

# MONTSAYE ACADEMY NEWS

May 2024



Welcome to the May edition of our academy newsletter. We hope that you enjoy taking a look at the wide variety of activities and events which some of our students have taken part in.

We are pleased to have been able to venture on some amazing trips over the last few months. From the fabulous Easter ski trip to the Year 11 geography visit to Hunstanton and the art and photography trip to London.

It is lovely to see our students being able to visit different parts of the world; what a wonderful experience for them.



## Wishing our Year 13 cohort farewell

We recently celebrated with our Year 13 students at our annual leavers' BBQ. The sun was shining down as students enjoyed a feast of traditional BBQ foods, followed by farewell speeches from Mr Baria and Mrs Jones. In

between the different events, students helped themselves to the pick 'n' mix sweet counter, and enjoyed taking numerous pictures in our photo booth.

The afternoon ended with our ever-popular 'Oscars' ceremony. Mr Baria awarded Keira F., the Principal's Award, for the determination and resilience she has demonstrated throughout her time in Sixth Form. Mrs Jones thanked our Student Leaders, Amalia and Edward for their support throughout the year. Other award winners included Erin for attendance, Freddy for his help with our move, and Charlotte for her odd celebrity crush!



A big well done to all our winners, and an even bigger well done to all of our Year 13 students for the last two years in sixth form. It has been an interesting couple of years, but they are a year group we will never forget, thanks to their good humour and their kindness. We are proud of the young adults they have become, and we wish them all the luck in the world for their final exams.

Laura McNish - Sixth Form Centre Manager

## Vitamin Ski...

Over the Easter break, eighty-nine students and nine members of staff took to the slopes of Folgarida, Italy, on a very successful school ski trip. Students from Year 8, Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11 were involved in our first ski trip for many years and what an amazing week it was.



Folgarida is an attractive, purpose-built resort in the Italian Dolomites with skiing linked to the network of slopes above Madonna di Campiglio. This particular ski area caters for both beginner and intermediate skiers alike. The village consists of several districts and due to its high location and the many snow cannons, it is a very snow sure area. The family-run hotel, The Hotel Della Torre, is nestled into the slopes of the ski area.

A staggering eighty-three novice skiers went on the trip and by the end of the week, everyone was taking part in long runs down from the top of the mountain.

The group was able to enjoy an authentic Italian pizza at a local pizzeria and a karaoke evening. A disco finished off the week of adventures. Everyone involved showed fantastic resilience on a couple of days when the weather conditions were not favourable. Taking part in thirty hours of skiing in six days was a fantastic achievement. We had an incredible week away and there were huge smiles on our faces for the vast majority of the time.



Due to the overwhelming interest in this trip, the next one, planned for Easter 2025 has recently launched. We look forward to repeating our adventures all over again.

**Ryan Levett - Teacher of PE**

## Montsaye Celebrates World Book Day 2024

To celebrate World Book Day at Montsaye, KS3 staff and students were invited to decorate their form room doors using the theme of our guided reading books: **Year 7 - My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece by Annabel Pitcher**, **Year 8 - The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time by Mark Haddon** and **Year 9 - Noughts and Crosses by Malorie Blackman and The Call by Peadar O’Guillin**. There were some fabulous pieces of work, can you guess the winners?



Well done to all, however only one tutor group from each year could win the box of Celebrations for their form. Our fantastic winners were...



7LFE



8MGT



9GDB

A book sale was also held in the library at break time which raised £15.00 to go towards some fabulous new books for the students.

## Excellence in PE and Sports Awards

You may have read that In PE we have launched the Excellence in PE and Sport Awards. We celebrate these by hosting a series of mini assemblies with half year groups in PE. We award those students who have been recognised for their achievement in PE and Sport.



The awards are given out for:

**Excellence:** students who perform to an excellent level of sport outside of school will receive a sport specific pin badge, a certificate and a golden ticket. Those performing at regional/academy levels or higher will also receive an PE excellence pin badge.

**Young Leaders:** those who qualify as an existing Montsaye Young Leader will receive a leadership pin badge, a certificate and a golden ticket.

**PE theme of the term:** students will receive a certificate and a golden ticket.

Keep up the good work everyone, we are very proud of you.

**Tim Wing - Head of PE**

## Year 10 Girls' Football District Champions

We are delighted to announce that our Year 10 Girls' football team recently played in the District Tournament and won.

The girls have been truly amazing in all of their tournaments this year and are wonderful ERA role models.

