



# MONTsaye ACADEMY NEWS

December 2020



I am writing this at a time when the end of term and Christmas are fast approaching and the weather outside is quite wintry. We have all had to learn new ways of working to keep ourselves and others safe. The governors of Montsaye are now adept at meeting through Teams and Zoom, although I know we all look forward to some face-to-face contact once more.

Montsaye, as with all schools, has had to work within different constraints since September. I do know that there has been some fantastic team work and without the joint effort of students, parents and staff, the school would not have been able to function as effectively as it has over the last few months. Thank you very much for working as a community with Montsaye, it is much appreciated.

I know that most of us are looking forward to seeing family

members over the Christmas period.

It has been a pleasure to see Montsaye's charitable work, whether this be money donated to Children in Need or the ongoing donations to the Kettering Food Bank. Can I please urge you to keep an eye out too for those in our local area for whom Christmas may be more challenging? The Kindness Calendar

for December 2020, which the school has recently shared on social media, gives us all something to reflect upon.

On behalf of Montsaye's governing body, I would like to wish you a happy and safe festive season.



Angela Lloyd - Chair of Governors

## Year 7 get creative...

**O**ur Year 7 English groups have been taking part in the Connected Creative 500 Word Malala Yousafzai short story competition.

A few weeks ago, all students in the year group entered the competition during their English lessons. They were all extremely resilient to finish their stories in an extremely short deadline.

The submitted entries are now being assessed and voted upon by each group to crown the class and, eventually, year group winner.



After the judging of the national competition had taken place, we heard that one of our students, Andre, has received a commendation for his entry. Everyone in the English department

would like to say a huge congratulations to Andre for his effort and dedication, especially his English teacher Mrs Briffa who is extremely proud! What a fantastic achievement; well done Andre!

Adam Sloper - Second in English

## Our Head Boy and Head Girl...

**W**e feel very safe around school this term despite the difficult situation everyone finds themselves in with COVID.

Masks are worn in corridors and the year group pods and seating plan system reassures us that risk is being managed well.

Where students did isolate, they were able to attend all lessons on-line. Teachers are doing everything they can to make things 'normal': practical science lessons have started again and we are very grateful to have after school sessions in all subject and workshop sessions in the design block.

Teachers are doing their very best and deliver lessons that maintain the quality of teaching. Our teachers have gone out of their way to provide us with home learning resources, revision resources, after school revision and one to one sessions.

The many charity events here at Montsaye this term have kept spirits high and everyone is looking forward to Christmas Sparkle Day!

The teachers have done SO much for us, both during lockdown and since, we'd like to share our appreciation and gratitude to them here, wishing them and everyone else in the school community a very happy Christmas.

Harry and Esme

# Students act our age for Children In Need!



We couldn't let this year's Children in Need event go by without making a contribution in one way or another (even though our usual doughnut and cake sale in the LRC was out of the question).

This year's Children in Need theme was the 'Act Your Age Challenge'. As Montsaye is currently in its 65th year, our students were set a series of 65 second fitness challenges in their PE lessons; how many press-ups, how many 'keepie uppies', how many hockey push-passes, how many chest passes, how many two foot hurdle hops... the list goes on.



In order to facilitate cashless donations, parents and students were able to use our online payment system, Scopay to make contributions to this wonderful charity.

There was fierce competition between the year groups and by the end of the week, a grand total of £428.50 had been raised.



Well done Montsaye community!



Emma Lopes - SMSC Co-ordinator

## CCF On Parade Again...

Montsaye CCF are now parading once again within safe social distancing guidelines. We are pleased to announce that we have welcomed seven new cadets.

We have been looking at first aid skills, drill, tactics and cooking in the field.

The parade takes place every Thursday after school 3.00pm to 5.00pm and is open to students in Year 9 and above.



We are delighted to report that four of our cadets have recently been promoted: Ben, Harrison and Darcy now hold the positions of Lance Corporal and Emily is now Company Sargent Major.

If your child is in Year 9, has an interest in outdoor activities and would like further information, please feel free to contact the CCF group on: [mchattaway@montsaye.northants.sch.uk](mailto:mchattaway@montsaye.northants.sch.uk).

