

14 February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

The close of this week brings us to the halfway point of this academic year and I want to start by thanking you all for your support since I joined Montsaye Academy. The school is moving forwards rapidly and it has been nice to have so many of you either write to me or speak to me directly at parents' evenings to acknowledge the improvements.

The parent survey closed at just under 30% of parents and carers having responded which was not as high as I would have liked but thank you to those of you who did take the time to complete the survey. There are some key areas that have been identified as areas for improvement and I will be looking for input from parents and carers in the new term with regards to plans to improve them.

All assemblies this week were rewards assemblies, and it is always a privilege to hand out certificates in recognition of students individual efforts. It was also nice to see the children clapping and celebrating other members of the year groups achievements as previously some children have been reluctant to come to the front to collect their certificates. As we move towards excellence being the norm, I look forward to the day when every student proudly walks to the front of the assembly hall to celebrate their hard work.

On the theme of achievement, I have had a few parents contact me about praise points being awarded disproportionately which is something I am keen to address. One of the ways we will be doing this is by allocating fixed amounts of achievement points after reports for students who consistently demonstrate exemplary attitudes to learning; are completing homework; and are making good progress. This will go some way to making sure that students who are getting things right day-in-day-out are being rewarded proportionately with praise points.

Our Year 10 students had their Character Day on Tuesday and they all seemed to thoroughly enjoy the sessions which were expertly planned by Mrs George. I particularly enjoyed reading some of the letters which they wrote to their future selves which were really powerful and reflected a great level of maturity.

On Thursday evening we welcomed many of you in for our Year 9 parents' evening. It was great to speak with many of you on your arrival or exit and to hear about the quality of feedback from your children's teachers. With options choices fast approaching it was a good opportunity for you to get feedback on which subjects your children are doing well in to help inform options choices. Our options evening is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March where you will have further opportunities to discuss the best options for your children.

In terms of recognising achievement, rather than reporting on praise points this week, I would like to share the top 10 students for classroom engagement from each year group. The students below have all demonstrated an exemplary attitude to learning which is reflected across all subjects in their reports:

<b>Year 7</b>
Viki D, Martha G, Olivia H, Ade O, Aubrey T, Jacob M, Lilly-May C, Cerys F, Christy J, Hugo P
<b>Year 8</b>
Madelyn E, Olivia E, Eva M, Euan P, Evelyn S, Brianna W, Laura A, Annabel H, Ava H, Sophia L
<b>Year 9</b>
Laci D, Evelyn J, Samuel O, Lottie P, Georgia W, Anthony C, Imogen C, Charlie C, Delin F, Oliver H
<b>Year 10</b>
Morwenna O, Sophie B, John C, Lucy F, George H, Beth P, Tyler S, Mia C-B, Perfect D-J, Milly E
<b>Year 11</b>
Angel C, Abbie G, Sky S, Kai C, Jessica S, Erica V, Sophie J, Lauren M, Charlize P, Emily R

Looking ahead to next term, Year 11 students have one week of lessons before starting their second round of mock examinations. In terms of supporting your child with revision, if I could advocate one strategy only it would be to ensure that they are using flashcards daily. They can make these themselves for the topics they are finding hardest or alternatively there are 100s of sets for all subjects on [Digital Flashcards & Revision Cards for Students | Quizlet](#). All Year 11s also have bespoke revision tasks set for them on Sparx maths and science.

Finally, I just wanted to say that it is an honour and a privilege to lead a school with such wonderful children and I remain totally committed to ensuring that our children get the very best education at Montsaye.

If you are working or you have some time off, I hope you have a very pleasant half term.

Yours faithfully,



Mr B Baines  
Principal