



Montgomery
Academy



After looking at the contributions from so many of our students and departments to this Christmas newsletter, I am delighted to congratulate the Montgomery family on its collective achievements.

September was the most normal start to an academic year we have had in the last 3 years and it was fantastic to be able to start the year with the focus on learning and setting high expectations rather than public health focused testing.

It would be fair to say the PE department have relished this normality and have entered every sporting competition that they can and with almost daily emails to the staff of the students' successes, our sporting dominance continues.

There is always lots going on in the Science department. They have been working hard on delivering Science both inside and outside the classroom with incredible contributions towards

the students' personal improvement and curriculum understanding. Year 6 students from Norbreck Primary visited last week to experience heart dissection!

In addition to the above, we have seen the return of the annual Year 9 careers event under the new guidance of the Responsible Business Network with a renewed focus from employers to engage students.

Visits to London including the Houses of Parliament, Hamilton the musical and CyberFirst have also been a roaring success and a much needed reminder of the cultural experiences that educational trips can offer.

Reading, as you know, has always been a strong focus for the school and at the time of writing the students have collectively read over 22 million words. We would very much like to encourage families to support the reading progress of the students at home over the winter

break, through visiting a local library, sitting and reading by the fire or even listening to an audiobook. You can access literally thousands of titles for free via our e-library, Oliver, by clicking on 'Reading Matters' on the Curriculum section of our website.

Extracurricular activities are also rebuilding in popularity. With Computing, Passion Project, Debate and Pokemon clubs joining existing favourites such as STEAM and all of our sporting clubs. Chess club has been growing and growing and if you have any sets that you would be able to donate, they would be most welcome.

2022 has been a year where we have welcomed back many of the normalities that we took for granted pre-Covid. We look forward to more of the same in 2023. Have a great Christmas break and we will see everyone back on Tuesday 3rd January in the New Year.

Mr Careless

Merry
Christmas

— AND —
HAPPY NEW YEAR

Main uniform- the following items are essential

- Montgomery Academy maroon blazer with logo
- White school shirt (open necked blouses and polo shirts are not allowed)
- Black full length regulation school trousers or a Montgomery Academy skirt. (Skirts should be no more than 2 inches or 5cm above the floor when kneeling down)
- Plain black school socks OR plain opaque black tights. (No leg warmers or leggings)
- Montgomery year group tie of the correct colour

Sturdy black school shoes (not training shoes) (No white/coloured soles, no stripes, no piping, no logos, no boots, no backless shoes or sandals). A student wearing other footwear for medical reasons should provide a doctor's note. WE REGRET THAT A LETTER FROM PARENTS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE. If a student is not in correct footwear then they will be expected to borrow some shoes from our stock in the standards room.

Outdoor clothing is not to be worn inside the dining rooms or classrooms
Hoodies are not allowed in school and should not be worn instead of a suitable outdoor coat.

Students will need an adequate school bag to carry exercise books, A4 folders, P.E. kit and equipment at all times.

Montgomery v neck jumper (optional) but must be worn under blazers and not in place of a blazer.

P.E. Kit (Compulsory)

- Montgomery polo shirt
- Plain, black football shorts or skort
- Hair bobble if hair is long enough to tie back
- Trainers
- Montgomery football socks
- Football boots and Shin pads
- P.E. bag large enough to carry all PE attire required for lessons
- Plasters if ears have just been pierced and earrings are unable to be taken out

P.E. Kit (Optional)

Montgomery ¾ zip tracksuit top	Plain, black tracksuit bottoms
Leggings	

Hairstyles must be suitable for the academy environment

- If hair is dyed -only naturally coloured dyed hair is acceptable - no other dyed colours or streaks.
- Tramlines or shaved head designs are not acceptable
- Plain simple hair bands or hair slides (no flowers/ no scarves).
- Hijabs should be plain, black or maroon.

Jewellery is restricted to:

- 1 pair of plain gold/silver coloured studs
- 1 wristwatch
- No facial piercings are allowed

Nails

Nails must appear natural with only nude coloured nail varnish. Acrylic nails must be short in length and be natural/nude in colour. Students arriving at school with bright coloured nail varnish or inappropriate acrylics will be asked to remove them.

Make up

Make up must be minimal and natural, with no false eye lashes. Any students not conforming to this will be asked to remove their make-up.

Progress Tutors will ensure that students for whom they are responsible comply with school uniform requirements at all times. Class teachers will reinforce these expectations with their classes and insist that nothing inappropriate is worn during lessons.



It seems unbelievable that as I write this, 2022 is almost over!

I know as parents and carers you will also sometimes be incredulous to how quickly the five years in secondary school goes.

This year has seen the school go from strength to strength with a return to normal examinations, and a plethora of extra curricular activities, as well as ensuring that the impact of the pandemic is mitigated as much as possible in relation to pupils' learning.

In January 2023, I shall be changing roles and will become the Director of Secondary Education at FCAT, I will still work closely with Montgomery, and in particular Mr Carefoot, but I will also be responsible for the other secondary schools within the Trust.

Can I thank all of you for your support of the school and your child's learning and I wish you a happy festive period and a wonderful 2023.

Stephen Cox
Executive Headteacher





Montgomery Academy Footwear

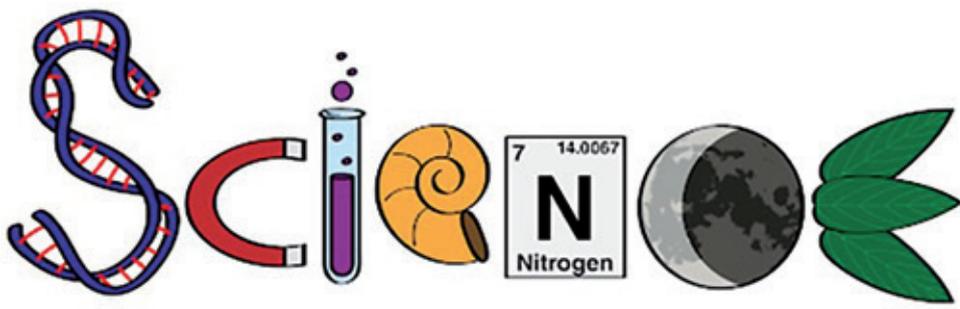
We understand the challenge parents face in wanting to purchase the correct footwear which adheres to the school uniform code. We have tried to help you with this visual guide.

Some footwear labelled as 'shoes' or 'back to school' in shops does not necessarily meet Montgomery uniform standards and we ask you to please refer to this guidance before making a purchase.

