



MONTsaye ACADEMY NEWS

December 2019



From the Principal...



Local candidates at our recent Hustings event

As we draw to the end of another wonderful year at Montsaye Academy, I remain extremely proud of all the achievements of both staff and students. At the time of writing, our amazing Year 11 and Sixth Form students are completing their trial examinations and we very much look forward to all their future successes. All of our students have had a very good start to their academic year, where the focus is on learning and on developing experiences that will prepare them to be citizens in modern society.

All of our students are enriched by the wealth of opportunities and experiences that are open to them, as highlighted in this newsletter. It never ceases to amaze me how much we invest in our students' experience. In an iconic year in politics, students have had the opportunity to take part in a Hustings event and a mock election, as well as Year 9 students creating their own political parties and leading their own elections and Hustings events.

Our work for charity has continued to develop and our students recognise that some families are less fortunate than they are and have been collecting food to donate to the local Kettering foodbank, as well as raising money for Children in Need. The Christmas fair is raising money for Stand up to Cancer and we have been fundraising to support the Montsaye Academy Music Tour July 2020. The response has been remarkable and again just highlights how fantastic, and generous our students and community are.

The work of our performing arts department was seen in the Christmas show and has left everyone looking forward to our performance of the 'School of Rock' which will be taking place in February 2020.

The Combined Cadet Force and Duke of Edinburgh awards continue to allow staff and students the opportunity to extend their learning beyond the classroom.

As we move forward, we very much look forward to everything that our Montsaye Academy journey brings in 2020. I would like to take a final moment to thank everyone in the community for their support of their local school.

From all our staff and students, we would like to wish all of the Montsaye community a very happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Meena Gabbi - Principal

Year 8 ERA Day - a Juggling Success

On Friday 22nd November, our Year 8 students enjoyed a wonderful ERA day, full of activities, as is now a tradition at Montsaye.

The day started with an excellent drama presentation from the HOPE theatre company, looking at the impact of bullying on someone's life. The theme of kindness was further developed in tutor groups, looking at the research that shows performing acts of kindness helps with wellbeing, not only of the recipient but also the giver. Year 8 are continuing this work on kindness by collecting donations from students across the school for local food banks in the run up to Christmas.



A workshop session on managing emotions was expertly led by Beccy Nettleton from AmplifyYouth, an organisation which works with young people to help them overcome challenges. Tutors went on to develop this further, in sessions on emotional intelligence. As many parents will know, Year 8 can be a tricky time for many children as they enter their teens; dealing with difficult and changing feelings is a vital skill for them to develop.

Looking at future aspirations, through the Speakers for Schools programme, we were lucky enough to welcome Adrian Gorham, Head of Business Operations at Telefonika UK, to talk to the students about his progress from a not very successful student to where he is now. Students asked him a range of thoughtful questions, although the one they seemed most excited about was whether he got a free phone and unlimited data.



In a rather more active session, Mrs Bateman and Mrs Lopes demonstrated their impressive juggling skills, leading workshops designed to build the students' resilience through learning to juggle. These workshops were very much enjoyed and the students demonstrated amazing levels of resilience and skill. Skills of the teamwork kind were required in a session ably led by our Combined Cadet Force Sixth form cadet, Emily. Her cool command and expert leadership would be the envy of many a trainee teacher. All in all, a fantastic day. Huge thanks to Mrs Lopes for putting together such an inspiring range of activities.

Jane Cooper - Year 8 Progress Leader

Introducing our new Chair of Governors

My name is Angela Lloyd and I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Chair of Governors. At Montsaye Academy, we are fortunate to have a committed team of governors, including parents, staff and others from the local community, excited to support the school to improve further. I became a community governor earlier this year after Montsaye was recognised as 'good' by Ofsted, and I was elected Chair this December.

I am a retired teacher and live locally. My interests include travel, combined with my passion for photography. I am also an active member of St. Giles Church, Desborough. I have enjoyed visiting the school on a range of occasions. Some of the highlights include the CCF beret parade and Open Evening, which enabled me to meet students, staff and parents, and witness students demonstrating our ERA values.



Montsaye Academy Nurtures New Leaders...



As part of our ongoing provision to engage our students in extra-curricular activities, we have set up the Montsaye Leadership Academy.

The Leadership Academy has been run in partnership with Bishop Stopford School and Kettering School Sport Partnership and has been taking place after school on a Monday.

The sessions have all been practically based and included content such as developing leadership skills in communication, organisation, teamwork and the delivery of sports activities.

There have also been workshops on first aid, safeguarding and inclusion.



