



MONTSAYE ACADEMY NEWS

December 2021



This newsletter is, as always, testament to all the pupils and staff who continue to ensure that learning, whatever its form, continues to take place, even in the most challenging of circumstances.

I remain eternally proud of our achievements - the incredible drive to give back through charity is also in keeping with our values, of always aspiring to do more and achieve more for ourselves and others. This is humbling.

One of the most fantastic things has been that we have been able to see pupils across year groups work with each other, in particular the sixth form have been able to share their experiences, work with student reps across all key stages, run lunch time clubs, organise Christmas fairs, and highlight themselves as the role models that they are. We also have the new sixth form building to look forward to in the next few years, which will enhance the experience for all our pupils.

We were also able to hold our first live performance of 'All together Now!' in November. What a treat that was for everyone and an array of singing and dancing to lift everyone's spirits. We have such talented pupils across all our year groups and a great performing arts department, who are very much looking forward to hosting a summer performance of Matilda; we absolutely can't wait.

The many activities that you see here illustrate the tireless dedication of our fantastic staff - at the time of writing they are busy marking mocks exams for Year 11 and Year 13 in a period of some uncertainty. I have to say that my staff have stepped up this term and gone above and beyond to ensure that we have been able to take on all the activities you see in this newsletter, and more.

The celebrations of pupil achievement that we have going on this week is a timely reminder that our pupils are amazing and deserve the absolute best and at Montsaye we always strive for our ERA values.

I wish everyone in the Montsaye community and very restful Christmas break.

Meena Gabbi - Principal



Student Leadership Team Appointments



Following on from the appointments of our new Head Girl and Head Boy, Sophie and Ben, we are delighted to announce our Deputy Student Leaders for the academic year 2021-2022.

Well done to Sam, Lone and Franco. You are a credit to the academy and we look forward to working with our student leadership team over the next few months and beyond.

Laura McNish
Sixth Form Centre Manager

Congratulations

I would like to introduce you to Shaun Barker, our new parent governor at Montsaye Academy.

Shaun has a child who started at Montsaye this academic year. He sees it as a privilege to become a governor at Montsaye and is looking forward to supporting the academy as it continues to progress. We welcome Shaun on board and look forward to working with him.



Congratulations go too, to another of our governors, Robyn Allen.

Robyn is one of the academy's community governors. She has just become not only the first female, but also the youngest President of Northamptonshire's Chamber of Commerce.

We look forward to hearing more from Robyn, who is an ex-Montsaye student, about her exciting new role. I'm sure Robyn will be an inspiration to students present and future.



Angela Lloyd - Chair of Governors



Thank you...

I would like to take this opportunity to recognise and acknowledge all staff for their hard work this term.

On behalf of all the governors, I send our thanks to them for teaching and supporting our children with their fantastic team spirit.

Charity is at the heart of academy life

Our students have always shown a deep interest in supporting their wider community. This has been hard to achieve in recent months but in 2021-2022, we are determined to make raising money and awareness a key focus once again. Student reps have debated which charities to support and have been putting together their plans for this academic year.

Year 7: Children in Need

Students in Year 7 took part in a Christmas Fair during the afternoon of Friday 17th December. There was a range of stalls and activities, including a 'Chocolate Tombola' and a 'Guess the Weight of the Jar of Sweets'. Year 7 students were encouraged to bring in a couple of pounds to spend on the stalls with all proceeds (£267.00) going towards Children in Need.



Year 8: Cransley Hospice Trust



Local charity, Cransley Hospice Trust, is at the heart of our community and Year 8 were very keen that we should support this important institution. Plans are being discussed for possible fund-raising events.

The Year 8 student reps are very creative and enthusiastic. Progress Leaders, Mrs Edney and Miss Collins can't wait to get involved too - expect something exciting in 2022.

Year 9: Children's Air Ambulance

The student reps in Year 9 are really keen to get physical with their fundraising and are hoping to collaborate with the PE department on a big event in the Spring, when the weather is better. This will be a sponsored event, together with additional fundraising initiatives taking place at the same time.

Year 9 will be working with one of our Year 12 students, Sam, to plan the event as well as linking up with local Air Ambulance coordinators.



Year 10: Food Bank

Year 10 have decided to support our local food bank. We all know how much the food banks have been a lifeline for families during the pandemic, and sadly continue to be needed.

