



MONTSAYE ACADEMY NEWS

July 2023



We are delighted to be able to share with you, our final newsletter for this academic year.

Please take some time to have a read through it; you will be able to see some of the fantastic activities which our staff and students have been involved in. We are extremely proud of each and every one of our Montsaye family.

We hope that you all have a safe and happy summer holiday and look forward to welcoming our students back in September, including our new Year 7 cohort as they begin their Montsaye journey.

Saying goodbye to our Year 11 students...

After an intense few weeks for our Year 11 students, where they sat their final GCSE exams, we celebrated the end of their Year 11 journey by holding a Leavers' Assembly. A much anticipated annual event, students were full of enthusiasm as they arrived, with many saying how much they were already missing the routine of school!

The event began with our popular leavers' video which this year was slightly different. The film was full of video messages from members of staff who had



been asked to describe the Year 11 cohort in three words, the most popular of which were - determined, kind, supportive, resilient and (even) funny! Staff then went on to reminisce about their favourite memories of the year group, before sharing good luck messages for the future. The assembly moved onto student and teacher awards, voted for by the students themselves, before finishing with the annual ritual of shirt signing and the infamous ice cream van, which was very well received.

I am incredibly proud of this year group; it has been a pleasure to have supported them over the past two years. I am looking forward to seeing the students who are remaining with us for Sixth Form next year as they begin their A-level journey, and wish the best to everyone in their next steps, wherever they may take them. I know that each and every one of our Year 11 students will achieve whatever they put their mind to.

Hannah Quinn - Year 11 Progress Leader

The glitz and glamour of our Year 11 Prom

On Wednesday 5th July, the red carpet was rolled out at Kettering Park Hotel for our Year 11 cohort and their final hurrah. Students arrived in style via various modes of transport and were truly 'dressed to impress' as the code dictated.



The evening was full of energy with parents, carers and school staff welcoming the students to the beautifully decorated venue. Students thoroughly enjoyed the evening from the disco to the photo booth – and of course the delicious food that was served.



It was a wonderful celebration of everyone's time at Montsaye Academy. We are sure that the hundreds of pictures which were taken on the evening will be something that students will be able to look back on in years to come, to remember the end of Year 11.



Our Library is a welcoming space...

Here at Montsaye, we have been working hard to try and give our library a new lease of life.

We have put together a Wellbeing Corner, with books covering topics which students may find helpful, along with details of organisations which students may call or speak with for advice, both inside and outside of school.

We are looking forward to continuing to improve the area. Donations of items would be greatly appreciated, such as fidget toys, cushions (fire certificate label must be intact) or indoor plants for example.



In addition to the Wellbeing Corner, we have been working hard to make it easier for students to find suitable books. We now have the fiction books arranged by their book level (also known as ZPD) and then in alphabetical order by the author's surname. Our non-fiction books are now in one area of the library and arranged using the Dewey Decimal System.

We are looking to replenish our book stock in the library; do you have any unwanted, school-age appropriate books at home which you would be willing

to donate? Please send them into the library with your child.

We have a collection of young adult books available for our older students, however we don't wish to discourage our younger students from reading these books. If they are eager to do so, we will email home for consent before allowing them to have titles from this range.

This term we held a drawing competition. Students were encouraged to recreate a front cover or scene from their favourite book to be in with a chance of winning an Amazon voucher. We had some amazing entries and our judges found it very hard to select the top two. In first place we had Year 8 student Rehan and in second place we had Olivia in Year 12. All of the wonderful entries can be seen on display in the library. We have been hosts to several meetings for parents this



Rehan - Year 8



Olivia - Year 12

year and also to our fabulous music team for their recent evening of musical entertainment. Please keep your eye out for our upcoming events and competitions in the new academic year.

A quick reminder for students to return all school library books before the end of term. For those Year 11 and Year 13 students who have already left us, please bring them into school on results day.

I hope you have a fabulous summer and look forward to seeing you all in September.

Emilia Helliwell - Librarian

STEAM Northampton

On Thursday 15th June we took a group of Year 7 and Year 8 students to the University of Northampton for their STEAM event (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths). It was a great opportunity for our students to experience a university campus and to have a look into possible courses and careers that are available locally.

A wide variety of local businesses and organisations were in attendance, with many hands-on activities on offer for the students to look at, and take part in. The braver students were even able to hold creepy crawlies and snakes.

We spent a couple of hours wandering around the exhibition, talking to the exhibitors and finished off with an amazing presentation by Matthew Tosh on the science of fireworks. The one disappointment of the day was we couldn't get an ice cream as the queue simply wasn't moving...



