

Montsaye Academy

NEWS

October 2018



Drop Everything and Read: Building a Culture of Strong Readers at Montsaye

They say that a picture tells a thousand words, but I believe that a good book creates a new world where imaginations soar and people, young and old, can get lost in literature. All this time, students are developing key literacy skills that, unbeknownst to most, will help them to succeed, not only in assessments and exams, but also with future aspirations and careers. This is something very little will achieve through Fortnite.

Since joining the academy in July, I have been staggered with the level of engagement, access and provision that we offer to students through the DEAR (drop everything and read) initiative. Each day, students and staff stop what they are doing and sit down for 20 minutes to enjoy a good book: this is firmly establishing a culture of reading in the school, which students will benefit from for years to come. What's more, students are used to and enjoy the addition of daily reading to their academic diet.

Ellie H., Year 8, says: "In lessons, I like DEAR because it helps me develop my reading skills and gives me a wider vocabulary. I can already see this in my writing. The more you read, the more words you pick up, the more you can use in your written work." It is not just students who feel the buzz, though. Mr. Brothers from humanities says: "Having twenty minutes of DEAR everyday has hugely improved our school. So many students have become engaged in their reading that you can hear a pin drop around the building and it's a struggle to get them to put their books away."

Reading for pleasure equals success in terms of GCSE examinations. If a student reads for 1 minute each day, over the course of secondary school, they will have only read 8,000 words. Compare that to a student that reads for at least 20 minutes per day: a vocabulary of over 1,800,000 words (Nagy & Herman, 1987). This culture is growing strong at Montsaye: in the coming months, years or even decades, the young people of our community will benefit from this.

Jack Beamish - Second in English

From the Principal and Senior Leadership Team...



Meena Gabbi

What a fantastic start to the academic year so far. I cannot believe how much we have been able to achieve in such a short amount of time.

Our new Year 7s have settled well and some have joined me on a number of assemblies at all of our local primary schools, where we were able to share all the things that make Montsaye Academy unique, many of which you will read about in this newsletter.

Our recent open evening was a huge success with over 500 visitors and we are exceptionally proud of how wonderfully vibrant our school looked, lots of very happy children and parents left Montsaye Academy telling us that we are their first choice of secondary school.

If this was not enough, we had a HMI monitoring visit on the 11th and 12th September 2018, which recognised the many improvements that we are making. We are very proud of this report and are confident that Montsaye Academy will continue to improve at a rapid pace. A link to the report can be found here: <https://files.api.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50028250>.

Montsaye Academy has an incredibly dedicated team of staff who are working exceptionally hard at all levels to ensure that the quality of education continues to improve.

Thank you to them all and to all the students who have started the year with positivity, determination and vigour.

Meena Gabbi - Principal

I would like to start by thanking all of those students, parents and staff who have made me feel welcome as senior vice principal at Montsaye Academy.

Since my appointment in January 2018, I have had the opportunity to assist the principal in guiding the academy through two successful HMI monitoring visits which highlight the 'considerable capacity' that I have added to the leadership team.

My prime focus this academic year is to improve the quality of teaching and learning that our children receive, every minute of every day, in the 190 school days which they attend.

There have been substantial improvements in this core area over the last academic year, with our strategies beginning to have an impact on the outcomes for our young people; further improvements are planned for this year.

Teaching and learning is our core business at Montsaye, and our students deserve the very best provision to ensure that they have the necessary skills, knowledge and development to be successful citizens of the future.



Gopal Baria

From the Principal and Senior Leadership Team...

I strategically lead the personal development, behaviour and welfare area of Montsaye. I lead a team of progress leaders, pastoral mentors and an attendance officer whose sole focus is to ensure that students attend school every day and are able to maximise their potential and achieve academic success.

My job involves working with young people and their families to identify any barriers that may prevent the student from learning; working together with the pastoral team, including our school counsellor, to put pro-active strategies in place, to ensure that all children receive appropriate support to succeed. I also work closely with our SMSC (social, moral, spiritual and cultural) coordinator, working towards embedding our values of **Excellence, Resilience and Aspiration**.



Jon Berridge

I have the privilege to work with external agencies to ensure that our children get the best support possible. This includes working with a careers advisor enabling our students to access impartial careers advice and information that will help them create their e-portfolio on U-Explore.

I am very proud to work at Montsaye, a school with fantastic students, staff and supportive parents. Last year, I took over responsibility for the parents' forum and establishing the Friends of Montsaye group. Through this work, I have thoroughly enjoyed working with, and getting to know, lots of different parents, who invest so much in both their children and in our school.

I look forward to expanding on our work and meeting with you on Thursday 8th November for our next parents' forum.

Jon Berridge - Assistant Vice Principal



Marc Jordan

I have strategic oversight of the progress and attainment students make whilst they are at the Montsaye Academy. My role involves setting targets for students and staff, in terms of grades and working with progress leaders, heads of department and the SENCo, to monitor these and hold them to account.

