

From the Principal...

It has been a wonderful start to the academic year so far, with our students settling well and continuing to meet our high expectations.

As you will see from reading this newsletter, Montsaye Academy continues to be a vibrant and active school that does not rest on its laurels. We are always looking for ways to enhance our student experience, to ensure that our children get a good package of academic excellence and a range of opportunities that will prepare them for life outside of school and encourage them to further develop our values.

It continues to be an absolute pleasure to run such a happy and student focussed school and I cannot thank the Montsaye team enough for working so hard. We remain confident that this will be one of our best years yet!

Meena Gabbi

Academy opens its doors to the community...

Sixth form students demonstrating their drawing skills



We would like to thank all of the Year 5 and Year 6 students and their families who attended our recent Open Evening.

We had over 500 visitors looking around the academy who were amazed at our innovative approaches to teaching and learning. It was a fabulous event and an opportunity for the staff and students of Montsaye to show our community what we do best.

Highlights of the evening included activities in our chemistry laboratory. Visitors were treated to loud bangs, smoke and unusual smells; they witnessed students setting fire to methane bubbles and testing household substances to classify them as acids or alkalis, whilst others were investigating why nappies are so good at absorbing liquids.

In English, staff were exploring the wonders of Shakespeare and being encouraged to engage in story writing. A visit from our Pet Therapy dog Izzie, accompanied by her owner Shannon, who is one of our Teaching Assistants, proved to be extremely popular. Visitors also had a chance to sample food from our new catering company and to take a look at our newly refurbished restaurant.

We look forward to welcoming our new students in September 2020.

Jon Berridge - Assistant Vice Principal

Year 7 students in the science department



Year 12 ERA Day

After two busy days helping out at the lower school ERA Days at the end of last term, it was finally time for Year 12 students to have their turn.

The day began with the 'Cooking on a Budget' challenge. In teams of two or three, students had 90 minutes to prepare a two course meal, for two people, on a budget of £10. Armed with the ingredients which they had purchased over the weekend, students began the task with enthusiasm.

The activity started out in a relatively calm and relaxed manner but, as the time ticked by and the judges arrived, a little bit of panic started to set in. As the students laid their dishes out on the judging tables, we were all extremely impressed with what they had managed to create with their limited budgets. Particular highlights included:

Starters: Bacon and Kale Minestrone Soup, Chicken Goujons with Garlic Mayonnaise, Deep Fried Mozzarella Balls

Main Courses: Shepherd's Pie, Seafood Linguini, Chorizo and Red Pepper Orzo

Desserts: Apple Crumble, Fruit Meringue, Lemon Mousse, Chocolate Pudding



Aaron and Maks are presented with their prizes



International speaker, Jason May

Mrs Gabbi and Mr Baria judged the entries based on taste, nutritional value, presentation, originality and ability to stick to the £10 budget. It was a very close competition between several teams, but the eventual winners were Aaron and Maks, who prepared a Chicken Risotto and a Creamy Prawn Korma. Well done boys.

After a manic cleaning-up session (and a few minutes to sample each other's meals) students returned to the sixth form centre for a talk on wellbeing, body image and self confidence by international school speaker Jason May. The session was very inspiring, and hopefully will give our students more confidence in themselves as they move into Year 13 and beyond.

The ERA day continued with a game of rounders. In a thrilling, high-scoring game, Emma's team were victorious over Jack's, with a score of 2-0. After all that exercise and exertion, it was time for yet more food, with a picnic lunch provided by the school kitchen.

All in all, it was a great day, and it was lovely to see the students engaged with different activities outside of lessons and coming together as a year group.

Restoration of the Pond

Following our successful 'save the pond' fundraising campaign last year, we are very happy to announce that our pond now has a working pump and filter.

The ornate fish fountain in the middle of the pond had not been working for the last 25 years but over the summer holiday, the site team got it up and running again. There are now plans to improve the area around the pond and to replace the current cover.



The yard containing the pond is a memorial area with several plaques on the gym wall which we are going to restore as part of this programme. The intention is to make a sensory garden around the pond with suitable plants and adjacent chairs; this will provide an area where students and staff can snatch a few quiet moments.

Sally Parley - Science Department

National Dance Day @ Montsaye

To celebrate National Dance Day, the dance department hosted a week of classes at lunch time. Classes were led by both current and ex-Montsaye students.

Our students were able to participate in flexibility, contemporary and street dance classes. It was fantastic to see so many of them involved in these workshops.

I am incredibly proud of the hard work which went into both the planning and participation of the workshops. An amazing level of commitment, professionalism and talent from everyone involved.

Special thanks to Zoe, Charlotte, Amber, Elizabeth and Josh for leading the classes.



Fran Malins - Teacher of Dance

Student has artwork on display...