Keep striving for the best girls.

**Keira Lauder**  
Teacher of PE



## Learning those all-important life skills...

Once again, a group of students from Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9, have been taking part in life skills sessions by cooking up a storm in our food technology department. From the preparation of the vegetables, through to the putting together of the recipes and the eventual cooking of the dishes, students thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



Brothers, Henry (Year 7) and Harry (Year 9) embraced the challenge with gusto and, along with other students in the group, including Charlie and Josh in Year 9, managed to produce some mouth-watering dishes: Shepherd's Pie with Sweet Potato Mash and Pineapple Upside Down Cake.

Our students really embrace these cooking sessions and we look forward to offering many more in the coming months.

Gillian Brotherston and Sophie Collins

## Sparx Maths ignites students' minds...



As you may know, the maths department are using Sparx Maths for homework. Sparx Maths creates homework tasks each week which are tailored to meet students' individual needs, based on the Montsaye scheme of learning.

Sparx Maths

For each homework task, XP boost task and independent learning task that is completed, students earn XP points. For every 10,000 XP points, students 'level up' and earn a certificate. These are presented in class and can be brought home.

We currently have over 150 students who are on Level 1, with many more who are very close. There are a number of students who are working in higher XP levels but the super stars of Sparx are Year 8 student, Delin and Year 7 student, Claye.

At the time of writing this, Claye was on Level 10 and Delin was on Level 8. Both students have worked extremely hard, and completed many extra Sparx tasks to achieve such high levels; huge congratulations and well done to them both.

Jo Ellis - Teacher of Mathematics

## Year 8 project sets sail...



Our Year 8 historians have been researching the events which led to the sinking of the Titanic in 1912. This year, students have handed in some of the best projects which we have seen in a long time.

The cohort were set five enquiry questions which they were 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; students aspired to challenge themselves and everyone had obviously put in a lot of time and effort. The high standards which the history department strive for were clearly on show, many students had gone into great depth through their research and had really thought about their answers to some difficult questions. 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 raised the bar for history projects this year.

**James Wiggins - Head of Humanities**

## Exploring Rothwell's Bone Crypt

Deep beneath the floor of Holy Trinity Church in Rothwell, you will find the 13th Century Bone Crypt, containing the remains of approximately 2500 people.

Our Key Stage 3 History Club were recently lucky enough to visit this exciting, if somewhat eerie space. Many of the skulls are displayed on shelves around the walls and the thigh bones are in two large piles in the centre.

There is a local legend which reports that the crypt was discovered when a gravedigger fell into it and landed on a mass of bones whilst working in the church. He was apparently so traumatised by the event that he was never the same again.

If you are interested in visiting this fascinating place yourself, please follow the link below where you will find full information on how to book: [The Bone Crypt at Holy Trinity Church, Rothwell.](#)



**James Wiggins**  
**Head of Humanities**

## Year 9 ERA Day

Our Year 9 ERA day got off to a good start with a variety of opportunities for our students to reflect on the GCSE options process. This followed on nicely from the previous evening's options presentations to students and parents/carers.



Our school careers advisor, Mr Ian Docherty was on hand to help students delve further into the range of career and study options open to them in the future. It was important for our students to experience a moment of reflection as they approach this crucial turning point of choosing their options.



Students undertook a range of activities designed to build their emotional resilience, tools for wellbeing and the skills needed to work together as a team. Looking at the health and wellbeing of our students is an important part of their overall education. They listened to a talk about healthy relationships, analysing some of the red flags to look out for in an unhealthy relationship and signposting where to go to find support if needed.

Some of the sessions were more reflective such as the mindfulness practice whilst others were more practical and hands on.



One of the highlights of the day was the Wipeout Inflatable Challenge where students took it in turns to see if they could be the last one standing.



The day ended with visiting musician, Maddox Jones, entertaining the students with a small concert and sharing some insights into healthy choices. Some very brave students volunteered to join Maddox on the stage to sing a couple of songs; they bought the house down.



We are very proud of our unique ERA days. They are much anticipated by our students and provide unusual and exciting sessions away from the usual school curriculum.

**Emma Lopes - SMSC Coordinator**

## Tunnock's Tea Cake Challenge

As in previous years, our food technology department, working with the Year 10 food GCSE students decided to enter the Tunnock's Tea Cake Challenge. In collaboration with The Food Teachers Centre, the challenge involved producing a plate with a focus on the presentation of a Tunnock's Tea Cake. This year, the theme was 'the four elements' (fire, water, earth and air).



