

19 December 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

As the Autumn term comes to a close, I am left reflecting on what has been a very wholesome term at Montsaye Academy. The sense of belonging and pride is growing exponentially as we all united under the fact that 'We are Montsaye.'

This week was the usual end of term rewards assemblies which are always my favourite as I love to see the individual students being recognised by their subject teachers for going above and beyond throughout the term. Handing out the certificates to the children is always a pleasure and it was great to see what their teachers had written about them when they nominated them. A special mention to Alanna B in Year 10 who was nominated as student of the term in no less than four different subjects which is the most I have seen since joining Montsaye and is an incredible achievement – Well done, Alanna!

On Tuesday, we had our first ever Proud Table in the library at lunch time. This was an opportunity for students to bring any piece of work they are proud of to the table for recognition via a proud postcard, golden tickets and some sweets. We had almost 100 students from across all year groups queue up patiently to show me their amazing work and it was great to see books from geography, dance, art and character all featuring at the table. Seeing the smiles on the children's faces when they present the work to me was lovely and I am already looking forward to the next one.

Our Head Students, King and Summer joined Mrs Jones and I to interview their potential successors from Year 12. After two days of interviewing 12 strong candidates, and after a lengthy deliberation, we are delighted to announce the Charlie L and Meghan M were the successful candidates. Both students did incredibly well in interview providing thoughtful and altruistic answers which fully aligned with the school vision and ethos. Whilst there will be a handover period, I would like to take this opportunity to thank both King and Summer for their outstanding work in shaping and driving this important phase of the school improvement journey. They have been true advocates for the children of Montsaye and have worked tirelessly whilst discharging their duties as Head Students. I am immensely proud of both of them, and it has been a pleasure working with them both.

WoW day was back with a bang on Thursday which started with Christmas music to welcome the children and golden ticket raffles as they walked through the gates. The WoW day menu was back but rather than another epic lip sync battle at lunch time, other staff and I performed a special Christmas Pantomime which filled the hall with joy and laughter – certainly a performance that no one will forget for a very, very long time.

In terms of getting out into the community, we had two wonderful events that took place this week. Firstly, Mrs Denton took 6 students down to the OAP council Christmas lunch where they served and cleared plates as well as having a chat and a laugh with the attendees.

Principal: Mr Ben Baines

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Mrs Denton said she could not be prouder and they showed the school in an excellent light with everyone complimenting them on there interactions. Well done and thank you to Amber S, Summer M, Marco H, Owen H, Ellie SB, and Madelyn E who all represented the school immaculately.

Secondly, Olivia E, Euan P, Arthur P, Effie B, Ava H, Sammy S, Andrew D, Charlie T and Bethany M all travelled to Cheaney Court where they read poems, sang songs and talked with the elderly residents all of whom were very grateful for the company of our wonderful children.

Our top pledge point earners this term were:

Year	3 rd place	2 nd place	1 st place	Average points
7	Oluwasemiloore A – 245	Oluwaseun A - 250	Cody O – 251	119 points
8	Ashley M – 239	Jenissa L – 252	Ade O – 323	112 points
9	Olivia H – 272	Demi W – 283	Olivia E – 346	139 points
10	Delin F – 242	Imogen C – 251	Samuel O - 263	122 points
11	Courtney F – 139	Molly F – 146	Perfect DJ – 159	74 points

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and I hope that you enjoy the festive period however and wherever you choose to spend it. I look forward to seeing and listening to how our children spent their Christmas when they return to school on Wednesday 7th January 2026.

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

Yours faithfully,

Mr B Baines
Principal

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