Mark Chattaway - School Staff Instructor

## Social Action and Fund-Raising

Following the success of our Children in Need fundraising in November, we were straight on to our next challenge. The pods have seen a flurry of preparations and Montsaye Academy students have been planning charity events and acts of kindness to be shared with the local community.

Each pod was challenged to raise at least £100 for school equipment. We have almost raised enough to purchase some equipment for the two outdoor recreation areas and hope to install these early in the new year. Form reps have been working together to decide on the best items to purchase and we just need a little more money to be raised to make our plans a reality.

Year 7 have been guessing the number of sweets in a jar and organised an 'elf treasure hunt'. Year 8 have planned some fun, competitive games, whilst Year 11 have gone back to basics, shaking buckets and raising money the old fashioned way – they are, after all busy preparing for their mock examinations as well. For parents who wish to contribute using modern technology, the 'Scopay' accounts have been made ready to receive donations too.

Our Head Girl and Head Boy challenged all year groups to support those families particularly struggling at the moment, and all students and staff have been bringing in items for the local food bank. In addition to this, Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 students have been collecting items to go into shoeboxes which are then being given to residents of local care homes, Beech Close and Cheaney Court. These boxes include Christmas cookies baked by our GCSE students and Christmas cards which have been written by the sixth form, Year 10 health and social care students and some of our Year 7 students. The heart-warming messages written by our students are sure to bring a festive glow to local residents.

Finally, and as is our tradition, the last day of term (Thursday 17th December) will see us raise money for 'Save the Children'. In return for a £1 donation, students will be able to wear something on a festive theme; some Christmas sparkle, Christmas themed clothing or a Christmas Jumper if they have one.

Even when life seems difficult and it seems we are lurching from one challenge to the next, Montsaye students have been tireless in their support for others this term. Donations for Save the Children and Montsaye Outdoor Equipment Fund can be accessed via Scopay.

**Emma Lopes - SMSC Co-ordinator**

## Staff get-together virtually and raise money for charity at the same time...



On Friday 27th November, sixteen intrepid members of staff set sail (virtually) for a night of intrigue and murder.

It was a chilly night on board the RMS Whodunnit, particularly for Dr McDogood, a terribly decent philanthropist and all-round jolly nice chap, who was found dead in the pavilion pool. Two Montsaye Academy staff teams raced to solve the murder-mystery and had a lot of fun in the process.

Staff rose to the challenge of dressing up, adopting hilarious accents and generally over-acting their hearts out. We won't tell you who the murderer was in case you would like to try it out at home with friends and family, but our winning team was Team 2, led by Miss Pickering.

The whole evening was a 'Macmillan Games Night In' event and, as well as being a real boost to wellbeing, we raised over £100 for Macmillan Cancer Research.

If you are looking for some virtual fun with friends and family, why not head over to the website where you will find full information: [Macmillan Cancer Support Games Night In](https://www.macmillan.org.uk/games-night-in). You can choose from a number of activities including 'Whodunnit' which we were involved in, a Horse Racing Night, a quiz Night or Trapped! An Escape Room.

**Emma Lopes - SMSC Co-ordinator**





## Community-spirited student launches village 'Fridge' Initiative



**Y**ear 13 student, Emily, has taken the lead on a new project in her village Broughton, by setting up and running an initiative called 'The Community Fridge'. I spoke to Emily to find out more about this amazing project...

### So, what is a 'Community Fridge'?

It's pretty much as it sounds! It's a fridge that is installed in a public space within a community, that allows people to share any surplus food they may have. We can then support members of the community through the re-distribution of food. It is for anyone to use, you don't necessarily have to be 'disadvantaged' to take from the fridge, it really is for anyone in the community!



### How did you hear about the project, and what made you want to start one?

I originally read about the Community Fridge Initiative in a health and wellbeing magazine, whilst I was on holiday in Cornwall. I had just visited the Eden Project and I was keen to have a more active role in helping the environment. Food waste is a major contributor to climate issues, therefore re-distributing food that would go to waste is also saving the planet! Since then, we have also been impacted by Covid, with many people losing their jobs. Therefore, it was also another way that the village could support families who may be struggling at the minute.

### How does it work?

In basic terms, we receive food donations from supermarkets and members of the community; these go in our fridge and shelves. Then members of the community come and take the food they need out of the fridge and take it home to use it.

