



# MONTsaye ACADEMY NEWS

November 2021



Whilst I can't comment on the national picture, at Montsaye we are feeling more settled and level, getting on with high quality learning and it's wonderful to see everything that we've achieved already this year.

It is really indicative of our journey and trajectory that record numbers of Year 7s have chosen Montsaye as their first choice secondary school this year and that our Sixth Form is also more popular than ever too.

It is exceptionally pleasing to see pupils in all years working hard, in full academy uniform making Montsaye Academy a wonderful place to be and a great place to learn, with all, staff and pupils alike, maintaining our high expectations. We are excited about upcoming ERA days for them full of bespoke thought provoking and inspiring sessions.

We continue to improve our site, following on from the work done over the summer. I am delighted that students are enjoying our fabulous new science labs and we have spruced some corridors with painting and decorating. Everyone is benefiting from the new security gate and resurfaced car park – what a difference!

In collaboration with parents and the community, and embracing the school's ERA values, we continue to strive for excellence at Montsaye Academy



**Meena Gabbi - Principal**

## Off to a flying start

What an amazing start our Year 7 students have made to their Montsaye journey.

Smart, polite and enthusiastic, they have impressed everyone with their focus in class and their eagerness to participate in the wider activities offered by Montsaye. In their first half term, they were awarded an incredible 6,681 ERA points, for showing our core values of **Excellence, Resilience** and **Aspiration**.

By 15<sup>th</sup> September, we had our first Accelerated Reader Word Millionaire, Morwenna O., and there are many other students snapping at her heels as they take quizzes on the huge range of books available in our Learning Resource Centre.

In form time, students have been discussing and signing the Montsaye Pledge, which supports the encouragement and acceptance of diversity. They have also been quizzing on current affairs, undertaking guided reading of a class novel, creating form noticeboards, learning about the history of coding and choosing form representatives for the School Council; they have certainly been kept busy.

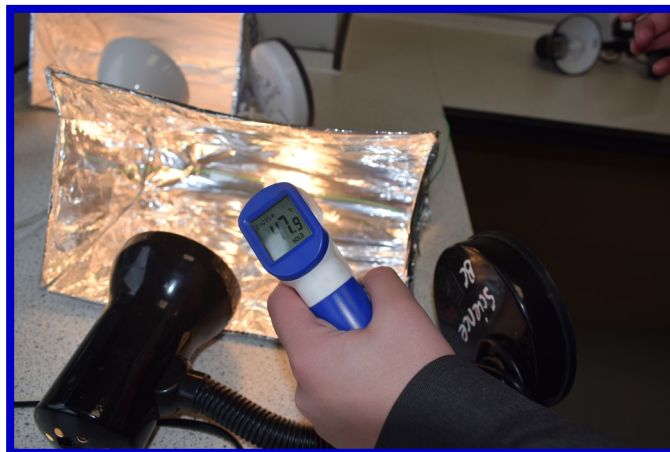
**Jane Cooper - Year 7 Progress Leader**

## After-school STEM investigations...

In our ever-popular after-school STEM club (science, technology, engineering and maths), students have been surviving the zombie apocalypse. They have been designing early warning systems, communication networks, protective clothing and even cooking using the sun.



A Year 7 student said, "I like science club because every lesson is an adventure". Abbie in Year 8 said, "My favourite thing that I have done in science club so far, was the solar oven. It was really interesting to make and use".



STEM club takes place after school every Thursday in S5 between 3.00pm and 4.00pm. All students in Year 7 and Year 8 are welcome.

Ellie Bates - Teacher of Science

## Cooking up a storm...

Our KS3 students and KS4 GCSE students have been honing their cooking skills in their food technology lessons.



Vegetable sticks and dips



Cheese and onion triangles



Pasta salad

We are pleased to be able to share some pictures of the work which they have produced. We are very proud of everyone; keep up the good work.

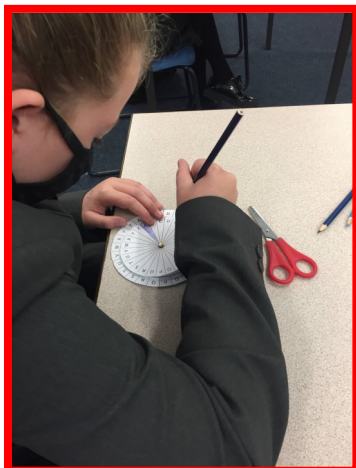
Gillian Brotherston - Teacher of Food Technology



## Computers do what you tell them to do...

**O**ur Year 7 students have started their first term at Montsaye learning about encryption, decryption and ciphers.

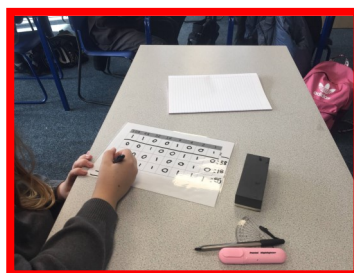
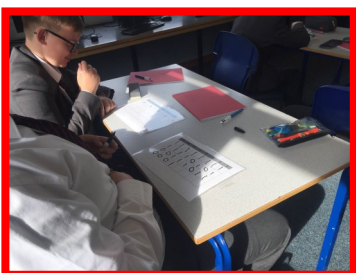
They have been making cipher wheels in lessons and then using them at home to teach an adult how encryption works.



