



MONTsaye ACADEMY NEWS

October 2020



It has been wonderful to welcome back our children and staff since September, they should be commended on how fervently they have settled into our new year group POD structure.

The demonstration of resilience has been seen in so many different ways at school when dealing with the new structures, and in our wider communities, as we continue to grapple with the changes brought about by the pandemic.

What we can say with confidence, is that we are all working hard at Montsaye Academy to ensure that our children continue to have an education and we have been so pleased to see the work and progress that is going on around the school. Each POD has its own unique identity, which is growing and developing week on week.



What is abundantly clear from this newsletter, is that the work going on in the academy now is moving us forward every day, our children are learning and our values remain strongly at the heart of everything we do.

I thank you all for your patience during these challenging times, I thank my wonderful staff who are working relentlessly and I thank our children here at Montsaye Academy who have been very quick to adapt to the changes; they make me extremely proud to lead this amazing school.

Have a wonderful half term.

Meena Gabbi - Principal

Tremendous Transition Booklets!

A huge thank you to all those students who handed in their Year 6 Montsaye transition booklet.

I had great pleasure in reading all of the many projects and letters, some of which have been put on display in our Year 7 pod area.



It was lovely to hear about all the things our new students were looking forward to, including the sausage rolls in the restaurant!

A special mention goes out to Tianna, Toby, Josh and Caitlin for their outstanding effort across all of the tasks.

These Year 7 students are the first to achieve the Montsaye ERA pin badge.

Claire Petchey
Year 7 Progress Leader

Summer School Success for Sixth Form Student Evan

We are delighted that one of our Year 13 students, Evan, has successfully completed the University of Reading Scholars Programme, where he was an exemplary student. The programme had to adapt to the coronavirus lockdown and move online to a summer school model. However the same aim, to provide students with practical support and experience to begin their higher education journey, still ran true. With the involvement of leading academics in multiple subject areas, from both within the university and out, the programme offered a plethora of opportunities for participants to really engage in their preferred subject and university life as a whole.

Before lockdown, Evan had visited the University of Reading for a second time in February. This second day involved each separate subject going off into their departments and having subject-specific activities to take part in. I asked Evan what this involved for his chosen strand and he said, "We had a film lecture with one of the film professors at the university, Dr Evan Hayles Gledhill, where we were taught about the use and build-up of tension in film. After that, we spent the day planning, filming and editing our short films, using what we were taught but with various restrictions placed upon us, such as mandatory props and location, as well as only one piece of dialogue."

To end the day, the groups all watched each other's films in a specially designed cinema room in Minghella Studios. He said, "It was interesting to see other people's approach to the same problem, as well as to see how our teamwork paid off and made our short film a massive hit."

Despite the programme being online, when asked about how this was, Evan said, "I really enjoyed doing the summer school and I continued to be impressed by the efficient organisation and the human approach of the leaders of the program, Tom Woolmer and Rosie Clarke."

Evan participated in a wide range of activities during the summer school, including but not limited to: Film, Theatre and Television (FTT) lectures. There were subject taster sessions, society taster sessions, and a variety of university information sessions on topics ranging from university accommodation to studying abroad, as well as social events to connect with people from various other strands.

Evan was offered a place on the FTT strand in the initial Reading Scholars Programme, and has since done this same subject for the subsequent summer school. I asked Evan how the FTT strand was and he said, "The film strand was run well, with the lectures being really interactive and engaging to participate in. The summer school allowed me to further connect with various friends I had made from my two previous visits to Reading, as well as getting to delve deeper into a short film project".

Evan said how the short film project was dictated by a very specific brief: the title, 'Crisis', only one speaker of dialogue, the use of a single shot and the use of one prop. He further explained that these restrictions really helped get the best out of him, and that the challenge made him think both outside the box and pragmatically.

When asked if he would recommend the programme to the current Year 12, Evan said, "Yes definitely! It was an amazing experience that has really opened my eyes to higher education and helped me figure out what I want to do in the future. Not to mention the great friends made and the interactions with professors I had along the way!"



We are extremely pleased to announce that at the end of the programme, Evan was awarded a 2:1 grade for the project, getting a First in Camera Angles. Evan also received special plaudits from his strand for his engagement in the project and the high quality of his final project.

