

7 November 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

As always, it was a pleasure to welcome the children back after half term with so many of them keen to tell me what they spent their time doing or what exciting places they visited. It was great to see lots of their half term achievements also making it onto Character Caught this week which included Imogen earning her prestigious Chief Scout Gold award, Honor and Tulisa's angling league successes and an exotic trip to Thailand for Beau who volunteered to help with the Gibbon Rehabilitation Project whilst out there. The Character Caught posts are always a highlight as we love to celebrate your children's achievements in and outside of school so please do keep sending them in via

[Charactercaught@montsaye.org](mailto:Charactercaught@montsaye.org)

On the theme of Character, this term's calendar is packed full exciting events and activities including a Christmas concert evening, opportunities to perform in local care homes, alumni visits, Year 11 character development day, Christmas card competition, a Christmas special WOW Day and much more. This term also sees the launch of the pledge point shop where students can exchange their hard-earned points for various rewards.

In terms of what the children have been up to in and around school this week, it has been a very busy one with lots to share with you. The week started with 6 of our Year 12 students travelling to The Royal Geographical Society in London to attend the COP30 Climate Negotiation Simulation alongside 11 other United Learning schools. Daisy, Jared, Sky, Lara, Emily and Rochelle spent the day working together as national representatives, exploring how through cooperation global warming can be reduced to 1.5°C. Our students' roles included representing Germany, as part of the EU, Tuvalu, as part of the Developing Nations and journalists reporting on the day's events. The event was a huge success; our students were thoroughly inspired by their experience, taking this knowledge back to Montsaye, to consider how we as a school can take action for a better world.

On Tuesday afternoon, we welcomed a number of you into school to watch your Year 11 children perform their examination pieces for dance and drama. As always, I was blown away by the talent on display and despite how nervous the children were, they all rose to the challenge and performed brilliantly. These performances will all contribute towards their final GCSE grades so it will be a relief for them to have this component out of the way so that they can then focus on the remaining components.

In preparation for their mock examinations, Year 11 students all had walking, talking mocks for English, maths and science which involves a subject expert coaching the students through an exam paper explaining how to approach each question and how to earn each mark. The Year 11s were really positive about these and how much they helped in terms of preparing them for next week. On Friday, we also handed out bespoke sets of flashcards to all Year 11 children to aid them with their revision and to allow for parents/carers to assist your children with revising.

On Thursday afternoon, I had the privilege of joining our cadets to film a special video ahead of Remembrance Day proceedings next week. Our cadets were all immaculately presented and a credit to the school as always. Imogen in Year 10 also gave a stunning performance of The Last Post on her Baritone Horn.

This week also saw the launch of our buddy reading programme with both Year 9 and Sixth Form students volunteering their time to help younger students develop their reading skills and confidence when reading aloud. I had the privilege of watching the Year 9s in the first session and it was a truly heart-warming sight to watch them supporting and encouraging their year 7 reading buddies. This was one of those moments that the saying 'We are Montsaye' felt very tangible – well done to all involved.

In terms of national recognition, I am delighted to share that Montsaye Academy featured in the following TES article which is fantastic for the school and our community [Improving school engagement for disadvantaged boys | Tes](#)

Our top pledge point earners this week were:

Year	3 <sup>rd</sup> place	2 <sup>nd</sup> place	1 <sup>st</sup> place	Average points
7	Holly S – 18	Code O – 18	Phoebe T – 21	8 points
8	Robert B – 18	Jenissa L – 21	Ade O – 28	7 points
9	Hasan R-B – 20	Demi W – 25	Chloe G – 29	9 points
10	Issie P – 24	Anthony C – 25	Olivia-Rose R – 30	9 points
11	Liam C – 15	Courtney F – 16	Amarii M – 18	6 points

Our top attending tutor groups this week were:

1<sup>st</sup> place – 12SPU – 98.56%

2<sup>nd</sup> place – 12JAD – 98.35%

3<sup>rd</sup> place – 7FMI – 97.14%

In terms of an update on bus passes, we have made our dissatisfaction clear to the Local Authority that it is now November and that students have still not received their bus passes. Mr Baria has been liaising directly with the transport team to expedite the delivery of bus passes which will hopefully be forthcoming next week.

With regards to catering arrangements, final work should be completed this weekend and so normal services should resume from Monday. A huge thank you to you all for your patience with this, it is greatly appreciated.

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

Yours faithfully,



Mr B Baines

Principal