



# MONTsaye ACADEMY NEWS

October 2022



What a wonderful start to this year! All year groups have settled well and are making good progress engaging in all aspects of Montsaye Academy life.

We are so pleased that our ERA reward point totals are going through the roof and currently, we have exceeded all previous records. This is a clear demonstration of pupil engagement in our ERA values. The development of our character traits since September is really beginning to take shape and the traits of **Respect, Empathy** and **Courage** have given new impetus to our expectations.

As always, we have had a very full half term, with a plethora of trips, clubs, ERA days, theatre visits, diversity and inclusion work, open evening, open morning, student leader interviews, primary assemblies, tutor evening and primary visits.

As we draw breath from this term we are very much looking forward to seeing what the next term brings. It is absolutely my pleasure to lead such a vibrant learning community. I would like to take an opportunity to thank everyone who is involved with our school, for their relentless work to ensure that our ERA values remain at the forefront of our minds and our expectations of our school.

I would like to wish everyone a restful half term break.

**Meena Gabbi - Principal**

## Introducing our new Chair of Governors...

**Name:** Robyn Allen

**Age:** 34

**Occupation:** Business Owner/Insurance Adviser

**Voluntary Roles:** President of the Northamptonshire and Milton Keynes Chamber of Commerce

**Favourite Food:** Salt and vinegar crisps



I am going to be honest with you, it feels quite surreal sitting here writing this. Seventeen years ago, nearly to the day, I said goodbye to Montsaye, my time in education, and went out into the 'real world'. Now I sit here as your new Chair of Governors with an incredible weight on my shoulders, but also a determination to continue to support Montsaye's students and staff through the next academic year and beyond. A lot of people assume you have to be a parent to be a Governor, and whilst we love to have Parent Governors, we also value support from our local area, and as such I joined in 2020 as a Community Governor. It is a brilliant feeling to be able to give back to the school that gave me so much (even though I may have taken that for granted at the time). Being able to talk to students about my own school experiences, as well as my life beyond Montsaye, has been a highlight for me.

Governors are often stereotyped, but I want the new generation of Montsaye's Governing Body to be part of the wider school community; if you see myself, or any of the Governors, at school events please come up and say hello. We are also looking for fresh eyes to join the team, if you would like to support Montsaye and create a great place for our staff and students to be every day, please do get in touch with our Clerk to the Governors, Rianna Walker: [rwalker@montsaye.northants.sch.uk](mailto:rwalker@montsaye.northants.sch.uk)

**Robyn Allen - Chair of Governors**

## DEAR (Drop Everything and Read)



Our DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) initiative re-launched at Montsaye in September.

Once a day, every day, you will witness our students and staff collectively, read for pleasure for 15 minutes a day, either choosing a book from the Learning Resource Centre or bringing their own selection from home.

The DEAR sessions take place within different lessons each week so that learning within the same lesson is not interrupted.

Our entire school community is committed to the development of the Montsaye Reading Culture, where students can understand and access the full academic benefits of regular reading.

Around the academy, our classroom and office doors bear signs depicting when DEAR sessions will take place during the week and which book(s) our members of staff are reading.

Keep your eyes peeled for further reading opportunities across the year and for updates from the LRC.

Adam Sloper - Head of English



## Teach First Summer Institute

We were very fortunate to be involved in hosting over ten trainee teachers from Teach First in the summer term. They joined us as part of their School Centred Learning.

The trainees all commented on how they had received an excellent grounding in the key areas of behaviour management, lesson planning, and pupil assessment during their time at Montsaye.

We are very proud of the work we do in supporting new teachers into the profession and look forward to being involved in hosting more events in the future.



**Amy Bunker**  
Head of Humanities and ITT Co-ordinator

## Social Media

Our social media platforms are going from strength to strength. For those of you who aren't aware, we have the following accounts:

**Instagram:** montsayeacademyofficial

**Twitter feeds:**

@Montsaye, @montsayepe and @MontsayeSF

**Facebook page:** Montsaye Academy



Instagram



twitter

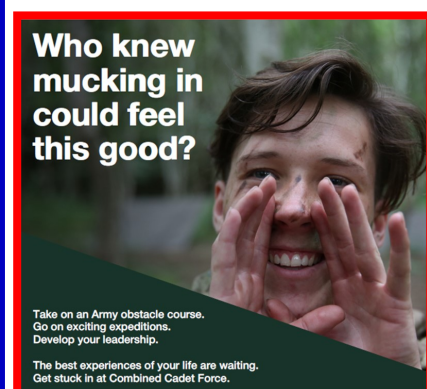


The platforms are used to show our local community the many varied events we have going on at the academy. We also love to be able to celebrate news and the successes of our wonderful students, outside of school, via these platforms. If you would like to get involved in this, please send full details, including photographs if you have them, to:

[JGinns@montsaye.northants.sch.uk](mailto:JGinns@montsaye.northants.sch.uk)



# Our CCF needs you..



Our popular CCF are recruiting for a Contingent Commander (this is a volunteer role). If you would like to make a positive impact on the lives of the children in our community, whilst learning new skills at the same time, then we would love to hear from you. Full training is given for this role; gain qualifications in first aid, earn your British Parachuting Licence and become a qualified paddle board instructor.