"On the science trip I really enjoyed seeing all of the animals and the robot dog. I loved seeing the people from the different companies. I also enjoyed the show at the end of the day".

Alanna B - Year 7

"I liked making the polymer worms out of seaweed. I got to hold a cockroach and I hope I can go again".

Millie E - Year 7

"The trip was very good and there were many things to learn about. There were fun activities to do, it was busy and hot. It was a fun experience and I would do it again".

Poppie L - Year 7

Our students thoroughly enjoyed themselves, they were true examples of our ERA values of **Excellence**, **Resilience** and **Aspiration**.

Lucy Cooper - Teacher of Science

Celebrating the successes of our students...

The last half term of this academic year has been all about celebrating with our wonderful students.



Our ERA point reward system has seen students earning invitations to lunch events, being presented with Amazon vouchers and having the opportunity to be entered into various raffles for extra prizes.

The ERA lunches saw those students who have gained 300+ ERA points tucking into pizza, hot dogs, wedges and doughnuts and some of them being presented with their Amazon vouchers for gaining 400+ points.

Here we have some of our Year 7 cohort enjoying their just rewards...



..and students from Year 9 and Year 10.

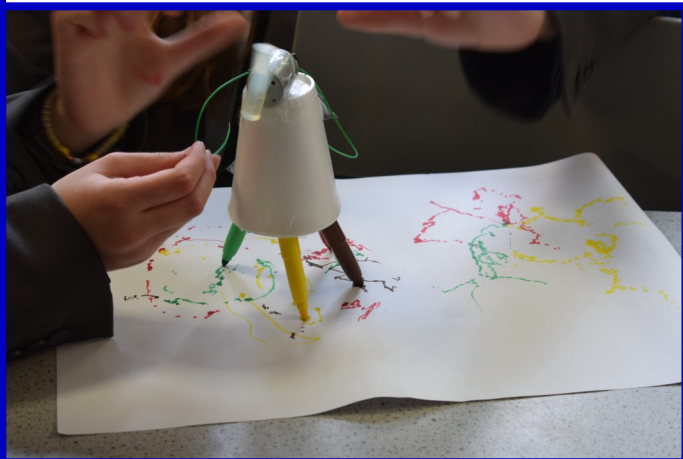


It has been an absolute honour to be able to share these events with our students, to celebrate their achievements and to enjoy their successes.

Jon Berridge - Assistant Vice Principal

KS3 Students enjoy STEM Club

Our Key Stage 3 students have been enjoying after school STEM club (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). Everyone had a go at making 'scribble robots'. Small motors and marker pens were attached to polystyrene cups. This made the 'robots' spin around and draw patterns on sheets of paper.



Another week and the focus was on dissection. Students learned about the structures of a heart and looked at how it works. They are becoming more familiar with the dissection kits and the actual process of dissection. What a wonderful way to spend an hour or so after school!



Zan Rashid - Teacher of Science

Year 8 are District Athletics Championship Winners

Our Year 8 students are just amazing, having recently won the District Athletics Championships. Everyone trained so hard, some even every night after school in the run up to the event.



Their hard work, resilience, teamwork and determination paid off; they powered through each and every event which they were entered into and were so supportive of each other.

We are 2023 Champions.

Ryan Levett
Teacher of PE

Nothing brings people together like good food...

Our Year 10 GCSE food students have been busy developing their skills in readiness for their food mock practical exam.

The challenging remit was to prepare, cook and present three dishes which would be suitable for teenagers, all within a three hour time frame. In the weeks prior to the trial exam, the cohort have been occupied working hard on their chosen dishes, honing their skills and developing their competence in the recipes.



There were huge smiles on the faces of the students when they came to the end of the practical exam. Members of staff were given the opportunity to view and taste the dishes. We are all very proud of their achievements.



Gillian Brotherston - Teacher of Food Technology

PE Leadership Students

This year, Montsaye PE's leadership students have been busy participating and leading events across the county for our local primary schools.

Events have included Tri-Golf, football tournaments and athletics meetings. Our students have really shown their ERA values and have been a wonderful asset. Local schools who have been involved in the events have been full of praise for our young people.



Special mentions go to Libby and Ava who were personally mentioned for their invaluable help during a javelin event at a recent primary school's athletics meeting; they are excellent role models.

