

Montsaye Academy

NEWS

May 2018



What a fantastic year so far and this newsletter is testament to all the hard work from everyone in the Montsaye community.

Last week we launched our fantastic new website; it is interactive, easy to navigate and represents the new ERA for Montsaye. You will find the link to the website at the bottom of this page.

Aligned to this are our new values, please read on to find out more.

Meena Gabbi
Principal

It isn't only the logo that's different at Montsaye! In the last year we have launched our new values: **Excellence, Resilience and Aspiration**. These values are at the heart of all we do now; we have launched house points linked to these values and have weekly nominations for our new ERA heroes, which are the basis of our form time activities.

We know how important it is to start the day well, so every student is a member of a tutor group and has form time or an assembly at the start of the day which embeds the values we are striving towards. Every week, as well as checking students are meeting the standards of uniform, equipment and punctuality we expect, tutors to deliver a range of activities. Tutors share a power point which shows what is happening at school, what is going on in the wider world and provides key-skill activities such as literacy and numeracy. The school values, or British values, are the basis for a conversation starter in form which might concern our impact on the

world in terms of charity or the environment; it could focus on mental health issues, or how to work together to create a better community. We also take every opportunity to praise our wonderful students. They are an amazing bunch who bring positive surprises weekly, whether through beautiful art, brave sporting accomplishments or incredible academic achievements.

We also love sharing achievements outside school from sports clubs, scouting, dance, drama or charity work.

Excellence speaks for itself. We want our students to be the best. However, **Resilience** is just as important. When things go wrong, as they always do in life, the way our students deal with failure is key to the way they move forward. We are helping our students to accept that mistakes are a part of learning. This is supported with our regular assessments and the target time which follows. It is just as important to learn from what we didn't quite manage to do perfectly, as it is to get it all right the first time and, if we do get it all right the first time...? Well, that brings us to our final value: **Aspiration**. We are encouraging students at Montsaye to reach for the stars. There, to give all students activities to stretch them further than they thought they could go. We want students to aspire to be something more. We are also planning lots of visits to interesting places in order to broaden students' horizons and will organise some visitors to come to school, as well as some special drop-down days, starting with Year 7 before the summer. These days will be fun, interactive and open the students' eyes to the world we are preparing them for.

This is what matters to us, that at Montsaye our values are central, not just in getting students a string of brilliant GCSEs which they deserve, but also in making dynamic, engaging citizens of the world, ready to support and enrich their local community.

Please follow the link below which will take you to the new Montsaye Academy website:

<https://www.montsaye.northants.sch.uk>

Emma Lopes
SMSC Co-ordinator

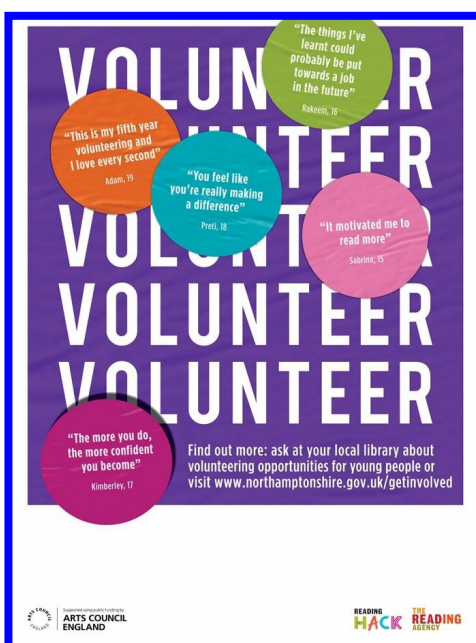
Year 10 PE students get adventurous!



A group of Year 10 PE students recently had the opportunity to expand their knowledge and test their resolve by participating in a range of outdoor and adventurous activities at Govilon Learning and Activity Centre in Wales. Students were able to take part in activities such as archery and bush craft, climbing, caving and canoeing.

We were impressed by their willingness to try something new. They showed us that they could increase their capabilities, not only physically but proving that they were able to step outside of their comfort zones and go on to overcome many psychological barriers. Students also enjoyed a guided tour of the Principality Stadium in Cardiff, learning about the history of the stadium and the events that have been held in it.

Jake Siddons - PE Teacher



Students are record breakers in athletics!

