



MONTSAYE ACADEMY NEWS

May 2021



I never cease to be totally amazed by the quality of learning and opportunities that are available to pupils at Montsaye Academy. Yes, we have had some restrictions but it is wonderful to see that despite those we have been able to start after school clubs, resume our Combined Cadet Force and see many of our Cadets honoured and promoted.

Our pupils in Year 13 and Year 11 are working incredibly hard on their assessments, all at Montsaye wish them well for their future pathways. The articles from Mrs McNish and Miss Pickering really capture the high aspirations we have for our pupils, and the really unique and wonderful nature of these two year groups. We are so proud of them. We are also really pleased that so many pupils are joining us in the sixth form and we have had a record number of applications this year!

All of our children have settled well into the new routines and structures that have been put in place for them. We look forward to a 'normal' school in September and are beginning to take tentative steps towards lifting restrictions in light of government guidance.



This newsletter is testament to an incredible body of staff who have worked tirelessly over the past year to ensure that our pupils continue to learn and embody the values of Excellence, Aspiration and Resilience. I cannot thank them all enough. As always we are a community and our community support and spirit continues. I wish to thank parents/carers for their full support so far this academic year.

Wishing everyone an enjoyable and restful half term break from all the Montsaye community.

Meena Gabbi - Principal

Do you want to make a difference?



From Jo Woods, one of our trustees...

Never has it been more important to work together to improve the life chances of the young people in our community. This is why I have been volunteering as a school governor/trustee of Pathfinder Schools since 2015.

My fellow trustees and I come from a variety of backgrounds: education, law, finance and the world of business. What unites us is a desire to create an environment in which our schools can deliver the best educational outcomes for all learners, and empower young people to broaden their horizons and open their minds to new opportunities. We support school leaders, monitor progress and care about every pupil. Working as a valued member of a team, helping schools to grow and seeing the resulting impact for pupils is extremely rewarding. We wouldn't be who we are without our amazing staff. Being a governor/trustee gives you the opportunity to encourage, appreciate and say thank you to the staff in our schools.



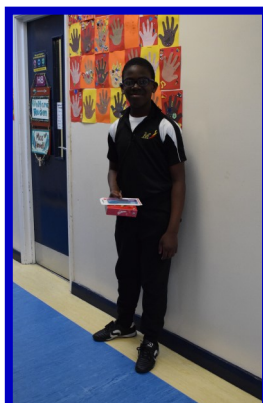
Everyone has a part to play and a contribution to make. We all have life experiences that are invaluable for this role. If you are passionate about education, wish to develop your own skills and want to add value to your community, being a governor/trustee is something I would highly recommend. So if you share our ethos and values, then why not join us?

If you are interested in a role as a Pathfinder Schools Trustee, or as a governor at one of our schools, please contact clerk@pfschools.org.uk in the first instance.

ERA Points hit the 100,000 mark

Week in, week out, our pupils impress us by demonstrating our ERA values. Staff reward them for their work in lessons, for their conduct outside lessons and their efforts, both in form time and in the extra-curricular activities which are slowly beginning again.

On Wednesday 5th May, Jaden D-A., in Year 7 was the recipient of our 100,000th ERA point, awarded by Mrs Scullion.



This year is the first time that we have seen 100,000 ERA points awarded so early in the academic year and the achievement is all the more remarkable, as our pupils have experienced months of home learning or key worker provision. We are so proud that they have maintained high standards throughout and continued to achieve **excellence** in their learning, showing **resilience** in the most challenging of times and the **aspiration** to do their best.

Many pupils have now reached the stage in the reward system where ERA pin badges are being awarded for blazers. In Year 8, Mr Roberts recently presented Harvey, Mia and Logan with their excellence badges, having gained 100 excellence points.

Keep an eye out on our social media pages (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram) for regular up-dates on ERA points being awarded.

Well done to all of our pupils who keep showing our ERA values in all they do.



Emma Lopes - SMSC Co-ordinator

Year 11 Prom Tickets On Sale...

After a GCSE journey unlike any other, we are nearing the end of our Year 11s time with us. As part of their leaving celebrations, we are hoping to hold a Year 11 prom, **subject to government guidance and relevant risk assessments**, on Thursday 24th June 2021 from 6.30pm to 9.30pm. This will be held on site this year at Montsaye Academy, in a beautiful marquee on the academy field.

The prom committee have been busy planning and organising key elements of the evening and, following discussion with the year group, have decided on the theme of 'Enchanted Forest'. They have already booked a hog roast (with an equally delicious vegetarian alternative), and are now looking for a local DJ or band who are able to join us on the night. They will soon be finalising decorations, as well as booking additional elements for the event to really celebrate their time here.

