



# MONTSAYE ACADEMY NEWS

April 2023



We are delighted to be able to share with you, our most recent Newsletter. You will see the wide range of activities which are amazing students have been involved in over the last few months.



## Our Combined Cadet Force is growing



Our Combined Cadet Force (CCF) are a strong presence here at Montsaye Academy. The recent recruitment drive has added an extra twenty-two cadets to our corps. All new recruits have shown a very positive attitude; they are very keen, which is fantastic.

### ***Why join the CCF?***

The CCF offers life-changing experiences that no other extra-curricular activity can match. Joining the CCF provides so many opportunities to challenge cadets, develop skills and encourage them to learn to work as individuals or as part of a team. Cadets quickly build confidence and learn self-discipline.

The cadets at Montsaye will be on parade at Rothwell Fair in June. This is a big opportunity for the corps to shine on behalf of Montsaye Academy in the public eye. Further activities are in the pipeline; one of which is a summer camp. If you would like further information on the CCF and the opportunities which we offer, please do not hesitate to contact me: [jsmyth@montsaye.northants.sch.uk](mailto:jsmyth@montsaye.northants.sch.uk).

**Joseph Smyth - School Staff Instructor**

## Meet our Sixth Form Student Leader Team



### Introducing Amalia...

I am studying history, English literature and French. I am also taking the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) as part of the sixth form's enrichment offer.

After sixth form, my plan is to attend university to study law. In the future I would like to have a career in law or politics.

I would say that it is very important to stay on top of any homework or notes, otherwise they can build up and become too much to handle.

I think that it's important to make any revision resources (such as flashcards) as you go along and not wait to make them until two weeks before your exams. It may feel like a hassle, but trust me it will be such a great help when the exam season starts.

As a student leader, I hope to be able to improve our sixth form so that we can help students to aspire to be the best they possibly can. I think it is incredibly important for our sixth form to be a safe space for our students and to have the capabilities to support all students through the stress of exams, university applications and moving towards the future.

### ...and Edward

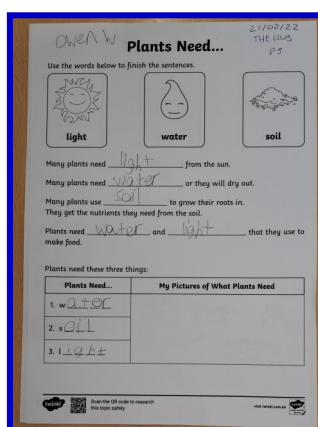
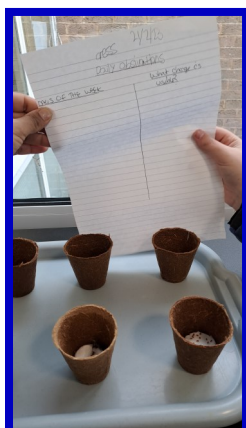
I am currently studying maths, music and drama. I aspire to attend university to carry on studying music or even performing arts.

My top tip for any student coming up to the sixth form is to make sure that you are very organised and keep on top of homework and coursework.

My main priority as a student leader is to make sure that all students in the school get the support and help which they need to enable them to achieve the high standards within our school and sixth form.



## Students study the life of vegetables in The Hub



Some of our Year 8 and Year 9 students in the Learning Support Hub have been learning about agriculture and the life of vegetables.

The group have been growing cress and checking how much they grow each day. Students have also been filling in worksheets, charting how plants grow and looking at what they need to survive.

**Raz Boksh - Teaching Assistant**

## News from our EcoClub



### Feeding the Birds

Students who attend our popular EcoClub, recently had a go at making bird feeders.

For this activity, students brought in a variety of materials which they had found at home and which they were able to recycle to use in the project. It was a great team-building exercise; everyone worked in small groups to mix together bird seed, lard, cheese and raisins.

Some of the finished birdfeeders have been hung near the field, and the rest around school in order to attract more birds to Montsaye in an attempt to broaden our biodiversity.

If you are interested in making birdfeeders yourself at home, the recipe is here: [Speedy Bird Cake](#).

**Harriet Willis - Teacher of Geography**

## RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch

Back in January, our EcoClub staff and students took part in the annual RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. This annual event was started by the RSPB to monitor how many birds there are in a certain area.

We headed out into the grounds of the academy during form time on a cold, Friday morning. We discovered that there are many birds in the vicinity of the school. During the thirty minutes we were observing, we saw over 40 birds, mainly black-headed gulls.