One of our Year 10 students, Elsa, has had two pieces of artwork selected for the annual Open Youth Art Exhibition at the Alfred East Gallery in Kettering.

The competition was open to artists in Northamptonshire. Prizes were awarded in both the adult and youth categories, chosen by a panel of independent judges. One of Elsa's pieces was acrylic on wood, the other on canvas. It was a nervous wait to find out if she had been successful and Elsa was really pleased that both pieces were selected. The exhibition is an opportunity for artists of the future to have their work on public display and is on until the end of October.



Montsaye Academy Art Department



My first day in Year 7 at Montsaye...

My first day at school was amazing. All of the teachers were so nice. The subjects are fun; PE, art, design and so many others. Mrs Petchey and Mrs Gabbi are so inspiring.

I have made many new friends and I know that I made the right choice in coming to Montsaye.

Connie M - Year 7



On my first day at Montsaye, I was very nervous but also excited. I met my friends at 8.00am and we all walked to school together. When we arrived, we were guided into the main hall where we were put into our tutor groups and met Miss Cronk and some new faces.

We then had an assembly, led by Mrs Gabbi, where we learned the school rules and what was expected of us.

After a couple of hours with our tutor group, we began our first lesson of the day which, for me, was history with Mr Curtis, followed by science, lunch and then finally, PE. I met back up with my friends to walk home with excitement for what was coming for the rest of the week.

My first day at Montsaye had been a success!

Mackenzie - Year 7

My first day at Montsaye went really well because everyone was really welcoming and helpful throughout the day. All of the other students were happy to help. Also, our teachers were very nice and reassuring when we felt a bit sad or worried. I particularly liked science because we were talking about experiments and how to be safe around fire.

Overall, Montsaye is a very friendly environment and a great place to learn for the future.

I think I will be very happy here.

Harry - Year 7

Well, I have to say, it was a lot better than expected.

I have made a few new friends, I actually found all of my lessons and their classrooms and I got a few ERA points.

The first thing we did was to stay in our form rooms; the good thing about that was that I already knew a lot of people. Then we had geography. Yet again, I knew some people; we did a baseline test (a test to see how much you know in a subject). After that, I had science. We only had half a lesson but had time to look at some animal cells. Finally, I had PE which was fun; we did challenges against one another.

So, over all, that was my first day.

We are already a week in and I feel like I have been here for a year.

Maja J - Year 7

University of Northampton Drama Students Visit Montsaye



In September, we were pleased to welcome the University of Northampton's performance company, #IDEK, to Montsaye to present 'I don't even know' to our Year 9 cohort.

Students were inspired by this interactive show which is based around making positive choices relating to both school and personal life in the coming year. They were introduced to the options process, how to access support and why it is important to do what is best for them. It was great way to introduce the options process.

Fran Malins - Year 9 Progress Leader

School of Rock

Rehearsals are well and truly under way for our School of Rock production which is taking place during February 2020. Our staff and students are working extremely hard and I am pleased to report that the first act is nearly finished.

We do have some opportunities for sponsorship for the production; if anyone is interested, please do not hesitate to contact me, via email, on: tshea@montsaye.northants.sch.uk



School of Rock

Tim Shea - Head of Drama

EDUCATION SUPPORT AT MONTSAYE

Wow, what a great start to the year. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with your children again: supporting their needs, encouraging them to challenge themselves and to see their development and successes. We have been lucky enough to have the Therapy Dog, Izzie, visiting us again this year. The students love seeing Izzie and she loves seeing them.

The well-being room is in constant use – there are meditation sessions, pastoral sessions and we are using the room for quiet time for students who need a little bit of time to reflect.

We have introduced a new course in Year 10, Foundation Learning, completing units from the AQA Unit Award Scheme. This is providing an opportunity for a small group of our students to partake in some more vocational