We would like to acknowledge the following students for breaking Year 9 Montsaye Academy athletics records.

Huge congratulations go to all of the students for an outstanding achievement:

F. Batkin: 1500m 5.10 minutes
H. Davis: Discus 19.71 metres
G. Brice: Javelin 22.30 metres
J. Cross: Javelin 33.50 metres (breaking a 6 year old record)

We are very proud of you all.

Tim Wing
Joint Head of PE

The Diana Award Anti-Bullying Campaign

In association with Facebook and the Diana Award, we recently took a small group of Year 8 and Year 9 students to Northampton Academy to be trained as anti-bullying ambassadors.

The course taught the students how to recognise the symptoms of bullying, how to offer emotional support and how to direct those suffering to the right place to go for help.

The group has returned to school full of ideas on how to support our Montsaye community.

Tim Shea - Year 9 Progress Leader



1Step Youth Dance Platform at the University of Bedfordshire

The Montsaye Dance Company successfully applied to perform in the 1STEP Dance platform at the University of Bedfordshire Theatre on Sunday 29th April.

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

We are incredibly proud of the hard work that our students have put in leading up to the event. An incredible level of commitment, professionalism and talent from all students. A fantastic demonstration of **Excellence, Resilience** and **Aspiration**.

Our fantastic dance students



Laura Harris and Francesca Malins
Dance Teachers

Year 8 go back in time...



As the weak winter sun struggled to break through the clouds, a group of intrepid Year 8 students and four members of staff made their way up the M6 to the Black Country Museum in Dudley, West Midlands.

We were greeted by our tour guides who had come all the way from “Victorian England” to share their experiences and to give us a glimpse into what it would have been like to live in the Black Country over one hundred years ago.

Our day involved many experiences. In the old school room, the students showed their incredible ability to memorise by learning the alphabet backwards. Unfortunately, Mr Brothers misbehaved and was punished accordingly! We also had the chance to learn how a 12 year old might have spent their days in Victorian times – taking their dad’s lunch to the mine where he was working. We visited the mine and experienced the low ceilings and dark, damp conditions and although it was fascinating, we were all relieved to be back in the fresh air again afterwards.

There was so much else to see and do, from a 1930s house, a pub (we didn’t go in!) a sweet shop, a

motorbike shop, boats on the canal and even the blacksmith making chains with sparks flying everywhere.

It was a brilliant chance to see the human side of the events which the students have been looking at in history, including the industrial revolution and to see, hear, smell and touch a little of the past. After a quick visit to the gift shop it was time to go home, back along the M6 and to 2018 once again.



Emma Lopes
SMSC Co-ordinator



Year 13 Product Design Students Work with Local Industries



Two of our A-level product design students, Travis and Saffron have been working closely with local companies, Rigid Containers Limited and Wacoal Europe to develop their A2 coursework products and packaging.

The students spent a valuable day at Rigid Containers Limited in Desborough working with their design teams to develop packaging for Travis's 'Moments' practical and Saffron's Girl Guide Camping Equipment Bag. Both students worked with the designers to develop their project's packaging first hand, working on Pantone colours, costings and packaging material choices. The opportunity to add this level of detail to their coursework projects from a local company is invaluable.



Saffron followed this up with a visit to Wacoal Europe in Desborough, where she experienced the fashion industry first hand, speaking to the design team about their 2019 trend predictions and seeing the industrial manufacturing process in operation.

Both students have been able to apply these industrial experiences to develop their coursework products and thoroughly enjoyed seeing design technology Industries on their doorstep and the opportunities that they hold for future employment. We would like to thank both Rigid Containers Limited and Wacoal Europe for their work with our students.

Natalie Edney - Design Teacher

Exam season is upon us...

The national GCSEs and A-levels kicked off in force on Monday 14th May. The last A-level will be held on 20th June with the final GCSE following 2 days later. We have tried to keep disruption to a minimum, but some students may experience room changes for their usual timetabled lessons, as we create the best possible exam conditions for candidates. Year 10 mock exams will be scheduled between 18th and 30th June, following the same format as the national examinations.

Please remind your child of the importance of respecting their fellow students undertaking these important exams, by keeping silent as they pass and observing guidance on posters around the academy throughout the exam period.

