

# Montsaye Academy

## NEWS

April 2019



## Montsaye Academy Sixth Form is GOOD

Year 13 student, Joe is celebrating after receiving five offers to study Physics at the following Russell Group universities; Birmingham, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester and York. The Russell Group is an association of the twenty-four best research universities in the UK, and places at these universities are much sought after.

Joe says *“Physics, like all of the sciences, is driven by research. By going to a Russell Group university, I will be taught by active researchers who have a great understanding of their field. I will also benefit from the reputation that these universities have when searching for a job after graduating. I decided to apply for physics as it is a discipline used to explain everything around us and how things interact through equations and laws. Physics research is important for our future and responsible for many things that we enjoy today. A-level physics covers a very broad range of topics and is therefore limited in depth. Studying physics at university will help me to better understand these topics but also provide me with a useful set of skills different from those gained from other degrees - hence why around a third of graduates enter work that does not involve physics.”*

In order to be offered his places, Joe had to face an interview at three of the five universities he applied to. Joe told us that *“They were all a half an hour conversation with a member of the academic staff, mainly concerning my reasoning for applying to the course and university, as well as my intentions afterwards. I was asked a question on something that we had covered in either maths or physics lessons and the interviewer wanted to see how I would work through it. The interview was surprisingly relaxed, and it was alright if I didn't quite know how to solve the problem. Overall, the interviews are nothing to worry about.”*

So what's next for Joe? First he will need to make a decision about which two university offers he will accept, and which three to reject! Joe says *“I have narrowed my options down to two universities, but I am struggling to make the final decision about which to put as my firm choice”*. Next, Joe needs to achieve the best possible grades he can, in order to get his place. At the very least, he needs to achieve ABB in his A-levels, with his highest rated university requiring him to achieve A\*A\*A.

When asked what advice Joe would give to other students applying to Russell Group universities, he said *“You have five choices and the majority of people I know (including myself) applied for at least one university that they definitely didn't*



*want to go to and likely would have chosen clearing over. Be realistic with your choices...but if you have one choice spare, there is no reason not to apply to a Russell Group university. If you get an offer, you should use the firm and insurance choices to your advantage, even if the university has higher grades than you are predicted, it is worth trying if that is where you would prefer to spend three years.”*

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Joe, and all of our other Year 13 students who have currently been offered a place at a Russell Group university:

- Lois: offers to study Architecture at Liverpool and Nottingham.
- Josie: offer to study Psychology at Exeter.
- Megan: offers to study Business and Management at Durham, Liverpool and York.
- Louis: offer to study Architecture and Urban Planning at Newcastle.
- Shannon: offer to study Criminology at Liverpool
- Adrian: offers to study Philosophy at Birmingham and Manchester.
- Danielle: offer to study Law and Criminology at Liverpool.
- May: offers to study English Literature at Nottingham and Warwick.
- Katie: offer to study Psychology at Liverpool.
- Ben: offer to study Architecture at Liverpool.

Good luck to all of our Year 13 students as they move into the final few weeks before their exams start.

Laura McNish - Sixth Form Centre Manager



This academic year is one of the best in the recent history of Montsaye Academy. If you were not aware, in January we secured a good Ofsted rating, thank you to everyone for their support and positivity as we move into the next phase. At Montsaye Academy there is certainly not any complacency, our students are working well and our Year 11 and Year 13 students are preparing for their final exams. We wish them all the best of luck, they certainly deserve the best outcomes.

You may have seen on our Twitter and Facebook pages, that we have a record number of Year 13 students who have secured offers at Russell Group universities, this is fantastic for them as they start to think about university life.

We have much to celebrate at Montsaye Academy, our varied enrichment programme, our sports facilities, record amount of our students competing nationally and internationally in sporting events and our ERA days going from strength to strength. I would like to say a special thank you to our support staff who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that teachers can get on with the core business of teaching and learning. No school can achieve great things without the tenacity of a key group of support staff.