Acceptable	Not Acceptable
Plain black shoes	Trainers of any type
	Boots/ canvas or leather pumps





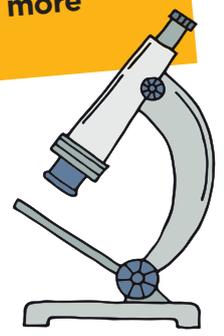


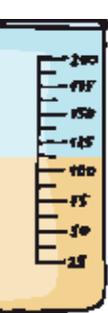
Science Christmas Crackers at Montgomery!

The Science department at Montgomery Academy has enjoyed a very positive and vibrant start to 2022-2023. The aim has always been to motivate and inspire our students to share our passion for science and build an inclusive team ethos in the department; a culture that we believe will allow our students to reach their full potential. Enrichment continues to flourish and be a real strength, and we have continued our collaborations with the Institute of Physics, the Ogden Trust and the Royal Society of Chemistry. We have also had another record-breaking term in terms of Seneca engagement and this is helping us build more confident and knowledgeable scientists in every year group.

Welcoming our Year 7s to Science The future looks bright!

This term our new Year 7 cohort have loved studying the topics of cells, reproduction and particles. Highlights have included using the microscopes to look at real animal and plant cells, learning about specialised cells and making 3D cell models and then investigating changes of state. We also had a lot of fun making whole class particle models outside in the quad and splashing water around whilst investigating density. All in all, it has been a fantastic first term for our Year 7s and we cannot wait to get going again in January with topics on energy and separation techniques.





Science Club



Led by Miss Healey, our science club this year is open to students from all year groups. The theme this term has been superhero science, and the group started by extracting DNA from a kiwi when learning about genetic mutations. They then worked as a team to design and make an efficient parachute for Batman, considering important forces that would affect his descent to the ground. Students loved making different slimes and evaluating which particular slime should be used for the Fantastic Four and the Incredibles. To celebrate the recent success of the Dr Strange movie (not Dr Hutchinson may we add), students made some amazing red cabbage indicators capable of testing for a variety of acids and alkalis. They have also designed rockets and fired them when considering how best to transport the Guardians of the Galaxy around the universe. As we have moved towards the festive season, the activities have been Christmas themed. This has included making crystal Christmas trees, wax crayon baubles and homemade soap for Christmas presents. More recently, the club have been working hard on creating a science themed Christmas tree for the Royal Society of Chemistry's annual 'chemistree' competition. In order to bring our tree to life, the students have designed and made several science themed decorations such as tinsel DNA, sequin agar plate and skittle diffusion baubles and chromosome hanging decorations. Brilliant work from all the students in this club - roll on 2023!

Space Club



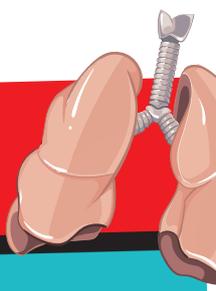
This club soared into action in October under the experienced leadership of Mrs Bach. With tasks such as designing and firing air rockets down the science corridor, students have engaged with a variety of space-based science activities. Not only have students experimented with effervescent vitamin C tablets, they have also tested for hydrogen gas and used Mr Dunn's expertise in preparing noisy oxygen and hydrogen rockets which were blasted into space. The students then designed their own space suits for action men and women and this included developing a prototype UV mask. Finally, students have learnt about the Mars Rover Space Lander and competed themselves to build the very best egg lander, a craft capable of safely transporting an egg from the top of s-block to the bottom without it breaking. The students in this club have performed brilliantly and are sure to be scientists to watch out for in the future!

Science in the Community

We are immensely proud of our ongoing work in our local community, supporting the provision and love of learning of science. Before the pandemic, we delivered a science club to Year 5 and 6 pupils at a variety of local primary schools. To continue developing strong ties with schools in our local area, in September, Mr Mistry and Miss Healey visited Westcliffe Primary Academy to conduct a pluck dissection with their Year 6 students. This included looking closely at the anatomy of the trachea, lungs, heart and liver. Following this, in early December, we are hosting three Year 6 classes from Norbreck Primary Academy. In total, 90 Year 6 students and their teachers will join us at Montgomery to work in our science labs and Mr Mason deserves great credit for helping to organise this collaboration. The focus again is on keeping healthy and being part of that topic, we will dissect hearts and look closely at how blood enters and leaves the heart in order to deliver oxygen to all parts of the body. A big thanks to Mr Mason, Mr Mistry and Mr Johnston for being our biology specialists with this superb enrichment.

Dissection Club – Operation Theatre @ Montgomery

Now in its 2nd year, the Dissection Club continues to be led passionately by Mr Johnston. This club is being run in 6-week blocks for each year group and this term we have welcomed firstly our new Year 7s. Despite not being for everyone, this club has become more and more popular and has some super excited and talented scientists carrying out different dissections. As well as looking at organs such as the heart and the lungs, we have also looked at fish eyes, rats and squid and we have also produced some fantastic labelled diagrams to illustrate what we have learnt. Learning about animal anatomy and physiology is an important aspect of the science specification and also develops the interests of those students interested in a career within the medical sector. A big thanks must go to Mr Johnston who has put his heart and soul into this club (no pun intended). We look forward to welcoming our other year groups to this club in 2023.



Seneca in Science & Google Classroom



We have been using Seneca for the past three years, but this term, we have further embedded its usage across all year groups and have also updated our own GCSE Science Google Classrooms. Our Google Classrooms are designed to inspire and motivate students to drive their own independent revision and early feedback on them this year is very encouraging indeed. Seneca is an intelligent learning programme that uses multiple choice micro-quizzes to build knowledge, boost confidence and reduce exam stress. Content is broken down into bite-size chunks and tailored to each user as the platform works out what students know and more importantly where they need to focus more to achieve outstanding results. This online learning package is now being used by all year groups and their amazing current and cumulative progress is shown below:

Year Group	Sessions Completed	Questions Answered	Study Duration
7	5, 593	38, 180	328 hrs 37 mins
8	45, 867	425, 546	2118 hrs 50 mins
9	52, 749	531, 433	2859 hrs 5 mins
10*	13, 369	166, 298	721 hrs 58 mins
11	45, 192	532, 094	2556 hrs 6 min

Our students deserve great praise for completing these Seneca learning sessions. It is clearly having a massively positive impact on student progress in Science and so we look forward to its continued usage and success in 2023.

*New Seneca classes this year as joined the GCSE cohort



Institute of Physics & Ogden Trust Building better Physicists



We are delighted to announce that our longstanding collaboration with the Institute of Physics and its stimulating physics network has continued this year. Mr Woodruff continues to lead the enrichment in this area. In July, we had a series of Lancaster University workshops and an amazing Planetarium at Montgomery for a full week and we are delighted to announce that this event will also take place again this summer (watch out for further information on this). We are currently running a brilliant Ogden Trust Christmas card competition for Years 7-9 and are confident that we will submit some very competitive entries to this Blackpool wide competition. Another aspect of our teaching that has been improved with links to the Ogden Trust this term is our understanding of careers that link directly to the GCSE physics specification. It is true that not all scientists wear a white coat and inspiring our students to study science further is something we are greatly passionate about.