A quick reminder of the top 5 rules:

- Students must arrive on time for all exams.
- No smart phones, watches or other electronic devices are permitted in the examination room.
- Water must be in a transparent container with no label.
- Any attempt to communicate with another candidate will be considered malpractice.
- Full uniform must be worn for all examinations.

We would like to reiterate that there is no study leave and that students are expected to be in school throughout the examination period. We wish all of our candidates the very best of luck.

**Elisa Davidson
Exams Officer**

DROP EVERYTHING AND READ (D.E.A.R.)

Since the launch of the 'Drop Everything and Read' (DEAR) initiative and the introduction of the Accelerated Reader programme for Year 7 and Year 8 at the start of the academic year, we have seen some fantastic improvements in reading ages.

With many GCSE examination papers now containing content with a reading age of 16 years and above, we are determined to ensure that all students are able to access their exam papers with ease so that they can achieve the best possible outcomes.

Reading daily for 20 minutes as part of the DEAR initiative is having a positive impact on students, with many students improving their reading age to be at, or above, their chronological age. The DEAR initiative is also an excellent platform to promote a love of, and appetite for, reading amongst students. It is lovely to walk round the academy during DEAR and see all of our students and staff so engrossed in their books.

Below are some headlines showing the positive gains our students have made with reading age progress since September 2017:

- Students, who do not yet have a reading age of 17 years and above, have made a full year of reading age progress over six months since September.
- Year 7 and Year 8 students have made above expected progress with their reading.
- Progress in Year 9 and Year 10 are most pronounced.
- In Year 10, 49 students started with a reading age of 17+, rising to 84 by March.
- We have 11 students in Year 7 and Year 8 who have read over one million words – some have even achieved word multi-millionaire status:

Zeb M. – 3,623,752
Euan S. – 3,355,482
Katie M. – 2,718,665
Lucy W. – 1,656,858
Amelia K. – 1,554,617
Erin F. – 1,503,184

Rosie S. – 1,304,415
Rosie L. – 1,282,561
Tom T. – 1,211,420
Loick H. – 1,024,065
Macy C. – 1,024,065



AcceleratedTM
Reader

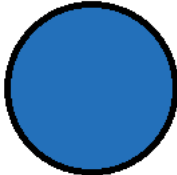
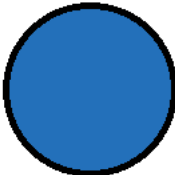
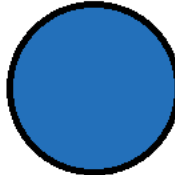
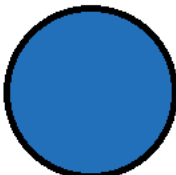
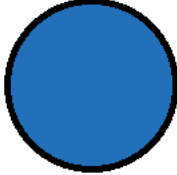
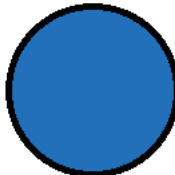
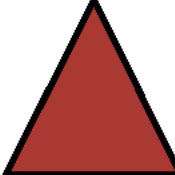
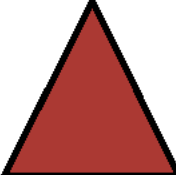
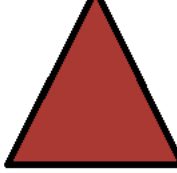
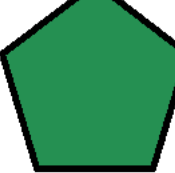

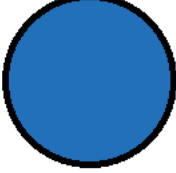


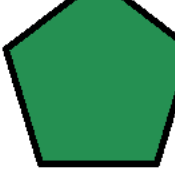
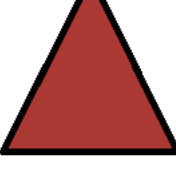
This is a fantastic achievement in the space of six months.



Maths news...

TableTop:

Students from all year groups are invited to join TableTop, our new board and card gaming club at Montsaye. The club takes place in M5 at lunchtime. Whether it's the high-stakes tension of 'Exploding Kittens', the scheming of 'Get Bit', or the rule-changing frenzy of 'Fluxx', come along to discover new, exciting, independent games and to make new friends: see Mrs Sanghera or Mr Urwin for more details.

