

17 October 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

As the first term draws to a close it is always nice to reflect on all the great learning and experiences which have taken place in previous weeks, as well as rewarding individual students for various achievements.

To that end, Progress Leaders led rewards assemblies for all year groups, and I had the pleasure of handing out hundreds of certificates to children in recognition of their hard work in individual subjects as well as certificates for demonstrating our core values and pledges. To see the children all cheering and celebrating the individual achievement is always a highlight of the term.

Monday evening saw Mr Lyon and Mrs George welcome parents and carers from Years 9 and 11 for our Duke of Edinburgh launch evening. This is the first time the school has run the course in a few years, and I was delighted to see almost 40 students signed up in just 48 hours to be part of our Bronze cohorts.

On Tuesday night, I watched exam performances from our Year 10 dance and drama students who also performed to parents and carers that afternoon. I was blown away by the talent on display and to see the children taking such pride in their performances. I was late for a meeting but had to stay and watch the final performance as I could see how much it meant to the students having me there to watch them perform!

During the day on Thursday, I had the privilege of taking a group of prospective Year 6 parents and children on a tour round the school. The feedback from this tour was overwhelmingly positive with many commenting on how purposeful lessons were and how quiet the corridors were. It was also great to hear that Montsaye is the first choice for many of the children as well which represents a huge cultural shift. I look forward to welcoming some if not all of them next September.

In terms of Character Development, Mrs George has pulled together all of the highlights from this term into our 'We are Montsaye' newsletter which will be coming out imminently for your perusal.

Our top pledge point earners this week were:

Year	3 rd place	2 nd place	1 st place	Average points
7	Gracie A – 14	Olivia-May J – 15	Holly S – 17	6 points
8	Ashley M – 18	Ade O – 19	Cerys F – 20	6 points
9	Olivia H – 21	Evie V B – 21	Chloe G – 23	9 points

10	Oliver H – 21	Lewis C – 21	Archie D – 25	7 points
11	Lily R – 16	Harvey D-P – 16	Victoria B – 17	6 points

Our top attending tutor groups this week were:

1st place – 12SPU – 99.56%

Joint 2nd place – 8JEL and 11RKU – 97.24%

Friday was our eagerly anticipated WOW Day. Our WOW days are always packed full of fun and excitement and it was wonderful seeing our prize winners collect their prizes after a day full of joy. The staff lip sync battle was once again overwhelmingly well attended and even though we live streamed into classrooms to accommodate extra capacity we will endeavour to open up more classrooms next time to allow everybody to watch and enjoy the entertainment. Each WOW Day gets better and better and it was heart warming to see our students enjoying every moment and celebrating such a successful first term of this academic year.

Finally, last week, we welcomed several members of United Learning in for our Term 1 review, and I am proud to say that they reported that the school is unrecognisable compared with when they first started supporting the school in November 2023. In terms of Key Stage 4, the provisional outcomes of all schools in the county have been released and I am delighted to say that Montsaye Academy is the most improved school in the whole county in terms of attainment. Such excellent external validation from the T1 report, coupled with the significant improvements in exam outcomes at both Key Stage 4 and 5, reminds me just how far the school has come in such a short space of time, and I would like to thank all of you for your support.

Have a lovely half term whatever you have planned, and I look forward to welcoming the children back in November.

Parents, carers, staff, children, governors – We are Montsaye

Yours faithfully,



Mr B Baines

Principal