

25 July 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

The last week of the academic year has been packed full of fun activities and events which the children have thoroughly enjoyed. It was a lovely way to end what has been an extremely positive year for Montsaye Academy; a year which has left me feeling immensely proud of the rapid improvements that we have made towards becoming a school that all members of the community are truly proud of.

We kicked off the final week with a WOW day and what a WOW day it was! It started with music playing out down the driveway and staff all dressed in bright colours welcoming the children into school. All lessons included WOW day activities with prizes to be won and the pop-up shop was back in the library at break and lunchtime giving the children one final chance to spend their remaining points whilst making the most of the WOW day discount. A number of teachers then took to the stage for an epic LIPSYNC battle which saw performances from Abba, NSYNC, Queen and Ex-Wives from SIX the musical. To see the joy and laughter on the children's faces was amazing and not something I will forget for a long time.

On Monday evening, we welcomed a number of parents and carers into school for our first ever Pledge 4 awards evening. The evening started with a performance from Hanna in Year 10 who performed a Bollywood inspired dance and ended with Jithuli performing a traditional Sinhalese dance. It was lovely to award so many certificates and golden jigsaw badges and even better to see proud parents and carers so keen to get the children on stage to take photos and capture the moment.

On Tuesday, we collapsed the timetable and different year groups all took part in different activities including a desert island adventure, the game of life, team building and some creative sessions on the theme of bullying and inclusion.

Wednesday and Thursday saw visits from all year groups to Thorpe Park with children all excited to ride the Hyperia which is the highest and fastest rollercoaster in the UK and it certainly did not disappoint. Sports day also took place across Wednesday and Thursday, for all year groups, and it was lovely to see the students proudly representing their forms in a range of activities including handball, ultimate frisbee, basketball, dodgeball and many more.

Friday started with celebration assemblies for all year groups to recognise the hard work and accomplishments of children in each of the different year groups. These are always my favourite assemblies, and it was great to see so many students being recognised and rewarded for their hard work this year.

Alongside all of these amazing events this week, I have also continued to battle with the Local Authority regarding them providing a closed bus route for the children who have to travel from Kettering every day. I have spent countless hours fighting for this cause and whilst I can not promise anything yet, I feel like we are making progress towards a resolution so I wanted to thank the parents and carers who responded to my rallying cry and emailed the transport team directly; it definitely helped.

Reflecting on the year more broadly, there are far too many highlights to list but I have settled on a few:

- Firstly, the introduction of Character Caught which has allowed us to celebrate the achievements of your children both inside and outside of school.
- The transformation of Year 11 students who went from deflated at the beginning of the year to confident and full of self-belief by the time they sat their examinations – very proud of each and every one of them.
- WOW days – the children love these and they have fast become part of our school culture.
- Our Culture Day – this was one of my favourite days of the year with our whole community coming together to celebrate our cultural heritage and places where we have found a sense of belonging.
- Christmas performing arts show – a very moving evening with such immense talent on display and so many of you in attendance to watch your children perform.
- Magic Flute performance – a genuinely magical experience for all of the students involved.
- Being the 4<sup>th</sup> highest performing school in the county for Sparx maths questions completion, as well making it into the top 25% of schools worldwide!

But more important than any of these is the fact that the improvements in the school have led to our children smiling, being happier and ultimately enjoying school more. To see children coming into school happy is wonderful to behold and I am looking forward to seeing this translate into great outcomes for all children over the next few years and beyond.

I wanted to say a huge thank you to all parents and carers for your support this year. So many of you have written to me regarding the improvements we have made and I am so grateful for you taking the time to do so. Thank you also to those of you who have come to the schools defence when lone voices have spoken negatively about the school on social media, I really appreciate this. When I stood before many of you last July, I promised you that I would work tirelessly to ensure that Montsaye becomes the school of choice and this year was a real statement of intent. It's an honour and a privilege to lead a school full of such wonderful children and I am already excited to continue this rapid improvement journey next academic year.

Staff, children, parents, carers, members of the wider community – We Are Montsaye.

Whatever plans you have this summer, I hope you have the chance to rest and recharge the metaphorical batteries.

Yours faithfully,



Mr B Baines  
Principal