It is my pleasure to share some really exciting news for 2019/2020; we would like to announce that we will be hosting our first musical, more news and audition details will be published shortly... There is no end to what we want to achieve, we have huge aspirations and look forward to the future with excitement and anticipation.

Montsaye Academy would like to wish you all a very happy Easter and restful break. If you wish to consider Montsaye Academy for your child in September 2019, do not hesitate to get in touch, it is not too late. Contact us on 01536 418844 or [office@montsaye.northants.sch.uk](mailto:office@montsaye.northants.sch.uk).

Meena Gabbi - Principal

## Governing Body

As many of you will be aware, for the last two years the school has been governed by a School Improvement Board (SIB) rather than a Governing Body. The SIB was made up of four dedicated volunteers, who have given up their time in order to support the leadership team to make the rapid improvements we have all witnessed.

The SIB were highlighted in the OFSTED report: *'The school improvement board is highly effective. Leaders are held stringently to account for their work. The*

*support provided by the board, and the trust, has enabled the school to improve rapidly.'*

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the SIB for the hard work and commitment they have shown to Montsaye during this time. They have been pivotal in ensuring that the school has improved at such pace.

It is now time for the school to form a Governing Body. We would very much welcome interest from community members with particular skills who are prepared to share their expertise in order to support the school's continued improvement. If you would like to find out more about becoming a school governor and you have the following skills: HR, finance and business. Anybody interested should contact Mrs Campbell, [clerktogovernors@montsaye.northants.sch.uk](mailto:clerktogovernors@montsaye.northants.sch.uk).



Ann Davey  
CEO, Montsaye Community Learning Partnership

## Year 9 take a turn at an ERA day



Montsaye's latest ERA day took place on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March and this time it was all about Year 9.

The day was the usual mix of activities from an inspiring talk by England international footballer Andy Sinton, through to an engaging and thought-provoking performance by Loudmouth, a theatre-in-education company about healthy relationships and a dance workshop which led into a flash-mob in the afternoon.

Year 9 were in the middle of a two week focus on their options so there was an important chance on the ERA day to think about future choices. Students did this through a question and answer session with a series of adults from school and from the local community. Mrs Gabbi was one of the questioners and said that she loved finding out about the hopes and plans of our Year 9 students. All of our visitors commented on how mature and responsive the students were.

The Year 9 students also spent time with their form tutors, who introduced them to the options booklet and helped them start thinking about the choices ahead.

The day was a mix of fun, reflection and future plans; the feedback from students has once again been really positive.

*"Andy Sinton and Loudmouth were useful because they taught me a lot; Andy Sinton taught me to never give up and don't accept knock-backs."*

*"The question and answer session helped me think about what I want to do in the future."*

*"Now I plan to write more notes and revise more often for subjects I struggle with."*

We are looking forward to our Year 10 ERA day which takes place on Friday 5th April.

## Year 8 students go full steam ahead

In the history department, our Year 8 students have been researching the events which led to the sinking of the RMS Titanic in 1912. We have seen some of the best projects we have had in a long time.

The students were set five enquiry questions which they then had to independently research, record and report on, within a six week period. The variety of work which was presented really showed off the values of the academy. The students had aspired to challenge themselves, and there was work which clearly took a lot of time, effort and resilience, for example a model which was made of Lego and is pictured below.



The excellent standard which the history department set was clearly on show. Many students went into great depth with their projects, through their research. It was obvious that they had really thought about their answers to some difficult questions.



The students were excited to share some of their explanations as to why the Titanic sank and why the event was so significant. The Year 8 historians have really set a high standard for the history projects this year.

**James Wiggins - Head of History**

## Students take aim...

Our new archery club is now well and truly up and running.

Students are learning how to use the equipment safely and correctly and are quickly developing their accuracy and improving their shooting skills.

Archery club takes place every Friday 3.30pm to 4.30pm and is open to students in Year 7 and Year 8. Please ask your child to contact Mr Wing if they are interested.