Disneyland Paris



Before the pandemic, the Science team had overseen an impressive and hugely popular Science Trip to Paris which had gone ahead successfully for the previous two years during the Easter break. This is an advanced notice that this amazing school trip will be organised and offered again in the near future. We will be back Mickey!



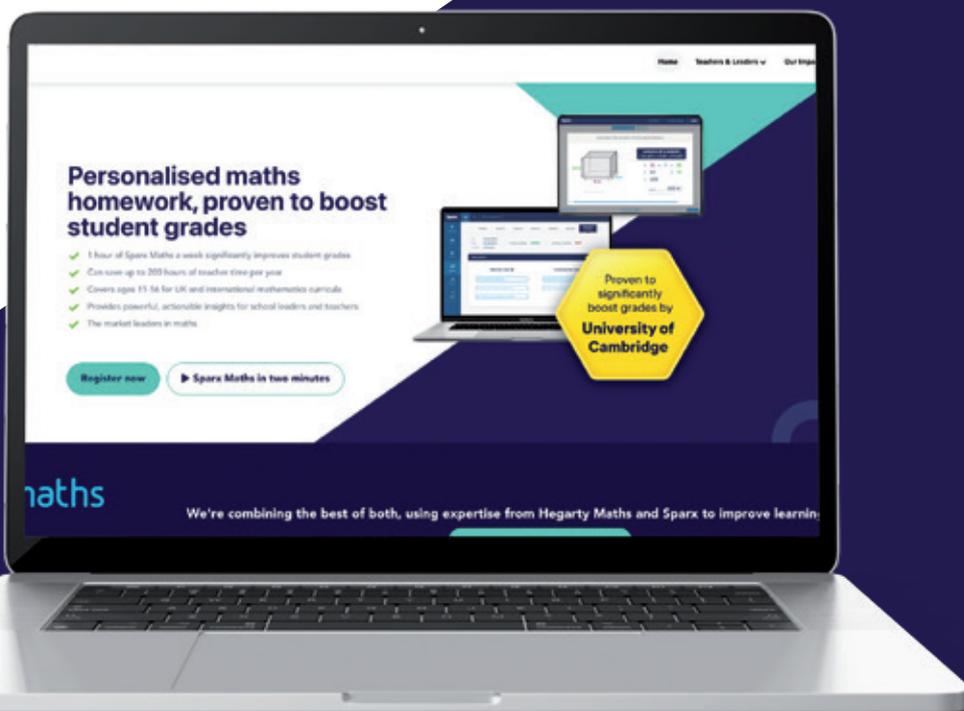
Sparx Maths

Have you joined the Maths 100 club?

Every Montgomery student has the chance to be part of the 100 club each week and win Prizes, just for completing their SPARX maths homework.



Each week, all those students who score 100% on their Sparx Maths homework will be entered into a draw to win prizes.



Sparx Maths which is the new and improved version of **Hegarty Maths** is our Brand New home learning platform. It sets students appropriate homework for their ability each week, and adjusts accordingly depending on their success rate.

As part of the Launch of Sparx Maths, the Maths department also launched the 100 club. By Completing 100% of their homework on time each week, students are automatically entered into a Weekly Prize draw. Prizes so far have included Event Tickets, Vouchers and Sweet Treats.



BIG EDUCATION CONVERSATION




BLACKPOOL TOWER
November 29, 2022 | 10.45AM to 2.30PM

Calling all youth voices



Join us at the Big Education Conversation on November 29th for a day of youth-led activities and get your school involved in key conversations about the future of education.

We want to give young people the opportunity to have their voice heard and affect change for their future, and the future of Blackpool.

Partners:



ON THE DAY:

- Meet Blackpool's Young Leaders 
- Careers tour
- Lunch provided

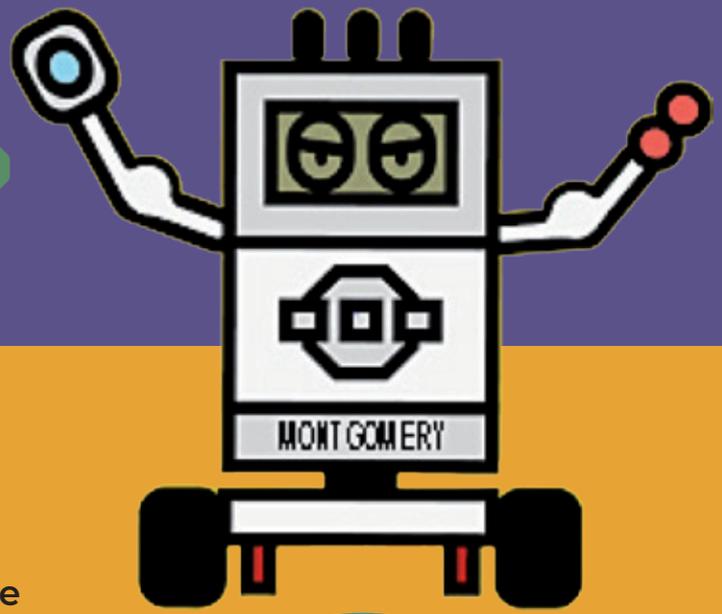
GATSBY BENCHMARK:

- 5 Encounters with employers & employees 
- 6 Experiences of workplaces

For more information contact:
 sarahkeating@righttosucceed.org.uk
 07754 557 800



EEP Robotics Challenge



MAY THE 4TH BE WITH YOU!!!!

That's when we go to compete with all the other North-West schools at Preston College.

The date has inspired our Roboteers to incorporate a Star Wars theme into the separate challenges they are preparing for!

Ellie Potter:
'Robotics is very educational and also a lot of laughter!!!' 10/10

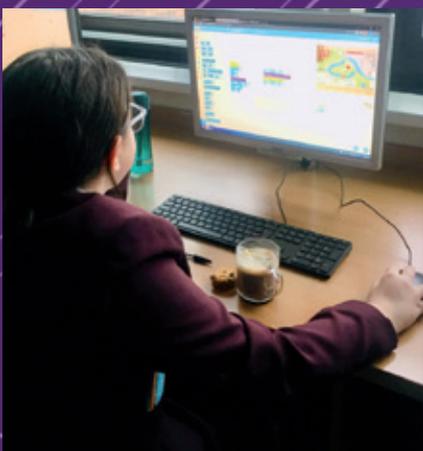
For example, Task one is to code the robot to show off the multiple moves it can do!

