

23 January 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Another busy week at Montsaye Academy draws to a close with lots of successes and highlights to share with you all.

Starting off with sporting success, our Year 11 boys football team dispatched Lutterworth College with an emphatic 4-2 win to see them progress into the last 16 of the National Cup. With over 600 schools competing in this prestigious competition, our boys making it this far is a phenomenal achievement. A hat trick from Alfie S and a single from Ollie M was sufficient to knock the visitors out of the tournament.

Montsaye Motorsport who are our STEM on track team have also been engaging well with the online platform to compete virtually with all the other schools involved. Of the 45 schools we are currently sitting in 22<sup>nd</sup> place but Mr Chandler has issued a rallying cry, and I am confident we will continue to climb the rankings! It is great to see the team all working together and I look forward to later in the year when the team take our Go-Kart back to Whilton Mill International Circuit to test the kart and then race against the other teams.

In terms of Character Caught, there has been lots to celebrate from individual sporting successes to acts of kindness in the community all of which have filled me with pride. In particular, I would like to recognise Ava W in Year 10 who, in a fantastic display of compassion, noticed the early warning signs of a seizure being exhibited by her friend and supported her in getting her out of the classroom and to a discrete location for first aid to support her. She stayed by the students side and was even able to pass the students date of birth to the ambulance to save staff having to look this up on Arbor. A big well done to Ava on this exemplary act of character demonstrating immense compassion and support for a fellow student.

On the theme of recognition, when I first started at Montsaye Academy, Tyler S in Year 11 came to meet with me to say that he felt there wasn't a good enough system for communicating key messages to all students. Tyler came up with the idea for a student bulletin written for students, by students. 18 months on and the student bulletin has evolved significantly and I just want to recognise Tyler and the rest of the student bulletin team, Poppy M and Erica V for their excellent work on this.

On Tuesday, the Proud Table was back in the library at lunch time, and I enjoyed every second of seeing our children show me pieces of work they are proud of. I saw work from a range of different subjects and it was lovely to hear the children tell me why they were proud of the particular piece of work they had brought to the table. All children who came to the Proud Table received a proud post card, proud stickers on their work, golden tickets and sweets in recognition of their efforts – I am already looking forward to the next one.

Also on Tuesday, we invited Dr Van der Spoel back to the Academy to lead another session with our Year 11 and 13 students on how to prepare for their upcoming exams. The session followed on from his last visit where he taught students how to revise effectively ahead of Challenge 100.

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Hopefully all students got something valuable out of the session that will help prepare them for the mock examinations and indeed the actual examinations which commence in May.

We had the first of our Welcome to Sixth Form Breakfast Events on Wednesday morning. It was extremely well attended as we now have 96 applicants for next year. The Year 11 students all received some breakfast goodies: pastries, muffins, fresh fruit and drinks. Our Head students, Meghan and Charlie, along with some of our new Student Leaders and year 13 student, Ollie, then talked to them about their experiences in the sixth form and the great opportunities they have had whilst being here. It was a pleasure to see them all and we are looking forward to them joining us in September. There will be a second Welcome Breakfast after the application deadline of 13<sup>th</sup> February, and it is not too late to get their applications in!

On Friday, our talented student leadership team organised and coordinated a pyjama day for local charity The Hope Centre. The day raised a significant amount of money and food donations which I know will be greatly received by The Hope Centre and the people they support. I feel strongly about making positive contributions to our local community and I am delighted that the student leadership team pulled such a great event together to support this local charity. The day also saw the return of the Friday playlist and our children have been voting for songs all week to be added to the list. We played the music before school, at breaktime and during lunchtime and it was lovely to see the children all enjoying it.

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

| Year | 3 <sup>rd</sup> place | 2 <sup>nd</sup> place | 1 <sup>st</sup> place | Average points |
|------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| 7    | Leo B – 19            | Oluwasemiloore A – 19 | Thomas B – 21         | 8 points       |
| 8    | Kortni C – 22         | Vicky C – 24          | Louise F – 26         | 9 points       |
| 9    | Olivia E – 24         | Beau B – 25           | Dib B – 27            | 9 points       |
| 10   | Eli A – 21            | Neil T – 23           | Harry T – 23          | 10 points      |
| 11   | Owen W – 14           | Aramis V – 14         | Harry K – 15          | 5 points       |

Our top attending tutor groups this week were:

1<sup>st</sup> place – 12PSU – 98.67%

2<sup>nd</sup> place – 7SLE – 97.78%

3<sup>rd</sup> place – 9ABR – 97.59%

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

Yours faithfully,



Mr B Baines  
Principal

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