We are very proud of Evan, he has displayed our fundamental values in action; ***Excellence, Resilience and Aspiration.***



Laura McNish - Sixth Form Centre Manager

Year group pods are a big success

Whilst things aren't quite the same here at Montsaye at the minute, life has carried on regardless. The newly formed year group pods are up and running and students have settled down and are working well. We hear from our progress leaders:

Year 7: Mrs Petchey - our students have settled really well into their new subjects and are confidently moving around their pod. The students were a great help in filming our recent virtual open evening videos. They continue to shine and I am so proud of how well they are behaving, both inside and outside of the classroom.

Year 8: Mr Roberts - school uniform is looking good and students are earning plenty of ERA points. Everyone is working extremely well; it is not easy sitting and working in the same seat all day but we are very proud of how much fortitude they have shown.

Year 9: Mrs Cooper - well done to all of our Year 9 students. Competition is hotting up in the ERA points league table and the chase is on. There are lots of rewards on offer to acknowledge the successes of our students; keep up the good work.

Year 10: Miss Malins - students have settled well into academy life following their delayed start to the year. I was extremely impressed with the year group's resilience when they were working remotely; attendance to lessons was excellent and we met every morning of the two weeks away from the pod with an assembly. Our form notice boards and ERA notice boards are all looking amazing; there has been fierce competition amongst the whole of the year pod.

Year 11: Miss Pickering - Year 11 are working hard on developing their learning. Particular highlights of the last few weeks being, the successful after-school revision sessions and the GCSE food students, with their delicious fruit tarts. Students are earning copious amounts of ERA points and in just a few weeks, have already achieved over half of the amount which was awarded during the last year. This just goes to show how the ERA values are embedded in the year group.



Sixth Form: Mrs Jones - congratulations to Year 12 and Year 13 on a fantastic start to the academic year. I have been so impressed with the positive attitude of our new Year 12 students who are dressed smartly and developing good organisational skills and making the most of their study periods. Year 13 are currently fully focussed on their university applications and I am pleased to see that their motivation and ambition levels are so high.

Democracy in Action

Form representatives have been elected and are ready to go!

Each individual form have now chosen their form representatives. Regular meetings are taking place within the year groups to plan improvements to their pod, fundraising ideas and to discuss any concerns from the forms that they represent.

It is so good to hear the voice of our student body and have the channels of communication open across the school. We look forward to feeding back to the school and community what has been discussed and decided upon.



Emma Lopes - SMSC Co-ordinator

Year 11 Drop Down Day

Year 11 students were off-timetable on Monday 5th October for a drop-down day concentrating on their option A subjects.

This meant that students spent all five lessons of the day, focusing on either EP, ICT, Computer Science, Chemistry, Business Studies, Drama or Art. It enabled them to either complete key pieces of coursework or cover whole topics for the GCSE exams, as well as practice exam questions.

Students thoroughly enjoyed the day and they are looking forward to the further two drop-down days; one for option B and one for option C.

Y11 Option A Drop Down Day - Monday 5th October Reflections

Student Feedback

Very positive and useful


Got lots done, completed coursework, prepped other work, now in a good place to continue without having to rush.

When asked if they would change anything they said no.

Challenging but worthwhile

Talked through an exam paper, having time to discuss and explain how to answer, structure, etc.

Extended tasks time to complete. Range of tasks throughout the day. Liked quizzes too



Teacher Feedback

All I can say is that it was fab!

The day was perfect and productive. I can't think of anything I would have changed.

We were able to do practical science and the students behaved so well and were really good at following instructions.

Having 5 hours to focus on one subject was invaluable, students were really engaged and did Y11 proud!

Y11 students are a credit to the school. They were so productive and this will stand them in good stead for their GCSEs.

As progress leader, I am incredibly proud of how the year group have settled back into their learning and I am looking forward to continuing to support them on the rest of their GCSE journey.

Hannah Pickering - Year 11 Progress Leader

Diversity Champions

Calling all students who would like to become Montsaye Diversity Champions.

Respecting and uplifting everyone in our school community is a key part of our values at Montsaye. We are only **'Excellent'** when everybody feels safe, valued and respected. We **'Aspire'** to welcome everybody. We will be **'Resilient'** and keep working towards inclusion for all.

Diversity takes many forms. As well as race, gender, religion and sexuality, our diversity champions will help us celebrate all music tastes, backgrounds, languages, ages, life journeys and hopes and dreams. Our aim is

to create a multi-media campaign of posters and videos which share our stories and celebrate our diversity.



It would be amazing if any parents or members of the wider community would like to share their 'diversity story' and we can incorporate it into our campaign.

Please contact me: elopes@montsaye.northants.sch.uk with your diversity stories or to apply to be a diversity champion.