Last year, Josh N won this section to the sound of 'You spin me right round!' (Dead or Alive!) Bonee and Ellie are working on moves to a 'Mash-up' of Star Wars tunes including the famous opening theme tune, Cantina band and The Imperial march



Joshua J-W, Josh W, Harry and Ellis are the team behind the Star Wars inspired Pod Racer.

It will have to clock up the fastest time over a distance of 4M!

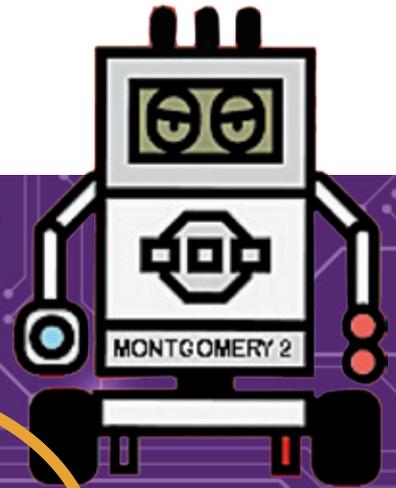


Alice, Lucy and Darcy have been preparing a presentation about Biodiversity.



education™

LEARNING PROGRAMMES



This is our 7th year of competing and every Autumn half-term holiday our Roboteers come into Monty and put in the extra time for practice!



- ✓ Supports the curriculum
- ✓ Develops essential skills
- ✓ Classroom and extra-curricular activities
- ✓ Flexible options - fits the time you have available
- ✓ Highlights exciting careers in a growing area



ROBOTEERS: Ellie • Lucy • Darcy • Alice • Bonee • Ryan • Harry • Ellis
Lei • Charlotte • Drew • Josh N • Josh JW • Hannah • James

2022-2023



Now entering our seventh year, STEAM Clubs is a joint project run by Mrs Bach, Mr Byrne and Ms Healey with backing from our Student Support Centre, Science Department and Senior Leadership Team.



The club activities are curriculum based; mostly practical, taken at an easy pace in a calm learning environment, run specifically for our SEMH students (and fellow travellers!)

We also really enjoy it when colleagues are happy to join us and share their particular skills. This term we were delighted to have workshops with Mr Dunne and Ms Lee – thanks a million from all of us at STEAM Club!



Oscar: 10/10 'I've been coming since I started in Yr.7. I like to meet all the different people and also do the interesting things.'

Jack: 10/10. 'I like the diversity of what we do. It's fun and interesting'.

Bonee: 'It is very fun and you can make very fun things!' 10/10

Scarlett: 'I would definitely recommend STEAM Club because it is so much fun and you learn stuff as well!' 10/10

Sam: 9.5/10 'It is fun and you learn about things in a creative way – it is more relaxed, you can make mistakes and try your own way. Improvise'.

Carlinho: 10/10 'It's fun. It's funny and we do mostly practical work! Highly recommend.

Since returning in September we have learned about: Vitamin C powered rockets * Birdfeeders * Christmas Baubles * How disease spreads * Air Rockets * Poppies * Beach Cleans *



Ms Healey was keen to carry on the Dr Who theme that we explored last year with our new Yr. 7 group.



These are some of the episodes that inspired our work so far this term:

- The impossible planet
- The Parting of the ways
- Army of Ghosts
- The Fires of Pompeii
- Rise of the Cybermen
- Dalek!
- The Christmas Invasion

Charlotte • Drew • Hannah • Josh N • Josh W • Josh JW • Ami • Liam
Anni • Sam • Ellie • Adam • Heather • Dylan • Alice • Logan • Nathan

Dr Who and the Silurians: The first appearance of the Doctor's car Bessie inspired our session on making Lego Balloon powered cars. Mr Dunne teaches us about speed and physics!



Josh N (Yr.10) 'It is a good after school activity + very fun!' 11/10
Heather (Yr.8) 'I agree, it is fun! You also get to socialise and make friends' 14/10
Nathan P (Yr.8) 'You get to do a lot of interesting things. I also like to help out the Yr.7's.'

George (Yr.7) 'I'll give it 10/10 because it's fun and you get to learn so much!'
Teighlor (Yr.7) 'Same for me because there is always something interesting to do and yes, it's true we learn things!' 10/10

Dr Who's car Bessie: Balloon powered Lego cars • Circuits Alarms to warn of Cybermen invasion • 'Pop-Up' Ghosts • Dalek Mutations (Slime!) • Salt Christmas trees • Dr Who 'Jammy Dodgers!'

Niamh • Teighlor • Scarlett • George • Frey • Max • Lucy • Ellis • Maddie • Oscar
Heather • Isaac • Alice • Dylan • Molly • Canaan • Carlinho • Jack

NEIL GAIMAN

READING GROUP!

CORALINE IS THE THIRD NEIL GAIMAN BOOK THAT WE HAVE READ.

It follows on from *The Graveyard Book* and *The Sleeper and the Spindle*.

Ami: 8/10 'Neil Gaiman books are always brilliant!'

Drew: 8/10 'Coraline the book is very different from the film. It is good.'

Liam: 9/10. It's a very cool book. I wouldn't probably not read, if I don't come here.'



Lucy: 7/10 'I think it's quite interesting so far. There is more context and detail than the TV series!'

Max: 10/10 'It's very good. Very enjoyable. I think that man, Count Olaf? He's after their money!'

Ms Chekusheva: 10/10 I like this writing. I would like to believe everything will be ok, but it is only the beginning! I think something terrible will happen!'

Coraline

Make it a rule never to give a child a book you would not read yourself.

George Bernard Shaw

I DON'T THINK THERE IS SUCH A THING AS A BAD BOOK FOR CHILDREN.

IT'S TOSH. IT'S SNOBBERY AND IT'S FOOLISHNESS.

WELL-MEANING ADULTS CAN EASILY DESTROY A CHILD'S LOVE OF READING.

WE NEED OUR CHILDREN TO GET ONTO THE READING LADDER:

ANYTHING THAT THEY ENJOY READING WILL MOVE THEM UP, RUNG BY RUNG, INTO LITERACY.

NEIL GAIMAN.



THE IMPORTANCE OF READING ALOUD

Reading aloud and talking about what you read encourages social-emotional learning, empathy, and conversation skills, even in adulthood.

Once we leave High school, working-age adults often forget how much skill is needed to read aloud effectively.

We have an obligation to read aloud to our children. To read to them things they enjoy. To read to them stories we are already tired of. To do the voices, to make it interesting, and not to stop reading to them just because they learn to read to themselves. Use reading-aloud time as bonding time, as time when no phones are being checked, when the distractions of the world are put aside.

Neil Gaiman



Joshua JW: 4/10: 'It wasn't the best book and I doubt if I'd re-read it. The pacing wasn't good.'

Onyx: 10/10. 'Coraline is amazing because of the 'Build-up' of tension!'