One of the main aims of the Leadership Academy programme has been for the students to gain the knowledge and confidence to lead the School Games. The Level 2 Badminton Festival for primary school students, recently took place and was a great success.

Tim Wing - Head of PE

Academy CCF Plant Trees in the Community



On the 28th November, Montsaye Academy Combined Cadet Force, teaming up with Kettering Borough Council, deployed to Columbus Crescent in Rothwell to support the environment and the local community. We planted 50 trees as part of our focus on tackling climate change. This is the first in a new tradition where our existing cadets and the new recruits will be supporting local charities and the community. Despite the bad weather the cadets showed great pride and enthusiasm and really enjoyed the afternoon.

Not only was the tree planting a great team-building exercise, it also gave the cadets an enormous sense of achievement and pride in their community. Once again all of the cadets have shown true spirit and maturity in what they do, making everybody here at Montsaye very proud.

Mark Chattaway - CCF School Staff Instructor

Scientists of the future...



We recently took fourteen of our Year 11 science students to Cambridge University for the annual Physics at Work exhibition. There were around twenty-five exhibits and we were given six to visit.

There were exhibits from companies such as Rolls Royce, who talked about their work with nuclear submarines and Domino Printing who showed us their range of laser and ink printers. There were also exhibits from current Cambridge University researchers and teachers who covered their work on material science, super-conductors and vision using helium atoms.

Each exhibit consisted of a short presentation, a practical demonstration and opportunities for hands-on experience by the students. You shouldn't pick favourites but I will; the exhibit on superconductors was amazing, they are currently researching materials that could have high temperature superconductivity. A superconductor is a material with zero resistance, therefore no heat dissipates, which means you can have higher current in the same space. Why is this so exciting? It is the possibility of the 'Back to the Future' hoverboards finally being built!

Another favourite was the **Scanning Helium Microscope (SHeM)**. This is a novel form of microscopy that uses low energy (5-100 meV) neutral helium atoms to image the surface of a sample, without causing any damage to the sample by the imaging process. This technology is so current, that it was only built this year. I hope that the trip has inspired our students to realise the wide range of possible careers that are available within STEM (science technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects.

Louisa Moffett - Second in Science

Students rewarded for 100% attendance

We have recently celebrated 100% attendance with lots of our students from across all year groups.

Seventy-seven Year 7 students joined me for a feast of doughnuts and hot chocolate; an extra-special treat for a cold and frosty November morning. Well done everyone; keep up the good work.

Claire Petchey - Year 7 Progress Leader



CCF Represent Academy at Remembrance Day Parade



On Sunday 10th November, Montsaye CCF (Combined Cadet Force) were honoured to attend the Remembrance Day Parade at the Holy Trinity Church, Rothwell on behalf of the academy. We were showing our respects to the brave service personnel who gave their lives, so that we could live ours.

Smartly dressed and turned out, Georgina and Harrison laid two wreaths at the war memorial. Nerves almost got the better of Harrison, but all of the cadets showed great comradeship and reassured him that he would be fine. Harrison then showed true resilience, stood firm and proudly took the honour and laid the wreath.

It gives me great pride to be the Montsaye CCF SSI and, as an armed forces veteran myself, I would like to say thank you to all who attended.

Mark Chattaway - CCF School Staff Instructor

A-Level Science Live: Chemistry

On the 20th of November, our A-Level chemistry group went to the University of Birmingham to attend the Science Live event which consisted of six lectures from renowned scientists and an examiner.

The first lecture of the day was from Dr Suze Kundu, a nanotechnology expert who studied for a PhD in Materials Chemistry at University College London. She discussed the uses of nanotechnology and the new discoveries that are being made within the world of 'tiny technology.' The next lecture was by Professor Andrea Sella who spoke about the chemistry of nerve agents. He lectured about how the controversial chemistry of nerve agents was initially beneficial science to us but was corrupted and became the deadly science that is now nerve agents. Professor Lucy Carpenter then spoke about atmosphere and climate change. She discussed what we could do to prevent climate change and the numbers behind the changing pollution in the atmosphere. Before the examiner session, Professor Peter Atkins spoke to us about energy, and how the energy in the universe is transferred, but also the myth that there is no energy in the universe.



During the examiner session, we discussed exam techniques and how to pass A-Level exams. Finally, Dr Peter Wothers explained the history of the periodic table and how it has changed over time, from Mendeleev's original model, to the current periodic table.

Overall, the day was very educational and further cemented our motivation with our A-Levels, as well as helping us to understand how to succeed with our exams. Our favourite lecture of the day was by Professor Andrea Sella, as the usually controversial topic of nerve agents was very interesting and felt it was very relevant to today.



