

17 January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been a particularly busy week at Montsaye Academy with external visitors and lots of great things happening around the building.

When I started at Montsaye, I explained my commitment to improving the building and learning environment. After a lot of hard work, we have secured a significant amount of money to invest in the facilities and environment. Included in these plans is the complete refurbishment of all 3 sets of toilets, putting in a food pod in the Year 7 area with a canopy, new collapsible tables and seating for the main hall, refurbishment of the main kitchen and the school contribution towards the new astro turf. We aim for the majority of this work to be completed during the summer break but have started the ball rolling this week.

Mrs Quinn led assemblies for all year groups which centred on the theme of World Religion Day. Students were encouraged to come to the front of the hall to talk about different acts of compassion before being told the story of the Buddha and the angry man. Mrs Quinn then explored links between the moral imperative of the story and our school pledges and values.

On Monday, I left school swiftly to head over to Caroline Chisholm School to watch the Year 10 boys football team compete in the county cup. Despite the chilly conditions the team fought valiantly to come back from a goal behind with a header from Alex C into the side netting of the near post to make it 1-1. With just minutes to go, Louis H beat the offside trap to go one on one with the CCS keeper before slotting the ball home securing the teams 2-1 victory. The boys head on to play Northampton School for Boys in the semi-final which is a huge game that I can't wait to watch.

Last week we launched blue pen work in lesson where students are given the chance to demonstrate what they have learned independently. You will have seen some examples of this excellent work on social media last week and more will be shared as we move forward. It has been lovely to see the students embracing this change to the routine so positively and using it as an opportunity to show off their best work.

On Thursday, the Director of Secondary Education for United Learning, Ben Antell, visited Montsaye to see what progress had been made. The visit with was very positive with lots recognition and validation of the rapid improvements that have been made thus far.

On Thursday evening we welcomed Year 11 parents and carers into school for parents' evening. It was great to see so many of you in attendance to speak with your children's teachers and receive feedback on what they are doing well and what areas or skills they need to prioritise for revision. If you need any further revision resources or advice to support your child in the run up to the next mock examinations, please do not hesitate to contact your child's subject teacher directly.

You will have received a separate email today regarding a survey to collect the voice of parents and carers. Your voice is very important to us and is a critical part of the school improvement journey. With this in mind, when you receive the link on Monday, please find some time to complete the survey honestly so we can use your feedback to continue improving the school.

Below is the premier attendance league as it stands at the end of this week:

| Premiership | | |
|-------------|-------|--------|
| 1 | 7JOB | 97.90% |
| 2 | 13JWA | 97.20% |
| 3 | 11ABI | 97% |
| 4 | 7TRC | 96.40% |
| 5 | 10IJA | 96% |
| 6 | 8DAS | 96% |
| 7 | 13PJS | 95.90% |
| 8 | 9SCO | 95.80% |
| 9 | 9SC1 | 95.50% |
| 10 | 11SLY | 95.50% |

Top praise point earners were as follows:

| Year Group | 3 rd place | 2 nd place | 1 st place | Average |
|------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------|
| 7 | Lilly-May C – 20 | Eva S – 21 | Cerys F – 31 | 9 points |
| 8 | Basira A – 20 | Gilbert S – 22 | Frankie-Jay C – 24 | 6 points |
| 9 | Lewis C – 22 | Laci D – 26 | Shaya-Ann C – 32 | 7 points |
| 10 | Tyler S – 20 | Thomas G – 21 | Lacey M – 27 | 6 points |
| 11 | Zach D – 11 | Mikahla A – 12 | Tianna A – 15 | 4 points |

I also want to mention a huge success for an individual in Year 13 who has been offered a place at the University of Oxford to read maths/maths with statistics which is a truly incredible achievement. Some other successes to mention are the efforts of our new head students King and Summer who attended parents' evening on Thursday to give advice to our current year 11s.

Finally, I want to mention Tyler S (Y10) who came to see me in July to talk about his idea for a student bulletin which keeps the children informed of upcoming events and opportunities. 6 months later and the first bulletin is scheduled to go out on Monday after some fantastic work by Tyler, Gracie H and Oscar C to bring this excellent idea to life – a great example of excellent character.

Have a warm and pleasant weekend.



Yours faithfully,

Mr B Baines
Principal