THE READERS: * Niamh * Ms Chekusheva * Freya * Ava * Mr Byrne * Max * Lucy * Drew * Oli * Onyx/Talea * Josh N * Ami * Joshua Jacobs-Welsh * Hannah * Liam * Nathan P

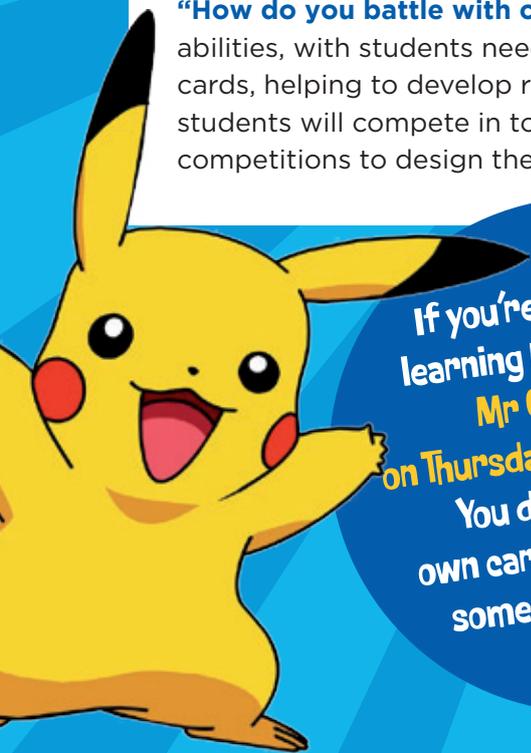
Gotta Trade 'Em All!



POKÉMON

Pokémon is making a comeback at Montgomery! Pokémon cards first appeared in the 90s, but one dedicated group of students have been trading and battling with much more recent Pokémon cards every week since September. Some of them are now even able to teach newer members how to battle.

“How do you battle with cards?” I hear you ask. Each card has its own HP, attacks and abilities, with students needing to use tactics and strategy to overcome their opponent’s cards, helping to develop reasoning, logic and even literacy and numeracy skills. Eventually, students will compete in tournaments against each other and will also take part in competitions to design their own cards and build a deck from scratch.



If you're interested in learning how to play, join **Mr Quinn in E15** on **Thursdays between 3-4pm**. You don't need your own cards – Mr Quinn has some you can borrow!



The Chess Club



The Chess Club has grown from meagre beginnings to a veritable hub of activity on Wednesday afternoons.

I have witnessed students crowd round specific tables where particularly fierce games were being played. I have heard shouts of, "Your king is in check!" being met with calls of, "You didn't defend your queen!" There is always an atmosphere of excitement whilst students are at the boards.

We have had teachers come to visit while games have been going on and all have been of the same mind: they did not know that kids could be so excited by chess, they would not like to take on any of the students themselves, and they were pleasantly surprised that so many students were willing to give chess a chance.

The students who attend the club range from Year 7 to Year 10 and none of them have a problem with facing off with pupils from year groups other than their own. The atmosphere is friendly yet competitive with everyone wanting to be the victor in their game!

Some of the students have even started playing and training in their own time, showing a great determination and desire not only to win, but to improve their overall understanding of the game. There were some pupils who were interested in attending Chess Fest in Liverpool which was free to attend and had free games and

lessons for anyone who attended. I don't think any of them made it to the actual event, but just for them to show interest was inspiring enough for me!

To anyone who has supported the club by recommending that some pupils attend, or by donating chess sets to this worthy cause (a special mention to Mrs Walmsley and Mr Byrne for their contributions) I cannot thank you enough and I can say whole-heartedly that I have enjoyed running this club as much as the students have enjoyed attending it.

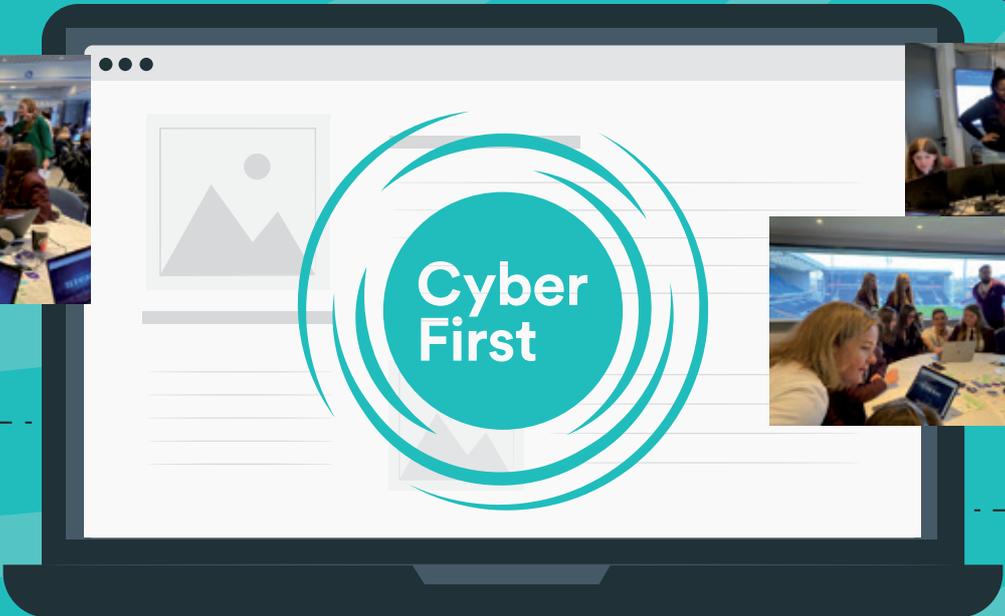
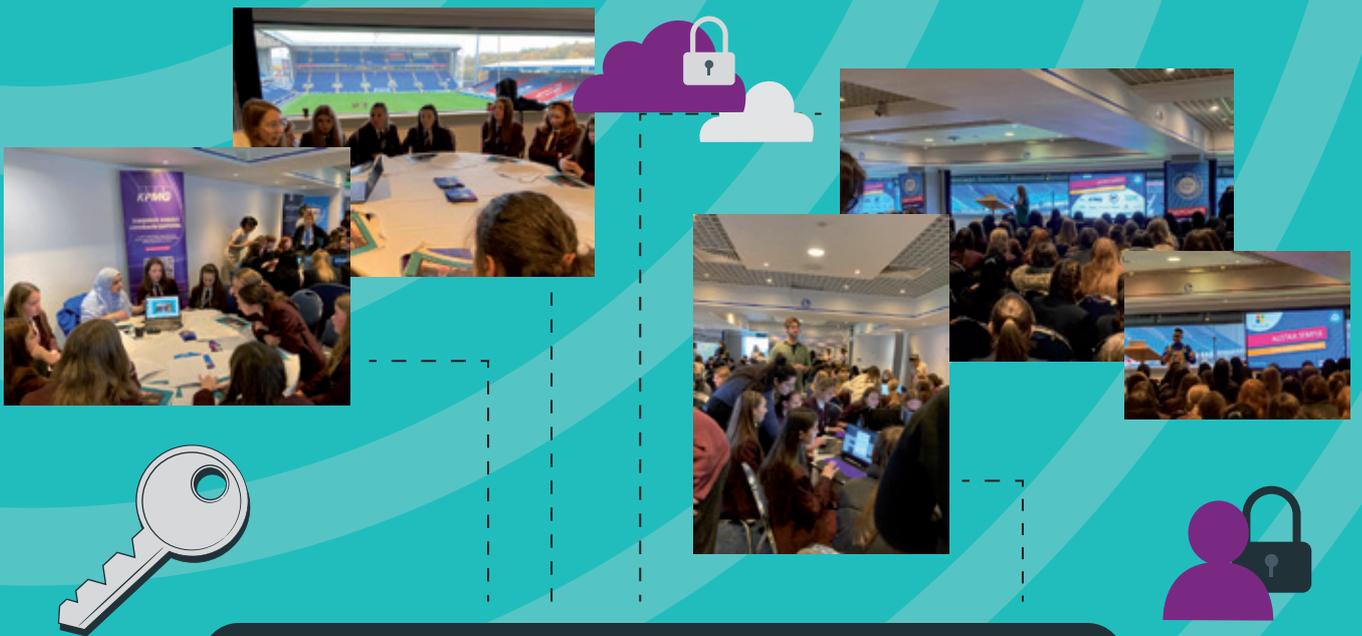


