

16 May 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

As the penultimate week of term 5 draws to a close, there are a number of highlights that I would like to share with you.

Firstly, the attitude to learning demonstrated by Year 11 students has been fantastic having started their first full week of exams. This was exemplified when 17 students chose to come in at 7am on Thursday for some last-minute revision with Mr Baria before their first maths exam. It has also been great to have so many Year 11 students coming up to me to tell me that their exams have gone well which will no doubt have boosted their confidence.

With the main hall being used for exams, assemblies are now being delivered virtually for all year groups and this week it was Miss Neville's turn to deliver them. Her assembly explored our core value of compassion through the lens of equality. Miss Neville shared examples of how the sexual orientation of key historical figures was hidden in history due to fear of public perception. She talked about the ancient Greek poet, Sappho whose poetry explored relationships between woman before moving onto the famous mathematician, Alan Turing, who was criminalised for 'gross indecency' due to his sexual orientation. Finally, she talked about Bayard Rustin who was a civil rights activist who advised the likes of Martin Luther King Jr but always from behind the scenes due to fears around how key figures would be perceived for taking advice from a gay man. Students all engaged respectfully and understand the importance of the Equality Act of 2010 and how it provides a legal framework against discrimination based on any of the protected characteristics.

On Tuesday, 3 of our sixth form leadership team, Maja, Heidi and Carrie organised a prom dress drop-in for Year 10 and 11 students during lunch time. Students were able to browse over 100 dresses which were donated from the community including some that have never been worn. With the cost of living ever-increasing, I am proud of the thrifty work that the Sixth Form team has done to secure donations and help ease the burden of buying an expensive dress for prom.

Last week I mentioned Year 10 students undertaking their Challenge 100 assessment as a kick-starter to their Year 11 revision journey. The tests were marked this week and the results were phenomenal leaving me exceptionally proud of how hard they worked to prepare for this assessment. We set a very high pass mark of 80% as we continue to raise the expectations at Montsaye and the students certainly rose to the challenge:

41 (23%) of our students who sat the assessment achieved full marks

122 (69%) of our students achieved the pass mark of 80% or higher

161 (90%) of our students showed a good level of engagement with a mark of 60% or higher.

On the theme of Year 10, on Thursday evening, we welcomed parents and carers of Year 10 students in for parents' evening. This was a good opportunity to get detailed feedback on how you son or daughter is progressing as they approach the halfway point of their GCSE journey. It was also great to speak with many of you who attended and hear the positive feedback around the recent challenge 100 task and how seriously your son or daughter took their revision.

Friday saw many of the school community 'go green' for mental health awareness week in order to raise money for a local charity, Youthworks. It was nice to see so many students and staff wearing a green item of clothing in recognition of mental health awareness. In recent years, the percentage of the NHS budget spent on mental health services has increased but the work of independent organisation and charities remains as important as ever in supporting people with their mental health.

In terms of my students of the week, there are two groups I would like to recognise. Firstly, I am going to nominate the 17 Year 11 students who came in at 7am to revise with Mr Baria for their first maths paper – fantastic example of pledge 5 – aiming for excellence in everything we do. So a big well done to, Eva C, Rochelle N, Lara W, Samantha W, Jared B, Daisy D, Emily R, Freddie B, Blake H, Harry D, Josh FB, Ole H, Conor D, Sienna H, Emma C, Jessica G and Stirling R.

Secondly, I am going to nominate the fantastic bake sale fundraising team. A huge thank you to Evie VB, Annabel H, Amelia L, Ellie SB, Maddie E and Eva M who raised £210 pounds and then spent the remainder of lunch offering cakes out to staff as a random act of kindness – great demonstration of our core value of compassion.

With only one week left in the term, there has been a lot of movement between the attendance leagues with lots still to play for:

Premier League	Form	% attendance	Position	Championship	Form	% attendance	Position	League 1	Form	% attendance	Position	League 2	Form	% attendance	Position
1	11ABI	98.6%	=	1	8MCO	94.8%	↓ 1	1	7REL	92.1%	↓ 5	1	11MAS	89.6%	↓ 14
2	11PHM	97.7%	=	2	7TRC	94.0%	↑ 6	2	9VPA	92.1%	↓ 5	2	8GDB	89.6%	↓ 2
3	9LUC	96.7%	↑ 2	3	8DAS	94.0%	=	3	10NG	92.0%	↑ 7	3	11FAL	88.4%	↑ 3
4	8ERO	95.9%	↓ 1	4	7KL	93.8%	↑ 11	4	9SCO	91.6%	↑ 1	4	9ELB	88.0%	↑ 1
5	11CDA	95.6%	↑ 3	5	11SLY	93.3%	↑ 4	5	7ZHD	91.5%	↓ 11	5	9RL	88.0%	↑ 3
6	7EJG	95.6%	=	6	8AWH	93.2%	↑ 5	6	10LFE	91.4%	↓ 3	6	8JJW	87.7%	↓ 2
7	7JOB	95.2%	↑ 4	7	9LHM	93.0%	=	7	10MS	90.3%	↑ 2	7	9SC1	87.5%	↓ 4
8	7JEL	94.9%	↓ 1	8	10SPU	92.3%	↑ 3	8	10AJT	89.8%	↓ 1	8	8EBL	86.1%	↓ 1
9	10IJA	94.8%	↓ 5	9	10SEC	92.1%	↑ 4								

Have a pleasant weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Mr B Baines
Principal



QR code for exams webpage