Students will organise several collections during the course of the academic year and will work alongside our Head Girl, Sophie. Miss Pickering, Progress Leader for Year 10 will also be getting involved.

Year 11

Students will decide which charity they wish to support over the course of the next few weeks; their GCSE mocks have delayed the final decision but watch this space.

We will keep you updated with running totals and photos of our events on our social media platforms. Merry Christmas and thank you for all your support with these initiatives. It means so much to our wonderful students to be able to make a difference.

Emma Lopes - SMSC Coordinator

Operation Sceptre: Kettering Town Neighbourhood Policing Team



We recently welcomed Kettering Town Neighbourhood Policing Team into the academy, to talk to our students about a national initiative called Operation Sceptre.

The police team have been working in schools, educating both students and staff. They delivered a series of informative sessions to all of our year groups. We hope that this will go some way to stop this terrible and potentially life-changing crime, which is becoming more prolific.

Students were given the opportunity to witness first-hand what happens when a police officer arrests a suspected offender (ably assisted by Alex in Year 10).

Ellie, also in Year 10, was asked to hide a metal spoon amongst her clothing and then walk through a metal detector to see what happened; the spoon set the detector off just like a metal object would do in an airport security system.

Both nationally and locally, knife crime is increasing, resulting in a vicious circle. The more knife crime there is, the more victims decide to carry knives to feel 'safe', and the more it escalates.

We are very grateful to the policing team for their time and hope that our students have taken some important information away from the sessions.



Jon Berridge - Assistant Vice Principal

CCF Commemorate Remembrance Day

On Wednesday 11th November, staff and students at Montsaye Academy commemorated Remembrance Day with our Combined Cadet Force holding a small ceremony in the Learning Resource Centre.

Cadets spoke about what Remembrance Day means to them. Year 8 student (and proud cadet) Daniel A., read out the famous poem by John McCrae 'In Flanders Field'. This was followed by an academy-wide, one minute silence, at 11.00am.

Our Combined Cadet Force are now officially affiliated with the Rothwell branch of the Royal British Legion. The branch closed in 1954 and has now been re-established. Our CCF attended the Remembrance Day Parade in Rothwell, alongside the Royal British Legion, on Sunday 14th November. This was the first time that this has happened in nearly 70 years; Montsaye CCF making history.

We are honoured to be supporting the Royal British Legion..

Mark Chattaway - CCF School Staff Instructor





The Human Library

We have been running our 'MADE in Rothwell' (Montsaye Academy Diversity and Equality) group for almost a year. A group of students regularly meet on a Wednesday at lunchtime to have discussions, share concerns and plan projects for educating and informing fellow students. This term, one of our key aims has been broadening our horizons and looking at what it means to see our school community as diverse.

In order to help explore a wider a range of cultures we decided to introduce the 'Human Library'. This idea originated in Copenhagen; it involves people simply sharing their story and creating open communication where we can learn more about the world from hearing each other's experiences and perspectives. We alternate the Human Library sessions with our regular meetings. There is a short talk followed by a Q&A session.

So far we have been privileged to hear from three members of staff:

Mrs Savajani told us of her early life and education in India and her experiences of moving to the UK, speaking several languages and combining cultures in her family home.

Miss Jansons took us on a journey through 20th century history and shared her grandparents' experiences of fleeing their home country of Latvia, eventually arriving in Corby and getting jobs in the steelworks. We heard how their story of struggle has taught Miss Jansons the value of resilience.

Finally, we heard **Mrs Pinney-Filaiti's** story of leaving the UK with the aspiration of seeking job opportunities and adventures in Lagos, Nigeria and then the island of Aegina in Greece. She later returned to the UK to raise a family which involved blending languages, food and culture for an enriched life experience.

Students have loved these lunchtime journeys through space and time and we are looking forward to future sessions with Mr Ronald, Ms Boksh, Mr Lea and Mrs Gabbi. In the future and once Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted, we would love to hear from members of our wider community of families. If you would like to share your story in the Human Library, please email me on: elopes@montsaye.northants.sch.uk.

Emma Lopes - SMSC Coordinator

Live performance is back...

On the 15th November, we were privileged to be part of the 'All Together Now!' show.

The publishing company, Music Theatre International, licensed a selection of well known songs from shows and musicals. We were one of thousands of schools, colleges and theatres from around the world who produced an exclusive musical revue. The revue included hits from Matilda, Waitress, High School Musical and Les Miserables; they were performed by a cast of over forty of our students from across the year groups.

