

4 April 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

It is hard to believe that we are already two thirds of the way through the academic year but also great to reflect on all that has been achieved in such a short amount of time.

I had the absolute pleasure of attending the rewards assemblies for all year groups to hand out certificates and badges. To see hundreds of students being recognised for their efforts in individual subjects; for exemplifying one of the five pledges; for being an outstanding member of their tutor group; and those students identified as the overall student of the term, was wonderful. They are always my favourite assemblies, and it is great to see the cultural shift towards students being proud to celebrate their achievements as we strive towards this being a school where excellence is the norm.

On Tuesday 1st April, a group of our stage school students, were very excited to visit the Royal Opera House for a fantastic immersive concert, *Everybody Sing The Magic Flute*. The concert was a special event to launch United Learning's collaboration with the Royal Opera House on a new project based on Mozart's opera *The Magic Flute*. As part of the project, students across the Group have been working with artists from the Royal Opera House to create a unique performance of the famous opera. With the aim of promoting students' creativity, confidence and collaboration skills, the project has so far seen students learn six songs from *The Magic Flute* to perform at the launch event. Bringing together 1,700 students from 53 schools, students created a vibrant performance of the opera alongside the Royal Ballet & Opera Orchestra and professional opera singers. During the Summer Term, students will then learn the rest of the repertoire to perform at one of three concerts across the country in June and July. These will be held at the Royal Festival Hall in London, Bridgewater Hall in Manchester and Corn Exchange in Cambridge.

In terms of supporting your children's learning in mathematics, this week we exceeded 920,000 homework questions answered and are rapidly approaching the 1 million mark on Sparx maths. Our homework completion also placed us at third overall out of all Kettering schools with only Kettering Buccleuch Academy and The Latimer Arts College ahead of us. This is a huge step forward for the school as the improvements in teaching and learning coupled with the increase in emphasis on home learning will really improve the outcomes for your children.

The week ended with a non-school uniform day and it was lovely to see the children smiling and enjoying the last day of the autumn term.

Reflecting on the spring term I just wanted to highlight a few key successes:

-Celebrated 100s of pupil achievements from both in school and outside of school through our Character Caught agenda

- Year 11s work ethic and commitment to after school revision sessions has been fantastic*
- The opening of our new state of the art astro turf*
- WOW days going from strength to strength which the children and staff have loved*
- The student pledges are becoming more and more embedded by the day*
- The introduction of blue pens for independent practice in lessons which has led to huge improvements in the quality of independent work produced by students*
- Introduction of our Anti-bullying ambassadors*
- The launch of the student bulletin which is entirely written and produced by members of our school council.*
- Our school council leading on school improvement with our head students coming to present to the senior leadership team for the first time*
- Overwhelmingly positive parental/carers feedback from Year 11, Year 8, Year 9 and Years 12 and 13 parents' evenings*

There are many more successes I could mention but most importantly it is great to see children happy, enjoying lessons and most importantly learning.

Looking ahead to next term, there are a number of things to look forward to:

First and foremost, our first edition of our 'We are Montsaye - Character Caught' newsletter will come out today and is a response to the parent survey to ensure that you are aware of clubs taking place next term and any trips or other opportunities taking place.

In the first week back, we are lucky enough to have secured Dr Van der Spoel to come in and deliver workshops to all of Year 10 and 12 students on the science of learning to kick start their GCSE and A Level revision journeys. He came to speak to Year 11s and 13s earlier this term and the sessions were extremely useful with lots of great feedback from the students.

With regards to Year 11, there is a Year 11 parents' support evening on Thursday 24th April from 6-7pm. This will be the final opportunity to get some last-minute tips and ideas to support your child with preparing for their GCSE examinations. The Heads of English, maths and science will all be there to give you important subject specific input.

Our sixth form English Literature students were visited this morning by Dr Hallam, an Oxford graduate, and a former English literature teacher. Dr Hallam delivered a series of interesting and informative lectures pertaining to the texts studied at A-Level. The students were a wonderful example of the learners at Montsaye, garnering high praise from Dr Hallam, who admired their focus and enthusiasm to learn.

Year 12 will also be headed to the University of Derby on Thursday 24th April for a further insight into higher education.

My students of the term are two groups of students. Firstly, our wonderful student council members who have brought student voice to the fore and secondly our anti-bullying ambassadors who all embody the spirit of pledge 3 'We are a telling school, so that we are never a bystander'.

Student Council:

Year 7 - Vicky C, Kortni C, Shania D, Joe D, Callie L, Cerys R, Izzy S, Xavier S, Rosanna T

Year 8 - Harmony B, Raya B, Madelyn E, Marco H, Owen H, Amelia L , Eva Mc, Ellie S-B , Alfie W , Phoebe W, Claye W

Year 9 - Tammy D, Amelia D , Delin F, Samuel O, Flo H

Year 10 - Hanna D , Milly E, Ishetavonga M, Jituli M, Tyler S, Najatul T, Deryca V

Anti-bullying ambassadors:

Year 7 - Vicky C, Eva S, Rosanna T, Kayla J, Lilly-May C, Callie L, Sasha G, Cerys F, Louise F, Ade O

Year 8 – Claye W and Dylan F

Year 9 – Neil T

Finally, as always, I am truly grateful for your support as the wider school community. I promised you all my absolute dedication to ensure that this school improves rapidly and we have made huge strides towards that end. Every morning and every evening when I stand at the end of the driveway and welcome or wish your children a good evening/weekend, I am reminded what a privilege it is to lead a school with such wonderful children.

Have a pleasant and restful Easter and I look forward to seeing the children on our return.

Yours faithfully,



Mr B Baines



QR code for exams webpage