Tickets are available to buy on ScoPay for Year 11 pupils only, priced at £25.00. Once the transaction has taken place, the ticket will be delivered to the recipient in the Year 11 pod.

If you, or anyone you know in the local community, would be able to support the Year 11 prom in some way (e.g. donation of fairy lights, supporting with music etc.), then please do let us know.



We want to recognise the fantastic hard work the year group have put in over the past two years in particular, by giving them a celebration to remember.

Hannah Pickering - Year 11 Progress Leader

Millionaire Readers



You may have read, in our December 2020 newsletter, the article about the Accelerated Reader scheme which Montsaye runs. It is a computer-based programme which we use to monitor reading practice and progress.



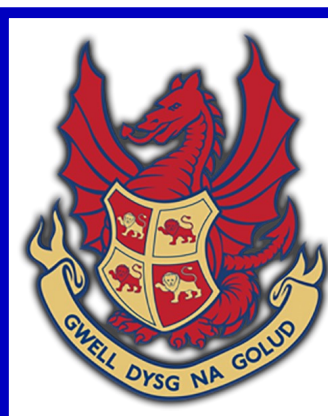
Sonny W. was our first Accelerated Reader millionaire for this academic year.

We are delighted to announce that we now have four additional millionaires in Year 7; they are Meghan T., Andre F., Dorothea G. and Daniel A. Even more incredible, is that Daniel is the first pupil since September 2020 to get to **two** million words.

To have read a million words, let alone two million, is an amazing achievement. Pupils have received a certificate and a gold reader star. We wish everyone huge congratulations for their hard work.

With the reintroduction of DEAR (Drop Everything and Read), where pupils read for twenty minutes a day, we look forward to welcoming even more pupils to this special club in the near future.

Mandy Lantz - Librarian



Scholarship Success

We are so proud of, and pleased for, Year 11 pupil, Ben who has been awarded a Rugby scholarship at the prestigious Llandovery College in Wales.

Ben will attend the college next year, where he will be studying for his A-Levels, whilst continuing with his Rugby training. Many congratulations, Ben.

Tim Wing - Head of PE



Combined Cadet Force

We all know that 2020 was a difficult year, but the CCF continued to parade over Teams every week and the Aidan Howell Memorial Award for the Best Cadet was still in contention. As this is such an important award amongst the cadets, we felt that it was only fair that we waited until we were able to present the award face-to-face. Choosing the winner was not easy. Everyone proved that they were committed, both on and off the parade square.



We are pleased to announce that the overall winner of the 2020 Best Cadet Aware is Rosie S. She was presented with the trophy on Thursday 29th April.

Our cadet numbers continue to grow and over the last three to four months, we have doubled our numbers. Pupils have welcomed the chance to get outside and have fun.

Mark Chattaway - School Staff Instructor

Year 7 ERA Day proves to be a resounding success

On Friday 23rd April, our Year 7 cohort experienced their first ever ERA day. In fact, due to coronavirus restrictions, this was their first ever assembly in the main hall since their arrival at Montsaye in September.

The event didn't disappoint and a large number of talks and workshops took place. The Year 7 form groups moved around with their tutors, learning much about growing up, online safety, emotions and mental health, as well as about our school values of **Excellence, Resilience** and **Aspiration**. Pupils also created a 'helping hands of friendship' display.



The stand-out success of the day was a game of Quidditch which everyone is really keen to play again. The 'spell' of good weather allowed our 'high flying' Year 7s to display some 'magic' performances. Many thanks to the PE department for dusting off the 'bludgers' and 'quaffles', and giving everyone an amazing experience.

Following the day, Year 7 completed a survey. Here are a few of their responses.

If I needed to talk about my worries I would:

Talk to my mum.
Talk to Miss Howell.
Speak to a trusted adult.
Talk to a teacher,
an adult or Childline

My favourite activity today was the helping hands activity, it was fun and I enjoyed drawing.

I absolutely loved the change.

I loved it, thank you!

It was interesting.

It was fun and nice trying new things.

The day was really rewarding and I got to be with friends.

I found out a lot about puberty.

Quidditch was fun – I wish we did it more often.



Pupils working on the 'Helping Hands' display



Mr Stanton getting involved in Quidditch

The day ended with a celebration assembly filled with cheers, music, laughter and lots of certificates for our Year 7 ERA heroes. Mrs Petchey was very proud of everyone's conduct on the day and we can't wait for the next Year 7 ERA day in July.