It was wonderful to see a live audience (albeit socially distanced).

We are looking forward to further shows and visits to the theatre later on in this academic year.

Tim Shea - Head of Drama



Sport at the academy is going from strength to strength...

Year 11 Finalists

Our Year 11 boys' football team recently made it through to the final of the district league competition. They have been playing in the league since the beginning of this academic year, having played three games (winning two of them and drawing the other).

The final took place on Wednesday 10th November against Prince William School, Oundle, at the Corinthians ground in Rothwell.

Despite playing some excellent football and all of the boys putting in 100% effort for the full game, the result was not in our favour. We went 1-0 down in the first half but fought back to equalise, leaving the game at 1-1 at half time. In a very even second half, we found ourselves 2-1 down after sustaining a period of pressure from the Prince William team.



The team showed fantastic determination, resilience and character to try and score a second goal but the ball couldn't find its way into the net. The boys did themselves and the academy proud and can hold their heads high.

Alex Jordan - Teacher of PE

Cross Country

Students from across the academy (Year 7 to Year 13) recently took part in a cross country event at West Glebe in Corby. They ran in events respective to their ages, from under 13s to under 19s.



Despite the sharp, autumn weather, everyone showed great resilience against all of the schools in the county. Our students represented Montsaye Academy with great pride and kept up the true Montsaye spirit, even when they were cold and tired.

Student	Year	Category	Distance	Place
Jessica H.	8	Under 15's	2400	50
Harry D.	8	Under 15's	2800	10
Libby P.	8	Under 15's	2400	37
Emily B.	10	Under 17's	2800	17
Philippa G.	7	Under 13's	2000	65
Julia T.	7	Under 13's	2000	62
Amy S-R.	8	Under 15's	2400	44
Harry G.	7	Under 13's	2400	75
Freya B.	13	Under 19's	2800	2
Callee-Rae F.	7	Under 13's	2000	43
Minnie D.	7	Under 13's	2000	64

Sophie Collins - Teacher of PE



Teamwork...

Our lower school girls' basketball team recently represented the academy in their first tournament of three against Kettering Buccleuch Academy.

The team consists of a mix of students from both Year 7 and Year 8. They won three games, drew two and lost two.

A true example of Montsaye's ERA values **#Excellence**. Keep up the good work girls.

Amber Howard Teacher of PE

Celebrating more Accelerated Reader millionaires...



Year 8 student, Dorothea G., has become the first in her year group to achieve Accelerated Reader millionaire status, having read 1,291,659 words since September. Dorothea is pictured here with Year 8 Progress Leader, Mrs Edney, receiving her certificate and gold reader star pin badge. As we go to print, we are pleased to announce that Dorothea has now become a double millionaire reader (our fourth), having read 2,066,747 words.

Eilidh O. and Morwenna O., in Year 7 have both become our first and second double millionaires for this academic year, which is no mean feat. Eilidh has read 2,003,368 words and Morwenna has read 2,095,598 words.

This year, for the first time, we have been getting our Year 9 students involved in the Accelerated

Reader programme. We are delighted to announce that King T., is the first student in this year group to have reached millionaire status, having read 1,022,067 words (54 books).

We have lots more students who have earned their millionaire status this term and are delighted to keep you updated:

Year	Student Name	Form
Year 7	Charlotte P.	7JSI
	Eilidh O. (our first double and triple millionaire)	7GDB
	Morwenna O. (our second double millionaire)	7NWR
	Lucy F. (our third double millionaire)	7JSI
	Harry C.	7BSA
	Liam M	7BSA
Year 8	Meghan T.	8MCO
Year 8	Daniel A.	8AJO
Year 8	Dorothea G. (our fourth double millionaire)	8NMA
Year 9	King T.	9LUC
Year 9	Olivia S	9SC1



As we go to print, we have received notification that Eilidh O. in 7GDB has reached the triple millionaire mark, having ready 33 books, which is an outstanding achievement. Only one other student has ever reached this milestone (which was in the last academic year).

We have now had over sixteen students reach Accelerated Reader millionaire status in the academy since September which is a wonderful achievement.

Year 8 forms get competitive



Our amazing Year 8 students were set a challenge at the beginning of the academic year. The remit was to create a form board which was inspiring and informative, representing not only themselves, but also encompassing the academy ERA values of **Excellence**, **Resilience** and **Aspiration**.

