

7 March 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

It's been another busy week at Montsaye Academy with lots of great things going out on social media and lots of successes to celebrate.

Miss Neville, our Assistant Principal who leads on literacy and oracy, led a very powerful and hugely emotive virtual assembly for all year groups on the power of words. Her assembly centred on the book *Away with Words* by Sophie Cameron in which a girl called Gala – who speaks very little English – moves from Spain to Scotland and befriends a selective mute called Natalie. In Gala's world, the words we speak are visible and appear different colours such as red for angry words and sparkling yellow if the words are happy. The assembly explored the power of words and encouraged students to reflect on how the most recent words they have spoken would appear and what the impact of the words was. The assembly finished on a rather apt quotation from the legendary, albeit fictional, Headmaster Albus Dumbledore who said "Words are, in my not-so-humble opinion, our most inexhaustible source of magic. Capable of both inflicting injury and remedying it."

Year 11s completed their first week of mock examinations and I am so proud of the way they have conducted themselves. Attendance has been the highest it has been all year and the students have worked hard in each of their exams thus far. The 'Heads-up' sessions before each exam, which are designed to give students some last-minute tips and prompts, have also been gratefully received by all students. The mock examinations continue next week and I look forward to seeing who has moved up the progress league once all papers have been marked.

In terms of Character Sought, there are a couple of sporting opportunities coming up. First and foremost is the United Learning virtual rowing competition and Mr Jordan needs volunteers from all year groups to ensure that we have full teams to allow us to compete and see how we fair against all other secondary schools in the United Learning Group. The second opportunity is in relation to our Year 10 boys football team who have been drawn against Northampton Academy in the County Cup which is a huge game for the boys. With the new astro-turf nearing completion it would be good if the first game to grace the surface could be this one. Finally, badminton club numbers are growing and it would good to see even more of you joining the club – remember, it is for all skill levels so it does not matter if you have never played before!

In terms of Character Caught, there have been a huge number of posts going out on social media to celebrate all sorts of acts of great character including, dancing accolades, below zero camping excursions and mountain hikes. In addition, our Year 7 girls netball team took part in their first district tournament and played exceptionally well.

On Thursday evening, we welcomed many of you into school for Year 8 parents' evening to get an update on how your children are progressing with their studies. Hopefully, it was a valuable opportunity to hear about your children's strengths and areas for development across all subjects. I spoke to many of you on the way in or out and look forward to reviewing the exit survey results.

Our amazing librarian, Mrs Palmer, has been working hard to secure additional funding to provide the very best selection of books for our children. She made a bid to the local Maud Elkington charity and was delighted to receive a grant of £500 which was used to purchase a fantastic selection of new books from the book fair last week. These have all been added to the catalogue this week and students are already keen to start borrowing and reading them. Great work from Mrs Palmer.

On Friday, Miss Collins' excellent work was also rewarded as two representatives from Tesco came to present the school with a cheque for £1000 pounds from their Stronger Starts initiative. You may have seen her proposal in the local tesco store which was for further funding to run a life skills cooking programme for students. After her proposal was placed, lots of shoppers placed their tokens in the box to show their support for the bid and it was great to receive the cheque on Friday.

The highest attending forms this week were:

1st place was 11CDA – Mr Darnbrook – 99.31%

2nd place was 11ABI – Mrs Briffa – 98.71%

3rd place was 8DAS – Mr Ashurst – 98.28%

The top praise point earners for each year group were:

Year Group	3 rd place	2 nd place	1 st place	Average
7	Ade O – 22	Jacob M – 23	Freddie T – 25	8 points
8	Jay B – 24	Romaine A – 28	Frankie-Jay C – 35	8 points
9	Flo H – 20	Oliver H – 20	Delin F – 24	7 points
10	Alfie S – 19	Matas B – 20	Kayden H – 22	8 points
11	Mikahla A – 5	Abdulla A – 5	Teegan A – 6	1 points

My personal stars of the week were:

Samuel O (Year 9) – multiple students always tell me how Samuel holds the doors open for everyone and is always keen to help. Lovely feedback to hear and a testament to Samuel's exemplary character.

Summer and King (Year 12) – both worked with me on the new toilet designs to ensure that we had good student voice for the decision-making process.

Ade O (Year 7) – highest progress score in Year 7

Sethuli P (Year 8) – highest progress score in Year 8

Jake B (Year 9) – highest progress score in Year 9

Have a pleasant and restful weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Mr B Baines