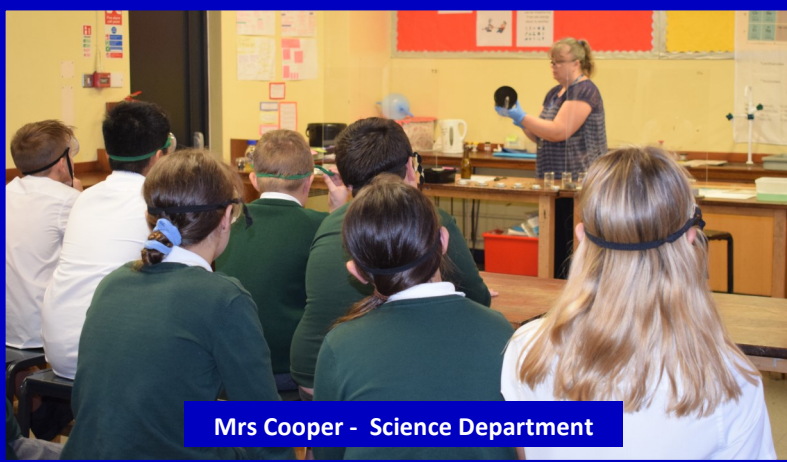
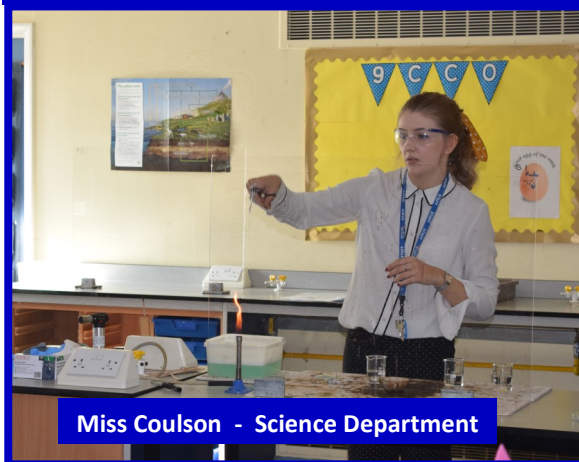
based learning. The work that this group of students have completed so far is first class: cookery, planning a trip, evaluating their work, helping with the Macmillan Coffee Morning and helping others in the school; this is just the start.

We are immensely proud of our students and are looking forward to the rest of this year; we know that those students who require additional support, will rise to any challenges they face and do their best.

Becky Gatiss - SENCo



Year 6 students from Pathfinder Schools participate in an ERA day at Montsaye Academy



We recently welcomed approximately 300 Year 6 students from schools in our Pathfinder Schools Trust. The students took part in a whole ERA day full of exciting lessons and activities, including music, art, science, dance and cookery.

Our Year 8 students provided a helping hand and have shared some of their experiences with us:

I enjoyed all of the activities today because it was fun helping the Year 6 students and doing the activities with them.

Ellis - Year 8

Today, we had the responsibility of helping out with the Year 6 ERA day and making sure that the students had a good experience. They all managed to show our three values, Excellence, Resilience and Aspiration in their work. We both enjoyed science the best because the experiments were a lot of fun and they were very interesting. Overall, we had an amazing day.

Rhiannon and Haidee - Year 8

The Year 6 ERA day was very enjoyable. The cooking was great fun and the Year 6 students seemed as though they were extremely excited about trying new lessons. The students were all very engaged in the day.

Aaron and Erin - Year 8

Teams compete in Playstation Cup



Year 8 boys' training hard

Our Year 8 and Year 10 boys' football teams recently took part in the first round of the National Playstation Schools' Cup match. A huge congratulations to the Year 10 team who won their match 7-0; an excellent performance which sends them through to the next round.

The Playstation Cup is a grassroots football partnership between Playstation and the English Schools' Football Association. The tournaments are open to both boys and girls throughout England within the U12, U13, U14 and U15 age categories.

There were some fantastic individual and team moments from our players; keep up the good work boys **#resilience**.

Tim Wing - Head of PE

Montsaye hits the Mark...

We are delighted to be able to announce that Montsaye Academy has become a 2019/2020 Music Mark School Member. Music Mark is a national organisation and subject association for music education.



SCHOOL
MEMBER

The nomination came from our local Music Service/Hub; they recognised the value which the academy places on music and asked Music Mark to add us to their growing number of members. Music Mark have said that our "dedication to offering and delivering a broad and balanced curriculum is both welcomed and celebrated". We are extremely proud to have been honoured with this membership and look forward to working with Music Mark in the future.

Natalie Gardner - Head of Music



Who doesn't love cake...?

Our Year 10 students who are studying Food and Nutrition and Foundation Learning, recently got involved in the Macmillan Coffee morning fund-raising event. With the help of our staff, students baked copious amounts of cup cakes, rocky road and flapjack which were then sold at break time and lunch time on Friday 27th September in the Learning Resource Centre.

An astonishing £255.00 was raised for this worthwhile charity; thank you to everyone who made and bought the cakes.



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Gillian Brotherston - Teacher of Design

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The combined cadet force (CCF) unit was formed at Montsaye Academy on 4th September 2015.

Many of our cadets have been promoted and are now non-commissioned officers. Cadets benefit from experience of training in fieldcraft, navigation, drill and turnout, first aid, weapon handling and shooting, as well as expeditions and community activities.

To deliver the full basic syllabus, we include several weekends away, either on ranges putting into practice shooting skills, or living in the field.

At Montsaye, we recognise the value of the personal skills that this training brings, including leadership, teamwork, self-reliance, self-discipline, resourcefulness and personal pride and ambition.

We are looking for volunteers to help us to run the unit. If you would like to get involved, please contact me on the following address: mchattaway@montsaye.northants.sch.uk.