**Y**ear 8 have been learning how computer devices (such as laptops, smartphones, smartwatches and digital TV boxes) store and represent data using binary numbers (1s and 0s).

Students have explored how any piece of text, number, image, sound or video, can be converted into binary code which can be understood by the computer.

Here, we see students teaching each other how to convert between binary and denary numbers (denary is just another word for decimal).



**O**ur Year 9 cohort have started their year off by exploring how to plan, design and create algorithms using Python.

So far, students have used different commands to input and output data, variables to store data and different data types.

Steve Lea - Teacher of Computer Science

## A proud PE department

Since the start of the new academic year, our student sports teams have gone from strength to strength.

We are extremely proud of each and every student who has participated in the many different sporting events which have taken place over the last few weeks.

We are pleased to be able to share some of their successes.



Year 10 and Year 11 boys earned a hard-fought draw against KBA. They all showed fantastic teamwork, character and resilience.



Year 9 netball team won two games out of three.



Year 11 Futsal who won 1, drew 1 and lost 1 in the recent Kettering schools tournament.

Well done to all involved.

Tim Wing - Head of PE

## Introducing our Head Girl and Head Boy for 2021 to 2022

We are pleased to be able to introduce Sophie and Ben, our Head Girl and Head Boy for this academic year. I caught up with them to find out a little bit about them:

### What was your highlight from Year 12?

**Ben:** *My highlight was being with my own year group all day, every day. As we had been placed in Covid 'bubbles' in different departments around the school, it was nice to have an area that was just ours, and separate from the lower school.*

**Sophie:** *A particular highlight for me was our history lessons. We were able to have fun with revision and got really creative with techniques. We still have our life-sized cut out of Gorbachev up in H9.*

### What are your plans for Year 13 as head boy and girl?

**Sophie:** *I'm excited to finally be able to get out of our sixth form bubble, and to get involved with support events around the school. In particular, Year 12 students are supporting lunchtime clubs in the lower school, and I am excited to be involved with that.*

**Ben:** *One of my biggest goals is to help keep the school safe for all students.*



### Do you have any advice or tips for students starting in the sixth form next year?

**Sophie:** *Work hard when you need to, and don't be afraid to ask for help. Then you'll be able to make the most of finally being in the sixth form and able to enjoy it.*

**Ben:** *Make sure you keep on top of your notes from the start. Don't let them build up as it might be difficult to catch up if you fall behind.*

### If you could start sixth form again, is there anything you would do differently?

**Sophie:** *I'd be excited to apply for the position of deputy head girl. I was quite doubtful at first and not sure if I would be up to the job.*

**Ben:** *I would have kept on top of my school work a little bit better.*

### What are your plans after Montsaye?

**Sophie:** *University for me, I've applied to study Modern Languages.*

**Ben:** *I'm looking at studying electrical engineering at Blackburn College.*



## When one sport isn't enough...

Year 13 student, Freya B., recently spent a weekend competing in a triathlon in Almeria, Spain.

Freya was attending a Spanish race with Madrid Marlins Triathlon Team in Roquetas de Mar. Such a wonderful opportunity for Freya and a true example of our ERA values of ***Excellence, Resilience and Aspiration***. Well done, we are very proud of you.



Tim Wing - Head of PE

## Team PE Race the Sun



On the weekend of Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th September, myself and three other members of staff from our PE department; Mr Wing, Mr Jordan and Mr Payne, took part in the Race the Sun Challenge in the Lake District. We were raising money for Action Medical Research for Children.

Our team set off at sunrise on the Triathlon-style adventure challenge, with the aim being to finish before sunset.

We cycled forty miles around the imposing Skiddaw mountain, navigated a two mile canoe course on Derwent Water and finally, summited Skiddaw, hiking an 11 mile round trip (to an altitude of 931 metres).

## The Learning Support Hub



This year, we have re-launched our special educational needs support area and have re-named it 'The Learning Support Hub' (or 'The Hub'). We are excited about this, because it aligns with our whole school 'New ERA' ethos and seeks to show our academy community that we are here to support, encourage and help our students.

