

6 February 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

The penultimate week of the term brought with it a monumental sporting success for our Year 11 boys' football team. In the national cup competition which 618 schools entered, our boys were back in action as they took on a strong side from Aston, Birmingham as the final 16 teams faced off against each other. To make it to the last 16 was already an incredible achievement but the boys were more than ready to face their opponents and were boosted by the inclusion of Alex C in the starting 11. We got off to a flying start with 2 early goals before we suffered a significant blow with our Captain, Mason J, sustaining an ankle injury and having to leave the pitch via a stretcher. When play resumed our boys fought valiantly and the goals kept coming with the game finishing at 7 goals to Montsaye and just 1 to our visitors. Alfie S scored a staggering 4 goals with Louis H getting himself a hat-trick to secure progression into the quarter finals as one of the 8 remaining schools in the national competition. I could not be any prouder of the teams' collective efforts and fingers crossed Mason recovers in time for the quarter final which should take place at the end of the month.

Assemblies this week were delivered by our fantastic Anti-Bullying Ambassadors who all wore their golden ties with pride. They had spent weeks planning the assembly and they delivered some really powerful messages about how we should treat each other and what to do if children are ever concerned. Our ambassadors spoke with such confidence and clarity and to see some of the younger students delivering the messages to Year 11s once again left me bursting with pride. There is no place for bullying at Montsaye and the ambassadors delivered the message with aplomb.

On Tuesday, the proud table was back and it was by the far the busiest table yet with students queuing out of the library door whilst waiting excitedly to show me a piece of work they are proud of. It was nice to see work from a range of subjects including maths, science, geography, character, ethics and history. Some students also brought their practical work that they had made in design which was really impressive. With so many hardworking students at Montsaye, it is great to see them getting recognition for work they are proud of, and it is always a highlight of the week.

On Thursday, I had the privilege of joining Mrs Palmer, our incredible librarian, as well as 12 of our avid readers on a trip to Waterstones to spend a £750 grant on books for the library. Each student was given £50 to choose books that they thought students would like to read in our library. Watching them move from shelf to shelf getting excited over various blurbs was genuinely heart-warming. They made some truly fantastic choices that all the children will benefit from as the new books go onto our library's shelves. As I always say to our children, reading makes you stronger, and adding more great books to our collection will only encourage more students to read for empowerment! Mrs Palmer is doing an incredible job of putting reading and the library at the heart of all we do so I wanted to say a big thank you to her.

Principal: Mr Ben Baines



Our ‘Fear of missing out’ FOMO Fridays are going from strength to strength with lots of students recommending songs for the Friday playlist which is played around school as the children arrive and during break and lunchtime bringing smiles to everyone’s faces. At lunchtime, hundreds of students descended on the main hall to be a part of the student singalong which was lots of fun and enjoyable for all in attendance.

Our top pledge point earners this week were:

Year	3 rd place	2 nd place	1 st place	Average points
7	Iona S – 21	Olly C – 24	Freddie M – 55	8 points
8	Tommy F – 22	Louise F – 23	Robert B – 26	9 points
9	Oliver J – 25	Deb B – 25	Eva M – 26	10 points
10	Rocco E – 25	Mason M – 27	Delin F – 28	9 points
11	Sophie B – 24	Isabella B – 25	Perfect D J – 28	5 points

Our top attending tutor groups this week were:

1st place – 12PSU – 96.88%

2nd place – 8NVI – 96.55%

3rd place – 11PHM – 96.13%

Unfortunately, on a more solemn note, Mr Dale who was the headteacher when I joined Montsaye as a child has sadly passed away. His legacy is formidable and the number of students that benefitted as a result of his long leadership is enormous. I am immensely proud to walk in the shadow of someone who led the school so successfully and I have taken great strength from hearing that he asked regularly about the progress of the school. Our deepest sympathies go out to all of Mr Dale’s family at this sad time.

Looking ahead to next week we have loads of exciting things happening around school in this last week of term. Monday is a day for our young leaders - we have a Dodgeball event for some Year 5 and 6 students and the Utterly Lit project continues in the library with children visiting from Rothwell Junior School. We have an exciting Year 10 Geography fieldwork trip going out to Birmingham and the much anticipated ski trip leaves school on Friday for over the half term break. Mrs George is leading our next Community Clean-Up on Thursday where lots of our wonderful students will be demonstrating their respect for our environment to help keep it clean and tidy. We also have another exciting WOW day coming up and have lots of new and exciting things going on for the children to enjoy. It’s imperative that the children are in school every day so they don’t miss what we have on offer.

We also look forward to welcoming our Year 9 parents into school on Thursday evening for parents’ evening details of which can be found on a letter on our website.



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Finally, a big thank you to all those children who have battled against colds and illness this week demonstrating a huge commitment to completing their learning hours. Having felt significantly under the weather myself, I can empathise with their efforts and I am grateful for their dedication to their learning.

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

Yours faithfully,

Mr B Baines
Principal

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