Mark Chattaway - School Staff Instructor

Students Celebrate World Mental Health Day



World Mental Health Day took is observed on 10th October every year, with the overall objective to raise awareness of mental health issues.

Staff and students of Montsaye Academy marked the day by holding various events and activities in the Learning Resource Centre at break time.

At lunchtime, students were invited to take part in a wellbeing walk around the school field. We are extremely proud of everyone for tackling this very important subject with maturity and understanding.

Emma Lopes - SMSC Co-ordinator

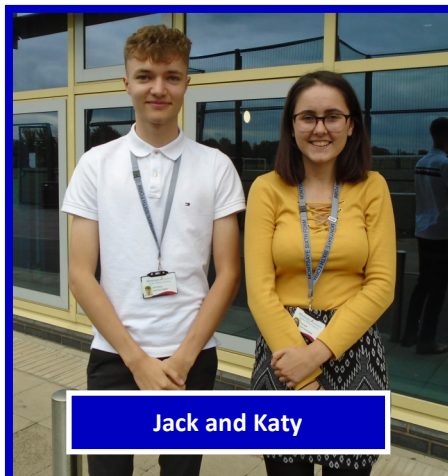
Fresh Fruit Friday with Miss Collins

Every Friday, Miss Collins' Year 9 form tutor group celebrate the end of the week with 'Fresh Fruit Friday' during form time.



Daniel commented "I enjoy Fresh Fruit Friday because I get to try something new. It sets me up for a day of learning. There is lots of different fruit to choose from and everything is healthy".

Fran Malins - Year 9 Progress Leader



Introducing our new Head Boy and Head Girl...

What would you say was your highlight of Year 12?

Jack: From a personal progression point of view, the highlight of my year would be talking in front of different crowds of people in assemblies and at Open Evenings. It helped to build my confidence in all aspects of life. From a 'fun' perspective, the highlight of Year 12 was the biology trip to Yorkshire. I had a lovely time with friends, in a place that was full of culture and was teaming with the amazingly unique nature.

Katy: My highlight for Year 12 was gaining the role of Deputy Head Girl. Being told that I had got the job gave me a massive confidence boost which I needed. Knowing that I was now in a position to make a difference at school made me feel really proud of what I had achieved.

What are you hoping to achieve in Year 13?

Jack: As I have friends in Year 12, I hope to help them with their journey through the most academically challenging years of their school life. I also wish to gather as many memories as possible, with the people I have grown up with, as this will be the last year we all spend together.

Katy: In Year 13 as Head Girl, I want to help the new Year 12 students settle in as well as they possibly can. I also want to help find the new Deputy Head Boy and Girl, so they can carry on with our hard work after we have left.

What are you personally looking forward to this year?

Katy: Aside from gearing up towards university applications, I'm really looking forward to travelling to Africa in July as part of the World Challenge programme. I just think it's the perfect ending to seven years at Montsaye, and it will allow me to get a taste of what the rest of the world has to offer.

Jack: Along with Katy and other students, I will be embarking on a journey to Swaziland at the end of the year; this is really exciting for me as making a difference is something I've always wanted to achieve. Other than that, I'm looking forward to more opportunities to further my knowledge in the subjects I'm studying, in order to get the grades that I know I deserve.

What advice would you give to this year's new Sixth Form students?

Jack: I would say the most important thing you can do, is to take every single opportunity that is presented to you. I didn't know what to expect from becoming Head Boy, but I went for it anyway and I've thoroughly enjoyed it.

Katy: My number one tip would be organisation. It may sound simple, but being organised is the best thing any Sixth Form student can do. Once you do have a system that suits you, it really helps everything else fall into place and makes A Levels easier.

Is there anything about Sixth Form life that you would do differently if you had the chance again?

Jack: Throughout the first half of Year 12, I was a bit scared to see my tutors one-on-one for help. Looking back, I've now realised how stupid that was. Your tutors are there to help you and they never turn you away; so if I could go back to that time, I would ask for more help.

Katy: I don't think there is anything I would do differently, I'm very happy with how the first year has gone for me and I hope this carries on into the next. As long as I work hard and keep pushing myself I know I'll achieve this.

What are your plans for the future?

Jack: The most important thing Year 12 did for me, was that it made me realise what I did and didn't want to be doing for the rest of my life, or at least the next few years. I now know that I have a real passion for numbers. In short, I plan to go to university to study maths. The dream would be to study mathematical finances and maybe go into something like accounting. It might sound boring to some people, but not to me. I feel like that is where my future lies.

Katy: After Montsaye I would love to attend university to study a policing degree. I love to help people which is one of the reasons why I applied for Head Girl, and I want to do this in my career. It seems so far away and is a little daunting because I've spent nearly half my life at this school. It's hard to imagine being somewhere else, but I really look forward to it and I'm ready for all opportunities and challenges thrown my way.

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