Emma Lopes - SMSC Co-ordinator

Year 7 pupils connect with a class in India

One of our Year 7 classes have been working really hard on a reading project over the last month. Pupils have filled out their reading journals every day for four weeks and so far, they have learnt about characters in books from **Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Syria, Jamaica, the Himalayas, Eritrea and England.**

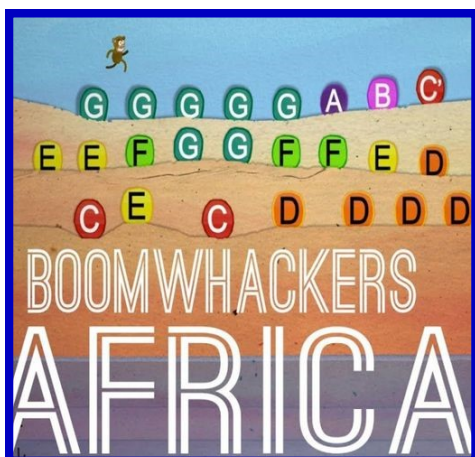
Pupils have also been communicating with a school in India, New Delhi. They have had a video call with one of the classes there; they shared with each other, books that they have been enjoying and what they think the benefits of reading are. We are soon going to be creating a '4,902 Miles Book Club,' and hopefully both classes can read the same book at the same time. Pupils have been incredible with this project and it will hopefully be something that can benefit other Year 7 classes soon too.



Nina Matthews - Teacher of English

Boomwhacking up a storm...

One of our Year 8 classes (8T) have surpassed all expectations this term with their incredible work using Boomwhackers. A Boomwhacker is a lightweight, hollow, colour-coded, plastic tube which is tuned to a musical pitch by length. They are used as musical instruments and are part of the percussion family. They were first produced by Mr Craig Ramsell in 1995.



The class have so far performed 'Africa' by Toto and the 'Ghostbusters' main theme. The pitch and harmony have been completely accurate in both pieces, but what makes 8T so special, is that there are so few of them. As the smallest class in the academy, under normal circumstances it would be impossible for us to cover all of the parts. Not to be defeated, everyone involved showed the true ERA value of resilience and all pupils play at least two pitches, if not three, at the same time.

This particular group of pupils have inspired me to start a lunchtime Boomwhacker club, exclusively for Year 8, every Friday. New members are always welcome.

Natalie Gardner - Head of Music

Praise for Year 9

Twelve of our Year 9 students recently enjoyed a socially distanced break time treat with Mrs Gabbi in recognition of their work in meeting our ERA values. It was extremely difficult to narrow the possible candidates down to twelve, such has been the positive attitude and dedication of so many of our students:

Ben B: for amazing improvement in resilience.

Madison C: for exemplary attitude and dedication.

Milena K: an EAL student who has worked so hard that she now has a reading age of 16.08 and is above target in all of her subjects.

Lucy J: excellent attitude and work rate.

Benjamin O: for dedication and continued commitment to the academy ERA values.

Todd M: the star Year 9 student of lockdown who has now achieved 208 ERA points – two and a half times more than he received last year.

Keeley K: for outstanding commitment.

Ellie F: for excellent commitment.

Fraser S: for being kind and considerate to others.

Ryan G: for excellent effort and achievement.

Kaitlyn P: for excellent effort.

Arran T: for excellent effort.

Well done to you all for your hard work and dedication.

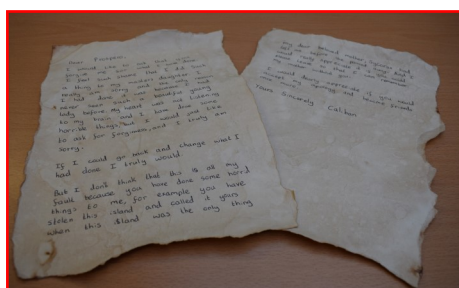
Jane Cooper - Year 9 Progress Leader

KS3 English Update

There has been a lot of activity in English lessons this term, with all pupils from Year 7 to Year 9 studying Shakespeare. There has been a lot of love for the Bard from everyone, with some excellent progress being made in their studies of *The Tempest*, *Twelfth Night* and *Macbeth*.

Key to understanding any literature text, is being able to use empathy to understand characters and their motivations. This skill was displayed beautifully by Year 7 pupil, Sophie C., in a monologue understanding the emotions of Ferdinand, who is simultaneously falling in love with Miranda, whilst mourning the death of his father.

Year 7 pupil, Erica V., also submitted an outstanding piece of work in the form of a letter written from a character's perspective.