We start taking cadets from Year 8. If either you or your child would be interested becoming part of our Combined Cadet Force, please contact: [egray@montsaye.northants.sch.uk](mailto:egray@montsaye.northants.sch.uk) in the first instance.

## Homework Booklets



At Montsaye Academy, we have been reviewing the way that we set and feedback homework to our students. We believe that home learning is really important to build good habits, develop effective independent learning skills and develop the key knowledge that students will need for each of their subject areas. We have refined our homework policy to make it clearer and more manageable for students and parents.

This year we will be using homework booklets for each subject so that at the beginning of each term, your child can clearly see the homework tasks that will be set across the term, helping them to become more organised. It also means you can look ahead to see what homework is coming up and plan around your child's other commitments outside of school to ensure they are still able to complete the work that will be set.

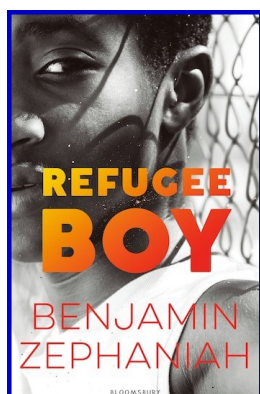
The homework tasks will still be set on Go4Schools, as in previous years, allowing you to check what has been set, but in addition they will also be available via the academy website in the home learning section for students.

We are really looking forward to working with you to support your child as they continue their journey here with us at Montsaye. Please contact your child's subject teacher by email if you have a subject related homework question so that they can discuss this with you.

**Amy Bunker - Head of Humanities**

## Year 7 Celebrate Success in English

Huge congratulations to our Year 7 students for producing excellent creative stories linked to their set book 'Refugee Boy' (by Benjamin Zephaniah). The students read about Alem, the main character of the novel, wanting to run away; this inspired the students to write their own stories.



'Dread and remorse loomed over the fourteen-year-old boy, as tears fell from his eyes. He knew what the judge said was true, but it was too late to rectify his actions...' (Kartikeya Year 7).

'He tiptoed over to the window and slowly opened it. He had been waiting for this night for

weeks. Why was he hesitating now? Staring out of the window, he could see the glaring moon shining amongst the darkened houses...' (Alice Year 7).

'Ollie's foster mother did not notice her daughter, standing at the doorway, tear tracks on her face, a bag slung on her shoulders. Yet again she didn't notice; or maybe she just didn't care...' (Ava, Year 7).

'Olivia tried to move, but she couldn't. Paralyzed, fear had taken over her. Out of nowhere two large adults grabbed her...' (Imogen, Year 7).

'Her foster parents were always horrid to her; she couldn't stay there any longer. This would be the last day at school for her, the last time she was going on the school bus. Tonight was the night...' (Isobel Year 7).

**John Dobson - Teacher of English**

## Drayton Manor Reward Trip

Students have finally been able to enjoy their delayed reward trip for last year's attendance and positive behaviour (postponed from July due to the heatwave).

### A teacher's perspective:

*New guidance for theme parks, requires that an adult accompanies students on the water rides. Great, I thought, I love water rides! So I donned my quality waterproof trousers and coat and headed off enthusiastically for Stormforce 10. The ride signage warns that you will get very wet. They were not wrong!*

*By the fifth time round on the ride (a roller coaster which takes you both forwards and backwards into the water), I can testify that neither my waterproof trousers or waterproof mascara were living up to their name! Despite the soggiessness however, we all had an excellent day.*

**Jane Cooper - Year 8 Progress Leader**



### A student's perspective:

*The Drayton Manor trip was supposed to be in July but due to the heatwave, we went in September instead, which meant we got the place to ourselves!*

*Although it rained, we went on some water rides which meant we got wet anyway. We dried off very quickly due to the good weather. We had a great time exploring and going on all the rides. We made amazing memories.*

**Ellie L. and Tyler S. - Year 8 Students**

## Let them eat cake...



Friday 30th September dawned, our students and staff were taking part in the annual Macmillan Coffee Morning. Our Year 10 students helped the cause by baking and decorating cup cakes to sell in the Learning Resource Centre at break, whilst staff entered into the spirit of things by baking cakes at home to share in the staff room; there was Lemon Drizzle, Carrot Cake and Baklava amongst others. The staff donations were bolstered by our head of Year 11, Hannah Pickering, winning a wonderful cake in an Instagram competition. The cake was supplied by [The Copper Kitchen](#) and Hannah kindly shared it with the rest of the staff.

The total amount raised in cash is in the region of £257.50 (with online donations still to be added). Thank you to everyone who supported this wonderful charity.



**Gillian Brotherston - Teacher of Food and Nutrition**



## Human Nurture Performance

As part of their PSHE and performing arts curriculum, students in Year 10 and Year 11 enjoyed a theatre performance of 'Human Nurture' by award winning writer, Ryan Calais Cameron.