Millionaire Readers

Congratulations to Year 7 students, Poppy and Matthew who are our first Accelerated Reader Millionaires.

Accelerated Reader is a computer-based programme that Montsaye Academy uses to monitor reading practice and progress. It helps us to guide students to books that are on their individual reading level; the student then takes a short quiz after reading each book to check if they have understood it.

Poppy got to one million words first, having taken over 50 book quizzes since September.

Both students were awarded certificates and gold reader stars in their year assembly and are well on their way to another million words, closely followed by more students who are also nearing the one million mark.



Accelerated Reader™

Mandy Lantz - Librarian



Handball Club

Well done to the Year 9 boys' handball team who have recently played in their first match. Despite losing to a well organised opposition team, they improved in each quarter.

If your son is interested in joining our handball team and is in Year 9, Year 10 or Year 11, training takes place every Tuesday afternoon 3.00pm to 4.00pm in the sports hall.

Tim Wing - Head of PE

Going the extra kilometre...



Staff and students embraced the recent BBC Children in Need event with gusto. During their PE lessons, students walked, ran, cycled and rowed. By doing so, they collectively travelled the equivalent of 3,710 km which is just over two and a half times the length of the United Kingdom; this included over 100km by our World Challenge students at a weekend activity.

We are pleased to announce that we raised over £300.00 for this worthwhile charity, whilst having fun at the same time.



Emma Lopes - SMSC Co-ordinator

Food Technology Lessons



Thank you to all parents who have contributed towards their child's food ingredients this year. We thought you would like to see some of the dishes they have been cooking.

The Year 7 students have been busy making smoothies, apple crumble, pasta salad, couscous salad and cheese scones. Year 8 have been developing their skills making whisked cakes, Swiss roll, jam tarts, Bakewell tart and chicken dippers. Year 9 have been developing their skills further and looking into the science behind some of the processes used, making bread rolls, fresh pasta, tomato sauce, pizza and pasta bake.

Our students have all worked extremely hard and I hope that they have been putting some of their new found skills to the test at home.

Part of the Year 10 GCSE food course is learning to butcher a chicken and fillet a fish; this then allows students to gain high marks in the live practical exam in Year 11. Many of the students were very nervous and apprehensive about the skills, but they produced some amazing results and surprised themselves of their own abilities. Thank you to Mr Eaton from our site team for sharing his skills with the groups.

Gillian Brotherston - Teacher of Design



Year 12 student has a taste of Oxford University life

We were delighted for Year 12 student Ellie, when she was offered a place on the highly competitive University of Oxford Target Schools Shadowing Day. I took a few moments with Ellie after the event to find out all about it...

What made you decide to apply for the Day?

I have been debating for a while now about applying to the University of Oxford, and my biggest worry was about whether or not I would have a chance of being accepted. I thought that by applying to go on the shadowing day, any ideas or preconceptions I had about Oxford would be debunked or confirmed.

What happened on the day?

The day started at Brasenose College, where we had to register. I then shadowed a current student for two hours, and attended an ecology tutorial with her and another student, both of whom are students at Jesus College. We had a look around both Jesus College and Christ Church College. Next, I shadowed a student called Sophia and visited Keble College; we had a good discussion about being a state school student applying to Oxford. Lunch was at New College, after which we went next door to Hertford College, where we discussed the misconceptions about Oxford, and the application

process, with current Oxford students and other students who were also considering applying.

What did you enjoy most about the day?

I enjoyed looking at the different colleges the most, as it gave me an idea as to what life at Oxford would be like and whether it would be suitable for me.

What are your plans going forward?

The Oxford shadowing day has made me decide to apply to Oxford next year. It has made me less worried about applying, as it removed all of the misconceptions I had about any disadvantages I may face. It made me realise that you don't have to come from a private school to go to Oxford, as I met lots of people there who were from state schools. It has also solidified my plan to study biology, rather than to specialise.



Laura McNish - Sixth Form Centre Manager

Year 8 head off to France...

Our much anticipated annual residential trip to Chateau du Broutel in France, took place at the end of October. Eight members of staff accompanied our Year 8 students to the beautiful 18th century chateau, which is set in stunning grounds in the town of Rue. The chateau has been owned by the UK outdoor adventure company, Manor Adventure, since 2001 and offers a wide range of activities.

We were able to take part in water-based activities on the lake, including the ever-popular raft-building and kayaking, as well as sessions based on the land such as climbing and archery.



The highlight of the trip this year was a day out in the battlefields of the Somme. We visited the town of Albert which was the main town behind the lines for the allies on the 1916 Somme battlefields.