I work with staff, to put in place measures and interventions, to support students in improving their progress if they fall behind what is expected of them. I also monitor the progress of disadvantaged students and those with special educational needs and look at how we can best use our funding to support these learners.

As a member of the SLT, I also line-manage several departments and work with them to ensure the quality of teaching, learning, assessment and feedback is of the standard expected.

There have been improvements in the academy's overall attainment and progress figures for this year compared to 2017; this also includes the outcomes for both our disadvantaged students and those with special educational needs.

Amazing achievement for brother and sister duo...

Congratulations to brother and sister duo, Freya and Fynn, for their efforts over the summer holiday. Freya competed in the Hetton Lyons Triathlon, coming a respectable 9th in a highly competitive field.

Fynn qualified for the European Youth Triathlon Championships which took place in Greece from 30th August to 2nd September where he came 7th in the individual and Gold medal relay; what an achievement to qualify for such a high profile and challenging championship!



Tim Wing - Joint Head of PE



Year 7 students look at safety in science

Students in Year 7 have been studying a topic called 'introduction to science' in their first few lessons of the new year. This involves discussing safety in a laboratory, and using chemicals and equipment which they have probably not met before in their primary schools.

Lighting Bunsen Burners is one of the favourite lessons, and we were pleased to reward these pupils with a certificate to say they can safely and correctly use a Bunsen in their science lessons.

Well done to all of you who have received your certificate.

Marc Jordan - Assistant Vice Principal

Well done Emily!

On Saturday 15th September, Emily in Year 7 competed at the Northamptonshire ASA County Sprint competition, against swimmers from across the country. In her age group, Emily won a bronze medal for 50m backstroke, 2 silver medals for 50m butterfly and 100m individual medley, and a gold medal for 50m breaststroke. She also achieved a regional qualifying time in her 50m breaststroke, meaning that she will be able to compete in the regional championships next year against swimmers from across the East Midlands.



Rosanne Hodges - Joint Head of PE

Montsaye celebrates exam results success...

Montsaye Academy is celebrating another improved set of GCSE grades for our Year 11 students. There was a real 'buzz' in the main hall on results day with anxious students and parents waiting to open the all-important envelope.

Over seventy-five of our Year 11 students met the threshold to study A-levels and take the next step on their academic pathway. Almost all of the students who wanted to study level 2/3 vocational courses, or take up apprenticeships, got onto their first choice course or training. This set of results saw the academy's attainment scores improve again overall and in the core subjects of maths and English.

This year, almost all subjects are now taking the new GCSE courses which are graded 9-1. Montsaye Academy scooped 36 grade 9s this year, with 17 of these coming from the science department. Other notable subject successes include maths, biology, business studies and food, where students achieved grades 7-9, which were above provisional national results.

Some individual highlights to share are below:

- Alana T. who achieved seven 9s, two 8s, one A* and one 7.
- Adam B. who achieved seven 9s, one 8, one 7, one A and one 4.
- Jake S. who achieved four 9s, two 8s, one Distinction*, one 7 and two 6s.
- Zara H. who achieved four 9s, two 8s, one A*, one 7, one 6 and one 5.
- Louise W. who achieved four 9s, three 8s, two 6s, one 5 and one C.
- Holly B. who achieved three 9s, five 8s, one 7 and one A.
- Adam S. who achieved one 9, four 8s, three 7s, one B and two 5s.
- Hannah C. who achieved one 9, three 8s, one A, one Distinction, three 6s and one 5.



Principal, Meena Gabbi said: ***"I am exceptionally pleased that the results have continued to improve against a back-drop of nationally harder GCSE qualifications. This is testament to the hard work of our staff and students, as Montsaye Academy continues to go from strength to strength"***.

Marc Jordan - Assistant Vice Principal

Exciting Drama News

My name is Tim Shea and I am the new Head of Drama here at Montsaye.

We have some exciting events and opportunities for the students:

On **Wednesday 14th November 2018** our Shakespeare Club will be previewing their performance of Twelfth Night prior to its performance at Corby Cube the

following week. Sharing the evening will be our Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 drama students.

On **Tuesday 11th December 2018** our Year 7 students are going to see The Worst Witch at The Royal and Derngate in Northampton and, finally, on **Tuesday 18th December 2018** join us for our Christmas Spectacular, an evening of music, dance and drama.

Tim Shea - Head of Drama

Open Evening Events

We would like to thank all Year 5 and Year 6 students and their families who attended our recent open mornings and evenings. We had over 500 visitors who were amazed at our state-of-the-art facilities and innovative approaches to teaching. We look forward to welcoming our new students in September 2019.