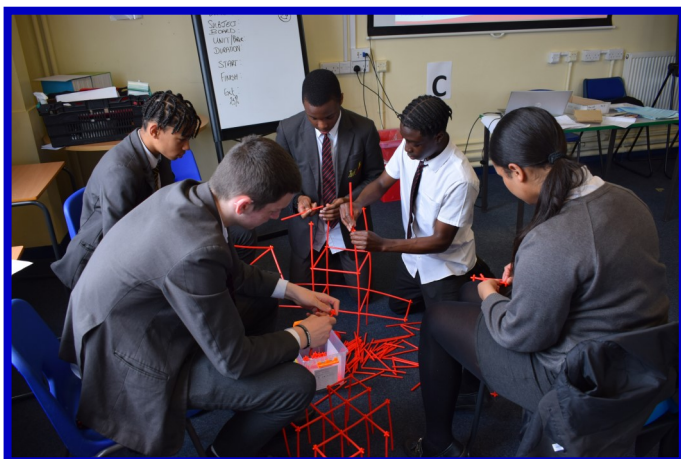
If your child is interested in becoming a sports leader, then please ask them to speak to a member of the PE dept.

Keira Lauder - Teacher of PE

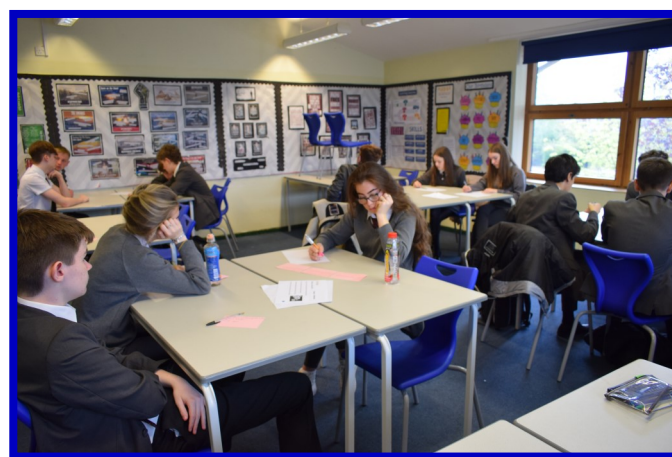
Year 10 ERA Day

ERA day for Year 10 dawned bright and early, with a sense of anticipation. Our ERA days here at Montsaye are unique, helping students to develop the skills of **Excellence**, **Resilience** and **Aspiration**. Staff worked with Year 10 as they continue to follow their GCSE journey. Students undertook a range of activities designed to build physical, mental and emotional skills to help prepare them for the challenges which they face, either academically, online, within friendship groups or in the community.

Team building and communication activities proved extremely popular with an inflatable human table football game and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) skills in a tower building session.



A careers session was run by Mrs Pitcher, our careers lead here at the academy; students explored post-16 options and started to consider the world beyond GCSEs. We believe that promoting the health and well-being of our students is an important part of their overall education. Two of the sessions focussed on theory and strategies to support mental health issues such as stress and anxiety. There was also a session on study skills.



The day was engaging and informative, allowing students to take time away from everyday activities of school life and get involved in useful, exciting sessions.

ERA day
Excellence Resilience Aspiration

Tunnock's Teacake Challenge 2023

Our Year 10 GCSE food students recently took part in the Tunnock's Teacake Challenge. The remit of the challenge was to imagine the teacake as a dessert and to present it in a unique, creative and show-stopping way; the theme was 'patterns and shapes'.



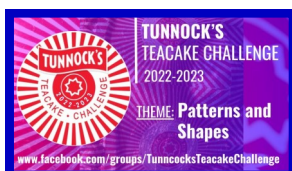
Freddie - Year 10

Students had a few weeks to think, prepare and practice their designs before taking part in a lesson to present their decorated teacake.



Molly - Year 10

The cohort rose to the challenge with amazing results, then making it hard for staff at Montsaye to judge. Each member of staff had to pick their top five designs which were then whittled down to a final two entries (which were by Freddie and Molly) to be entered into the competition. I am so proud of everything which the students produced and look forward to hearing if our entries have been successful.



Gillian Brotherston - Teacher of Food Technology

Students raise the roof... and some much needed funds...

Parents, carers, students and staff were recently invited to a musical evening, raising much needed funds to buy new equipment for our music department.



Featuring Year 10 and Year 11 rock bands, our choir, some members of our Sixth Form plus a couple of special guests, the audience was treated to wide variety of musical items.

We would like to thank our amazing staff for their help and support with this event. Erika Bird, our piano teacher who accompanied me on the piano and Jess Hunting from NMPAT (Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust) who directs our choir.

A couple of highlights of the evening were Year 12 student Jack, who used the evening as a practise for his Grade 8 piano exam which he is about to sit and our choir singing 'Hold Back the River' by English singer-songwriter James Bay.



We are delighted to announce that we raised in the region of £200 which will be a big help in purchasing new equipment.