All of the forms rose to the challenge and their hard work resulted in some wonderful form boards. We both struggled to decide which one was the best, as everyone put tremendous effort into the project. In light of this, it was decided that each form would be given their own winning title.

After much deliberation and some very tough judging, we are pleased to announce that the overall winner was form 8NMA (Miss Matthews). The board was colourful, informative and creative, with students managing to incorporate all of the ERA values into their ideas.

Sophie Collins and Natalie Edney - Year 8 Progress Leaders

Learning continues across the continents

You may recall the article in our November Newsletter, about the link we have forged with The Indian School in Delhi. Year 8 English students, have continued to work hard and this term and we were delighted to be able to have another video call with The Indian School, to share and talk about our creative writing work.

Both sets of students shared with each other, what creativity means to them and they bravely shared some of their own creative writing. They provided each other with feedback on their stories, encouraging their successes and giving ideas on ways to progress.



We have started to create pen friends, which hopefully will allow those that want to, to start to share their writing with each other. It is wonderful to see both sets of students interacting with each other; we are all learning a little about the life of others.

Nina Matthews - Teacher of English

Calling all potential Year 9 dance students...

Montsaye Dance Company (MDC) meet every Friday after school (3.00pm to 4.00pm) to choreograph and rehearse dance performances. It is an excellent opportunity for students to develop their skills. MDC perform at a variety of academy events, as well as at events in the wider community.



We are once again applying to perform in the U:Dance Platform and all new members will be given the opportunity to join us for this event. If your child is interested in being involved, please contact me on: fgeorge@montsaye.northants.sch.uk.

Fran George - Teacher of Dance

Chefs in the making

Year 10 and Year 11 GCSE students have spent some time learning about mussels in their food technology lessons.



The groups were taught how to clean and cook the mussels and, following Jamie Oliver's 'Angry Mussels' recipe, were given the opportunity to taste-test what they had produced.



The students showed a high level of maturity, with many of them going outside of their comfort zones to taste something which they wouldn't usually eat.



We are so very proud of each and every one of them.

Gillian Brotherston - Teacher of Food

Who knew mucking in could feel this good?

Take on an Army obstacle course.
Go on exciting expeditions.
Develop your leadership.

The best experiences of your life are waiting.
Get stuck in at Combined Cadet Force.

Fancy doing something different? Why not become a cadet instructor here at Montsaye!
Contact Mr Chattaway to find out more.
mchattaway@montsaye.northants.sch.uk



Combined Cadet Force

combinedcadetforce.org.uk

Year 11 ERA Day

On Friday 12th November, our whole Year 11 cohort took part in an ERA day. The aim of our popular ERA days is to help students to develop our values of **Excellence**, **Resilience** and **Aspiration**. Students participated in a range of activities designed to help build physical, mental and emotional skills, together with preparing them for the challenges of the next few months and their GCSEs.

As part of the day, we welcomed Juliet from Just Fitness to share a range of physical techniques which can help support both emotional wellness and physical resilience. We were also pleased to welcome Mr Doherty from the careers service, Prospects. The Year 11 tutor team delivered and supported a range of sessions, which included study skills, mindfulness, a money management skills board game and an e-safety activity.

Careers advice from Prospects



Relaxation Techniques



Question and Answer Session



The Budget Game



Mindfulness



Geography in Action

As part of our GCSE course, the geography department led a trip into Rothwell town for all of the Year 11 geography students.

Over the course of the day, around 100 students visited Rothwell, armed with clipboards, to test out their geography skills 'in the field'. This led on from the students having spent some considerable time carefully planning a piece of geographical research into the topic of 'place', where they investigated the identity of Rothwell.

The students were able to test out their newly learnt fieldwork skills in the town centre, which included conducting interviews with members of the public. They also carried out environmental quality surveys.



The local residents of Rothwell commented on how professional our students were during the interviews.

All of the students and staff appreciated getting out and about to see our local area through a geographical lens.

This has given the cohort a real taste of geography fieldwork. If they get the opportunity to study geography at A-level, students will be able to participate in additional trips, taking them further afield in the UK.

Harriet Willis - Head of Geography



Sixth formers take the lead

A wonderful consequence of no longer working in pods, is that our sixth form students are able to work with the younger cohorts in a leadership role.