Each student chose either one or more of the elements to help them create their entry. Following a vote amongst staff here at Montsaye academy, the top three were chosen and the top two have been sent off as this year's Montsaye entry into the challenge. We've got everything crossed...

**Gillian Brotherston - Teacher of Food**

## Year 11 Geographers get out in the field

As part of their GCSE studies, our Year 11 geography students undertook a fieldwork exercise in Hunstanton. The cohort documented traffic flow measurements both in the town centre and by the lighthouse in old Hunstanton. After lunch, involving the obligatory purchase of a portion of chips, students looked at the beach and sea defences. They drew field sketches at the meeting point of old and new Hunstanton.



Walking back along the shoreline on the promenade towards Heacham, students had the chance to take a look at, and make notes on, the beach defences, Bipolar analysis and the Groyne profile.

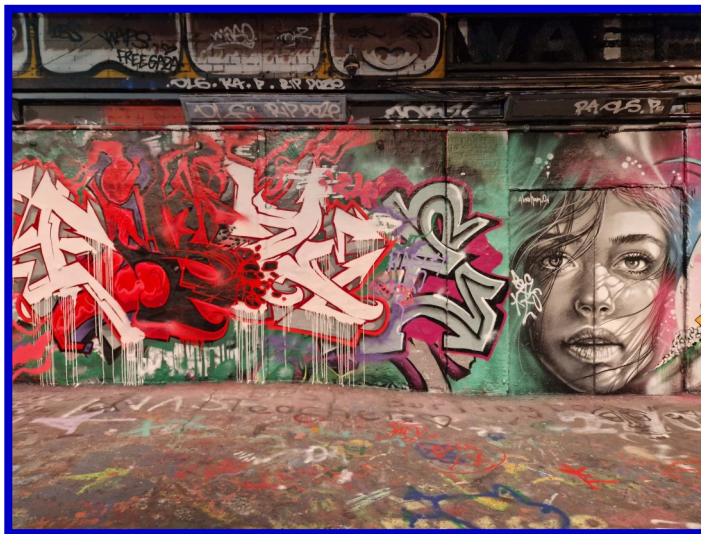


**Dean Ashurst - Head of Geography**



## Year 11 art and photography students view the sights of London

A group of our Year 11 art and photography students recently visited London on a much anticipated trip. Everyone had a fantastic time with lots of photographs being taken.



Students were able to take inspiration from the National Gallery and the Vaults Graffiti Tunnel. The day ended with some time on the London Eye and a cruise along the River Thames. The cohort will be using their pictures for their exam project.



Emma Guy - Teacher of Art

## Year 12 test themselves

Last term our Year 12 chemistry students received their results from the Royal Society of Chemistry annual Olympiad.

This competition is in its 56<sup>th</sup> year but this is the first time Montsaye has decided to try their luck with an entry. The competition is open to all secondary schools in the British Isles and is recognised by the universities as a challenging test to develop existing knowledge of chemistry in real life situations. The Royal Society of Chemistry has designed the questions to challenge A-Level students, to develop thinking and problem solving skills; we all found it really difficult (myself included).

I am so very proud of our students; from a total cohort of 14,915 countrywide, they achieved two certificates of participation, three bronze awards and two silver awards. This is an amazing achievement and the students are now working on how to improve the result when they enter again next year.



ROYAL SOCIETY  
OF CHEMISTRY

56th annual  
**Chemistry  
Olympiad** 2024  
Royal Society of Chemistry



Lucy Cooper - Teacher of Chemistry

## Year 13 Destinations - some highlights!

Sophie has been accepted at the University of Birmingham to study Medicine

James has been accepted onto a Police Degree Apprenticeship with Leicestershire Police and DeMonfort University

Amalia has accepted a place at Kings College, London to study English

Olivia is travelling all the way to Iowa Western Community College to study Sport and Exercise Science on a Golf scholarship

Ruban has accepted a place at Loughborough University to study Sports Management

Jack has been accepted at Imperial College, London, to study Aeronautical Engineering

Evie has accepted a place to study Linguistics at the University of Manchester



# Member Rewards



**Refer a friend and save  
££s on your membership**

Did you know that for every member you introduce to the club, you will receive a discount of £1.50 from your monthly direct debit?

This lasts for as long as both yours and your friend's memberships remain current at the club.