We went to the Somme 1916 Museum, down into a tunnel which took us 10 meters below ground, where we learned about the lives of the soldiers in the trenches.

Our next stop was at the Lochnagar Crater. This was created by a large mine placed beneath the German front lines on the first day of the Battle of the Somme.



We then went to the Thiepval Memorial (the memorial to the missing of the Somme). The memorial has the names of more than 72,000 officers and men of the UK and South African who died in the Somme before 20th March 1918 and have no known grave. Our final visit of the day was to the Beaumont-Hamel Newfoundland Memorial. The memorial site covers 30 hectares and was named after the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, which provided 800 men to serve with the British and Commonwealth armies. The park preserves the memory of the men who fought and died on this part of the Somme battleground from September 1914 into 1918.

On the last day of our week in France, we were given a guided walk into the local town of Rue. Students were able to experience life in a French café (some of them even managed to speak to the café owner in French).

Erin wrote about her experience of the trip:

"On the French trip, I really enjoyed doing all of the activities with people I wouldn't normally be with. The water activities were one of my favourites because even though it was cold, it was really exciting and fun. I also liked going on the day out to the Somme battlefields. The evenings were really good, one night we had a campfire and another night we went into the forest on a tracking activity. I think a lot of people got closer when we were on the trip. Going into the town and to the shops was really interesting because they looked similar to ours but were still really different. I think that the French trip is something which will stick with us forever."



The trip was a fantastic opportunity for the students to work together in teams. For many of them, it was their first time away from home, giving them a taste of independence.

Claire Petchey - Trip Leader and Year 7 Progress Leader

Academy welcomes election candidates

In the lead up to the general election, we were lucky enough to be able to hold a Hustings event at Montsaye Academy. This was attended by four candidates and a representative from the Liberal Democrats as the candidate was working (he is a teacher) and couldn't attend:

- **Conservative:** Philip Hollobone
- **Labour:** Claire Pavitt
- **Lib Dem:** Jenny Jones (stand in for Chris Nelson)
- **Green:** Jamie Wildman
- **Independent:** Jim Hakewill

Listening attentively, were our Year 9 and Sixth Form students, many of whom are not eligible to vote yet. After a two minute introduction from each of the candidates, they faced a range of questions posed by the students. These included subjects on bullying, league tables and the marketization of schools, the struggling NHS and the local impact each candidate might have.

The Green candidate, Jamie Wildman, was strongly focused on the environment, saying that his priorities were, "action on climate change, urgent action and a 2nd referendum because what we voted for is not what we got." He went on to say, "It's essential we safeguard environmental legislation from the EU and rebuild the relationship we have with them."

The Conservative candidate, Philip Hollobone, stated that, "61% of local voters chose to leave. My pledge is to back the deal so that we can leave the EU. Once that is done, we can move on to the people's priorities; the NHS, police and schools."

Liberal Democrat, Jenny Jones, said of the candidate Chris Nelson, "Chris was born and brought up in Kettering and is dedicated to the area and strongly involved in politics."



"The Liberal Democrats are strongly opposed to Brexit and will do anything we can to stop it. We are also dedicated to the environment and we want to take action to stop climate change."

Claire Pavitt from the Labour Party, began by explaining her passion for education, "I have been a labour party candidate for about 18 years. It was labour party policies that gave me the chance to go back into education. I am passionate that the education system gives you the future you deserve."

Finally, the Independent candidate, Jim Hakewill connected with the audience when he said, "My campaign is about electing someone who is passionate about this area and has lived here all of their life. All of my children came to Montsaye, had a great education and all went to university. I want that for you. We have been campaigning for the link road between the health centre and the main road and also to save the library. You need to trust the person that you elect."

The event was enjoyed by students and staff alike and left all who attended, better informed about the upcoming general election.

Emma Lopes - SMSC Co-ordinator



Year 10 Food with Year 12 Photography

Our Year 10 food students recently made profiteroles, learning the art of choux pastry, piping, making a chocolate sauce and constructing the end product. This was one of the pastry skills which they need to learn.

Our Year 12 students then came along to practice their live photography skills as part of their new food photography project. We are very proud of both groups of students for showing an amazing set of skills.

Gillian Brotherston - Teacher of Design

Performing Arts News



ROYAL
DERNGATE &
NORTHAMPTON

We recently took fifteen students to see a production of *The Woman in Black* at the Royal and Derngate Theatre in Northampton. The production tells Susan Hill's ghost story of a grieving lawyer who is obsessed with a curse, which he thinks has been cast over him and his family.