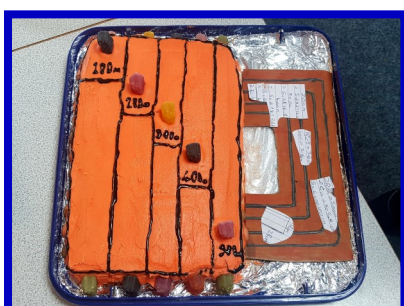
Jon Berridge - Assistant Vice Principal

Year 7 discover 'Maths in Real Life'

There is one question that maths teachers face above all others; "How can I use this in the real world?" Tackling this head-on, the maths department set out to challenge the perceptions of the new Year 7 students with their 'maths in real life' projects. Cross-department collaboration allowed pupils to use their ratio skills to good effect, in a flapjack baking lesson. Strawberry laces proved as sweet as 'Pi' when using semi-circles to recreate scale models of athletics tracks, with jelly bean markers for the starting positions.

By the third week, endless variations of paper helicopters had been constructed, trialled and improved, students establishing their own hypotheses for slowest descent or fastest rotations, and some of the most successful 'homework-cakes' were being showcased around the school. Year 7 rose to the challenge with enthusiasm and resilience, and can look forward to further practical, hands-on mathematical experiences as they continue their Montsaye journey.

**Giles Urwin
Maths Teacher**



**ANNUAL
CCF
CAMP**

REGROUP!" Across the grassy flatlands of Carnoustie, Delta Fire team pelted forward to join their section commander, flanking around the captured enemy position. It was already the fifth day on the Barry Buddon training area and, after the previous day's patrols and a night ambush in pitch darkness, Montsaye Academy CCF had finally triumphed against the forces of the 'Barry Buddon Boys', the final challenge in Operation Striking Lion. Twenty-one cadets, four staff and six days of activities on the Scottish coast – it seems daunting even on paper, but every student committed to the adventure with maturity and resilience, even when the going got tough. Whether shooting live rounds on the target range, patching up the pretend wounds of fake-bloodied casualties, or storming the assault course, the cadets did the school proud.

One key highlight was the opportunity to tackle a day of adventurous training in Arbroath – some students opted for the thrill of mountain-biking through technical forest trails, others for coasteering, a white-knuckle climb round, over and across steep cliff faces, before the final leaps into the bracing North Sea. Here's to next year – well done, Montsaye CCF.

Sergeant Instructor Giles Urwin - Maths Teacher

Sixth form... the year so far

We were excited to welcome all of our Year 13 students back this year. They are now busy writing their UCAS statements, investigating universities and apprenticeships and preparing for their final exams (which will come round sooner than they know).

We were also delighted to welcome our new Year 12 students. They have made an exceptional start to the term, really impressing us with their positive attitudes and dedication to their new subjects. We have kept them busy with a trip to The Apprenticeship and University Search Fair in Birmingham, applications for student ambassadors, supporting us during our Year 6 open evening and now, applying for a role in the student leadership team, as Deputy Head Girl and Deputy Head Boy.

For Year 11, there is lots going on in the sixth form to look out for; our new student leaders (when appointed) will be speaking to them in an upcoming assembly about life in the sixth form.

On Wednesday 28th November, the sixth form open evening will be held. There will be the opportunity to find out a lot more about specific subjects that will be on offer, a chance to speak to subject teachers and converse with students currently taking those subjects. We look forward to seeing all of our Year 11 students there. This will be followed by a taster day in which Year 11 students will get a day's experience of being in the sixth form; observing some A-level lessons, trying some out for themselves and enjoying using our excellent facilities in the sixth form centre.

Kerrie Jones - Head of Sixth Form

Sixth form visit to the University and Apprenticeship Search Fair



On the 21st of September, all of Year 12 and some of our Year 13 students participated in the *UK University and Apprenticeship Search Fair* at the Edgbaston Stadium, Birmingham. It was an event in which many universities and apprenticeship providers participated, from all over Great Britain; even the armed forces were in attendance.



The event met our expectations, with lots to see and do; the universities and apprenticeships providers all had informative stands where students could go and discover more about each one, their courses, the benefits of attending, their entry requirements and a chance to speak to current university students directly.

The representatives of the universities and apprenticeship providers were approachable and knowledgeable, as well as being very helpful and communicative. They provided us with free prospectuses, which informed us about specific courses. As an extra bonus, free goody bags including pens, stickers, books and other gifts were greatly appreciated.

There were also a number of lectures throughout the day which were on a variety of subjects, including 'writing personal statements', 'student finance', 'higher and degree apprenticeships' and 'life at university', to name but a few.

It was a great day and it has helped us to start to think about our next steps after sixth form.

Kerrie Jones - Head of Sixth Form



For regular academy updates, please remember to follow our Twitter feed:

@montsaye

We also have a Twitter feed for information about PE, sports clubs and fixtures. Follow the academy PE department on:

@montsayepe

Let them eat cake!