We submitted the data collected to the RSPB via their website. This data is then used, along with thousands of other submissions, to monitor birds across Northamptonshire and the rest of the country.





## Year 7 ERA Day

Thursday 8th February dawned and saw our Year 7 cohort participating in their first ever Montsaye ERA day. Students undertook a range of activities designed to build creative, mental and emotional skills and to prepare them for the varied challenges which they face in life.



**Helping Hands**



There were sessions on e-safety, mental health, a team-building STEM challenge (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), involving giant marshmallows and dry spaghetti, a craft activity and physical skills with one of our PE teachers, Miss Lauder.



**Team-building STEM challenge**

Form groups spent most of the day with their tutors, helping to build a deeper relationship with this key member of staff, as well as creating closer friendships within their form group.

We believe that promoting the mental and physical health of our students is fundamental and as part of the ERA day and our PSHE programme, we were delighted to invite the 'Upfront Theatre Company' into school. The theatre company performed 'In Harm's Way', a play which follows the friendship of three students over a two year period and explores mental health.

Following on from the performance, the actors provided us with a thirty minute post-show lecture, picking through the main issues and answering questions prompted by the story.



**'In Harm's Way'**

These dramatic portrayals are a powerful way of teaching our students about safe, healthy ways of coping with the challenges of life, and where to find help if things are difficult.



**Talking Point Tombola**

Our ERA days are much anticipated; they are informative, engaging and enjoyed by all who are involved in them.

**Emma Lopes - SMSC Co-ordinator**

## Year 7 aspire to greater things

A group of our Year 7 students were recently invited to the University of Northampton to take part in a series of workshops.

Upon arrival, we were met by the university student ambassadors who were to act as our tour guides for the day. Throughout the day, they told us about their life at university; they were passionate about the whole experience.



The first workshop took place in the hair, make-up and prosthetics department. The tutor had set up individual work stations so that our students could create realistic injuries and cuts. Some of the students looked like they had been bitten by zombies. The second workshop was a physical theatre workshop with Rory who has been to Montsaye Academy on several occasions. Rory's workshop allowed the students to express themselves through physical theatre.

The third workshop quickly followed; this was held in the university's very own TX studio which had full size cameras and a green screen. Our students had the opportunity to take photos and to create a photo story. After a quick break for lunch it was our chance to go and see the brand new accommodation that could be rented...fully equipped with TV and Wi-Fi. The final activity of the day was a law lecture which was very informative. The whole day was a wonderful experience for our students and certainly made them start to think about their future aspirations.

**Tim Shea - Head of Performing Arts**

## Budding gymnasts too...



Our Year 7 students have been taking part in gymnastics sessions during their PE lessons. Students were split into groups and worked on building routines based around balancing.

Everyone displayed excellent team-work and there were some really exciting ideas and wonderful talent shining through.

It was lovely to watch our students working hard and demonstrating all of our ERA values of **#Excellence**, **#Resilience** and **#Aspiration**. We look forward to seeing what they may achieve in future PE lessons.

**Mr N Owens - Teacher of PE**





## Year 8 students participate in a Zoom call across the world

We were delighted to be able to host a Zoom call with award-winning American author, Lois Lowry and our Year 8 students. Location and time difference didn't stand in our way thanks to technology.

Students have been reading and studying Lois Lowry's dystopian novel, *The Giver*, in lessons so it was amazing to have the opportunity to speak to the author directly and have her answer our questions.

In preparation for the Zoom call, students spent some time in lessons creating and crafting questions to ask to Lois in the session. The questions presented to Lois were fantastic, with many of our Year 8s asking about the processes involved with creating dystopian fiction and asking her to share her top writing tips for aspiring authors.



Afterwards, some of the cohort shared the following thoughts about our Zoom call:

"The experience was enthralling and exciting. We were able to speak to Lois directly and get all of our questions answered. It was great".

"I found the Q&A very interesting, I learned a lot about her life and where she lives".

"A very informative and interesting experience - a great opportunity".

Thank you to our students for creating such interesting questions and to all who read them aloud to Lois during the call. We are very grateful to Lois for her time and look forward to being able to hold similar sessions for our students in the future.

**Steffi Dixon - Second in English**

## Year 8 investigate fake news

In their computer science lessons, students in Year 8 have been learning about how to spot fake news and fact-check information which they read on the Internet and social media.



Elloise W.

Students have looked at a fake news story which spread around America a few years ago - the Tree Octopus.

During the lessons, students created their own interpretations of a fake image of a tree octopus; we would like to share a couple with you.