Our main classroom area has been decorated and brightened up – we love it. We are welcoming students to our break and lunch clubs and it is lovely to hear the buzz in this newly brightened environment.

We have been busy working on our new sensory wall. This is still a work in progress but we already have some interesting items. Students are finding this relaxing and helpful when things become a little tough. We have more items to add in the future.

Our well-being room looks amazing. We are so proud of the work we have done here. The room is being accessed by students with a range of needs, and it is loved by them all.

**Becky Gatiss — SENCo**

## And we're off with our first millionaire readers...

**M**any congratulations to Year 7 student Morwenna O., (7NWR) who is our first Accelerated Reader Millionaire for this academic year. Not only is Morwenna the first student this year to achieve millionaire status, but she is also the fastest ever student to have read one million words, reaching this incredible milestone within the first three weeks of a new year. Morwenna has read 1,010,911 words and taken quizzes on twelve books during this period.

Other students have followed in Morwenna's footsteps; we now have Eilidh O., (7GDB) who has read 1,060,475 words and quizzed on 15 books and Lucy F., (7JSI) who has read 1,019,294 words and has quizzed 15 books since the start of this academic year. Jack S., (7RS) is our fourth millionaire reader, having read 1,000,880 words and quizzed 20 books.

All of these students have been awarded a certificate and a Gold Reader Star.

Keep reading...



**Mandy Lantz - Librarian**



## From Rothwell to India; a mere 7,658km and an internet link between us...



Last year, a group of our Year 7 English students were set a task which involved them reading books written by authors from across the world, and characters from different cultures.

Out of the project, emerged a connection with a school 7,658km away from Montsaye, in India. The Indian School, located in the capital city of Delhi, embarked on a reading project with us.

Since then, a group of our Year 9 students joined in discussions with the school on Charles Dickens, in preparation for beginning their GCSE course, where they study 'A Christmas Carol.'

At the end of the last academic year, we were honoured to be able to take part in a video call between our students and a class at the school in India. Montsaye students bravely presented on the connecting author, and the two groups of students even shared tips on yoga and school food.

Some of the our students took time to reflect on the significance and impact of being able to co-learn, considering the restrictive nature of the world since lockdown. Josh and Hannah, composed and read out a poem:

*It may feel like we are trapped by the virus.  
But survivors inspire us.  
We may be unable to do anything...stuck in our homes.  
But you are not alone.*

*Co-joining is the best.  
This long period is just a test.  
India and England should unite as one.  
This will surely be a lot of fun.*

*Josh H. and Hannah J.*

It was a wonderful experience for both schools (staff and students) and one on which we hope to build. A true example of the ERA values of Montsaye Academy; Excellence, Resilience and Aspiration.

We look forward to working with The Indian School again and are excited for what the future may bring.



## News from the Performing Arts Department...



### All Together Now!

We are so excited to be involved in this event which has been made possible by Music Theatre International. We are one of thousands of schools, colleges and theatres from around the world who will be producing and performing an exclusive musical revue, featuring songs from MTI's shows.

As a team, the performing arts department are busy rehearsing and staging the show with input from over forty students.

Some of the hits that are due to be performed are: 'Be Our Guest' from Beauty and the Beast, 'Pure Imagination' from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, 'We're All in this Together' from High School Musical, 'I Dreamed a Dream' from Les Miserables...along with many more favourites.

### Preparations for Christmas are under way

We are about to start rehearsals for our Christmas show which is called 'Shakespeare's Super Snowy Seasonal Sleigh Ride Stage Show'. It is by the Canadian playwright, Lindsay Price, and we are proud to be performing it here in Rothwell. It is very early days but it is looking really good.

**Tim Shea - Head of Drama**

## Year 13 students attend UK University and Apprenticeship Search Fair

**O**n Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September, we took our Year 13 students to the UK University and Apprenticeship Search Fair at the University of Northampton. After eighteen months of class bubbles, Covid-19 restrictions and online events, it was lovely to be able to take our students out to see a university in real life.

The sun was shining for us as we arrived at the University of Northampton (Waterside Campus). Students took full advantage of the opportunity to talk to as many representatives from different universities as they could, in order to find out more about their preferred degree course. Some students managed to get themselves on a free campus tour, while others were on a mission to collect as many goodie bags and university prospectuses as they could.

Head of Sixth Form, Mrs Jones said, "this annual event is always a good one to take students to, and we were really happy to be able to attend this year. It is such a valuable experience for our students to visit a university campus, and to gather as much information as possible about their future options". One of our students, Sophie

said, "the best thing about the event, was that it opened up our eyes to the options available at universities, which we hadn't really considered before when we were doing our on-line research".

We would like to thank the University of Northampton and UK Search Fair; we will be back again next time.



**Laura McNish - Sixth Form Centre Manager**



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