CyberFirst Girls In Technology

On 15th November 22 year 8 girls visited Elwood Park, home of Blackburn Rovers FC to participate in a CyberFirst Girls in a Tech Empowerment Event.

500 girls from Secondary Schools and Academies from all across Lancashire joined in on a day of fun and immersive activities which were aimed to spark girls interest in technology careers, hear from inspirational women from a range of industries and have practical opportunities to explore the latest innovations in cyber security and data science.

The Montgomery students thoroughly enjoyed the event commenting how they enjoyed the day and would now consider jobs in coding, ethical hacking and technology and were surprised at how well paid the roles in technology were! There were lots of activities given to the students from IBM, Microsoft and GCHQ which put their group work, problem solving, critical and creative thinking skills to use!





EMPOWER NORTH WEST



Addressing Gender Imbalance . . .

Virtual reality headsets, robotics, cyber Lego and quantum physics were part of an interactive and inspirational computing and cyber security outreach event that welcomed a selection of year nine girls to Lancaster University's campus.



Year 9 girls from six schools around **Blackpool** and **Fleetwood** attended the event at the university's Library and Infolab building, and got a chance to get hands-on with technology, take a look at cutting-edge science research facilities and find out about the career opportunities available through the computing and cyber fields.

The event brought together academic experts from Lancaster University's School of Computing and Communications and Physics Department, and was supported through the Lancaster University-led **Lancashire** Cyber Foundry and Cyber Girls First, an organisation dedicated to inspire school age girls to study computing, IT and other cyber fields.



During the day, the students enjoyed an interactive tour where they got to try out virtual reality headsets and create motorised vehicles with robotics kits, followed by a cyber Lego activity which saw them role-playing a cyber security game where they managed a business.

Rebecca Robinson, Programme Lead of the Lancashire Cyber Foundry, said:

"I am passionate about helping young people and showing them that the world of cyber has many wonderful career opportunities. The cyber security role-play game shows the girls that they can be capable leaders making financial decisions about the security of their business. It is hoped that experiences like this will encourage other young people to start their journey in computing."



Cyber Girls First's Pat Ryan and Wendy Parmley, who is also a Lancaster alumna, attended the event. Pat said:

"This event was what we hope is the first of many visits by girls from Blackpool schools to Lancaster University to see the amazing facilities on their doorstep. Wendy Parmley and I hoped for a positive response from the girls, but nothing prepared us for the excitement the visit engendered. This was only made possible by the generous amount of time given by the lecturers and staff to make this event so successful."



N MFL Christmas NEWSLETTER

DEC
2022

This half term we have been getting up to all sorts in the MFL department and have welcomed a very special guest to our school. Please meet Eva our French assistante who will be here over the course of this school year to help all of our year groups with their French and allow pupils to have more interaction with native speakers!



"HELLO, MY NAME IS EVA. I AM A FRENCH STUDENT FROM NORMANDY HERE AT MONTGOMERY FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR TO WORK WITH THE STUDENTS ON THEIR FRENCH SKILLS AND SHARE MY CULTURE. I LOVE WORKING WITH ALL YEARS WHO ARE ALWAYS KEEN TO PARTICIPATE AND SPEAK FRENCH WITH ME. I'VE BEEN WORKING WITH SMALL GROUPS TO IMPROVE THEIR CONFIDENCE IN SPEAKING FRENCH AND DOING LANGUAGE GAMES WITH THEM SUCH AS GUESS WHO OR CLUEDO TO LEARN IN A MORE RELAXED AND FUNNY WAY."

In Year 7, we have had lots of fun creating our own monsters for Halloween and describing these in French. Students have had such a good time designing these for our display and prizes have been given out to the best description and the scariest monster. Congratulations Mia and Eleanor for winning these!

In Year 10, students are entering the Modern Languages in Schools competition run by Lancaster University. Students are creating a

video in French to respond to the statement "To what extent do you think that languages can reinforce the accessibility of the internet to the wider world". Students are enjoying engaging in French with each other and debating current affairs topics. Helped by our French assistant Eva, students have improved not only their translation skills but also their critical thinking, team work and public speaking skills. Good luck to our Year 10 team!

OUR EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS



THIS HALF TERM WE HAVE OPENED 2 REGULAR EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS WHICH PUPILS HAVE LOVED GETTING INVOLVED IN AND LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE WORLD BEYOND THE UK.

Spanish GCSE has been well attended and the group are working towards taking Spanish as an extra qualification alongside their current subjects. We have currently been working in small groups, talking in Spanish and debating topics from marriage to the dangers of new technology. This qualification is a fantastic opportunity for them to stand out from others and also work towards studying languages further than GCSE. If you are interested in taking a Spanish GCSE in the future please don't hesitate to see Miss Lumber in L10.

Did you know that Dijon is not only a type of mustard? Did you know that mosquitos don't exist in Iceland? Did you know that Norway once knighted a penguin? If you didn't and would like to know more, European culture club might be for you. European culture club has been a fantastic new addition to the department this year with pupils able to learn about and appreciate cultures other than their own. We have been hosting fun pub quiz sessions and it has been a great place for students to make new friends outside their year group.