**A man from Ohio has found a rare species of octopus preserved in amber!**



George H.

I am sure you will agree, they are wonderful pieces of work. Well done everyone; keep up the hard work

Stephen Lea - Head of Computer Science

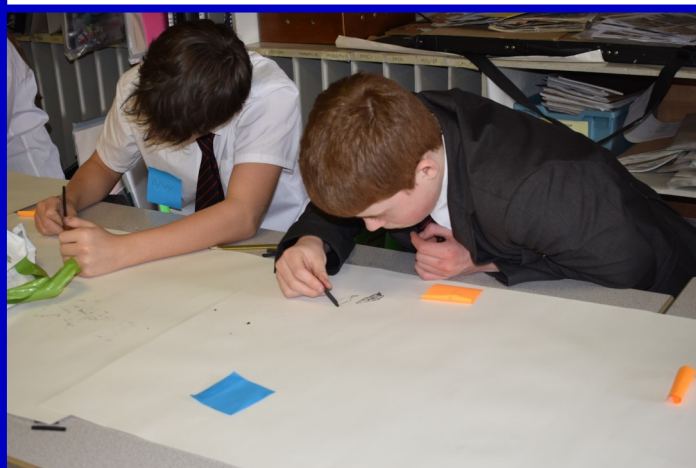
## Year 9 UniClub

Our Year 9 UniClub is run in partnership with the University of Northampton.

This wonderful project will see two groups of Year 9 students complete university-level modules over the next term. The first session recently took place and was for the module dedicated to Art and Sculpture.



Students started off by playing an ice breaker game and then moved on to create drawings of natural objects that were hidden in carrier bags. Students also learnt about Andy Goldsworthy, an English sculptor who has created some fantastic land art with leaves, ice and snow.



Students thoroughly embraced the whole experience, it was lovely to watch them engaging in the workshop with such enthusiasm.

We look forward to seeing some of their sculptures over the next few weeks.

Claire Petchey - Year 9 Progress Leader



## Year 10 rise to the challenge

Our Year 10 GCSE food students have been working hard in their trial examinations.



The remit this time was to produce a dish which showcased their technical skills (low, middle or high), with pastry, bread or pasta.

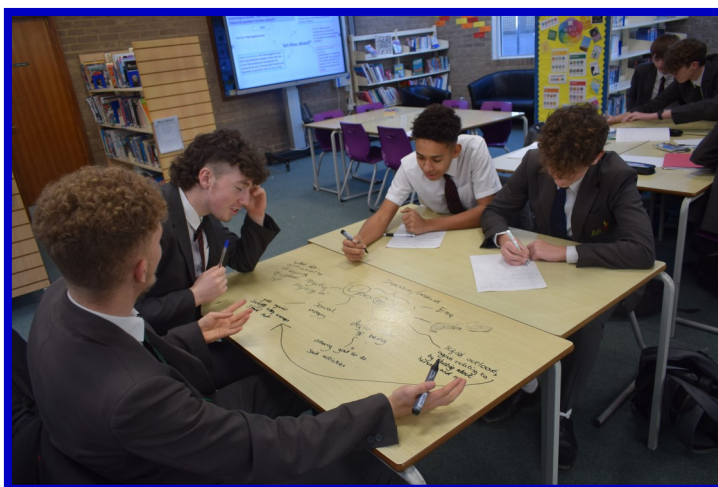


Students produced some fantastic dishes, true examples of our ERA values of **Excellence**, **Resilience** and **Aspiration**. We are looking forward to seeing what else they produce as the GCSE course continues.

Gillian Brotherston - Teacher of Food

## Year 11 on the road to their exams

Year 11 English revision sessions are in full force, taking place fortnightly after school on a Monday.



Students have been taking part in a range of activities, helping them to work towards their target grades and learning useful revision tips for their upcoming exams. They have been 'speed-dating'; a useful tool which encourages them to compare the similarities and differences between poems for the literature exam.



Students have also been working on building analytical layers, by exploding quotations together.

The resilience which students are showing as they work through the pressure of Year 11 is admirable. It is also wonderful to see the cohort learning from each other, as they build the extensive knowledge they need for their exams.

I am looking forward to seeing more students attending revision sessions in the run up to their exams.

