

September 15, 2023

Dear Parent/ Carer

## End of week 2 Academic Year 2023-24

We are hoping that this letter finds you safe and well, and that you are more into a routine to support your child at school. At Montsaye Academy, we have continued to make timely progress on our journey: Montsaye is an amazing place with amazing students and amazing staff – we look forward to welcoming you back onto site soon. If you get chance, do watch this week's short clip [Principals update 15th September 2023](#)

### Attendance and arriving at school

As we have already shared, and will continue to share, the school day starts promptly in line-ups at **8.35am** with tutors and pastoral teams so students are appropriately equipped for a successful day. I have had the pleasure of greeting students daily, meeting parents and carers and speaking to members of the local community.

From next week, our gates will close at **8.40am**; if a student is late, a member of the Leadership Team will greet them, take their name, and remind them about the need to be at school on time. Students arriving after 9.00am will need to press the buzzer and sign in at Student Reception.

Thank you for your support in getting your child to school and for them being in school every day. We have now set our school attendance target at **95%** - we are ambitious for all our students, and we know that if a child is not in school, they cannot achieve.

### Montsaye Dress Code

All students now have a lanyard which needs to be worn at all times on the school site. Many schools have lanyards, as do many companies; they support with safeguarding and easy identification. Year 10 and 11 will have their photographs taken on Monday 18 September and a card printed and issued as soon as possible. Thank you in advance for ensuring your child has their lanyard every day and is encouraged to wear it.

First impressions are important, and we expect students' clothing and appearance to always be smart and well presented. Our students wear their uniform proudly with their shirts tucked in, top buttons fastened, ties and blazers on. In any great school, students do not focus on what another person looks like, they are more focussed on their personality and character. In the current world where social media persistently reinforces messages to children that their status is heavily impacted on how they look it is imperative that we refocus students to value people for who they are as opposed to the way they dress.

### **All students need to wear the Montsaye Academy uniform:**

- Grey blazer with Montsaye logo
- Tie
- White long or short sleeved shirt

- Full length straight grey trousers or grey knee length skirt to be worn with plain black tights or black socks. **It is important to reinforce that the length of a skirt should be longer than the index finger when hands are held at a student's sides.** Pastoral teams will talk to students about the length of their skirt, and they may be asked to change if considered to be too short
- Black leather or leather like shoes

Please contact us at [enquiries@montsaye.pfschools.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@montsaye.pfschools.org.uk) should you require support in purchasing the correct uniform.

### **Personal, Social, Health and Emotional education (PSHE)**

As you will be aware, our responsibility to your child not only covers an ambitious subject curriculum but also the chance to explore key topics related to the world in which we live through our PSHE programme. A copy of the topics covered in Years 7-11 is attached. The programme is delivered through a rolling PSHE lesson, once a week by the form tutor and supported with assemblies, outside speakers, and ERA (Excellence, Resilience, Aspiration) days (as detailed in the key dates document). We treat this like any other subject and any other lesson, as we know that students enjoy being able to share their views in an articulate and confident manner, as well as learning to listen and appreciate other people's views.

### **Student Learning Agreements**

Thank you to those parents/carers who have already returned the student learning agreement. Please ask your child if you have not yet seen this and thank you for returning a signed copy to your child's tutor.

### **Lunch and break times**

Our lunch time is 1.20-2.00pm with detentions for students whose behaviour choices have fallen short of our expectations. We will soon publish a programme of extra-curricular opportunities; Stem Club, Eco Society, Wellbeing Club, Sports, Arts, Chess, and many more, offered by our staff and our Student Ambassadors whom I met with this week. Do watch this space for further information and encourage your child to get involved.

15 September marks **International Day of Democracy**, whose theme this year is, *Empowering the next generation*, and focuses on young people's essential role in advancing democracy and ensuring that their voices are included in the decisions that have a profound impact on their world. Listening is important to us, so that we capture student voice and involve them in our journey to ensure high standards and expectations for all, as well as modelling kindness and ensuring that all young people feel valued.

### **Montsaye expectations**

A reminder of our key mantra is below: in lessons, we have seen students showing they are proud to be at Montsaye, and following these expectations so they can be successful in their learning. 70% of our students have been awarded **Pride in Perfection** which means they have been recognised for having 100% attendance, no behaviour points and always arriving on time. Well done to those students.

We all LEARN at Montsaye	So that all young people can receive a good education and be the best version of themselves, we need to create the right environment for this to happen. We expect all our pupils to:
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	Lean in and listen Equipment at the ready Annotate and take notes Respond like a scholar Never interrupt
Mobile phones should be <b>switched off</b> and be stored <b>out of sight</b> .	<p>We will be firm with this expectation, and should a phone be out and seen it will be confiscated and a lunchtime detention issued. The mobile will be returned at the end of the day. If, however, students consistently fail to meet the expectations we will kindly request that as parent/carer you come to school to collect your child's phone.</p> <p>Our Post 16 students will be permitted to use their mobile phones but only in our dedicated Sixth Form Centre.</p>
Show me your best	<p>Montsaye pupils work hard and are ambitious, they take responsibility for their actions and have the courage to face new experiences, demonstrating resilience and determination.</p> <p>As a Trust we will all aim high, play our part and be brave.</p>

Thank you for your continued support with your child's education; together in partnership, we can ensure the best possible outcomes for your child.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend ahead,

All good wishes



Deb Wilson  
Principal