### What have you needed to organise in order to get the fridge up and running?

There has been so much to do! I had to find a location for the fridge (it is roomed in Broughton Village Hall), source the fridge itself, have kitchen units installed around the fridge, arrange insurance, recruit volunteers to look after the fridge, find donors, fundraise, promote the fridge within the community... the list is endless and it has certainly kept me busy!

### What are your hopes and plans for the fridge long-term?

I am really hopeful that the fridge will be able to open at the start of next month, so that will be a major achievement for me and the rest of my team! In the long term, we hope to open an area that can be used for community activities, as well as a coffee shop drop-in, where we will run support groups for members of the community.

What an amazing project Emily! We are really proud of you, and we are sure it will be a massive help to all members of your community. For more information about the Community Fridge initiative, please follow this link: [Community Fridge](#).

**Laura McNish - Sixth Form Centre Manager**

## Students are making amazing progress with reading skills...

For those of you who are not familiar with the Accelerated Reader scheme, it is a computer-based programme which we use to monitor reading practice and progress. It helps us to guide students to books that are on their individual reading level. The student will read a book, followed by a short quiz to check if they have understood it.

Congratulations to Sonny W in Year 7 who is our first Accelerated Reader Millionaire for this academic year. At the time of writing this, Sonny has read 1,066,049 words and passed twenty-three quizzes since the start of term in September.

Sonny was awarded a certificate and a gold reader star. There are several more students well on their way to their million word mark.

Some of our Year 7 students have been working hard on Pearson's Rapid Reader scheme which we also operate in school. The students have recently received their merit certificates acknowledging their progress.



An independent study by the National Foundation for Educational Research has discovered that students using the Rapid Reading programme make more than twice the normal rate of progress in reading.

We are extremely proud of the efforts which all of our students are making. Keep reading...



Mandy Lantz - Librarian

## ... and using technology to help them with their French lessons

Congratulations to Fen in Year 11 who has learnt over 1500 words in French on the Memrise app.



Memrise is a language learning app which was founded in 2010. It has grown to being used by more than 50 million people in 189 countries around the world and is an excellent resource for learning individual words or phrases. During the first lockdown earlier this year, Fen spent lots of time improving his range of vocabulary by spending time each day on the website and/or the app. His performance in listening and reading tasks/assessments has significantly improved as a result.

Fen has displayed the core values of Montsaye Academy: **Excellence** in the number of words which are now embedded, **Resilience** in the commitment to spend time each day practising new words and embedding previously learnt vocabulary and **Aspiration** in his determination to aim for the highest grades at GCSE by going above and beyond.

Our students in Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 have been given Memrise vocabulary to learn for homework. They should aim to follow Fen's example and be spending five to ten minutes, three times per week, learning the key words.

Richard Stanton - Head of Languages



**T**his term, students in Year 7 and Year 8 have been learning about human rights in a cross-curricular scheme encompassing PSHE, ethics and philosophy and geography.

We have heard about hobbies, parents and siblings. We have learned about favourite holidays, interests, animals and friends. It has helped us remember happier times and also revealed some fascinating family stories.

Students shared losses and treasured memories, as well as their aspirations and hopes about future careers.

It has been fascinating for teachers, tutors and other students to be able to find out a little more about the diverse groups of young people which we have in the Year 7 and Year 8 pods.

## Sixth Form Christmas Charity Drive

**A**fter what seemed like the LONGEST year in existence, we were delighted that Christmas finally landed in the sixth form pod. The decorations were up, the festive socks were out in force, and I was sure I saw seen a Santa hat or two lurking!

Merriment aside, the student leadership team had been busy organising a variety of charity events to get involved in.

I'll hand you over to them to tell you all about them....

### Christmas Jumper Day

As a sixth form, we were excited to be raising money for Save The Children and their annual Christmas Jumper Day. For every student sporting their jumper, £1 was donated to the cause. We were still wearing appropriate attire to fit the Montsaye dress code, but with a bit of extra festivity to match the decorations in our sixth form bubble.