**Tim Wing - Joint Head of PE**

## Eat, sleep, cheer, repeat...



It is absolutely fantastic to see the twenty-five students who are on our cheer-leading team, so focussed on their training sessions. They are making good progress towards their group performance. **#Resilience**

I am helped in the coaching of the club by ex-Montsaye student, Seycha and two of our current Year 11 students, Beth and Mia; they all do a fantastic job.

**Fran Malins - Teacher of Dance**

## Dance students showcase their hard work



I would like to say a huge well done to all of our students who were involved in the recent dance show. There was a fantastic display of talent from all eighty-five students who were involved.



I am incredibly proud of the hard work our students have put into the show. They have been rehearsing almost every break and lunchtime since September, preparing for their performance. An incredible level of commitment and professionalism from all of them. **#Excellence, #Resilience and #Aspiration.**



Fran Malins  
Teacher of Dance

## Welcome to Izzie, the therapy dog...

As part of our overall commitment to students' wellbeing, we now have our very own Montsaye therapy dog who comes and visits us every week. Izzie has passed all of her training with the Pets As Therapy charity, with flying colours and has been working with our students since February.

The Pets As Therapy dogs enhance health and wellbeing in the community. All breeds of dog can become part of the Pets As Therapy team. The dog must have been with their owners for over six months and be over nine months old. Dogs must be able to pass the temperament assessment and be fully vaccinated.

Izzie is adorable and friendly; students and staff alike look forward to her weekly visits. The group of students who have been having sessions with her have really enjoyed them. They have said: ***"Izzie just relaxes you"***. ***"She doesn't distract you from your problems, but she calms you and you know you can deal with them"***. ***"She helps you deal with your problems and relax"***. ***"She knows when you feel upset and snuggles you"***.



Emma Lopes - SMSC Co-ordinator

## Sixth form students on a cultural visit to Berlin



In early March, eighteen Year 12 and Year 13 art, photography, DT and history students visited the amazing city of Berlin. We spent four days soaking up all that this city has to offer. We flew from Luton in the early hours of Sunday morning and checked into our hotel by midday. The hotel was in a prime location, with the Berlin Wall literally two metres from the hotel.

We used the very efficient transport system to take us around the city and students soon got the hang of heading to Platform 11 which appeared to be able to take us everywhere we needed and more.

The itinerary for the trip was jam-packed with places of interest including four art galleries and museums, the Stasi Prison, the TV Tower, the Reichstag Dome, the Brandenburg Gate, Check Point Charlie and the Holocaust Memorial to name but a few. The students' enthusiasm to see as much of Berlin as possible, meant we managed to squeeze in three additional places of interest than originally planned. If you have never been to Berlin before, add it to your list.

Katy B, one of the students on the trip, took this photograph of an elaborate manhole cover. She said, ***"This trip helped me greatly with understanding my subjects more. Not only that, I had an amazing time with great people, in a city full of culture. I would definitely go back to Berlin at some time in the future."***

We would like to thank all of our students for making us proud and for representing Montsaye Academy in an exemplary manner.



Natalie Edney - Teacher of Design

## Year 7 and Year 8 students visit the Big Bang Fair



Over ninety of our Year 7 and Year 8 students recently attended the Big Bang Fair at the NEC in Birmingham. The fair is the largest celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths for young people in the UK. Two of our students have written an article about the trip:

### Where was it?

The Big Bang Science Fair was located at the NEC, Birmingham. It took the coach one hour to arrive.

### What was there to do?

The NEC is a vast open building; the halls were filled with lots of science-related stalls, all very intriguing. Some of the stalls consisted of virtual reality robots which could be programmed.

There were also numerous engineering stands such as the STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) playground and Lego mind-storm, both of which involved building certain objects.

### Competitions

There were lots of competitions, such as the ocean clean-up competition, where you had to use plastic tweezers to take all of the plastic rubbish out of the water in the quickest time. The prize was some cool computer software.