Nina Matthews - Second in English

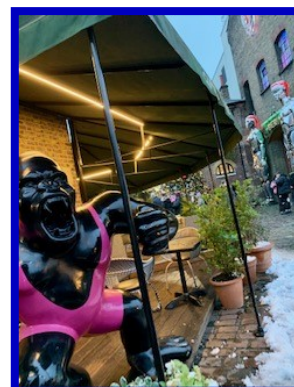


## Art, photography and design trips resume...London calling



Back in December, we made our first post-Covid visit to London with our A-level art, photography and design technology students. It was wonderful to get back to London, even with the freezing weather, and enjoy the sights and sounds of our capital city.

Students visited the Victoria and Albert Museum to experience the 'Fashion' collection and to also view the 'Africa Fashion' exhibition. The museum has had lots of development completed during the three years since we last visited.



Our next stop was Camden Market; students tasted the street food which is sold in abundance and soaked up the atmosphere of the market. This area of London is fantastic for our students to see and feel the culture around them. We are looking forward to seeing the photographic evidence of this trip in their portfolio projects to help develop their A-level studies.

**Natalie Edney - Teacher of Design**

## And again...

Our Year 11 art and photography students had a wonderful and jam-packed trip to London.



After starting with a visit to the Tate Modern, we then walked through to Covent Garden. As the light of the day was fading, we took a trip on the London Eye and enjoyed a Thames River Cruise.



Fading light, objects and layers are the focus of the forthcoming assessment. We are hoping that the photographs which were taken can be used as part of this focus.

The cohort were excellent ambassadors for the academy. They arrived early at every meeting point, took hundreds of photographs, walked everywhere sensibly and didn't complain once; we were really proud to be teachers at Montsaye.

**Michelle Thomas - Head of Art and Photography**

## Year 13 students take the lead



Year 13 students who are involved in the sixth form sport and physical activity course have delivered coaching sessions to some students within Key Stage 3.



The group have taken the lead in some core PE lessons and at extra-curricular clubs, as part of their assessment for one of the units on the course.



We are very proud of our students who worked extremely hard and planned six weeks' worth of skill-based activities which they then delivered to the Key Stage 3 cohort.

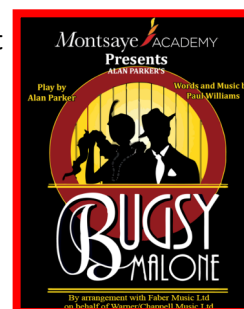
Alex Jordan - Teacher of PE

## Drama Department News

### Bugsy...

We are delighted to announce that our re-arranged performance of Bugsy Malone is now scheduled to take place in July.

Rehearsals are going well, props are ordered and we are ready to splurge some hoodlums.



Keep an eye out on our weekly bulletin and social media platforms for further information.

### Grant news...

Back in December, we applied for some funding from Rothwell Town Council to improve the stage lighting facilities here at Montsaye academy.

We are delighted to announce that we were lucky enough to have been successful in our application and have received £1750. We have put the money to good use and purchased a 'follow spot' (soon to be used in Bugsy and our dance show), some LED lighting and a new desk.

### Annie...



A group of our students recently enjoyed a 'perfect 10' performance of **Annie** at the Curve Theatre in Leicester.

Starring **Strictly Come Dancing** judge, Craig Revel Horwood as Miss Hannigan, **Annie** is set in New York

during The Great Depression of the 1930s. Annie lives a life of misery at Miss Hannigan's orphanage until she is chosen to spend Christmas with a famous billionaire.

With its familiar songs including **'It's the Hard Knock Life'**, our students had a wonderful evening and were credit to the academy.



Tim Shea - Head of Performing Arts



Montsaye Community Sports Centre have some excellent value parent/guardian and student membership packages available.

See below for full details:

## MONTSAYE ACADEMY PARENT/ GUARDIAN MEMBERSHIP PACKAGE

Now at the discounted rate of **£19** per month for a Gym Membership or **£24** per month for Gym/Swim Membership.

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Excellence Resilience Aspiration



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For more information tel: **01536 713708** or email:  
[sportscentre@montsayesportsandfitness.co.uk](mailto:sportscentre@montsayesportsandfitness.co.uk)

## MONTSAYE ACADEMY STUDENT MEMBERSHIP PACKAGE (AGES 11-16)\*

Now at the discounted rate of **£16** per month for a Gym Membership or **£21** per month for Gym/Swim Membership.

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ACCESS TO GYM &  
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**MONTSAYE COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTRE**

For more information tel: **01536 713708** or email:  
[sportscentre@montsayesportsandfitness.co.uk](mailto:sportscentre@montsayesportsandfitness.co.uk)

\*U16's must be accompanied by a responsible adult (18 years+).