

24 August 2023

Dear Parent/ Carer

Welcome back to a new and exciting academic year 2023-24

We are hoping that this letter finds you safe and well and that you are having a wonderful summer, despite the variable weather. At Montsaye Academy, and our Trust, we have been busy during the break ensuring we are all ready to welcome back our new and existing students.

As shared with you in July, it is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I write to you as the new Principal of Montsaye. I am honored and delighted to be joining you, and I very much look forward to meeting you throughout the academic year. I believe that all young people, no matter their background, have a right to a good education, and within that, opportunities to learn and to grow and to explore more about themselves. We will continue to build on the ERA traditions, to ensure there is a rich and ambitious curriculum for all, with advice and guidance which supports next steps so young people can thrive and reach their potential.

Arriving at School

From September, the school day starts promptly in line-ups at **8.35am** with tutors and Heads of Year so students are appropriately equipped for a successful day having removed barriers to learning. Please see [here](#) for up to date bus schedules. Tutor time will be for 20 minutes with a focus on reading and sharing key information. Students and staff will move around the school in a calm and orderly manner; we will celebrate diversity and ensure everyone has a seat at the table, promoting difference and inclusivity. A prompt start is key for all students as no learning time should be lost to lateness. Gates close at 8.40am; if a student is late, they must enter through main reception and a member of the pastoral team will speak to them about lateness.

The Leadership Team will meet students on our entry gates to welcome them back and direct them as required. Please see below details for your child's arrival:

Monday 4 September	Years 7 and 11 and Year 12	Line-up in the Sports Hall Sixth Form
Tuesday 5 September	All year groups in school	
	Years 7 and 11	Line-up in the Sports Hall
	Years 8,9 and 10	Line-up in the Gym
	Year 12 and 13	Sixth Form

Dress Code reminders

Students will need to be wearing the Montsaye Academy uniform/dress code:

- 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
- Black leather or leather like shoes

Further information and details of the Montsaye PE kit can be find via this weblink:

<https://www.montsaye.northants.sch.uk/parents/uniform-and-equipment/>

The Sixth Form dress code is designed to enable all members of the community to work together in a safe environment free from embarrassment. Sixth Form students should dress smartly and appropriately for a working day at the academy. They should be sensitive to the needs of our community and set a good example to our younger students.

<https://www.montsaye.northants.sch.uk/sixth-form/sixth-form-dress-code/>

Behaviour Policy and Mobile phones

The Leadership Team have been working hard with staff and students to ensure that at Montsaye we have a calm and purposeful learning environment. We will share our key mantra in assemblies and with you, over the first few days and weeks, thank you in advance for echoing these words at home so we can work in partnership together.

Below are a few general reminders to talk over with your child before they return:

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 happen. We expect all of our students to: Lean in and listen Equipment at the ready Annotate and take notes Respond like a scholar Never interrupt
Mobile phones should be switched off and be stored out of sight .	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. Our Post 16 students will be permitted to use their mobile phones but only in our dedicated Sixth Form Centre.
Show me your best	Montsaye students work hard and are ambitious, they take responsibility for their actions and have the courage to face new experiences, demonstrating resilience and determination. As a Trust we will all, aim high, play our part and be brave.

Equipment Required

More than ever before, the quality of students' work will be important as we work hard to bridge any learning gaps and provide students with lots of opportunity to cement their knowledge and clarify their understanding. To ensure the quality of their work is optimum, students will need to be resourceful and well-prepared and bring with them their own writing equipment. Students will need a **pencil case with coloured pens and pencils, a 30cm ruler, eraser, pencil sharpener and glue stick**. Students should have both **black/blue pens** to write with and a **green pen** to self/peer assess their work and 'close the learning gap' following teacher feedback. We expect **all** our students to engage in the Montsaye Basic standard and have pride in the work they complete. We will use line-ups to complete equipment checks and remove any barriers to learning, as required. Thank you in advance for your support.

Lunch and Break

Lunch and break times will be managed carefully to ensure that students have time to refresh themselves from learning. There will be one lunch break this academic year for all students from 1.20 – 2.00pm. Students will be able to buy food and drinks (or bring and eat their own packed lunch) and are then expected to spend time outside in specific areas, so please ensure they have a **suitable coat for the weather**.

We will have holistic activities on offer during lunchtimes and after school, and we will encourage all students to actively get involved in learning beyond the classroom. More information on this will be shared in tutor time and by our Heads of Year.

Key dates

So that you are aware of the year's plans, we have produced a handy key dates document for you and your family (attached to this letter). Please click [here](#) to see term dates on our website.

Thank you again for your continued support, and kind words, we value the relationship we have with our wonderful community.

We look forward to welcoming back students for an excellent year ahead.

Yours faithfully



Deb Wilson
Principal