Student representatives from each form group have been meeting on a fortnightly basis this term. These meetings are now being supported, and often led, by a member of our sixth form leadership team. Ben, Sophie, Sam, Franco and Ione are working with Years 11 to 7 respectively. They are also supporting with the year group's charity initiatives and taking on an organisational role. It is fantastic to see the sixth formers grow in confidence and initiative and to witness them developing a guiding role with the younger students.

A wider group of around ten, Year 12 and Year 13 students have been supporting the new ERA room. The

aim of the ERA room is to provide a space where all are welcome, particularly those who would like a little support with their wellbeing. The ERA room is open to anyone and is staffed every day by a brilliant team of young leaders. Activities include mindful colouring, yoga and card/board games. The main aim is to create an oasis of calm and positivity where support can be given. Montsaye Academy's sixth formers have risen to this challenge and led by example. They share their own experiences, offer a friendly, non-judgemental ear and are a reliable presence in the lives of younger students just when they need it. They are the best of our community and we are lucky that they are volunteering to share their skills.



Emma Lopes - SMSC Coordinator

A-Level Dance Workshops



Our A-Level dance students have participated in a series of workshops led by alumni and visiting tutor Bette-Ann Belton and course leader Sadie from the University of Bedfordshire.

Bette delivered a hybrid class which incorporated lots of energy and fun and a bit of a fitness focus. The students enjoyed the commercial influences of the workshop.

Sadie's workshop was a wonderful contemporary class with some creative tasks throughout. It was lovely to hear from Sadie about studying at the University of Bedford and the different courses which they offer. We chatted with two of our students to find out what they thought of the workshops:

I really enjoyed the workshop as it was something different and great to improve my understanding of commercial style.

Safia S. - Year 12

I loved hearing about studying dance at university and what careers alumni went onto next

Jessica B. - Year 13

We would like to offer our thanks to both Bette and Sadie for the fantastic sessions.

Fran George - Teacher of Dance

Sixth Form Open Evening

On Wednesday 17th November, we welcomed 100 students and parents to our sixth form open evening. It was a busy and lively evening, run primarily by our student leadership team and student ambassadors. They did an amazing job of keeping the evening running smoothly and answering questions from both students and parents.

Attendees at the event had the opportunity to view the refurbished sixth form centre and learn how our sixth form works in a presentation delivered by Mrs Jones, our head of sixth form. Students also had the chance to attend a wide variety of mini-presentations on the subjects which they are interested in, led by the subject head of department and current students.

It was also the evening when we were able to reveal our exciting news to parents and students; we are having a new sixth form centre built on the academy site, ready to be open in September 2023.



We would like to take this opportunity of thanking all of the students who helped out on the evening. We hope that everyone who attended enjoyed it, and was able to find out all of the information which they needed.

If you have any questions about our sixth form and the application process, please contact either Mrs Jones or myself.

Further information can be found on our website:

[Sixth Form Entry September 2022](#)

Laura McNish - Sixth Form Centre Manager

Year 13 UCAS Update

The autumn term is always extremely busy for Year 13 students, with mock exams to prepare for and, for those students wishing to go to university next year, the all-important UCAS application to complete.

There have already been twenty applications which have been sent off, with a further twenty-two to be sent before the application deadline. Those students who have already sent their applications to UCAS and have now received an offer, include:

- Ryan: History at Loughborough University.
- Ella: Criminology and Sociology at Leeds Trinity University.
- Jack: Motorsport Engineering at Coventry University.
- Connor: Psychology at the University of York.
- Jared: Modern Languages and English at the University of Birmingham.
- Sophie: Modern Languages and Culture at the University of Sheffield.

Congratulations to all students who have received offers so far.

We hope to share news about some more of our students in the next newsletter.

Laura McNish - Sixth Form Centre Manager





Be Happy, Be Active, Be Here

Winter is here but that doesn't mean it's time to hibernate!

Why not boost your energy levels and get active for the winter season?

Did you know?...

As a parent or carer of a student at Montsaye Academy, you are entitled to discounted gym membership!

£17.99 per month gives you unlimited use of the gym and all fitness classes.

Are you a member already?...

Refer a friend and you will receive discount off your monthly membership.

For more information, contact the Sports Centre Reception.

Montsaye Community Sports Centre

Greening Road, Rothwell, NN14 6BB. Tel: 01536 713708