Dear Prospero

I would like to ask that you forgive me for what I have done. I feel such shame that I did such a thing to my master's daughter. I really am sorry and the only reason I had done it was because I had never seen such a beautiful young lady before. My heart was not listening to my brain and I have done some horrible things, but I would just like to ask for forgiveness and I really am sorry.

If I could go back and change what I had done, I really would. But I don't think that this is all my fault because you have done some horrid things to me, for example you have stolen this island and called it yours when this island was the only thing my dear beloved mother, Sycorax had left me before she passed away. And I would really appreciate it if you could please leave so that I can remember my mother without you.

I would dearly appreciate if you would accept my apology and become friends once more.

Yours sincerely

Caliban

Exceptional work from both pupils, worthy of a place in the newsletter.

Adam Sloper - Second in English

Year 10 ERA Day

What a wonderful time we had on our recent Year 10 ERA day.

It was an enormous privilege for us to begin our day with a keynote speech by well-known 'Educating Yorkshire' star Musharaf Asghar. You could have heard a pin drop in the main hall as the gathered Year 10s listened to Musharaf describe his incredible journey as he experienced school and beyond with a severe stammer. His story chimed with all of us as he explained how, with the support of his teachers, he found strategies to overcome his challenges. It was incredible to witness his resilience in the passionate way he spoke, and it was really moving to consider the fact that, in spite of ongoing challenges, he is living out his dream to help and inspire others.



As always, the rest of the day saw a broad range of activities taking place, from keeping students safe online, supporting them with mental health concerns and readying them for healthy and positive relationships as they grow older, together with just a sprinkling of fun into the mix.

The standout success of the day for the pupils were the climbing wall and the relaxation 'spa' activities. Many pupils have committed to continuing the relaxation strategies going forward, as a way of combatting physical and mental stresses and strains.

As well as Musharaf, we partnered with Amplifyouth, Loudmouth Productions and Northamptonshire County Council in delivering the day.

To finish the day, Miss Malins welcomed back the whole year group into the hall. Simon from NCC remained for the celebration assembly at the end and remarked on how engaged and positive our pupils are. We shared certificates and photos of the day and enjoyed a final song together.



The whole day was a truly wonderful reminder of what makes Montsaye Academy such a great place to learn. We are all so very proud of our pupils.

Emma Lopes - SMSC Co-ordinator



Wherefore art thou Romeo?

On Thursday 29th April, we were visited by the Warts and All Theatre Company from Northampton. They delivered an amazing workshop on Shakespeare to our Year 10 pupils.



The theatre company worked on the prologue from Romeo and Juliet. They helped the group with their RSL Creative Arts course on how to deliver to an audience, focussing on 'speaking the bard'.

The pupils learnt several new techniques for rehearsals and the results were very impressive. I am hoping that the relationship between Montsaye Academy and the theatre company is one which will continue to grow.

Tim Shea - Head of Drama

Year 11 pupils are on the next step of their journey...



We are delighted to be able to announce that **every** pupil in one of our Year 11 teaching groups has secured a place on their chosen post-16 pathway.

The cohort are moving on to study a wide variety of subjects, including Travel and Tourism, Horse Management, Hospitality and Catering, Sport and Fitness, Landscaping and Motor Mechanics.

They have all worked extremely hard and it is a fantastic achievement; they are a credit to the academy, showing the true ERA values of **Excellence, Resilience** and **Aspiration**.

Lorraine Pelican - Teacher of English

True #ERA values...

Year 13 pupil, Beth recently competed in her first ladies cycling road race since October 2020. She came in with a very respectable sixth position.

Over the May Day Bank Holiday weekend, Bethany also broke the female junior course record by over a minute, at the LEO 30 TT race, with a time of 1:16:03.

Congratulations Beth, we are very proud of your hard work and for exhibiting the true Montsaye values in one go; **#Excellence, #Resilience and #Aspiration**.

What an amazing achievement.

Laura McNish - Sixth Form Centre Manager



Year 12 develop confidence in their drawing skills

Our Year 12 art group have been completing a range of drawing exercises aimed to encourage and develop creativity and confidence in their work and skills. The exercises forced everyone to work out of their comfort zones.



Some pieces were produced using very short time limits, in order to push mark-making techniques and expressive qualities. Other exercises controlled the materials the pupils had to work with. Questioning the notion of what makes a successful drawing was a clear discussion point, as was the emphasis of recording what you see with a personal mark being the focus.

All pupils showed off the school's ERA values with their approach towards this work. They all persevered against their natural instinct and a desire to feel safe with white paper and a pencil, to explore and experiment with new ways of working, building up a creative and imaginative portfolio of observational drawings for A-Level art.