It was an excellent performance and a gripping production which managed to scare the majority of our students witless!

On the 3rd December, our students showcased the best of what they can do in the performing arts. The two hour Christmas show was a mixture of dance, drama and music, finishing with a wonderful finale.

Well done to our brilliant students and a big thank you to the staff involved, both from within our school and from our fantastic team of peripatetic teachers.

Tim Shea - Head of Drama

1STEP Dance Platform

Once again, Montsaye Dance Company successfully applied to perform in the 1STEP Dance platform at the University of Bedfordshire.

Both junior and senior teams have worked incredibly hard this academic year, creating performances for different events around the school. It was a fantastic opportunity to once again showcase their hard work at a regional platform event.

I am incredibly proud of the hard work our students put in leading up to the platform. A fantastic level of commitment, professionalism and talent from all students involved and a wonderful demonstration of Excellence, Resilience and Aspiration.



Fran Malins - Teacher of Dance

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award



We are pleased to announce that one of our Year 9 students, Yordi, has been presented a certificate for successfully completing the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.

Yordi is the first of our students to pass the award here at Montsaye Academy since 2016. We have many more students following Yordi's example and they too will soon be receiving their awards.



The award is available to all 14 to 24 years olds and equips young people for life. It involves twelve months of hard work which includes volunteering, physical activities and learning new skills. The concluding part of the award is a camping and hiking expedition. The award is a personal challenge and not a competition against others. It pushes young people to their personal limits and is recognises their achievements. A DoFE award listed on a UCAS application form is often seen as an asset when applying for university and can be extremely beneficial.

From everyone here at Montsaye Academy and the Duke of Edinburgh team, well done.

**Mark Chattaway and Jake Siddons
Duke of Edinburgh Award Team**

News from our Music Department...

The musicians of Montsaye Academy have been incredibly busy and creative this term. With the introduction of music production as a peripatetic lesson option and the success of our choir and rock band securing an audition for Disneyland Paris, our instrument lesson timetable is now busier than ever.

Next July, forty-two students from Montsaye Academy, our choir and The WonderKatz rock band, are off on a four day music tour to Paris. We have a live performance booked for a central Paris location and are auditioning to perform on stage inside the famous Disneyland Paris resort. Filming for the audition videos will take place during the last week of this term. We then have a nail-biting five week wait to find out if we are visiting the Disney park as tourists or performers. As part of the fund-raising efforts for this exciting event, we are holding a sponsored swimming event on Friday 17th January 2020. The event is taking place 7.30pm to 9.30pm and is open to all students and staff. Please contact Mrs Gardner for more information.

In September, we were lucky enough to take delivery of 20 new DAW computer units, running the latest state of the art music sequencing software. All students now have access to Cubase LE10 and Dorico 2 software. Any budding music producers should contact Mrs Gardner as we still have a few spaces for music production peripatetic lessons. The whole project has been supported by Steinberg, creators of the software and last week we were awarded accreditation as an official Steinberg Training Partner.



CERTIFIED TRAINING

Peripatetic Lesson Vacancies

We currently have spaces for students to learn the following instruments: violin, cello, horn, trombone and piano. If your child is interested, please email ngardner@montsaye.northants.sch.uk for details.

Thank you to our parents and carers for all your support of our musicians and also to our amazing peripatetic teachers and the Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts team for their ongoing inspiration.

Christmas Concerts 2019

On Tuesday 3rd December, we hosted a very successful Performing Arts Christmas Showcase. Over 100 students took part in dance, drama and music performances.

A week later, on Wednesday 11th December, the Concert Band played at the Rothwell Town Carol Service, supporting several carols and playing their own showcase piece.

One member of the audience was so impressed with our young brass players that an invitation to join Gretton Brass Band is on the way for three of them.



Our Rock Band, The WonderKatz, have grown from strength to strength this year. Not only did they play a huge part in the success of our securing the Disney audition, but these amazing six students have already engaged in several fundraising activities to ensure that we can get all of the musicians and equipment to Paris in July 2020.



Ione, Cameron, Alex, Ronnie, Ryan and Toby braved the rain and wind to perform live at Rothwell Gala night on 6th December. Only two days later, they also played a live gig at Olive wine bar in Corby. So far, they have raised a staggering £203 between them and have already secured two more gigs for the new year.

Natalie Gardner - Head of Music



We look forward to giving you a **warm welcome**



GYM



CLASSES



SWIM

Montsaye Community Sports Centre, Greening Road, Rothwell NN14 6BB
Tel 01536 713708. www.montsayesportsandfitness.co.uk