Thank you for your support.

Natalie Gardner - Head of Music

Courtroom Drama for Year 12...

As part of their A-level studies, our Year 12 historians have been researching the main causes for the collapse of the Soviet Union.

During one of our recent study sessions, we re-enacted a courtroom-style lesson resulting in us being able to convict the main individual responsible for the Soviet Union's collapse. Students were split into three groups; one group was to defend Mikhail Gorbachev, another group was to defend Boris Yeltsin and the final group was to act as judge and jury. Each 'legal team' used the evidence available to construct their defence for their 'client' and the prosecution for the 'accused'.



After opening statements, cross-examination and closing statements, the court went for recess. This allowed the jury and the judges to reach their decision...Gorbachev was found guilty of causing the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The cohort worked really hard; their conduct and their professionalism was aspirational. Many of the students involved could definitely have careers in the judicial system, or as professional actors.

James Wiggins - Head of History

And a 'Dragon's Den' experience

Our Year 12 business studies cohort recently took part in a 'Dragon's Den' style challenge. Students were given a brief to work from and had to innovate/invent a product, provide the product's design details, a sales forecast and an offer for the investment panel.



Several members of staff, from across a multitude of departments, came together to form the 'Dragons'. They judged the students on their creativity, business knowledge, presentation skills and ability to answer tricky questions. Among the products on offer was an automated butler, a collar which translated animal noises and a portable airer. The students put a great deal of time, effort and research into their presentations. The final decision was a difficult one, but the winning presentation was from Blue J., with his automated butler, 'Mr Handy'.

India Jansons - Teacher of Business Studies

It's all about the sound effects...

Back in April, we were delighted to welcome former student and now professional technical sound composer, Will Lester, back to the academy.

Will delivered a workshop to Year 13 music student, Rhys who was recording coursework for his Year 13 Music Module "MUSPRA380 Create a sound library". This was part of a level 2 RSL Music Practitioner vocational course.



Rhys used household items to record ambient sounds into our music production software, Cubase, using a Rode NT-1 microphone. This process is called 'Foley Art'.

Natalie Gardner - Head of Music

Gap Year Adventures for Grace...

One of our ex-students, Grace, has spent the last few months on a gap year adventure before heading off to university. Based at the southern edge of Liwonde National Park in Malawi, Grace has kept us up-to-date on her travels.

"In preparation for this trip, I had a lot of vaccinations, including rabies, hepatitis A and typhoid, and I also purchased a very large rucksack - one that is very heavy and difficult to lift when packed! I had to fill out lots of forms, medical, covid, visa, you name it I probably signed it. And then I booked my flights, I flew from Heathrow to Addis Ababa in Ethiopia, and from there to Lilongwe in Malawi. In total, it took me just over 20 hours to arrive at the sanctuary, only to then endure another 5 hour bus journey to the safari base. It was definitely worth it.

The facilities here are basic but fortunately we have flushing toilets and running water, as well as fans in our rooms for when the temperature peaks. My only struggle is having to walk across the base at night to use the toilets, my fear of spiders and snakes does not help me at all!!

Our day typically involves waking up at 5.00am to go on our morning drive at 6.00am, using telemetry to track animals as we go. We get back to the base around 10.00am to relax and take shelter from the sun, before heading back out from 3.00pm to 6.00pm for the

afternoon drive, where we continue tracking and record any sightings of the monitored species. What I've seen is indescribable, seeing these animals behave in their natural habitats with no humans nearby is incredible, and I'm so appreciative to have been given this opportunity. I've watched elephants bathe themselves in the river, crocs and hippos swim and dive under the water, gibbons groom each other and so many other wonderful sights that will stay with me forever.

Experiencing the local culture of the communities, their way of life and their passion towards wildlife is inspiring, yet also so humbling. When visiting the nearby towns, I'm in awe of the people's strength and also their capabilities. Watching the communities build homes and basic infrastructure from such simple materials; witnessing first hand how happy these people are, despite living in severe poverty, and how different their attitudes are to back home is eye opening and so so rewarding".

We are so very proud of Grace for following her dream. A true example of a Montsaye ERA student.

Laura McNish - Sixth Form Centre Manager



6 Week Membership

Are you looking for a short-term gym membership over the Summer?

We offer a 6 week membership for a one-off payment of £36.50. This includes access to the Fitness Suite, Fitness Classes and Swimming Pool.

Perfect for university students back for the holidays or those looking for a short term commitment during the Summer.

To sign up please pop in to the Sports Centre Reception or call us on 01536 713708.



www.montsaye.northants.sch.uk/sports-centre

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