

29 November 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

It's been a very busy term so far and the final week of November has been no exception with lots of great things happening in and around the Academy.

With mock examinations concluded assemblies returned for all year groups and it was my pleasure to deliver the first of a new style of assemblies which centre on powerful stories. I want assemblies to be something that all children look forward to and talk about at home. My assembly focused on compassion which is one of the 3 values that are central to the New Montsaye Way. I told students a story of a woman who was shown heaven and hell but rather than seeing what people traditionally think of, both heaven and hell were a simple stone room with food in the centre of the table. I had students on stage and in hell they attempted to feed themselves with giant spoons which was impossible but in heaven I asked them to feed each other. The key message was that the only difference between the two rooms was the act of compassion in putting the needs of others before themselves.

On Thursday Year 11 had their Character Day which was organised by Mrs George. The day consisted of a variety of activities such as CV writing, talks from different professionals, guidance on further education and then concluded with talks from the school's alumni. As a former student, I was also able to share my journey through Montsaye and beyond and it was great to see students thinking deeply about what they want to do in later life.

On Thursday, our newly assembled Year 10 boys' rugby team travelled to Bishop Stopford who have a very well-established rugby team. Although they didn't win, Bishop's teachers were very complimentary about our boys which was great to hear considering it was only their second game. A special shout out to Rossi who in Mrs Smyth's words made a 'killer tackle' and showed a tremendous amount of heart! On Friday afternoon the Year 10 boys football team travelled all the way to Grantham to compete in the fourth round of the National Cup which is a phenomenal achievement, and I look forward to updating you on the result next week.

As we continue to boost our social media posts to share all the great things taking place, you may have noticed posts this week sharing excellent work from individual students. This is new this week and will become a regular feature so that you all get to see the great independent work which is being completed by our wonderful children.

On Friday morning, I had the absolute pleasure of watching Kian H (Year 13) film his music video for his course. Kian, Oliver S, Nadim H and Freddie O were all playing a version of Sweet Disposition by the Temper Trap and it was both wonderful and loud! Well done boys!

My personal stars of the week are the 10 students who volunteered to be a part of the assembly showing fantastic character. All will receive 10 golden tickets and so a huge well done to:

Year 11 – Charlie D and Josh M

Year 10 – Jessica D and Ollie M

Year 9 – Seth R and Ben P

Year 8 – Ted W and Ryan M

Year 7 – Rowdy H and Mia C

Our top attending forms this week were:

3rd place was 9LHM – Mrs Moffett – 97.3%

2nd place was 7ZHD – Miss Hayward – 96.9%

1st place was 7JEL – Mrs Ellis – 95.7%

The highest praise point earners this week were:

Year Groups	3rd place	2nd place	1st place	Average points
Year 7	Iyanuoluwa I - 22	Christy J - 23	Lilly-May C – 25	8.5 points
Year 8	Harry H - 22	Ava H - 23	Olivia E - 26	6.1 points
Year 9	Max G - 23	Felix B – 23	Wayne M – 27	7.8 points
Year 10	Aramis V - 17	Sophie B - 19	Arabella C - 23	6.1 points
Year 11	Aston A – 10	Rhys S – 11	Mikahla A - 11	2.6 points

Looking ahead, next Thursday is Year 7 parents’ evening from 4-7 so please ensure you have booked appointments via the online platform. If you have had any difficulties with this, please get in touch with Mr Horne or Mrs Helliwell who will be more than happy to help. We are looking forward to seeing you and updating you on how children’s progress.

Finally, advanced warning for January, with the weather turning colder and wetter we will be stopping students from bringing hoodies into school as an alternative to a coat. So from January please ensure your child has a warm coat as hoodies/hooded tops won’t be allowed in school. If you have any difficulties in getting your child a coat please contact your child’s progress leader and we will see if we can support you.

Have a lovely weekend,

Yours faithfully,



Mr B Baines

Principal