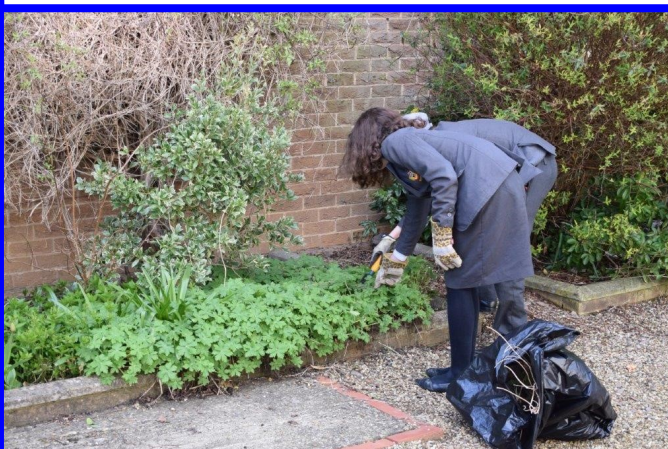
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Montsaye Science Club Grow Wild



Over the last few months our Science Club has been working on a 'Montsaye Grow Wild' project. We applied for, and received, some 'Grow Wild' seeds from Kew Gardens in London and decided to plant the seeds around the Montsaye Memorial Pond.

We began by clearing out all of the large pots, removing the ivy and weeds growing in them and refilled them with new soil. We also dug over the large borders outside of the gym.



The 'Grow Wild' pack contained four different types of seeds, each one requiring different conditions to grow in; either sunny or shaded areas. We mixed our seeds with dry sand and then sprinkled them over the newly prepared soil. The first signs of life, in the form of small green shoots, are now just starting to appear in some of the pots.

The students have recorded each stage of the project and we have used the photos taken to create a large display in the Science Department. The display follows the story from the seeds arriving to, hopefully, our flowers in full bloom in the summer.

Sally Parley - Senior Science Technician

Year 8 students are recycling to improve the school environment...

The Year 8 leadership group are recycling mobile phones and inkjet cartridges to improve the quality of the school environment. Our chosen partner is Recycle4Charity which gives us 50% of the market value of the phone or inkjet cartridge.

If you have any old mobile phones, please send them into the academy with your child and bring them into the Learning Resource Centre. The old mobile phones can be faulty, have broken broken screens etc, as they still have a value. We don't need chargers or SIM cards. We also accept any inkjet cartridge.

The funds raised will be used to improve the environment of the school. If you require any further information please contact Mr Shea at the academy.



Tim Shea - Year 9 Progress Leader



A huge well done to all students involved in the recent Spring Concert. It was an incredibly enjoyable evening of music-making for both performers and audience. The concert not only featured performances from established

groups such as the String group, Wind band and Guitar group, but it was also the debut solo outing for some new groups at Montsaye this year; Rock band, Ukulele group and Senior Choir.

All the students involved with playing, singing and stage managing should be extremely proud of themselves. There was so much positive feedback from audience members about how impressed they were with our talented young musicians.

The students are already working hard for the next concert in the Summer term. Watch out in the weekly bulletin for the date for your diary to be announced soon.

**Becky Swailes and Natalie Gardner
Joint Heads of Music**

Bethany is training hard...

Sunday 15th April saw Year 10 PE student Bethany S. set off to foreign shores in search of some warm weather cycling training. She also worked on developing her skills for what will be her individual sport when it comes to assessment time. Whilst the first day in Mallorca was cut short due to heavy rain, the remaining three days saw good weather, which allowed Bethany to cover some 220 miles over four days and climb 12,700 feet. Over half of the climb was completed on the Thursday when Bethany rode from Puerto de Pollenca and up the first challenging climb of the day to the top of Lluc, before the nerve-wracking descent through the hairpins of the famous Sa Calobra.



Once at the bottom of Sa Calobra, there was only time to consume an energy gel, before starting the gruelling 9.5km climb that averages a 7% gradient. This Category A climb is the most famous on the island and one on which the professionals (including Team Sky, and previously Sir Bradley Wiggins) come to test their fitness during winter training. The climb was made all the more difficult by the lack of shade which saw temperatures climb to 28°C as it radiated off the road and cliff face. Whilst the descent was used to develop technique (with the aid of instructions provided by other skilled descenders), Bethany more than held her own on the climb, leaving many in her wake as she powered to the top.