COMMUNITY

Christmas

FOOD & BANK

Donations

Please pass donations to year heads

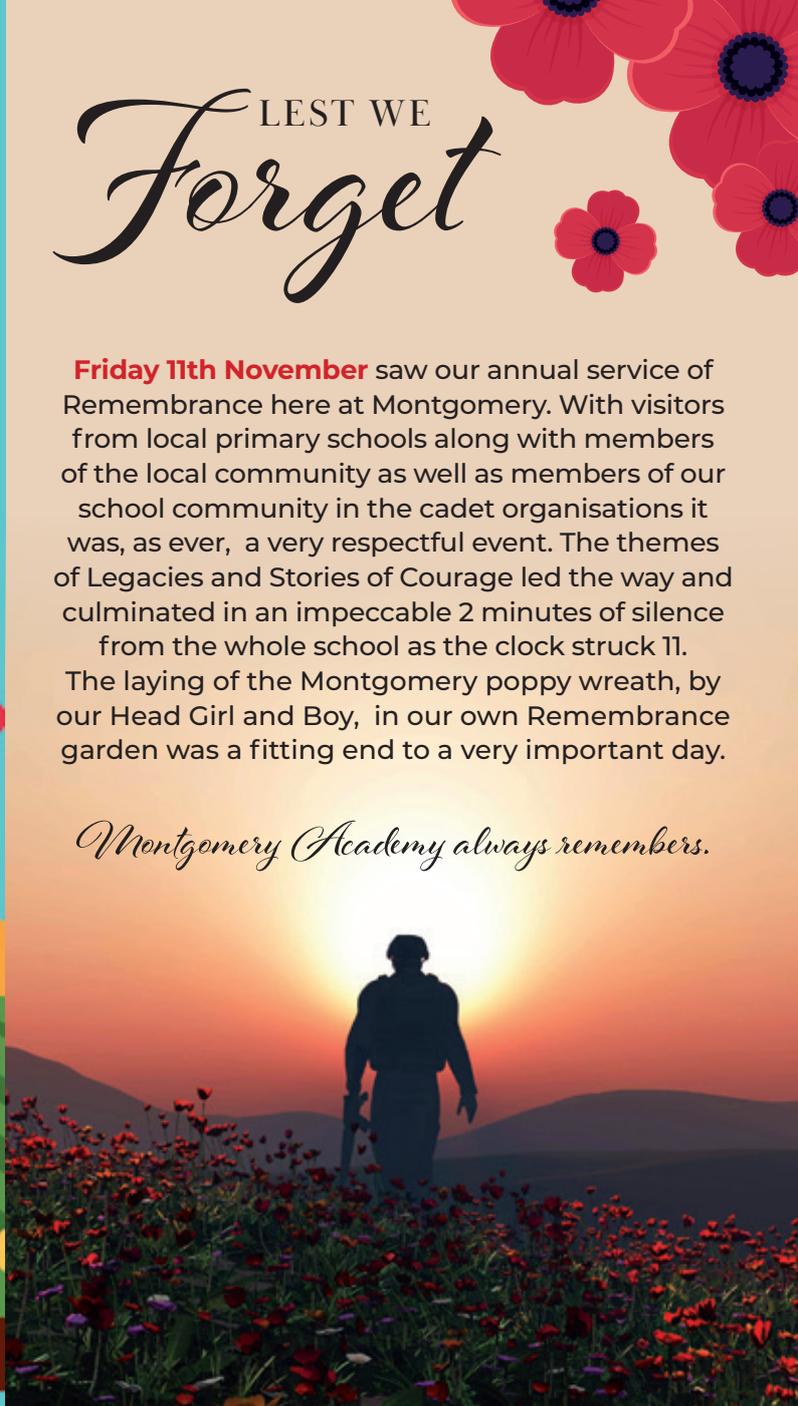
Please donate new, unwrapped toys or treats for local children for Christmas

ESTD 1959

LEST WE Forget

Friday 11th November saw our annual service of Remembrance here at Montgomery. With visitors from local primary schools along with members of the local community as well as members of our school community in the cadet organisations it was, as ever, a very respectful event. The themes of Legacies and Stories of Courage led the way and culminated in an impeccable 2 minutes of silence from the whole school as the clock struck 11. The laying of the Montgomery poppy wreath, by our Head Girl and Boy, in our own Remembrance garden was a fitting end to a very important day.

Montgomery Academy always remembers.



ENTERPRISE

YEAR 10

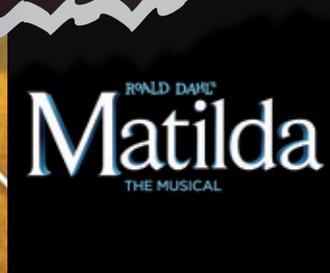
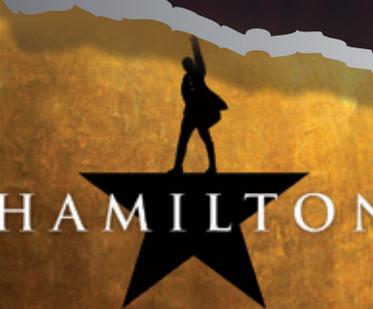
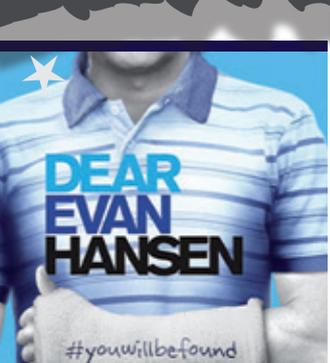
This term in Enterprise year 10 students had visits from local businesses Notarianni's and Stefanis Pizzeria. Both the owners business experience was invaluable, which will help the students out with their coursework.

We were also grateful for the tasty treats!



MONTGOMERY MUSICAL MADNESS

ON Monday 23rd January 2023
& Tuesday 24th January 2023
AT 6:30pm



After last year's incredibly successful sell-out production we are bringing Montgomery Musical Madness back this year! You can book tickets to see this showcase on Monday 23rd & Tuesday 24th January 2023 at 6:30pm which will include musical numbers from some audience favourites such as Matilda, Six, Hamilton and Dear Evan Hansen.

Directed and choreographed by Annie Dawson and Olivia Kohl in Year 11, this show will prove to be a spectacular presentation of the extraordinary talent that the Montgomery students bring to school life. It will definitely brighten up those dark January nights so make sure you **book your tickets now on ParentPay.**



HAMILTON

ON THE EVENING OF TUESDAY 15TH NOVEMBER

IT WAS MY ABSOLUTE PLEASURE TO TAKE MY 40 GCSE DRAMA STUDENTS
TO WATCH A LIVE PRODUCTION OF HAMILTON

(MUSICAL BY LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA) AT THE VICTORIA PALACE THEATRE IN LONDON.