Based in a flat/bedsit, the play is set in the present day and is an exploration of friendship; examining race, class and the experience of care leavers. It is about two long-time friends and their friendship which started when they were both fostered at a young age.



Our students found the play to be thought-provoking and it prompted lots of interesting discussions during form time in the days which followed.

**Tim Shea - Head of Performing Arts**

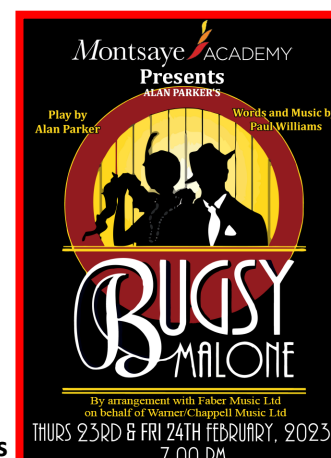
## Exciting News...

Following on from the wonderful success of our production of Matilda in the summer term, we are back again next February with the stage production of Buggy Malone.

We look forward to welcoming you to the show which contains plenty of 'splurge' and laughs.

We are also planning our Christmas show which will have performances from our choir, orchestra and Key Stage 3 Drama group who are performing 'Once Upon A Time' a collection of re-imagined fairy stories. Ticket details for both events will be announced closer to the date.

**Tim Shea - Head of Performing Arts**



## New Year 10 GCSE food students

Our Year 10 food students have got off to a flying start with their new GCSE food and nutrition course.



Working on their knife skills, the cohort were taught how to cut vegetables into different shapes such as 'Julienne', 'Jardiniere', 'Battonet' etc.



The students then cooked the vegetables and made themselves a chunky vegetable soup.



I am looking forward to working with the group as the GCSE food and nutrition course progresses, of course always keeping my eye out for the next Jamie Oliver or Mary Berry.

**Gillian Brotherston - Teacher of Food and Nutrition**

## Year 11 go into production

The Year 11 GCSE design and technology students have made passive speakers for their mobile phones.

The passive speakers help to amplify sound from any mobile phone without the aid of complicated technology. Students were all really impressed at just how effective the speakers proved to be.

The purpose of this project was to give the group the experience of making a quality product within a relatively short period of time.

Students were also able to recognise the importance of getting a good surface finish to a product and they learned how to join different materials together.



The back of the speakers are made from acrylic, hence the bolts which are visible.

I was really impressed by the way that the Year 11 cohort engaged with this project. I was particularly pleased with the resilience of many members of the group who, although they encountered difficulties, never gave up.

Well done to all of the students involved in this project.

**Sean Freeman - Teacher of Design**



## Introducing our Sports Teams

### The Netball Team

Our netball team have had a fantastic start to the new academic year. They have completed two friendly fixtures as a new combined team of Year 9 and Year 10 students. Our girls have given 100% effort, showcasing the academy ERA values and habits throughout. We are very proud of the dedication which our team has shown, not only to their sport but also to the academy which they represented with pride.



### The Futsal and Football Team

The Futsal and Football teams have also made an impressive start this year with the Year 11 futsal team recently winning the first Kettering School's tournament of the season. The Year 11 football team too, are putting in strong, all round, team performances, with hat tricks and goals galore.



Well played everyone, keep up the fantastic work.

Tim Wing - Head of PE



## Sixth form students investigate our landscape



Our A-Level geography students recently visited The Stiperstones in Shropshire.

The Stiperstones is a 500 metre high ridge, made up of a very hard rock called quartzite. The ridge has a range of periglacial landforms including tors, blockfields and stone runs, which were formed between 12,000 and 18,000 years ago, at a time when most of the northern part of England and Wales was covered by ice sheets and glaciers.

The Stiperstones ridge stuck out above the ice and was subjected to extreme freeze-thaw weathering. The landforms are rare; the best other examples in the world are in the Falkland Islands in the South Atlantic.

Our students spent time describing the landforms and looking for evidence which helps to explain the processes that formed them, together with trying to discount alternative theories.

Amy Bunker and John Zielonka  
Geography Department



## Careers Drop-In



Is your child unsure about the future and what they want to do?

Does your child know the career they wish to pursue but are not sure how to go about it?

**When:** Monday lunchtimes  
**Where:** Upstairs in the LRC  
**All year groups welcome**

**Our careers advisor can help with:**  
Information on sixth form, college and apprenticeships.  
Applications, CVs and interview skills.  
Planning your next steps.

Contact Miss Kinsman for more information:  
[jkinsman@montsaye.northants.sch.uk](mailto:jkinsman@montsaye.northants.sch.uk)















## MONTSAYE COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTRE

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|  Fitness Consultation/Programme |  Children's Parties |

Montsaye Community Sports Centre, Greening Road, Rothwell, NN14 6BB.

**01536 713708**

[www.montsaye.northants.sch.uk/sports-centre](http://www.montsaye.northants.sch.uk/sports-centre)