**Sophie, Year 12 - Deputy Head Girl**

### Food Bank Donations

Kettering Foodbank exists because no one should go hungry. This year at Monstaye, every year group pod was been given a box to fill with non-perishable food items and essentials for local people in need. All food items were donated to Kettering Food Bank to go to helping someone in need and hopefully improving their life.

**Harry, Year 13 - Head Boy**

### Christmas Tree Competition

Harry and I arranged a Christmas tree decorating competition within the sixth form. This was to raise money for Neuroblastoma UK. We have chosen this charity, as one of our old teachers is facing the battle of Neuroblastoma with his son. It is an aggressive cancer with minimal treatment options and a cause close to our hearts. Students were asked to buy a bauble from us for £1 each, to decorate it and to place on their tree within the sixth form; there was a prize for the best decorated bauble and recognition of the best tree.

**Esme, Year 13 - Head Girl**

And finally, a bit of creative, festive fun...

### Christmas Card Competition

This term, the Deputy Head Girl and Head Boy organised a Christmas card competition throughout the whole school. Students were asked to design their own Christmas cards to be 'posted' via the boxes which had been placed in each year group's pod office. The cards were shortlisted by the student leadership team, then passed to Mrs Gabbi, who selected her favourite three cards. The cards were sold in support of the school. Keep your eyes posted on our Twitter account for the results; why not give us a follow: [@MontsayeSF](https://twitter.com/MontsayeSF).

**Ben, Year 12 - Deputy Head Boy**



**Laura McNish**  
Sixth Form Centre  
Manager





## Year 10 Wellbeing Morning



Our Year 10 students recently took some time to focus on wellbeing. Staff explained that our emotions can sometimes feel like a roller-coaster, going up and down throughout the day, but that it is important to recognise these emotions and to focus on healthy ways in which to deal with them.

Students were taught about mindfulness which is the process of focussing attention on the present moment, concentrating on breathing and thinking of the five senses; what they could see, hear, feel, smell and taste.



They were encouraged to take part in a mindfulness colouring activity and also had discussions about the five ways to wellbeing:

- To keep learning (we grow when we challenge ourselves to learn something new).
- To keep connected (with friends and family through talking and communicating with each other).
- To take notice (to be in the moment and to focus on the positive things).
- To give (even something as simple as a compliment).
- To be active (to keep the body moving; exercising releases those feel-good chemicals in the brain that make us feel great).



We hope that the students take away what they learned from the activities and are able to put them into practice.

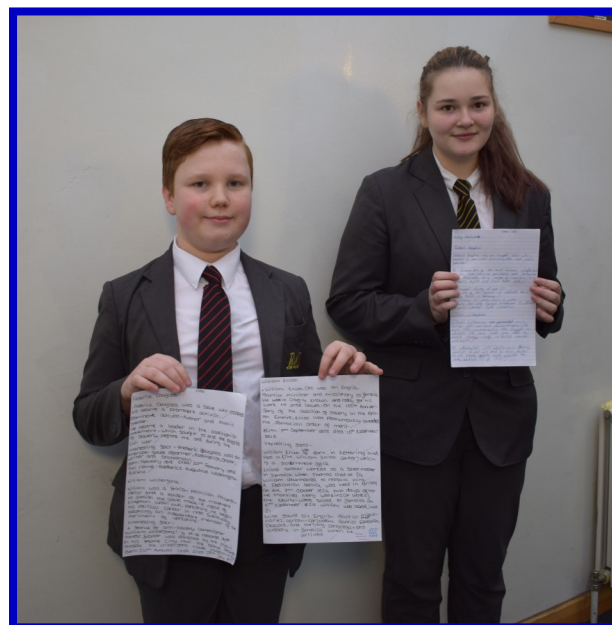
**Fran Malins - Year 10 Progress Leader**

## Investigating our history

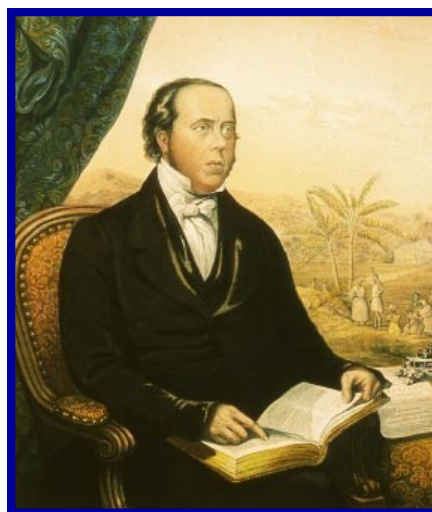
During October, in their history lessons, our Year 8 students took a look at Black History Month.

