



# MONTsaye ACADEMY NEWS

February 2022



What an array of activities as Montsaye academy gets back to its absolute best! Trips for pupils, clubs and many other events. It is wonderful to see how everyone is striving for Excellence and demonstrating our values every day, day in day out.

It never ceases to amaze me how much we manage to pack into a term and how many varied experiences are provided for everyone.

Needless to say, we have had some challenges this term and we have overcome them with poise and integrity - thank you to everyone who has supported us through the journey that we are on.

I wish everyone a happy and restful half term.

**Meena Gabbi - Principal**

## A message from one of our Community Governors...

I don't look like your average Community Governor; I don't behave like your traditional Insurance Broker and I certainly don't sound how someone may expect a President of the Northamptonshire Chamber of Commerce to sound. That's what makes me...well me!

As an ex-student of Montsaye (I left in 2005), when the opportunity came up to be part of the Governors and be able to support the school, I jumped at the chance. I loved my years there, but also have great pride in seeing how far it has come since I left.

I started a career at the age of 17 with a high street bank and thought that was where I would work forever. Slightly naïve I know, but instead I have ended up becoming a business owner, with enough time to support organisations close to my heart, whilst also being able to always be myself and not someone I think I 'should' be.

I can't wait to see what the rest of this year brings for students and staff, but their resilience so far has seen them through so many challenges I doubt there is much that could stand in their way.

**Robyn Allen - Community Governor**



## The Borders, Boundaries and Barriers Performing Arts Festival

My name is Rhys and I am a Year 12 student here at Montsaye Academy. I am studying an Extended Diploma in Music Practitioners, looking particularly at the business side of planning a performing arts event (promotion/advertising etc).

The Borders, Boundaries and Barriers Performing Arts Festival will be taking place at Montsaye on Thursday 10th March and will involve students from across the academy, including Year 7 drama, the academy choir, solo vocalists (who are also doing the Diploma) and Sixth Form BTEch dance students. We are looking forward to showcasing our work and to welcoming our guests to the academy. Further information will follow in due course.

## It's all about our ERA Days...



On Friday 28th January, our Year 7 cohort took part in their first ever Montsaye ERA day. ERA days are unique to Montsaye; they help our students to develop the academy ERA values of **Excellence**, **Resilience** and **Aspiration**.

Students were involved in a range of activities which were designed to build creative, mental and emotional skills and to prepare them for the varied challenges which life brings. There was a physical skill activity with Mr Siddons, e-safety, mental health and future aspiration sessions, together with a team-building activity where students attempted to build the tallest possible tower. Form groups spent most of the day with their form tutor, building a deeper relationship with this key member of staff, as well as creating closer friendships within the group.



We believe that promoting the value of **Resilience** is crucial for our young people's success. Over the past two years, we have learnt how important it is to be able to adapt to changing circumstances and to remain positive in the face of adversity. We were delighted to be able to watch a live virtual performance from X-Factor contestants, 'He Knows, She Knows'. The duo also spoke to our students about their experiences facing real life challenges and how to improve mental health and wellbeing.

One of our Year 7 students, Hanna D., said, *"I had so much fun today, I feel like I have learnt more about my friends (people in my class) and I hope we can have more things like this in form time. I definitely made new friends with people who used to go to my primary school, and who I never thought I would ever talk to. This day has brought me great happiness and I had so much fun. It has been a day I will always remember. Thank you for this day, I hope we can all enjoy our next ERA day just as much"*.

It was an informative and engaging day for our Year 7 students. ERA days are always days to remember and are an important part of our students' development into adulthood.

Emma Lopes - SMSC Coordinator

## Students aspire to greater things...

The University of Northampton recently offered us a fantastic opportunity for some of our younger students to visit the facility in Northampton; encouraging them to think ahead about entering higher education at the end of their schooling.

Students were able to experience subject taster sessions, take a campus tour, meet current university students and enjoy a show with the science organisation 'Atomic Tom'.