Emma Lopes - SMSC Co-ordinator

It is all a little bit different in the drama department...

Whilst drama lessons at Montsaye Academy are carrying on as usual, there is not a lot of practical work taking place, due to these unprecedented times. We are, however, pleased to say that although our lessons are very different, the quality of the work which is being produced by our students is amazing.

This year, we have introduced a new course for Year 10 which is the RSL in Creative Arts. Our students have made an excellent start to the year in creating their devised pieces.



Year 11 are following the AQA GCSE and have also just finished their devised performances. Their attendance at the intervention sessions has been wonderful.

We ask you to watch this space and, as soon as we are allowed, we will be operating all the usual clubs and after school activities. We look forward to getting back to 'normal', in whatever shape or form that may take.

Tim Shea - Head of Drama

History at Montsaye:

Learning from the past for a better future...

October in the United Kingdom is Black History Month. This year more than ever, it is important to learn about our diverse history, both as a country and as a race of humans.

Across the academy in form time, and in our history lessons, students have been learning about significant people who have had a lasting impact on our lives today. We have discussed the importance of diversity and tolerance within our society, looking at the Black Lives Movement organisation and asking questions about what this initiative means to us. Year 8 students have been learning about the British Empire and its involvement in the transatlantic slave trade. This has led to amazing discussions highlighting the ERA values of our academy.

Year 8 have been set a homework project to research people from history that have had a significant impact on black lives throughout the years. Next term we will be sharing our work and learning more about the many amazing stories from this rich history. If you have a child in Year 8, please ask them to share with you their research and learn together the importance of a diverse history and society.



James Wiggins - Head of History

Competition for the Great British Bake Off!



Our Year 11 food students have been honing their practical skills. All of this is in preparation for the GCSE Food practical exams later in the year.

Students were taught how to make fruit tarts, making sweet shortcrust pastry and crème patisserie; this was followed by everyone developing their presentation skills. The tarts were so delicious that they didn't even make it home!



Gillian Brotherston
Teacher of Design Technology

News from the music department...

Our Montsaye Rock Band, the WonderKatz, formed of students from Year 9 and Year 11, recently performed in the Market Square in Rothwell.

The students have been raising money to buy studio time at a Covid-safe recording studio in Corby as they are unable to practice in school at the moment. The crowd loved them...



The academy choir is definitely following our ERA values this term and demonstrating true **Resilience**.

With the help of NMPAT (the Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Trust), our singing teacher has been able to run a secure Zoom rehearsal every week since September.

We are still crossing our fingers that it will be safe to for the choir and rock band to travel to Paris next July to perform at Disneyland. With this in mind, continuing with rehearsals is paramount!

We meet every Tuesday evening at 5.00pm online. New members are always welcome, so if you would like an email invitation sending for your child, please contact me on:

ngardner@montsaye.northants.sch.uk.



Natalie Gardner - Head of Music

Year 7 English

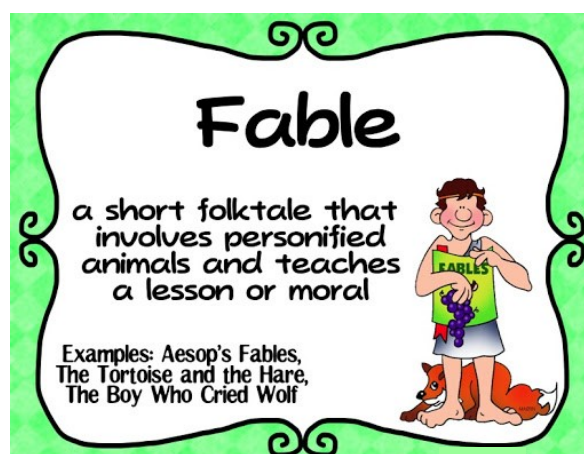
Year 7 have been studying literature through the ages. Students have been looking at classic literary texts from across various time periods. This is helping to broaden their knowledge of how literature has changed along with the world.

The unit is designed to teach students the importance of context, both in how to understand and analyse it, and also in how to apply it to their own extended writing. In addition to this, students will explore how to analyse language and structure and begin to build their knowledge of how to approach unfamiliar text from a range of eras.

This fantastic fable was written by Dorothy in Year 7:

Once, there was a flooding forest. This was a very big problem for all animals, except one: the owl, who lived in a sturdy pine tree.

