 62%** have applied to at least one Russell Group university (23 out of 37 students).
- 74%** have currently received an offer from at least one Russell Group university (17 out of 23 students).
- 18%** have currently accepted an offer from a Russell Group University (3 out of 17 students).

Russell Group acceptances so far:

- Hugo:** Geography and Urban & Regional Planning at the University of Birmingham.
- Sophie:** Modern Languages and Cultures at the University of Sheffield.
- Connor:** Psychology with integrated Masters at the University of York.

Top 5 universities of the 2022 cycle:

Name of university	Number of applications made
Coventry	13
Loughborough	12
Lincoln	8
Nottingham Trent	8
Warwick	8

Most popular areas of study in the 2022 cycle:

Course	Number of students
Computer Science/Cyber Security/Maths	4
Geography/Environmental Earth Science	4
Criminology/Sociology	3
Sport and Exercise Science	3



Academy celebrates World Book Day with a Book Week

This year, World Book Day celebrated its 25th anniversary. To commemorate this event, Montsaye Academy held a Book Week. Promoting a love of reading and to encourage discussions about books, staff and students decorated their classroom doors with their favourite and most influential books. The winner was Miss Bateman with her Narnia doorway; ably helped by brother and sister team, Morwenna and Benjamin.



Mr Sloper and Miss Matthews held assemblies all week to promote the importance and enjoyment of reading. To complement this, a keenly contested book quiz was held in our weekly library lessons.

On World Book Day (Thursday 3rd March), students were invited to take part in a 'Don't judge a book by its cover' activity in the Learning Resource Centre. They were able to select a free book which had been wrapped up, containing only a brief synopsis of the plot outline on the outside.

Other book-related activities included a 'Design a Bookmark' competition which was won by Year 11 student Ruby M., with Year 8 student Reuben M., being voted runner up. The 'Design a Fantasy Character' competition was won by Year 7 student Rehan F., with Year 8 student, Kai Crisp and Year 7 student, Harry K., being voted as runners up.



Ruby M.
Year 11



Reuben M.
Year 8



Rehan F.
Year 7



Kai C.
Year 8



Harry K.
Year 7

Thank you to everyone who joined in and contributed. Keep reading.

Mandy Lantz - Librarian

Visit by Medical Mavericks on Year 9 ERA Day



Have you ever fancied taking your own ECG, looking at your bones and muscles using an ultrasound or having a go at keyhole surgery? Well that's exactly what all the students in Year 9 were able to do in one of their sessions for ERA day.

Lily from Medical Mavericks was our guide for the day and, not only was she able to show us how to use the equipment, she also highlighted what sort of careers are available in the NHS. She told us that within the NHS, there are over three hundred and fifty different job roles and only one of them is a doctor (even taking into account that there are dozens of different types of doctor).

The students were enthralled with stories of how different conditions and diseases are diagnosed, and how equipment has been developed to help with a speedy diagnosis. Lily showed us an infrared vein scanner and explained how the machine was able to be set to different colours, to help with looking at veins on different skin types. It can even be adjusted if the doctor using it, is colour blind. Students got to try taking blood from 'Andy' the phlebotomy arm, to have a go at testing reflexes and to take general readings on height, oxygen saturation, blood pressure and pulse.

Although some students could not find their pulse using the Pulse Doppler, I was able to show them that they were still alive by connecting them to the 3 lead ECG. We printed a copy of their heart's electrical signals and were then able to calculate their pulse readings.



Lily's party piece was being able to see if the students are still growing. She did this by identifying a gap between the ends of the bones in their wrist; this is called a growth plate and allows the bones to get longer.



My favourite activity of the session, was the keyhole surgery equipment. Trained doctors can thread the shoelaces in seconds, but typically students were aiming for 5 minutes. It was amusing watching the students trying to turn their heads around, working out which direction they needed to move the grabbers, in order to place the shoelace through the holes. Lily was brilliant and was very complimentary about how engaged our Year 9 cohort were with the activities.

There were lots of interesting questions and observations from the cohort; one of our students, King T., had this to say:

"On the year 9 ERA Day, we were fortunate enough to have Medical Mavericks come to Montsaye to give the Year 9s an opportunity to look at some very cool medical equipment."

Medical Mavericks provided the Year 9s with a fantastic time and even taught us some information about the NHS. We got the chance to see if we were going to grow any more or not, and we had the chance to experience what surgeons do and how delicate they must be during their surgeries."

There was an ultrasound for us to see what is inside of our bodies. We were also able to check our blood pressure, heart rate, and even the flow of blood in our veins and arteries. We were able to see what other people's sight was like, having different medical conditions or being in certain conditions. Overall, we had a wonderful time trying out different pieces of medical equipment."

Hopefully, we will have raised the profile of some of the possible medical careers available to our students. We have certainly given them something to think about when choosing their options over the next couple of weeks.

Lucy Cooper - Teacher of Science

MDC Qualifies for Regional Dance Platform

As reported in the February edition of our newsletter, Montsaye Dance Company recently qualified to take part in the 'U.Dance East' event.

