



17th July 2023

Dear parent/carers,

On Friday 21st July Year 8 will be participating in their second ERA day of the academic year. They will be in PE kit on the day.

I would also like to remind you that Year 8 will have their sports day on Thursday 20th July. It looks set to be changeable weather, but we are hoping the showers pass us by. We will send a reminder nearer the time, but students will require sun cream and water bottles for sports day as well as a light coat in case of showers. They will also need lots of enthusiasm to support their forms on the day. They will of course be in full Montsaye PE kit on the 20th for Sports Day.

Our ERA days are unique to Montsaye and help students develop the skills of Excellence, Resilience and Aspiration. Year 8s will be undertaking a range of activities designed to build physical, mental and emotional skills and prepare them for the varied challenges they face.

We believe that promoting the health and well-being of our pupils is an important part of our students' overall education. Nowadays, children and young people are exposed to certain risks through technology and the media. This can sometimes make an already confusing time seem even more complicated. If students are provided with timely and age appropriate information about their relationships, they can make their transition into adulthood with the confidence and knowledge to understand what is happening to them, and hopefully grow into confident and healthy adults able to make positive, healthy choices. We are happy to invite local Northamptonshire charity Youthworks to speak to the students about equality and the importance of respect in our relationships.

As part of the school's Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Education programme, your child will receive lessons on relationships and consent during the upcoming ERA day. These will be delivered by our local PCSOs and will cover the law as well as the moral and social issues involved. We also are lucky that Simon Aston will be visiting us again to discuss the use of phones for sending and receiving images, exploring in detail the law and the moral issues arising. Parents can withdraw their children from all or part of sex education that does not form part of the statutory National Curriculum. If you wish to withdraw your child from the lessons on sexual health and safe relationships please inform the pastoral team by emailing Mrs King on sking@montsaye.northants.sch.uk.

There will be a team building challenge organised by our careers lead Mrs Pitcher, where teams will be challenged to use real life skills to complete tasks as CEO of their own company. This will put curriculum skills as well as organisation and communication skills to the test. There is a further, physical team building challenge organised by our cadets where students will need to use logic and communication skills to be successful. Forms will also be able to learn to play the Samba drums on their ERA day and work together as a form to produce some samba rhythms.

Our day will finish with students back in their form rooms for some reflection time and to nominate their ERA heroes for the day.

Thank you as always for your support during the year. We look forward to delivering an informative, engaging day for the year 8 students. Do look out for updates throughout the day on our Twitter, Instagram and Facebook pages. Please contact the school prior to the event if you have any queries about any aspect of the day.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Lopes, SMSC Lead and Jane Cooper, Year 8 Progress Leader