Bethany was the only under 18 student on the training camp but fellow riders and ride-leaders alike were all impressed with her performance and hope to see her back at future camps.



The day after returning from the camp, Bethany attended the Cycling Time Trials (CCT) GHS National Youth qualifying event over a distance of 10 miles at Sawtry. A course personal best saw Bethany take the Juvenile Girls win by 5 seconds and qualify for the national final later this year.

The benefits of the camp are still being realised, with a new course personal best over 10 miles at Lamport recently, beating her previous best by 2 minutes 24 seconds.

Jane Cooper - Year 10 Progress Leader

What a wonderful year of progress the Educational Support Department has had. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the students and ensuring that we are meeting their needs. The SEN team have worked tirelessly to provide support for the students and to ensure that they are happy and learning.

One of the improvements we have made is ensuring that staff are fully informed about the needs of all students. We have introduced Pupil Profiles this year, and we are in the process of writing more. Students have traditionally had one page Profiles and these are still in use until the new improved documents are completed.

We will be writing to the parents/carers of students with known special educational needs to ask for their input – they know their child best and their updated input is so valuable to us. Please look out for the letter so that you can reply before the end of the school year.

Thank you so much for your support this year; we have learned a lot and made great progress as a department. Please remember that any concerns about your child's learning can be raised by emailing senco@montsaye.northants.sch.uk.

**Becky Gatiss
SENCo**

Junior Choral Festival at Holy Trinity Church, Rothwell



The Rothwell Junior Choral Festival has been a regular event for several years now and has seen themes from Disney to Olympic-themed songs. Held each year at Holy Trinity Church, Rothwell, it is a fantastic event allowing students from different schools to come together and perform as one amassed choir.

This year, on Friday 20th April 2018, Havelock Schools, Loatlands Primary School, Loddington Church of England Primary School, Rothwell Junior School, Rushton Primary School and Wilbarston Church of England Primary School came together to commemorate 100 years of the RAF by singing songs with a flying theme.

The evening began with all schools singing 'Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines' followed by 'It's Time to Fly' and 'Wings' by Little Mix. Each school then sang two songs of their own choice. It was a fantastic selection of music and every single school performed their pieces brilliantly.

The evening concluded with all of the schools coming together once again to sing 'Breaking Free', 'I Believe I Can Fly' and an amazing final song, worthy of an encore, 'Let's Go Fly a Kite'.

All of the money raised from the evening will be donated to Help for Heroes. A very big well done to all those involved.



We hope that by now you will have had an opportunity to view our new GO 4 Schools live database.

This is available for students in Year 7 to Year 11 and you are able to view your child's progress online and access the following information at any time:

Real-time attainment information—marks and target grades for all subjects throughout the year.

Attendance—shown from the start of the academic year September 2018.

Timetable—your child's daily and weekly timetable.

Progress Reports—full reports which are published throughout the year.

If you have any questions or queries regarding information on your child's page, please contact the subject teacher, attendance officer or form tutor in the first instance. Email addresses are available on the website.

Your child's page is constantly updated, providing you with the latest information. To access the site, please go to www.go4schools.com and click on the 'Parents' icon at the top of the main page to arrive at the log-in screen. The email address you use to enter the site must be the one that you provided us on the admission form when your child joined Montsaye and which we hold on our database for you as an adult with parental responsibility.

If you would like to change this email address please contact us on **01536 418844**. If we do not have an email address for you or if the email address we have on our records is incorrect, you will be unable to use this facility so it is important that you inform us of any changes. To request a password for GO 4 Schools, please enter your email address into the 'First-time User' field and click 'Please send me a password'. A randomised password will then be generated and sent to your email address. You will then be able to log into the site and view your child's page.

Adrian Oram
Data and Admin Officer



Students are rewarded for their efforts...

Well done to the 353 Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 students who recently attended their reward event for each having achieved 60 house points.

Students enjoyed watching a film; 'Ferdinand' for the Year 7 students and 'Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle' for the Year 8 and 9 students. They were also rewarded with a goody bag of snacks and a drink. We are very proud of all of our students for the efforts they are putting into their school work and this is just one of the ways in which we reward and encourage them.

Laura Harris, Claire Petchey and Tim Shea
Year 7 and Year 8 Progress leaders



@montsaye

Please don't forget to follow our Twitter feed for regular academy updates.

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