23 October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of a busy and successful half term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our students, staff and families for their continued support. It has been a term of significant achievement, exciting opportunities and many moments of pride. As I reflect on the last eight weeks, I continue to be impressed by the commitment our students show to their learning, the way they embrace new experiences and the contribution they make to our school community each day.

On Monday, Mr Stanger delivered an assembly to Year 11 students focused on revision planning ahead of their mock examinations next month. Students were provided with a revision planner template and guidance on how to structure their study around existing commitments during the half term break. Learning how to plan and manage revision effectively is an important skill that will support students not only in their mock examinations but also as they prepare for their GCSEs later this academic year. We hope students enjoy a well-deserved break whilst also taking advantage of opportunities to revise and consolidate their learning.

On Tuesday, I had the pleasure of hosting the final Proud Table of the term. As always, this remains one of the highlights of my fortnight. I was incredibly impressed by the quality of work students shared, the pride they took in presenting their books and the confidence with which they discussed their learning. It was particularly pleasing to see our blue pen strategy so evident throughout the work on display, demonstrating students' commitment to producing work of their own thinking.

On Wednesday evening, it was great to see so many students and parents at the presentation event for the South Africa & Kruger World Challenge 2028 trip. The presentation outlined the 14-night expedition, costs, fundraising opportunities and the application process for students in Years 9, 10 and 12. This promises to be a truly life-changing experience that will help students develop confidence, resilience, leadership skills and global awareness. In case you have missed the information, here is a short video to give you a feel for what World Challenge is all about! Applications are open, so please **Register for eSwatini & Kruger 2028 here**. The **deadline for applications is Friday 6th of November**.

If you missed the event, here is the recording – https://youtu.be/RmVFOPMlQIs

Any questions please contact Mrs Patterson, via email apatterson@montsaye.org

Miss Varnfield and her Year 9 Drama class, 9TJO, have worked incredibly hard this term to create and deliver their own Scare Maze as part of their Physical Theatre learning. From designing and constructing the experience to performing and bringing it to life, students demonstrated outstanding creativity, teamwork and commitment throughout the project. The final result was both terrifying and brilliant in equal measure, providing a memorable experience for all involved. We are exceptionally proud of their work.

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This week, our We Are Montsaye assemblies, led by Progress Leaders and Student Welfare Officers, provided a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the achievements, character and commitment of our students. Pledge Awards, Students of the Term and Most Improved Awards were presented across year groups, recognising the many ways students contribute positively to academy life. Students in Years 8 to 11 also received Bronze, Silver and Gold milestone badges in recognition of the achievements they reached during the previous academic year. It was fantastic to see so many students recognised and celebrated for their hard work and success.

Today, our WOW Day brought the academy together to celebrate the end of term in true Montsaye style. While learning remained the priority throughout the day, students enjoyed taking part in our Staff Traitors challenge, with a mystery episode revealed at the end of each lesson. Across five lessons, students gathered clues to identify the staff traitor before casting their votes via a form sent directly to their inboxes. The reveal will take place on our first day back after half term. My thanks go to Meghan and Emily in Year 13 for their excellent filming and production work, and to Mrs Lopes, Mrs Patterson, Miss Alderman, Mr Adams, Mr Chandler and Mrs Childs for embracing the challenge and helping make the event such a memorable success.

Our top pledge point earners this week were:

Year	3rd place	2nd place	1st place	Average points
7	Grace M – 29	Felix C – 30	Olivia B – 42	14 points
8	Oluwasemiloore A – 25	Santiago D – 26	Holly S – 30	9 points
9	Chelsea M – 40	Tommy F – 41	Brooke N-L – 44	10 points
10	Adonai B – 27	Scarlett D – 28	Ellie C – 29	9 points
11	Pippa M – 21	Maisie H – 22	Daniel B – 26	6 points

As we break for half term, I would like to thank our entire school community for their support throughout what has been a highly successful term. I hope all students and families enjoy a restful and enjoyable break. We look forward to welcoming students back to the academy on Monday 2nd November for the start of another exciting half term.

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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