Staff and students recently took part in the World's biggest coffee morning for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Thanks to everyone for their donations of cakes and other goodies, and to those who came along to support us. We raised a total of £264.90, which will go to this worth-while charity.



Elaine Barclay - Catering Manager

Team Montsaye recently took part in the Kettering Uventure Run. The annual race involved a tough terrain over 12km, 40+ obstacles and lots of mud. See the MCSC Facebook page for full details on how to join in next year



Vicky Ambery
Fitness Instructor
Montsaye Community Sports

Saving the pond...

The pond in the memorial garden at Montsaye has been there since the early 1970s.

It is a very valuable resource for the science department. Amongst other things, the weed is used for photosynthesis experiments and the water for microscope work.

Unfortunately, over the last few years the condition of the pond has deteriorated. It was so overgrown with weed last year that the science department had to do a major clean out. There are fish in the pond, but they have not fared well this year, probably due to the very hot weather and the current lack of weed.



The science department are keen to do something to resurrect the pond and make it a useful asset once again for the academy. We have embarked on a fund-raising campaign and have, so far undertaken two extremely popular doughnut sales and a departmental raffle to raise money for a new cover and pump and the cost of installing these, plus fresh pond weed.

We look forward to being able to restore the pond to former glory in the not-too-distant future.

Sally Parley - Senior Science Technician

Date for your diary...

Year 10 and Year 11 Music Performance Evening

Tuesday 13th November 2018

@ 6.00pm

in the

Learning Resource Centre

Price: £1.50

(tickets available from the LRC)

Examination Information

The Year 11 mock examination dates are Monday 29th October to 16th November 2018...

The timetable was sent out in the first week of October and can also be found on the exams noticeboard in the covered walkway next to reception and outside the exams office.

Candidates have been emailed their exam numbers which will not change until they leave Montsaye Academy. The exam number, sometimes known as the 'candidate number', is used by the examining boards to identify work and award grades. It should be entered on the front of all papers, when instructed to do so by the invigilator in an exam.

A reminder that the following items **MUST NOT BE BROUGHT INTO ANY EXAMS:**

- Mobile phones or smart devices, including fitness watches.
- Earphones.
- Notes, paper or tissues.
- Bus passes.
- Opaque bottles or liquids.
- Writing on the skin.
- Books or guides, unless provided by the school and approved by the exams officer.
- Hoodies or outerwear.
- Corrector fluid or tape.

Candidates **MUST ALWAYS BRING:**

- Black pens and pencils.
- Sharpener.
- Maths instruments (*but not in a tin and any case must be transparent*).
- Calculator (without a lid) for applicable exams.
- Ruler.
- Highlighters (if desired).

Candidates **ARE ALLOWED TO BRING:**

- Coloured pencils.
- Erasers (unmarked).
- Coloured Pens.

The exam invigilators can provide essential items that may be needed in the examination room, such as: tissues, erasers, tracing paper, additional answer sheets, but they are unable to provide a calculator unless it is a replacement for one which fails during the exam. Candidates are responsible for ensuring they have all the equipment they need to complete their

exam papers. An exam kit can be purchased from the LRC for £1.00, or £11.00 for a kit containing a scientific calculator.

Seating plans will be available outside the timetabled exam rooms before the exam begins. Candidates should familiarise themselves with their allocated seat number before arriving for the exam. The bag room will be opened 10 minutes before the start of the exam. Candidates must be on time for all their exams. It is completely at the discretion of the invigilator whether students arriving late will be permitted to sit the exam.

All Year 11 students have been issued with a copy of the exam conditions, which sets out the rules of the exam room. Any breaches will be reported and could potentially result in the disqualification of the candidate.



If you have any questions about your child's mock exams please do not hesitate to contact me: edavidson@montsaye.northants.sch.uk.

Dates for your diary:

BTEC live test dates: 6th and 15th November 2018
 Health and Fitness live test: 7th November 2018
 Year 13 mock exams: 14th January to 25th January 2019
 Year 11 mock exams: 29th January to 8th February 2019
 Year 11 mock exams: 18th March to 29th March 2019
 GCE & GCSE national exam window: 13th May to 21st June 2019
 Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 mock exams: 24th June to 12th July 2019.

Elisa Davidson - Exams Officer



Montsaye Community Sports Centre



Fall for Fitness this Autumn!

Autumn is just around the corner, but that doesn't mean it's time to hibernate for the season!

Why not boost your energy levels and improve your dampening mood by getting active this Autumn? Dwindling daylight hours don't have to mean a decrease in your activity levels, here at Montsaye CSC we are ready to help you make this Autumn your most active yet.

For more information on our membership options then please call us on 01536 713708 or email us at sportscentre@montsayesportsandfitness.co.uk.