

11 September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was a real pleasure to welcome all of our students back to Montsaye Academy on Monday following the summer break and what a fantastic first full week it has been. Students have returned with a positive attitude, excellent levels of enthusiasm and looking incredibly smart in their new school uniform. The academy has been buzzing with energy throughout the week, and it has been wonderful to see students reconnecting with friends, tutors and staff as they settle back into school life.

Mr McLellan and I had the privilege of delivering welcome back assemblies to all year groups. These assemblies focused on our expectations for the year ahead and introduced our key theme of giving 100% in everything we do. Whether it is effort in lessons, attendance, behaviour, character or wearing our uniform with pride. The extended tutor sessions at the start of the week allowed students to settle back into routines, reconnect with their tutors and prepare positively for the new academic year.

I am pleased to share news that a number of significant improvements to our academy site that have taken place over the summer holidays. The most notable project has been the complete rebuild of all student toilet facilities. This major improvement, which has been over two years in the making and cost in excess of half a million pounds, represents a significant investment in the student experience at Montsaye Academy. Additional improvement works have included the refurbishment of the main assembly hall, upgrades to the Languages block, new furniture for the Sixth Form study area and the installation of a further ten interactive screens across classrooms. It has been particularly pleasing to hear so many positive comments from students, many of whom have shared how happy they are with the new facilities.

I would also like to recognise the outstanding efforts of our Site Team, led by our phenomenal new Site Manager, Mr Duff. Throughout the summer holidays, Mr Duff worked tirelessly to oversee and coordinate the many improvement projects that have transformed our academy environment and ensured that everything was ready for students' return in September. His unwavering commitment, dedication and pride in our school were rightly recognised this week when he received the United Learning Character Cluster Award. We are incredibly grateful to Mr Duff and the entire Site Team for their hard work in helping to create a school environment that our students can be proud of.

On Thursday, 48 students from Years 8 and 9 participated in the Be Internet Citizens media literacy programme, delivered by YouTube and Parent Zone. The programme is designed to help young people develop the skills and behaviours needed to navigate the online world safely, responsibly and critically. Students explored important topics including misinformation, divisive online content and AI-generated deepfakes. Our visitors were extremely complimentary about the conduct, engagement and maturity shown by our students. They actively participated in discussions, reflected thoughtfully on their own online experiences and demonstrated the respect and character that we expect from all Montsaye students. Thank you to Mrs Collins for organising this great event.

Attendance has also been a real highlight this week. We have recorded the highest attendance figure for any week at the academy for many years, which is a fantastic achievement and reflects the importance that students and families place on education. Attendance remains one of the



strongest predictors of GCSE success, and it is extremely encouraging to see students starting the academic year with such commitment and determination.

Our top pledge point earners this week were:

Year	3 rd place	2 nd place	1 st place	Average points
7	Alex C – 27	Biatris V – 28	Jack B – 28	15 points
8	Darcy-Leigh K – 30	Ella L – 32	Keisha B – 36	13 points
9	Jack G – 21	Lizzie E – 21	Rae A – 25	11 points
10	Pauline O – 31	Ellie C – 32	Amber B – 33	14 points
11	Anaiah A – 19	Phoebe S – 20	Tyler G – 22	9 points

Looking ahead to next week, we are excited to host our Class of 2027 Event for Year 11 parents and carers on Thursday evening. This is a key event for students as they begin their GCSE year and prepare for the important months ahead. Demand for tickets has been incredibly high, with the original allocation selling out within days of release. Due to popular demand, Mr Stanger has opened additional places. If you have not yet secured a ticket, please email jginns@montsaye.org.

Finally, I would like to recognise three of our Sixth Form students, Ole, Ebony and George, who have been busy organising after-school dodgeball and football tournaments for our new Year 7 students. These events, which will take place over the coming weeks, provide an excellent opportunity for students to build friendships, develop confidence and become fully involved in academy life. We are extremely grateful to them for giving their time to create these opportunities for our youngest students. Year 7 students should keep an eye out for the sign-up sheets around the academy.

We have made a fantastic start to the new academic year, and I would like to thank our students, staff, parents and carers for their continued support. The positivity, pride and commitment shown throughout this first week have set the tone for what promises to be another successful year at Montsaye Academy.

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

Best wishes,

Mr Baria
Interim Principal