Two of our Year 7 students, told us a little of the trip:

*On 1st February, a group of Year 7s went on a trip to the University of Northampton. During the trip, we got to discover some facts and useful information about the courses UON offer, for example, the illustration course. We also got to go on a tour around the main campus, discovering a lot of things about the venue. We got to have an interesting session about psychology, and a session with the design and illustration department, where we were able to do some fun practical challenges around finding new purposes in objects.*

*Before we left, we had an enjoyable session with Atomic Tom and learnt about how air is everywhere. Throughout this educational and exhilarating trip, the Montsaye staff ensured the trip was enjoyable for all.*

**Tyler S (7NWR)**

*We had a tour of the beautiful university, there are some small apartments for the first year and second year students. It was like a small village. There were even shops.*

*In my opinion, the last thing we did was my favourite. It was science with a really funny and amazing man. He made smoke rings. He also got a volunteer to help him with a leaf blower and some tissues; the leaf blower blew the tissues everywhere.*

*We also took part in a competition with another school. Unfortunately, we did not win.*

**Kiera S (7BSA)**



**Atomic Tom workshop exploring how air moves around.**



**Art and communication design workshop; creating drawings out of circles**

Everyone had a wonderful day experiencing life as university students. Lucy F. enjoyed the three floors of the library so much that she wanted to stay in there all day, and it was even warm enough to sit outside in the sunshine and enjoy our lunch. The students were a credit to the academy.

**Jane Cooper — Year 7 Progress Leader**





## Students achieve Excellence

**W**e are pleased to announce that we have recently awarded our first set of Excellence Pins for this academic year, to four of our Year 7 students. George H., Thomas G., Eilidh O. and Deryca V. have all been working extremely hard and, having gained 100 Excellence points have earned the Pin to wear on their blazer lapel.

Since the start of September, students at the academy have collectively earned enough points to be awarded over 806 erasers, 620 rules, 448 pencils and 219 pens which is a fantastic achievement. Keep up the good work everyone.

**Jane Cooper - Year 7 Progress Leader**

## True Montsaye Values

We are very proud of one of our Year 8 students, Meghan T. Both Meghan and her brother Ben (a former Montsaye student) were given some money for Christmas with the specific instruction to do something good with it.

They both decided to support our local food bank in Kettering, helping others who are struggling.

The food bank were delighted when they received the delivery from Meghan and Ben on Christmas Eve. True examples of our Montsaye values.



**Sophie Collins and Natalie Edney - Year 8 Progress Leaders**

## Drop Everything and Play

As you are aware, we involve our students in regular reading sessions during lessons (Drop Everything and Read or DEAR is it is also known). In our music lessons, we have expanded on this, and introduced Drop Everything and Play (DEAP). It was wonderful to see this Year 8 class exploring music for pleasure with guitars, ukuleles and in this case, keyboards.



**Natalie Gardner - Head of Music**

## Indoor Athletics Event

Some of our Year 7 and Year 8 students recently took part in the Winter School Games Indoor Athletics Event. Considering some of the students involved had never competed or taken part in a fixture before, their performances were outstanding.

The Year 7 girls were awarded 3rd place, the Year 7 boys 2nd place and the Year 8 boys 1st place. We are pleased to tell you that we have just received notification that the team have made it through to the next round of the competition which will take place at KLV in March.



Everyone represented the academy with great pride and our ERA values shone through the whole team.

**Sophie Collins - Teacher of PE**

## Accelerated Reader Millionaires keep on coming...

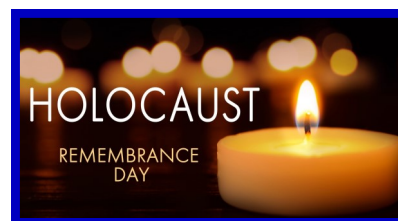
Students are continuing with our Accelerated Reader programme. Jack S. (7RS) became our fifth double millionaire just before Christmas, having read and quizzed 57 books and over two million words. Tyler S. (7NWR) and Poppie D. (8AJ0) became millionaires on 6th January. Jessica S. (AJ0) earned her status on 13th January, with Olivia S. (9SCI) hot on her heels on 31st January.