Every day, the animals tried to flood-proof their homes, some succeeded but some failed miserably. A mouse always had his home flooded, but he kept trying to salvage it. One day, the owl saw the little mouse and thought, I could get a meal out of him. He went up to the mouse and said "I see your home flooding everyday even though you try to save it. Why don't you come and live with me in my tree?". The Mouse was overjoyed by this and quickly replied, "Yes! I would love to!". The owl grabbed the mouse with his talons, flew to his tree and gobbled the mouse whole. "What a trusting mouse," the owl said, "too trusting, some might say."



Emily O'Keeffe - Head of English



Fund-raising cake sale

Jessica C and her mum could be found at the recent, socially-distanced food fayre in Rothwell. Despite the need to maintain distance between each other, people had still turned out.

Jessica and her mum continue to fund-raise, selling home-made cakes. This just goes to show that, despite the unusual times which we are living through, our students are continuing with their lives.

Natalie Gardner - Head of Music

Ex-student nominated for Police Bravery Award

Ex-Montsaye student, Taylor Ladner, who is now an officer with Northamptonshire Police has been nominated for a National Police Bravery Award.

In October 2018, whilst still a student constable and having been in the job for just six months, PC Ladner was despatched to an incident in Wellingborough, to reports suggesting an assault. When he arrived on the scene, he found the house engulfed in flames.

Realising that time was against him, PC Ladner made the brave decision to enter the property himself. He managed to rescue a woman who was intent on dying inside. He dragged her out, ultimately saving her life.

The chairman of Northamptonshire Police Federation, Sam Dobbs, said that the rescue was remarkable, especially given that PC Ladner had such little experience.



Well done Taylor, we are very proud of you and for showing the true Montsaye ERA values of Excellence, Resilience and Aspiration.

Laura McNish - Sixth Form Centre Manager

Keeping in touch...

Remember, if your child has a concern about themselves or another student, they can email any of the student welfare officers. They are still around to help even if your child is not in school.

They can also point you them the right direction for support, or advice.



Student Welfare Officers:

Year 7 - Mrs Howell: ghowell@montsaye.northants.sch.uk

Year 8 - Mrs Patrick: spatrick@montsaye.northants.sch.uk

Year 9 - Mrs Long: llong@montsaye.northants.sch.uk

Year 10 - Mrs Walters Morgan: awmorgan@montsaye.northants.sch.uk

Year 11 - Mrs King: sking@montsaye.northants.sch.uk

Year 11 students are working hard...

Year 11 have had a super start to the year, showing excellence in all aspects of their school life. They have returned from the summer ready for the last stage in their GCSE journey.

This has been further extended by those students who have been attending after school intervention sessions Monday to Thursday. All students are encouraged to attend the 'period 6' sessions where they are focusing on their option subjects until February half term, with some subjects completing coursework elements in this session and others recapping learning from the lockdown period.

Those students who have been attending, have already shown increased content knowledge and have further developed GCSE skills, thus strengthening their exam answers.

In addition to ERA points, students who attend their three option sessions in a week, are placed into a weekly prize draw for a £10 voucher. I am looking forward to continuing to see the learning happening in the period 6 intervention sessions and the impact this has on their successes.

All available sessions are as follows:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Option B Subjects	Option C Subjects	Option A Subjects	Food Students
Music	Sports Studies	Computer Science	Food Group B
Photography	GCSE PE	IT	Food Group C
Product Design	Business	Drama	
Health & Social Care	Photography	Business VCert	
French	Dance	Ethics and Philosophy	
	Single Sciences	Single Sciences	
		Art	



Hannah Pickering - Year 11 Progress Leader

Introducing our new Head Boy and Head Girl

After an extensive interview process, we are extremely proud to introduce Montsaye Academy's Head Boy and Head Girl for the 2020-2021 academic year, Harry and Esme.

We caught up with the two of them to find out more about them and their Year 12 experience, as well as their plans for this year and into the future...

What was your highlight from Year 12?

Esme: My highlight from Year 12 was definitely the Barcelona trip. It was amazing to spend time in a beautiful country, whilst being able to further my learning and gather information to apply to my coursework this year.

Harry: My highlight from Year 12 was being able to become more independent in both school and my personal life. I had to become more responsible for my own learning, having study periods and having more independence in lessons, such as being able to decide on my research projects for science.

What are your plans for Year 13 as Head Boy and Head Girl?

Esme: As Head Girl, I am very excited to play a key role in the Montsaye community, supporting students through this strange time. I am looking forward to introducing and showing the school to a new group of students moving from Year 6 to Year 7 in September to start their secondary school journey. I am also excited to help the Year 11 students explore their options post-16 and help them find the right courses for them ready for their return in September after their exams.