Julia Roberts - Teacher of Art



ERA: PE takes on 'Race The Sun Challenge'

Being advocates for movement and physical activity, four of our PE teachers have decided to enter a team in the Race the Sun Challenge in September, raising money for the UK charity, Action Medical Research for Children. The charity raises funds for vital research to help defeat the diseases that devastate the lives of sick and disabled babies, children and young people.

The event takes place in the heart of the Lake District National Park. It involves cycling for forty miles around the imposing Skiddaw mountain, navigating a two mile canoe course on Derwent water and finally, summiting Skiddaw on an eleven mile round trip (to

an altitude of 931 metres). The hike climbs towards Latrigg on the outskirts of Keswick, before the path gets steeper, zig-zagging onwards and upwards. All of the challenges are to be completed between dawn and dusk in one day. If you would like to donate to this amazing charity, please scan the QR code, which will take you to the team's Just-Giving Page.



SCAN ME

Jake Siddons - Teacher of PE






Year 13 University Destinations Round-Up

As we approach the last couple of weeks of term, our Year 13 pupils are busy preparing for their final assessments, and are looking forward to their celebratory Leavers' Lunch and Awards Ceremony.

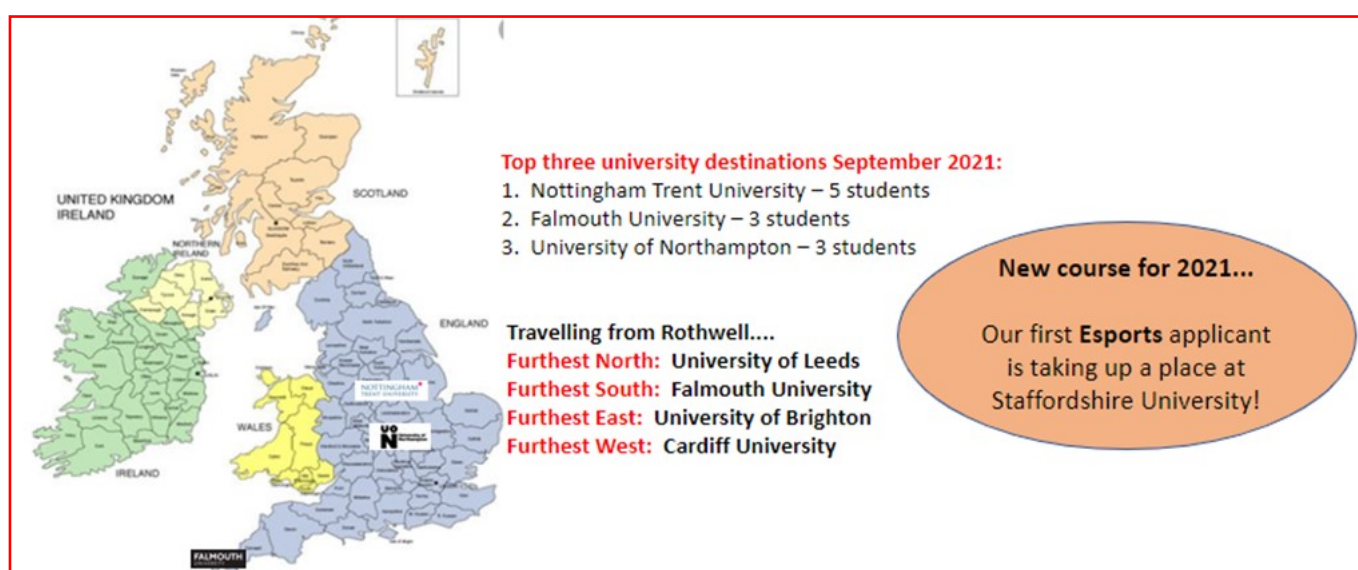
Despite the challenges they have faced over the last year, our sixth formers have kept their spirits up and have shown great resilience and determination throughout. We wanted to take this opportunity to share with you some of the planned destinations and courses of our university applicants this year.

Russell Group Applicants

Popular Subject Areas

Name of University	Course	Subject Area	Number of students
	Media and Communications	Art and Design	7
	Physics and Astrophysics	Sciences	6
	Microbiology	Business, Finance and Maths	4
	Physiotherapy	Criminology, Sociology and Forensic	4
	Medicine	English, Media and Theatre	4
		Teaching	3

New course for 2021...
Our first **Veterinary Physiotherapy** applicant has accepted a place at Harper Adams University!



New course for 2021...

Our first **Esports** applicant is taking up a place at Staffordshire University!

We wish everyone all the luck in the world as they move on to university or an apprenticeship.

Laura McNish - Sixth Form Centre Manager

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