The day-long event took place at the University of Bedfordshire on Saturday 19th March and involved both live performances and film. Students took part in three workshops with university lecturers and alumni. They also attended careers talks and completed technical rehearsals.



The culmination of the day's event was a performance to a live audience during the evening. The group performed 'Naivety' and budding musician, Year 12 student, Lone, also performed live and sang one of her new songs.

I am very proud of each and every one of our students; to even qualify for the event amongst a very strong field of applications is incredible.

Just Marvel(lous)

A few weeks ago, we were pleased to welcome to the academy, Marvel Comic illustrator, Alan Davis. Thirty of our students were invited to attend a talk and a workshop.

The day started in the Learning Resource Centre with Alan speaking about his work and about understanding the process of creating characters.



Students spent the rest of the day in one of our art rooms, creating their own characters and stories. It was a wonderful opportunity for a group of talented students; we are super proud of their results. Everyone who took part, did so with a great sense of maturity; displaying all of our ERA values; they are perfect ambassadors for the academy.

Michelle Thomas - Head of Art

The Snowdon 7 Challenge



Hello, my name is Ben and I am a sixth form student here at Montsaye Academy.

I have strong aspirations to join the police force after I have completed my A-Levels, however the military is something that I have always been passionate about and interested in. This is why I have decided to set up my own charity event 'Walk for Heroes: The Snowdon 7 Challenge'.

Mount Snowdon is the tallest peak in England and Wales, at a height of 1085m above sea level. Between 24th and 30th July 2022, I will be climbing Snowdon seven times over seven consecutive days on behalf of

the Veterans' Foundation, to raise funds and awareness for UK Armed Forces veterans.

To find out more about the event, the Veterans' Foundation and to donate, please visit my website:

<https://www.snowdon7challenge.org.uk>

If you have any questions, or wish to register your interest in joining me for one, some, or all of the days, please contact me:

enquiries@snowdon7challenge.org.uk

Find us on Facebook and Instagram: @snowdon7challenge.

Ben S. - Year 12

Celebrating International Women's Day

On international Women's Day (Tuesday 8th March), two of our student leaders, Sophie and Lone, shared their thoughts with me:

What do you think is different about your experience of being a young woman, compared with your mum, or grandparents?

Lone: My grandmothers on both sides had the key roles in the home of cooking and cleaning, and brought up my parents, aunts and uncles fairly independently of their partners. My mother tried to join the military at a young age, but was held back by her father, and was pressured to leave her job to become a stay-at-home mother when she had children, but eventually went back to work to do what she loves and became an entrepreneur and CEO of her own company. She is a big part of the freedom I now have as a woman, always pushing me to pursue my education at a high level, be independent and confident, and encouraged me to engage in what you may call 'manlier' hobbies with cadets and boxing.

Sophie: I feel that I have more varied paths for my future than my grandparents had, and that I am under less time pressure to get my personal priorities out of the way quickly than the generations above me would have been.

Are there any issues which particularly concern you?

Lone: There have been many successes in promoting feminism and equality, but one thing that we need to keep pushing for is the recognition of all women. We must apply the rules to all kinds of women and everyone who identifies as a woman, no matter their background. There is also sexism and gender stereotyping in 'women's' clothes, items, music, etc. People should be able to use makeup, wear what they like, and enjoy art and culture without restrictions.

Sophie: It seems like young people are so aware of politics now, that we struggle to have real conversations about how we actually feel, and we need freer conversations so we can understand each other without getting angry.

Is the media getting better at showing different types of women in your view?

Lone: The media is, and has always been, conflicted and corrupt. Though we have more recognition of female accomplishments, there is still obvious sexism in news with the focus of many reporters being on female appearance, relationships, and drama. Women under the spotlight of the media are much more likely to be the victims of catty fights and break-up gossip, and



International Women's Day

there are far too many articles that are still approved every day criticising women's bodies and speculating pregnancies.

Sophie: Definitely, but there's still a very long way to go. We see fewer and fewer 'token' characters, and more and more releases are starting to reject stereotypes. With social media on the rise as well, there's even more opportunity to see real people and real stories. However, there's always room for improvement, representation can still be more intersectional.

Do you think we have equal opportunities for boys and girls in schools these days?

Lone: The world is certainly taking steps in the right direction, and my family history shows the clear progression from female prejudice towards equality. Schools are taking the necessary action to present all people with equal opportunities, particularly with trips I have done in the past such as female STEM days that encourage women to look into careers in the maths and sciences.

Sophie: It's hard to tell because, in my experience, confidence is a big stumbling block for girls. I was the only one to apply last year for deputy head girl, although I knew friends who were interested. In things like STEM, I understand that even where there are opportunities, plenty of things dissuade girls from getting involved (ie, how others would react, particularly when entering male dominated fields).

What are your hopes and dreams for the future?

Lone: I enjoy making music and have done so for a long time now, but also have an avid interest in law. I'd love to pursue both somehow, maybe keeping my music on the side as a hobby with a career in criminal law, or maybe in pursuing entertainment law to work in the music industry.

Sophie: I'd like to complete my degree in languages and a masters in translation or interpreting.













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