

16 January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

The first 8 school days of 2026 have passed at light speed with the children quickly getting back into the school routine and producing lots of great work in lessons.

We started the term with an assembly for our Year 11 students regarding the term ahead and the countdown to their mock examinations (29 days) and indeed their actual GCSE examinations (62 days). I talked to them about how being in school every day between now and their exams is critical to ensure that they don't have any gaps in their knowledge and give them the best chance of reaching their target grades. We also launched 'Flashcard Focus' for the term where we will be checking both in lessons and around school that students have been practising and learning their flashcards at home; it's been pleasing to see that many students have already made a great start to this!

On the theme of Year 11, our GCSE food students undertook their first cook of the year in preparation for their practical assessment which takes place at the end of the month. I loved seeing the students all keen to come and show me what they had made on their way out of school.

We also welcomed many of you into school on Thursday for our Year 11 parents' evening which was the best attended evening since I joined Montsaye in July 2024 with over 70% of parents/carers coming into school to receive important updates on the progress their children are making. I know I spoke to many of you personally on the evening and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive in terms of the feedback and advice you received from your children's teachers. Our new Head Students, Charlie and Meghan were also in attendance to answer questions about Sixth Form and to explain how to apply if you haven't done so already. I am also delighted to tell that we have already received a record number of applications!

Ms Walker led assemblies for all year groups which centred on the theme of students keeping themselves safe and covered a range of topics from sharing images to online safety and the relevant legislation from the Online Safety Act 2023. The children all engaged with the content maturely and respectfully and were reminded at the end of the assembly of the various ways they can report any concerns that they may have.

Our wonderful librarian, Mrs Palmer, was successful in her application to secure £750 from the Siobhan Dowd Trust which we are extremely grateful for. She is busily planning a trip for our buddy readers and some other children to travel to Waterstones (who have kindly offered us a 25% discount) and choose the books they would like for our library; a big thank you to Mrs Palmer for her work on this!

On Friday, Year 10 took part in a careers day which focused explicitly on careers across the curriculum with students attending their normal lessons but listening to carefully planned presentations on different career choices that each subject can lead our children into.

Principal: Mr Ben Baines

It was great to speak to various Year 10 children about their experiences across the day and it was clear that it had given them a great opportunity to think deeply about what they want to do in later life.

Our top pledge point earners since the start of term were:

Year	3 rd place	2 nd place	1 st place	Average points
7	Pranav P – 36	Darcy K – 37	Cody O – 41	18 points
8	Afsoon D – 42	Cerys F – 50	Ade O – 53	17 points
9	Brianna W – 53	Mia R – 54	Rohan J – 55	19 points
10	Alex K – 33	Imogen C – 33	Olivia-Rose R – 36	11 points
11	Molly F – 39	Sophie B – 41	Perfect D-J – 50	13 points

Our top attending tutor groups this week were:

1st place – 12PSU – 99.07%

2nd place – 13MTH – 98.57%

3rd place – 10LMO – 97.93%

Looking ahead to next week, on Tuesday lunchtime, Montsaye's Proud Table returns to the library and I am looking forward to seeing many of our children bring a piece of work that they are proud of for me to look at. This opportunity is available to all children and all they need to do is bring their work or exercise book to the library at lunch time where they will be awarded a praise post card, golden tickets and some sweets. The first Proud Table was a reel highlight of last term and I am looking forward to seeing even more of our children proudly showing me their work next Tuesday lunchtime.

Finally, if you want to have a comprehensive look at all the amazing experiences and opportunities afforded to our children through our character programme last term, please click [here](#) to see the second edition of our We are Montsaye newsletter.

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

Yours faithfully,



Mr B Baines
Principal

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