### What else was there to do?

Inside the NEC, as well as the stalls which you could interact with, there were a lot of visual stands. One of the exhibits consisted of a Red Arrow Hawk Jet which we could sit in, experiencing the feeling of being a pilot. There was also a water tank with two scuba-divers inside who we were able to play 'rock, paper, scissors' with and we were also able to take a selfie with them.

There were lots of school projects to look at; one group of students had made a stall from scratch.

At the back of the NEC, there was a large stage where shows were performed. There was a 'Weirdology' show which allowed us to see the fun side of science. All of the performances interacted with the audience, which made it very entertaining to watch.

Thomas O. and Benjamin O. - Year 7

## Stop The Press...

Following their school trip to the Big Bang Fair, two of our students, Harvey and Fraser in Year 7 and Year 8 visited the Big Bang Fair with their family at the weekend.

The boys both took part in the ocean clean-up competition, Sponsored by Dassault Systèmes, the 3D experience company. Harvey and Fraser had to scoop plastic waste out of a water-filled tub (representing that which is often found in our oceans) in the quickest time. They completed the exercise in a time of 17.69 seconds, the fastest that day.

By doing so, Harvey and Fraser have won a Solidworks computer software licence, worth in the region of £2000 for the academy. Solidworks is one of the most widely used 3D CRD package in education and industry. Well done boys!



Lucy Cooper  
Teacher of Science and  
Big Bang Trip Leader

## Students celebrate World Book Day in the LRC

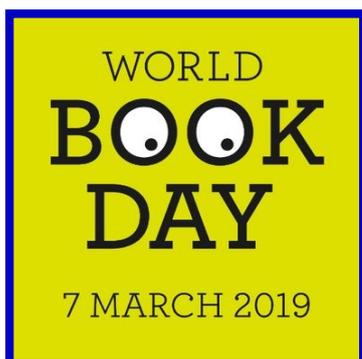
To celebrate World Book Day we held a week of book-related events in the Learning Resource Centre. This included a World Book Day quiz which was won by H8 Heroes. We held a treasure hunt around the LRC which was won by Thomas M. and Corbyn A. The winner of the Big Brother author eviction competition was Roald Dahl, voted as our favourite author of all time.

We also had a 'design a Manga' character competition which was won by Giselle S., her winning drawing can be seen below. There were over 30 brilliant entries for this competition.



On the final day of the week, to encourage students to read something different, we distributed over 30 free books which had been covered in wrapping paper to disguise the contents in our 'Don't Judge a Book by its Cover' event.

Thank you to all of our students who participated and the staff who helped. It was a fun week of events.



Mandy Lantz - Librarian



Students entered into the spirit of Red Nose Day with a range of fund-raising activities in the LRC at lunchtime, including an extremely popular selfie photo-booth.



Red Nose Day wristbands and pin badges were on sale, together with copious amounts of doughnuts.

A grand total of £243.75 was raised for this worthwhile charity.

Emma Lopes - SMSC Co-ordinator



## Year 9 Careers Morning

On Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February, our Year 9 students spent two hours with a group local employers from a wide range of industries.

The aim of the morning was to raise the students' aspirations and broaden their horizons, whilst helping them to make links between the subjects they will choose to study at GCSE and their futures.

Guests included the RAF, Northamptonshire Police, Northlands Vets, NHS - Nursing, Nationwide Building Society, Balfour Beatty (Construction) and the University of Northampton. After a brief introduction to each industry, students had the opportunity to ask questions about the career, what was required to get there and any other questions about the world of work. Students spent 15 minutes with each employer, allowing them to access information from a range of careers.

Feedback following the event was overwhelmingly positive, with students commenting that "lots of jobs can give you experiences of a lifetime", "your GCSEs have a big impact on your future jobs" and "to start revising and be the best I can be at a younger age".

This is a pivotal time for our Year 9 students who are in the process of choosing their GCSE Options ready for Year 10 and Year 11.

These sort of events provide the students with the opportunity to consider their post-16 choices in relation to their GCSE options. We look forward to working with local employers for future events.



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\*TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

Please speak to the Sports Centre staff for information on Montsaye student concession prices.