In the run up to the Christmas break, we held an Accelerated Reader Champions Quiz. In order to take part, students had to read and obtain a 100% pass on the reading quiz for a book above their current reading age. We had lots of entries and are pleased to announce that the winners were: Dale G. (7RS), RJ S. (8APA) and Joni S. (9SCI). Congratulations to these students who all received a £10.00 Amazon voucher.



**Mandy Lantz - Librarian**

## Remembering the Holocaust

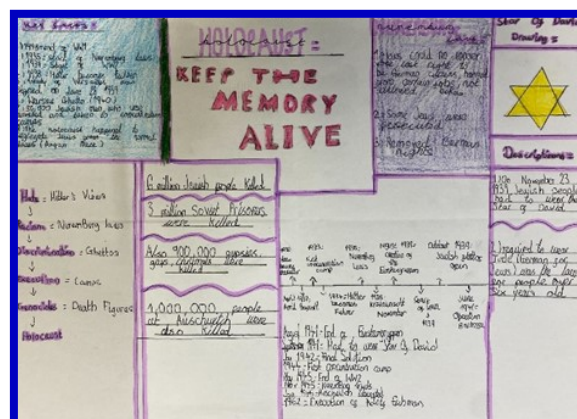


Our Year 9 students recently studied the Holocaust and why it is so important to the understanding of our modern world. They reflected on a range of elements of the Holocaust and assessed the impact on people from all walks of life.

Even more than 75 years on, the events of the Holocaust continue to have the power to shock, as well as to teach important lessons on tolerance.

The terrible persecution of the Jewish people by the Nazis showed how easily a well-educated society could be manipulated through lies and 'fake news' into committing unspeakable crimes.

The students considered how intolerance, stereotypes and ignorance can easily lead to terrible crimes. As part of their learning, the cohort learned to understand how and why such an evil event could take place. They also discussed why remembering this dark time from history is so important.



Students investigated the legacy and impact of the Holocaust through the eyes of a survivor.

They were encouraged to create a letter, reflecting their own feelings towards the Holocaust and how learning about it has personally impacted them.

Everyone showed great resilience in tackling such a difficult topic with maturity and empathy.

**James Wiggins - Head of History**



## Exciting times in the human library

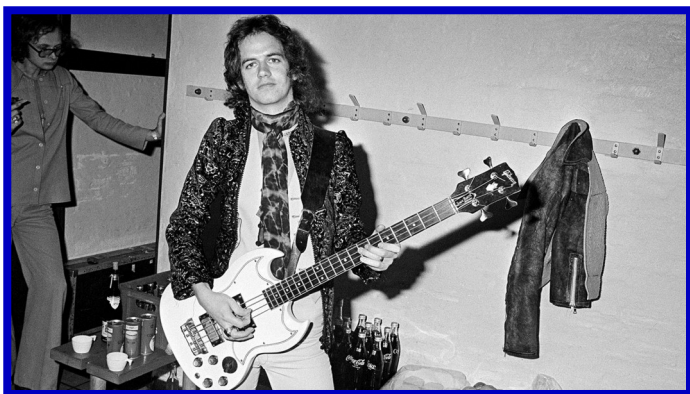
We spoke about our popular MADE in Rothwell group (The Montsaye Academy Diversity and Equality Group) in the December edition of our newsletter. The group meets every Wednesday in H5. Students can pop in to take part in discussions, to play games and to watch films.

As part of the group, we have introduced a 'human library' where we have welcomed some members of staff to talk to the group and to share their stories.



We recently heard from Head of Computer Science and Business Studies, Mr Lea, who told us all about his (very) famous cousin.

Jim Lea was the bass player from the British rock band, Slade. The band was formed in 1966 in Wolverhampton when Jim Lea replied to an advert in a local newspaper for a bass player for a local band called 'The N Between's'. The band went on to become Slade. They achieved 23 top 20 singles, 6 of which reached No. 1 in the charts, including the ever-popular Christmas hit, 'Merry Christmas Everybody'. Jim even played the violin at Mr Lea's wedding. He later retrained as an educational psychologist, using music to help to get vulnerable children into school.



We are looking forward to be able to hear lots more stories from other members of staff.

Emma Lopes - SMSC Coordinator

## Year 9 students learn life-skills

As part of our ongoing PSHE programme, we recently welcomed Sasha Jacques from Open View Education into the academy to present a series of anti-bullying workshops to our Year 9 students.

