

21 November 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

Winter is well and truly here now but despite the bitterly cold weather, our children have been busy working hard in lessons and in extra-curricular clubs and, as always, there is lots to write home about.

I want to start by saying how proud I am of our Year 11 children who have shown high levels of determination and tenacity whilst completing their mock examinations these last two weeks. Watching them making the most of this important opportunity to see how they are progressing with their studies is excellent and I am looking forward to seeing their results and how much progress they have made. To that end, we are having a reward week next week for Year 11s with different rewards and activities planned each day in recognition of their hard work.

There were lots of great things to share on Character Caught ranging from Lizzie's success in her horse-riding competition to acts of kindness in our community by Malachi in Year 9. Matthew from Year 13 spent 3 days in the Summer at Lyveden, National Trust property curating an exhibition for the Gunpowder plot which has been on display. It's always a highlight of the week to celebrate these great acts of Character which we share far and wide on our social media platforms.

On Monday evening we welcomed a number of parents and carers in for this term's SEND drop-in evening. These evenings were put in following parent/carers feedback and are proving popular as an opportunity to come in and discuss your child's progress with a member of the inclusion team.

Also on Monday, our talented Young Sports Leaders, led a primary futsal event for a number of our local primary schools. They all demonstrated great leadership in terms of organising the event, leading and officiating the activities and communicating effectively with all attendees. If your child is in Year 8 and would like to get involved with being a young leader, please ask them to go and see Mr Wing (Head of PE) who will be able to provide them with more information.

Each day, students listen to a briefing from me which celebrates Character Caught, shares the lesson stars from the previous day and provides key messages for the day ahead. A new addition this week has been the inclusion of student and staff birthdays each day to allow all members of the school community to celebrate these special days. It has been lovely to see the children wishing each other happy birthday and also wishing members of staff a happy birthday.

Last week, we introduced 'Challenge 37' to all children in which they have been set the goal of learning 37 of the most common prefixes to help them decode any unfamiliar words they encounter in the future. Two prefixes will be shared

each week and at the end of the 19 weeks, Year 7, 8 and 9 will attempt the challenge of seeing how many out of the 37 they can identify the meaning for. This week's prefixes were as follows:

pre-: before	
Word	Definition
Prehistoric	Relating to the time before written history.
Preheat	To heat something before use.

re-: again	
Word	Definition
Reconstruct	To build something again after it has been damaged.
Recalculate	To calculate again.

Our top pledge point earners this week were:

Year	3 rd place	2 nd place	1 st place	Average points
7	Florence D – 19	Louritz P – 21	Freddie E – 22	7 points
8	Louise F – 23	Lilly-May C – 23	Ade O – 27	6 points
9	Mia R – 26	Isabel K – 27	Ted W – 28	9 points
10	Alanna B – 18	Samuel O – 19	Kieran L – 21	8 points
11	Jessica L – 5	Millie C – 6	Alfie S – 8	1 point

Our top attending tutor groups this week were:

1st place – 12SPU – 98.36%

2nd place – 12JAD – 97.85%

3rd place – 11RKU – 97.05%

The countdown to our very first We are Montsaye Christmas calendar is well underway with lots of exciting things planned for each day in December; our children are not going to want to miss a single day!

Looking ahead to next week our timings of the school day will revert back to the usual schedule with lunch being after lesson 4 now that our mock examinations have finished. We have special assemblies for Year 9 and 10 students as part of their character development program. On Wednesday we have an exciting information evening between 5pm and 6pm led by Mr Levett about our ski-trip next year, and to end the week, Year 11 have their Character Day where they will be off timetable and experiencing a wide range of fun and engaging activities in addition to their rewards week.



Parents, carers, staff, students, governors – We are Montsaye

Yours faithfully,

Mr B Baines
Principal