

17 April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of the first week of the summer term, I would like to extend a warm welcome back to all students following the Easter break. It has been a positive and purposeful return, with students settling quickly back into routines and making a strong start to the term. It has been wonderful to see classrooms full again and learning well underway across the school.

We began the week by welcoming students back on Tuesday, and I am pleased to report that behaviour, engagement and focus have all been excellent. Attendance has also been very strong across the school, reflecting the positive attitude students have shown towards their learning. Maintaining high levels of attendance will be crucial as we move through the summer term, particularly for our examination year groups, and we thank parents and carers for their continued support in ensuring students are in school, on time and ready to learn every day.

On Wednesday, we were once again delighted to welcome back Dr Martijn van der Spoel, a highly skilled Chartered Psychologist and exceptional motivational speaker. During his visit, Dr van der Spoel worked with our Year 10 students, sharing invaluable strategies to improve working memory, alongside practical advice to support effective revision. His engaging and relatable delivery ensured students left with clear, usable techniques that will support their learning now and into the future.

This visit led directly into the launch of 'Challenge 100' with Year 10, introduced by Mr Stanger during assembly on Thursday. The challenge invites students to memorise 100 key subject-specific facts in preparation for their GCSEs, using the memory retention strategies introduced by Dr van der Spoel. Students will be assessed on these facts towards the end of the summer term, and the programme is designed not only to support GCSE success next year, but also to equip students with lifelong study skills that will serve them well beyond school.

We were also pleased to welcome our new catering partner, Taylor Shaw, who officially started this week. Students and staff have already enjoyed the refreshed restaurant and café facilities, along with a fantastic new menu offering greater choice and quality. The positive feedback from across the school has been extremely encouraging, and we look forward to continuing to develop our catering provision over the coming term.

This week also saw an excellent careers event as we welcomed Wendy Ingram, a Base Maintenance Engineer from Easy Jet. Wendy spoke to our Year 9, Year 10 and Sixth Form students about careers and apprenticeships within Aerospace Engineering. Her talk provided a fascinating insight into the industry, clear guidance on apprenticeship routes and the application process, and concluded with an engaging question and answer session. This visit formed a valuable part of our wider careers programme, helping students to broaden their understanding of the diverse pathways available to them.



In addition, our Year 12 students visited the University of Derby, where they had the opportunity to experience university life first-hand. The visit included sessions exploring UCAS applications, guidance on the transition to higher education, and an overview of the wide range of courses and opportunities on offer. The day was both informative and motivating, supporting students as they begin to plan their post-18 pathways.

On Thursday evening, we welcomed a hall full of Year 11 students and their parents and carers to our ‘Class of 2026 Final Sprint’ event. This marked our final major gathering before students embark on their GCSE examinations and included a presentation - and, of course, a slice of pizza. The evening was led by Mr Stanger, alongside Mrs Mooney (Head of English), Mrs Holland (Head of Maths), Mrs Sutliff (Head of Science) and Mrs Jones (Head of Sixth Form). The evening was carefully designed to ensure that every student is fully supported to achieve the very best outcomes they are capable of.

Our top pledge point earners this week were:

Year	3 rd place	2 nd place	1 st place	Average points
7	Ruby S – 18	Sophia D – 20	Jorgie F – 24	7 points
8	Ade O – 19	Pavel U – 21	Shelton D – 25	6 points
9	Oscar J – 20	Annabel H – 20	Eva M – 31	6 points
10	Darcey P – 14	Imogen C – 16	Anaia G – 18	5 points
11	John F – 11	Megan G – 13	George H – 14	3 points

Our top attending tutor groups this week were:

1st place – 7ATH – 99.14%

2nd place – 11ZHA – 98.44%

3rd place – 11RKU – 98.15%

As we move forward into the summer term, there is much to look forward to and many opportunities for students to build on this strong start. Thank you, as always, for your continued partnership and support.

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

Best wishes,

Mr Baria
Interim Principal