The workshops took place over a two day period. Students worked in small groups, learning about being 'upstanders' rather than 'bystanders'.



Open View Education have worked with thousands of students, delivering the sessions in many different educational settings.

Our students were encouraged to take part in role-playing sessions to equip them with the skills which they may need to respond to certain situations.



**OpenView**  
**Education**  
TRAINING THROUGH THEATRE

Emma Lopes - SMSC Coordinator

## KS3 and KS4 students work on their food preparation

In their food and nutrition lessons, our lower school students (Key Stage 3) recently learned about food safety. They were also taught lots of practical skills to enable them to make a range of different dishes including Swiss roll, bread rolls and tuna pasta bake.



Our older students who are studying food technology at GCSE level (Key Stage 4) have been taught a wide range of practical skills and focussed on their presentation skills. They produced a variety of different dishes, including chocolate eclairs, sausage rolls and vanilla slices.



We are very proud of our students and of the high standard of work which they have produced. I am sure you will agree when we say that the food looks good enough to eat.

**Gillian Brotherston - Teacher of Food Technology**

## Year 10 student raises awareness about young people with cancer

During the pandemic, one of our Year 10 students, Olivia M., was diagnosed with the very rare condition, Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis. Olivia and her family were supported by the UK's leading charity for young cancer patients and their families, [Young Lives vs Cancer](#). The family were also helped by a charity called [Team Mikayla](#), which grants wishes for children with cancer; Olivia was lucky enough to be gifted an Xbox. She now wants to 'pay it forward' and is working hard on her own fund-raising initiative.

Last summer, the family raised over £2000 for Young Lives vs Cancer. As part of a new campaign; the charity are handing over their social media channels to young people like Olivia. She recently appeared on BBC Radio Northamptonshire on the Kerrie Cosh show, talking about her story.

Olivia is pictured here with one of the Team Mikayla collection boxes.



**Laura Long - Student Welfare Officer**



## New Key Stage 4 STEM Club

**H**aving watched our Year 7 and Year 8 students carry out some fantastic experiments in STEM Club (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), our Year 10 cohort decided that they would like to get involved.

Our KS4 Stem Club was subsequently launched with fifteen of our Year 10 students dissecting sheep kidneys. Starting with a short presentation about the function of the kidney and a dissection demonstration, the group got started themselves.



There were some fantastic results, with many students being able to identify the different blood vessels and the different region of the kidneys. Students are continuing with the dissection theme, looking at eyes and developing their skills with a scalpel, alongside their scientific understanding of anatomy.

**Zan Rashid - Teacher of Science**

## Montsaye Dance Company qualify for U.Dance East

We are proud to announce that, as part of the 'U.Dance East' event, which is taking place at the University of Bedfordshire on Saturday 19th March, Montsaye Dance Company will be performing '**Naivety**'. Alongside this, we will be performing one of our Year 12 student's new songs. Ione B is a budding musician and will also be performing live with us.



The U.Dance regional events provide youth groups from all over the eastern region with the opportunity to come together to celebrate youth dance and to showcase their talent.

The performance itself will take place at 7.30pm as part of a showcase, featuring both live performances and film. All students will be able to attend university workshops, technical rehearsals, and other wraparound activities throughout the day.

Sadie Hunt, from the University of Bedfordshire, sent us her congratulations. ***"Well done to you and your group for being selected in a very strong field of applications"***.

I am incredibly proud of everyone who is part of Montsaye Dance Company, for being recognised at regional level and cannot wait to share their work with you all soon. Rehearsals for MDC members will continue every Friday 3.00pm to 4.00pm.

**Fran George - Teacher of Dance**



## Martial Arts Club at Montsaye

As part of Montsaye Academy's enrichment programme, last term we offered a series of one hour, after school Freestyle Kickboxing sessions to our students.

The sessions were run by LSK Martial Arts and Fitness. Each week, students looked at different elements from the basic punching combination. The club gave everyone the opportunity to take part in a sport with an advanced skill level, which is different to the typical sport delivered through our curriculum and enrichment programme.



