16 October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the final week of this term, I have taken great pride in reflecting on the many achievements and successes of our students over recent weeks. Whether through their conduct in lessons, their commitment to enrichment opportunities or the way they represent Montsaye within our community, our students continue to demonstrate the values that make our academy such a special place.

This week, I had the pleasure of hosting a series of morning tours for prospective Year 6 students that are looking to join the academy and their families. Visitors joined us during the normal school day, allowing them to experience Montsaye as it really is and visit lessons across the academy. Throughout the week, I was incredibly proud to showcase our school community. Our visitors commented on the calm atmosphere around the academy, the purposeful learning taking place in classrooms and the exemplary conduct of our students. The positive feedback we received was a testament to the culture we are building together and to the pride our students take in their learning every day.

On Thursday evening, we welcomed families back into the academy for our Top 100 Pledge Point Earners Awards Evening, celebrating the achievements of students who demonstrated exceptional commitment to our values throughout last year. It was a wonderful evening filled with celebration, recognition and joy. Our student leadership team played a significant role in making the event such a success, supported expertly by Mrs George. A special thank you goes to Tyler and River in Year 12 for their excellent work presenting the evening and to our Head Students, Meghan and Charlie, for their support throughout. I would also like to thank Mr McLellan, Mrs Quinn and Mr Haig for helping the event run so smoothly. It was fantastic that so many families could join us to celebrate the achievements of our young people.

Earlier this week, Mrs Patterson launched an exciting opportunity for students in Years 9, 10 and 12 to take part in a 14-night World Challenge expedition to South Africa and eSwatini in July 2028. This once-in-a-lifetime experience will provide students with the chance to develop their confidence, independence and leadership skills while immersing themselves in the culture, landscapes and wildlife of Southern Africa. Expeditions such as these help young people step outside their comfort zones, build resilience and create lasting memories. Parents and carers are invited to attend an online information evening on **Tuesday 20 October at 6.00pm**, where further details about the expedition, costs, fundraising opportunities and the application process will be shared. We look forward to seeing many of our students seize this fantastic opportunity.

Mrs Quinn delivered assemblies focused on one of Montsaye Academy's core values: Compassion. Mrs Quinn explored this important theme through a children's story, examples from history and discussions about how compassion can be demonstrated in everyday life. This message is particularly relevant following the introduction of Benedict's Law in September 2026, which introduced mandatory allergy-safe regulations for schools across England. As part of our commitment to keeping everyone safe, we would like to remind all parents and students to be allergy-aware, particularly in relation to nuts and nut-based products. By working together and

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showing compassion for those with allergies, we can help ensure that Montsaye remains a safe and inclusive environment for all students and staff.

I am also delighted to report that our STEM on Track team has finished the first week of this year's national competition at the very top of the leaderboard. With 125 teams from across the country taking part, this is a remarkable achievement and a fantastic start to the competition. Following last year's incredible success, where Montsaye were crowned STEM on Track Champions 2026, the team are working hard to defend their title. We are incredibly proud of their dedication, teamwork and ambition. Congratulations to everyone involved. Let's keep going. We Are Montsaye!

This week marked the official launch of our new Year 7 Grammar Stream, with the first cohort of students beginning what promises to be an exciting and ambitious academic journey. It has been wonderful to see the enthusiasm and excitement from students as they embark on this new chapter. This opportunity has only been possible through the vision, dedication and hard work of many colleagues, and I would like to extend particular thanks to Mr Finan and Mr Severn, whose commitment and leadership have helped turn this aspiration into a reality for our students. We look forward to seeing the first cohort flourish and achieve great success in the years ahead.

Our top pledge point earners this week were:

Year	3rd place	2nd place	1st place	Average points
7	Chace B – 34	Felix C – 35	Samuel H – 39	16 points
8	Kinsey M – 23	Shavindu G – 24	Efua O – 27	9 points
9	Sophie B – 21	Riley M – 24	Jacob M – 27	8 points
10	Stephanie A – 27	Lilly S – 28	Grace D – 31	10 points
11	Maisie C – 20	Riley S – 21	Freya S – 27	7 points

Looking ahead, next week marks the final week of this term, and I am very much looking forward to hosting our final Proud Table of the half-term on Tuesday in the library. Proud Table continues to be one of my favourite events, providing students with the opportunity to share work they are particularly proud of from their lessons. I look forward to seeing many students showcasing their achievements and celebrating the effort and commitment they have shown over the last fortnight.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Parents, carers, staff, students, governors – We Are Montsaye.

Best wishes,



Mr Baria
Interim Principal

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