

13 December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

What a week it has been at Montsaye Academy! There is so much to write home about and lots that you will have hopefully seen on our various social media platforms.

Mr Taylor led assemblies for all year groups which conveyed a powerful message regarding our core value of Respect. He used the film, Remember the Titans, to talk about the need for unequivocal respect regardless of any protected characteristic. The children engaged positively and enjoyed listening to the iconic speech from Denzel Washington's character, coach Herman Boone.

Tuesday was a fantastic day which started with welcoming the children into school with Christmas music playing out the front of school. It was lovely to see them all smiling and enjoying the festive season. During period 2 I had the privilege of chairing a debate between the Year 12 students on the topic of exams versus coursework. Both sides presented their arguments very respectfully, albeit fiercely, with the propositioning side narrowly winning the debate. At lunchtime, I went to the library to watch some special Christmas performances and the talent on display was incredible. There were so many great performances and the highlight for me was Angel's performance of Prelude No1 by Bach on the piano; simply stunning.

Over the course of the week, I have also had the pleasure of interviewing six of our Sixth Form students for the prestigious position of Head Student. King, Summer, Maja, Hussein, Oliver and Haroldas all interviewed brilliantly, and I look forward to sharing the results with you all formally next week. With reference to Sixth Form, Mr Rogers has led a number of tours for prospective parents and the feedback has been excellent with many parents commenting on the radical differences between the school now and the same time last year.

Hopefully you will have seen my commitment to getting our wonderful students out into the community to show everyone how amazing the children of Montsaye are. Mrs George has been spearheading this work and this week was no exception. Our students went to perform in the Holy Trinity church for the Christmas Tree Festival's closing ceremony. Mrs George also took a number of students to Cheaney Court Care Home to meet the residents and hand out Christmas cards – the residents were so appreciative of this! Lots more community activities are planned which we will continue to share wide and far on social media.

On Friday we had our first every WOW day and it was a huge success. It was heart-warming to see the smiles on children's faces as they came in through the balloon arch to Christmas music and drew golden tickets from the boxes. At break and lunchtime students were able to earn extra entries to the prize draw by naming any of the five pledges. The lucky prize winners were all delighted and the activities throughout the day were all very well attended. I know we are all looking forward to the next WOW day already!

My personal stars for this week are the three students who won the remembrance poetry competition. Well done to:

Freddie T - Y7

Amber B - Y8

Jocelyn H – Y9

The new attendance leagues have been well received by all and our top 3 forms for attendance this week were:

1st place was 13JWA – Mr Adams – 96.24%

2nd place was 8AWH – Mr Whitfield – 95.71

3rd place was 12MGT – Mrs Thomas – 95.03%

The top praise point earners were:

Year	3rd place	2nd place	1st place	Average
Year 7	Jacob H - 20	Viki D – 20	Kortni C – 20	9 points
Year 8	Stephen S – 19	Eva-Rose G - 25	Olivia E – 30	7 points
Year 9	Issie P - 22	Pippa M - 22	Shaya-Ann C - 22	7 points
Year 10	Niamh S – 21	Charlie H – 22	Arabella C – 26	5 points
Year 11	Alex D – 11	Matthew M – 13	Poppy M – 13	3 points

Looking ahead to next week, the Christmas show is taking place on Tuesday 17th December at 6pm which we are all looking forward to. A letter will be going out imminently regarding the end of term arrangements but school will finish at 12:30 next Friday. All buses have been notified and will arrive for the early finish.

Have a pleasant weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Mr B Baines

Principal