Students were able to strengthen many skills, such as balance, spatial awareness, focus, goal setting, respect and confidence.

The club has enabled some of our students who were not very self-confident, to feel good about themselves and has encouraged them to understand the power of the mind over the body. Since the sessions finished, we have had a number of students join a local Boxing Club.

We have been able to utilise the martial arts equipment as part of our fitness curriculum. We have delivered boxing, circuit and HITT sessions. The sessions have enriched our PE lessons, further promoting our school ERA values of **Excellence, Resilience and Aspiration**.



Sophie Collins - Teacher of PE

## Cross Country Event

Two of our students, recently competed in the Northamptonshire Schools Athletics Association Cross Country Championships.



Emily competed in the Under 17 girls category, running 3750m (2.3 miles) and coming in at 22nd place. Harry competed in the Under 15 boys category, running 4175m (2.5 miles) and coming in at 34th place.



Although both students just missed out on making it into the final round of the competition, they represented the academy with real grit and determination. True examples of our ERA values of **Excellence, Resilience and Aspiration**.

**Montsaye** ACADEMY  
Excellence Resilience Aspiration

Sophie Collins - Teacher of PE

## Sixth Form Taster Day

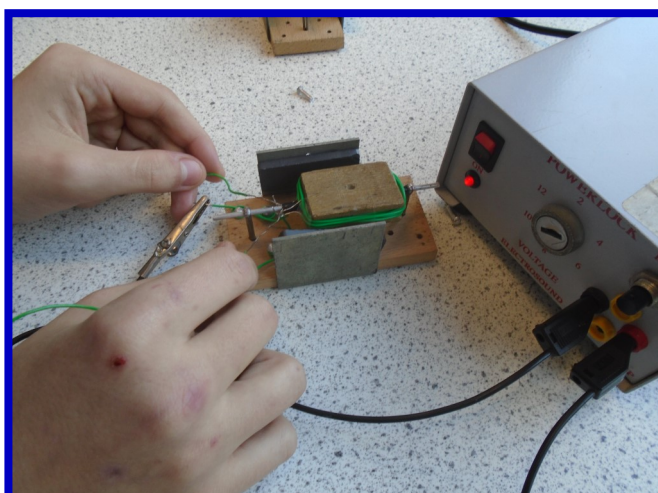
Having not been able to hold a taster day for two years, we were delighted to invite over 130 Year 11 students to our Sixth Form Taster Day.

Taking place on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February, Year 11 students were able to leave their GCSEs behind (just for one day) to experience a taste of what life would be like as a Montsaye Academy Sixth Form student.



Music

Students had previously selected the five subjects they wanted to sample, and were given a personalised timetable during a morning assembly with the Sixth Form team.



Making motors in physics

Many took this opportunity to try out some of the 'new' subjects on offer in the Sixth Form, such as psychology, sociology, further maths, and sports and physical activity. Others used the day as a way to confirm that the subjects they were considering at A-Level were the right choice for them.



Students showing their moves in BTEC dance

Sixth Form teaching staff delivered a wide variety of interesting and engaging activities, including designing a new brand of cereal in business, making motors in physics, and testing reaction times in PE. Psychology students psycho-analysed well known movie characters, drama students undertook training in voice projection, and art students showed off their still-life drawing skills.

Students were able to use the Sixth Form Centre facilities during break and lunchtime. Students particularly liked being able to use the kitchen to make their own tea and coffee, and enjoyed having their own space and eating area separate from the main school.

We really enjoyed hosting our Taster Day, and hope that everyone who took part found it an enjoyable and informative day.

Just one of the many emails from students after the event said

*"thank you for the opportunity today to take part in the taster day. It has given me a very useful insight into what an A-Level consists of."*

Next up will be our Sixth Form Induction in the summer, where all applicants will be invited to join us for a wider experience of sixth form, and to make a start on their chosen courses.

**Laura McNish - Sixth Form Centre Manager**





## Be Happy, Be Active, Be Here

**Spring is on the way! Time to come out of hibernation!**

**Why not boost your energy levels and get active?**

**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?...**

**Montsaye Community Sports Centre**

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

