

4 July 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

It's been a week that has filled me with immense pride after a number of events that have celebrated our wonderful children; leading this incredible school is an honour and a privilege.

Although it took place on Friday I wanted to start with our 'Culture Day' which left my heart very full after watching our children proudly walking into school in clothing which reflects their heritage or other groups/cultures that they belong to. It was a wonderful celebration of the diversity in our school community and a chance for students to learn about different cultures and traditions. There were so many vibrant colours and traditional outfits which left students and staff alike with huge smiles on their faces. At lunchtime, there was a very special show which involved students demonstrating incredible bravery by sharing stories about their culture as well as performing traditional dances. Ishetavonga volunteered to go first and wowed the audience with an African style dance routine. Ade then read a beautiful traditional African story before Hannah performed a Bollywood inspired dance both of which had the audience enraptured. Cerys then read a handwritten poem about her Welsh heritage before Jithuli stunned the audience by performing a traditional Sinhala dance. These stunning performances reduced many of the audience to tears because of the passion and bravery on display. This event was also entirely planned by our fantastic student leadership team and for them to see their ideas come to life was lovely to behold.

In keeping with the theme of celebration, I travelled with 45 students to Cambridge Corn Exchange to be a part of United Learning's Magic Flute concert. This was a regional event where the students of six United Learning schools came together to sing alongside professional opera soloists and their accompanying orchestra. Our students spent most of the day rehearsing and when it came to performing in the evening, seeing them sing their hearts out was nothing short of magical. It was an incredible opportunity for our students and was the first time that many of them had experienced live opera.

Mrs Horne led an assembly on the theme of belonging in which she shared the story of Sir Mo Farah who moved to the United Kingdom from Somalia at a young age. She talked about his early struggles to find any sense of belonging but how sport and running led to him finally finding a sense of purpose and a culture in which he felt he belonged.

A number of Year 10 students completed their practical food assessments this week and I enjoyed many of them showing me what they had made on their way out of the school gates. From chicken kiev to cheesecakes to onion bhajis and naan breads, they were all immensely proud to show me what they had made and talk about the new skills they had learned.

A large number of our Year 11 students attended our Sixth Form induction day which gave them an experience of what it will be like come September when they commence their A level studies. Laptops have been ordered for all students after they were given two options to choose from. They got to experience taster lessons as well as learning about the broader personal development offer. The feedback from parents of students who attended was very positive and we are already looking forward to welcoming them in September to formally start their Key Stage 5 studies.

On Friday, we had the privilege of welcoming, Dave Bowden, a fantastic external speaker into school to lead an assembly and some workshops with students. Dave Bowden is the founder of Word Guerrilla and as a former primary school headteacher and educator, Dave understands the importance of empowering people with language through the power of words. World Guerrilla seeks to enable people of all ages to become inspired, to become thinkers and to become individuals. Both his assembly and his workshops were incredibly engaging and led to our children producing some excellent poems of their own.

This week's highest praise point earners were:

Year	3 rd place	2 nd place	1 st place	Average points
7	Ade O – 26	Callie L – 26	Lilly-May C – 31	7 points
8	Tino M – 15	Sayuru G – 15	Oscar J – 16	4 points
9	Erin R – 40	Jacob K – 44	Max G – 47	7 points
10	Charlotte P – 19	Euan L – 17	Alex B – 30	5 points

Here are the most recent attendance league updates:

Premier League	Form	% attendance	Position	Championship	Form	% attendance	Position	League 1	Form	% attendance	Position	League 2	Form	% attendance	Position
1	7JOB	95.5%	↑ 2	1	8MCO	93.1%	↑ 11	1	9ELB	90.9%	↑ 4	1	8EBL	86.7%	=
2	10IJA	95.4%	=	2	9LHM	92.9%	=	2	10MS	90.7%	↑ 4	2	9RL	86.4%	=
3	7EJG	94.4%	↑ 1	3	7ZHD	92.5%	↑ 1	3	8AWH	90.4%	↓ 5	3	11ABI	0.0%	=
4	7TRC	94.2%	↑ 1	4	9LUC	92.4%	↑ 2	4	10LFE	89.6%	=	4	11PHM	0.0%	=
5	7KL	94.1%	↑ 1	5	10SEC	91.9%	↓ 2	5	8JJW	89.2%	↑ 3	5	11CDA	0.0%	=
6	8DAS	93.9%	↓ 5	6	10NG	91.8%	↓ 1	6	9VPA	89.1%	↓ 6	6	11SLY	0.0%	=
7	7REL	93.7%	↑ 1	7	10SPU	91.7%	↑ 1	7	9SCO	88.9%	↓ 5	7	11MAS	0.0%	=
8	8GDB	93.5%	↓ 1	8	8ERO	91.7%	↓ 8	8	10AJT	87.4%	↓ 1	8	11FAL	0.0%	=
9	7JEL	93.1%	↑ 1	9	9SC1	91.3%	↑ 1								

Looking ahead to next week, our Cadets go on summer camp to Cumbria and will experience a wealth of activities whilst away. A SEND drop in session is being held in the library between 4pm and 6pm on Monday and is open to any parents or carers that would like to attend. Mrs Thomas has organised a music concert in the library at lunchtime on Tuesday which will be lovely to see the talent from the students involved. Then on Thursday night we see one of the most anticipated nights of the year with our Year 11 Prom. It is always wonderful to see the students celebrating the end of their exams in style. We then say our final goodbyes to them in our leavers assembly on Friday.

Finally, as I said to all parents and carers when I started as Principal at Montsaye, no school gets everything right, all of the time, so if you do have concerns please contact us directly to discuss these. There have been a couple of occasions recently where concerns have been raised on social media platforms that had not been raised with the school directly. Thankfully this has been a rarity and so I would like to thank the significant majority of you that have come to us directly to swiftly resolve any concerns.



Have a lovely weekend,

Yours faithfully,

Mr B Baines
Principal