Harry: As Head Boy, I would like to involve Montsaye more in charity work and extra-curricular activities, to both help our local community and provide more opportunities for our students. Personally, I am looking forward to preparing myself for going to university and gaining more independence as I learn to drive and become a young adult.

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

Esme: I would definitely recommend revisiting notes frequently so that they are easily memorable. I would also suggest finding ways to make learning fun as everyone works better when they are enjoying themselves. Personally, I love the occasional Kahoot quiz and a colourful mind map.

Harry: One of the best tips I could give to a new sixth form student is to be as organised as possible.



As you start sixth form, you will realise that you are responsible for a lot more of your school work. Being well organised can really help you both keep on top of your school work and make it easier to revise through your notes later in year.

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

Esme: I would communicate better with my teachers from the start. When I email them any questions and queries, they are always so helpful, even if it is the smallest of things.

Harry: Not really, but it was disappointing to have missed out on many opportunities due to the pandemic, such as university visits and ERA days. If I had known how the last year was going to turn out, I would have made the most of every opportunity, and taken every chance to create memorable moments with my friends.

What are your plans after Montsaye?

Esme: At the moment, I am looking at a degree apprenticeship so I can further my learning and gain a degree qualification whilst in a practical setting. I learn best whilst doing physical work.

Harry: After Montsaye, I am planning to go to university to study a biochemical or medical science degree. One day, I would love to have the opportunity to work in a science-related job.

Stay tuned for more updates on our student leaders...

There will be more updates about the tremendous work happening at Montsaye Academy.

Evan JC - Year 13

Mrs Lantz takes the Library to the students... a new way of working



As the Learning Resource Centre is currently part of the Year 11 pod and used for Year 11 lessons, the library has gone mobile to take lessons out to the Year 7 and Year 8 pods.

Armed with a fully loaded trolley, I am taking books out to the students, so that they are still able to read as part of their library lessons.

When students have read their books and are ready to take the Accelerated Reader book quizzes, the pod computer rooms are available for online testing.

If students would like to borrow a book from the Learning Resource Centre, they can use a 'Click and Collect' method. They are able to access books by searching on the library catalogue using the LRC link on their home page. Students can then either e-mail me directly, or use the LRC book request email:

library@montsaye.northants.sch.uk.

The books are then delivered to the students. When a student wishes to return a book, each year group pod has a 'book returns box' into which books can be placed and which is emptied on a regular basis.

Strange as though it may seem, this is not an unusual way of delivering library resources, as the 'click and collect' or trolley-service system is used in hospitals, meals-on-wheels, mobile and prison libraries.



Mandy Lantz - Librarian

Mathematics

Online Text Books for Key Stage 3

All Key Stage 3 students now have access to the MyMaths for Key Stage 3 mathematics text books which they use in their lessons. Your child will need to sign onto Kerboodle and login to their account:

<https://www.kerboodle.com/users/login>

Username: students's first name initial followed by their surname (e.g. wchurchill).

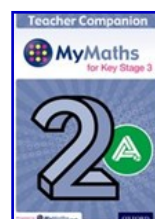
Password: initially this is the same as the username, but can be changed once they have logged on.

Institution code: fry0.

If your child cannot login, they can go to the 'Trouble Logging In' link and request a password reset which will be sent to their school email account.

Each lesson has a video attachment, found at the top of the page, which gives a summary of the lesson. There is

also a number link to www.mymaths.co.uk found at the bottom of the page.



We hope that students who require a recap of the lesson, or just want to see what lessons are being covered in the future, will be able to. The textbooks are not always used in lessons, but the content for that particular lesson will be covered using a variety of teaching styles, methods and resources.

In the event that your child is absent from a lesson or lessons, due to illness or a Covid-related absence, if they have online access, they will be able to access the work for these lessons.

Mark Smith - Head of Maths

Look after yourself and others

Symptoms of Coronavirus include



A new continuous cough



A high temperature



A change in taste or smell

Stay safe by



Washing your
hands for
20 seconds



Keeping
your distance
from others



Wearing face coverings
in crowded areas,
on buses and when
sharing transport



Coughing or
sneezing into
your sleeve
or elbow

Stay in your bubble

If you have
symptoms,
get a test and
self-isolate



If someone in
your bubble tests
positive, stay home
and get a test



**Public Health
Northamptonshire**



**Northamptonshire
County Council**