For their homework, they were tasked with researching the lives of influential members of history around the Black History theme.

Lorena and Owen both submitted outstanding pieces of work involving Frederick Douglas, William Wilberforce and William Knibb.



Many of you may know that William Knibb has links to the local area. Born in Market Street, Kettering in 1803, William fought tirelessly against slavery in Jamaica, the result of which contributed to the abolishment of slavery in 1834 by the UK government.



Well done Lorena and Owen, keep up the good work.

**Miss Collins - Teacher of History**



# Lockdown #2: Through The Eyes of a Year 8 Student

As I heard the staggering news that a second lockdown was at hand, my heart fell to pieces. I had multiple questions in my head when I heard this horrendous news. I began to think of how people would cope again and how it would feel to once more be locked in your home.

The Prime Minister had already said at the press conference on the 31<sup>st</sup> October, that we could only go out if we could not work from home or if we needed to shop, exercise etc. All of these thoughts began to slowly creep into my mind because I just could not believe it. Deep down inside me, I felt bad for some people who have been trying to get back on their feet since the last lockdown. Now these people must depend once more on the furlough scheme for help. As I listened on, the Prime Minister further explained in detail what we should expect in the next couple of weeks. I was thrilled to hear that schools, universities and colleges were still permitted to be open because I just imagined myself, sitting at home and having another set of online lessons. I was also happy that some people were told that if they could not work from home they could go out to work. I was quite sad that the NHS had challenging times ahead of them.

From my perspective, I thought that this national lockdown was going to bring a lot of ups and downs, but as things stood, the future looked promising. On 5<sup>th</sup> November, everybody was moaning about how this further step that the government had taken would turn out to be a mistake, but then everyone turned to talking about the US election. Most people I know seemed to be interested in the election. There was a sense of tension amongst most people, about who was going to win. I personally was happy that it took away some of the stress of the lockdown. People began talking about it everywhere, in school, on the news and on social media.

I was quite happy when I heard that there was a vaccine that had been proven to be about 90% effective. The vaccine is produced by BioNTech. BioNTech is a German company. There were two scientists whose work was vital in the making of the vaccine and their names are Ugur Sahin and Ozlem Tureci. The Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, emphasised the big scientific step on the development of the vaccine. This also gave me another sense of hope that the second wave was going to be taken care of.



So far, the school has had a few changes but now we must open at least one window and the doors must also be open. We are always persuaded to wear our face masks and to use hand sanitisers. Teachers keep their social distance and try their best to make us understand what they are teaching even though they can't come close to us. This lockdown has not been perfect but all round I feel quite positive on the inside. This might not be the same for everybody because this lockdown will send some people back into extremely hard, demanding, and tough times.

I have had a hugely different experience in Year 8, compared to Year 7. Coronavirus has severely affected my life in this year group. For a start, we do not see other year groups. We only see other year groups at the start and at the end of the day. Year 8 has the earliest break time, this is after our first lesson, then we have two and a half lessons before lunch. Year 8 have their fourth lesson 30 minutes before and 30 minutes after lunch, which is a bit awkward because we go out of the lesson mid-way to have lunch.

Our lessons have had quite a few differences since last year. In Year 7, if a student needed the teacher to explain something to them, the teacher would walk straight to their desk and answer the question, but now the teacher has to strain their voice from the front of the classroom or they wear a face mask and come within two metres of the student's desk. When they wear a face mask, it is not helpful because it is hard to hear what the teacher is saying. It is a lot better that we don't walk to each lesson and that we are in the same classroom all day, but I personally feel bad for some teachers because they might have to come from the design area, all the way to the maths area (and both departments are at opposite ends of the school).

King - Year 8

Thank you King, for this insight into your feelings on the second national lockdown of 2020.

Jon Roberts - Year 8 Progress Leader

Now is a great time to start your fitness journey, pop into the Sports Centre and see how they can help you get ready for a wonderful 2021!