During this incredible day, I was completely inspired by our students. Watching Hamilton live was phenomenal but there was one thing better than the show and it was the behaviour and maturity of our Montgomery Academy students. I am full of pride! A big thank you must go to them for demonstrating such maturity and respect during a very long and tiring day!

Bradshaw's Quality Travel, who provide the transport for this journey. worded their praise perfectly:

As the crew for your coach trip to the show in London we would like to express our appreciation for the exemplary behaviour of your students both on and off the coach.

The students displayed exceptional behaviour and treated both ourselves and the coach with respect. We are very impressed with them and would take them on other trips in the future.





GCSE PHOTOGRAPHY

GCSE Photography

Year 11'S

Year 11 photographers visited Manchester on Tuesday 22 November to explore the city for their current photography project Britishness, the photographs will form part of the students 5-hour mock exam which will complete the student's coursework before starting their exam in a January.

Visiting the city for photography wasn't our only task whilst visiting, students all used the opportunity to visit a UCAS event called 'Create Your Future', where universities from all over the UK descended on the GMEX building to share their fabulous creative university courses, it was a great opportunity for students to see and chat to staff from a huge range of locations about photography, film, music, art, fashion, gaming,, architecture and lots of other creative university courses.





CREATE YOUR FUTURE



MANCHESTER
22 - 23 NOVEMBER 2022
YOUR EVENT GUIDE

OPEN ME
 EVENT MAP





GCSE PHOTOGRAPHY

Following this our photography walk then took us through the iconic city library and Emily Pankhurst statue, followed by a couple of theatres and Manchester's iconic architecture of John Rylands Library, we also went into the Royal Exchange Theatre and continued around the city photographing a mixture of old buildings which are nestled between brand new sky scrapers.

Students also visited the cities trendy Northern Quarter to photograph lots of street art, we also wandered the streets of Ancoats photographing the cotton mills and mill workers houses, students also learned a little bit about the history of the area when we visited Anita Street, which was initially called Sanitary Street which was one of the first streets in Manchester to have flushing toilets, nowadays the area has been gentrified with lots of cotton mills being converted into new apartments. We finished our tour of Manchester in the area's marina.

Students thoroughly enjoyed the day and we're glad of the sit down on the train home!

GCSE Photography

Year 11's







This month we have had a brand new kiln installed in the art department.

A kiln is for firing the clay to 1000 degrees, to make it hard wearing. We have named our kiln **'Bernie'**! This is an absolutely fantastic addition to our facilities and will provide lots more clay opportunities for all students across KS3 and KS4.



Art club has already been busy making and we have been planning all the things we want to create this year! We actually received our first commission... we will be designing and creating a mural for the newly refurbished dining room in L Block. *Exciting times and lots to look forward to.*

Anti-Bullying Week 2022

**REACH
OUT**

#ANTIBULLING WEEK



Anti-Bullying Week 2022 REACH OUT

Bullying affects millions of lives and can leave us feeling hopeless. But if we challenge it, we can change it. And it starts by reaching out.

It doesn't stop with young people. From teachers to parents and influencers to politicians, we all have a part to play. Reach out to someone you trust if you need to talk. Reach out to someone if you know they're being bullied. Reach out by being the change you want to see.

It takes courage, but it can change lives.

So, this Anti-Bullying Week, let's come together and reach out to stop bullying.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kjhp-67cKJA>

What is bullying?

The **repetitive, intentional hurting** of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an **imbalance of power**. Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological.

It can happen **face to face** or **online**.

REACH
OUT

Types of bullying



PHYSICAL

Includes hitting, kicking, tripping, pushing or purposefully damaging other people's property.



PSYCHOLOGICAL

Includes spreading lies about someone, playing nasty jokes or excluding people.



VERBAL

Includes name-calling, threatening, teasing, saying nasty or rude things to someone.



ONLINE

Includes hurtful comments / messages / posts, excluding on purpose, spreading nasty gossip and imitating others online.

Take a moment to consider ...

1

Two times you have reached out to someone in need

2

Two times someone has reached out to you when you needed help

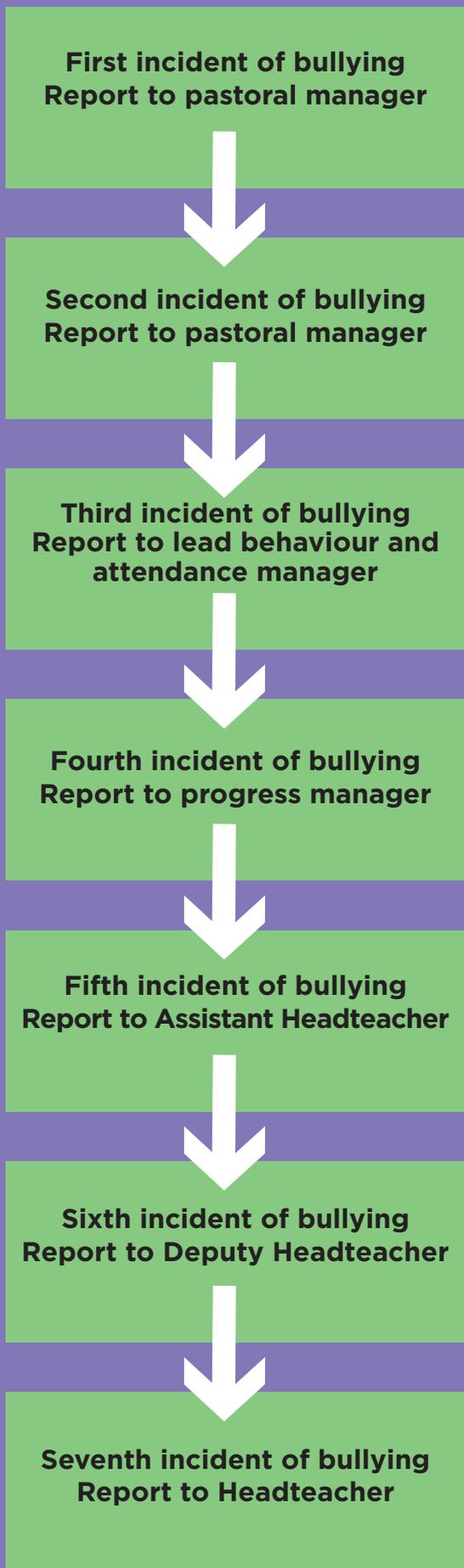
"How wonderful it is that no one has to wait, but can start right now to gradually change the world"

ANNE FRANK

ANTI-BULLYING ALLIANCE

REACH
OUT

Intervention Ladder



First Incident:

Verbal warning to bully given.
Parents of bully and victim contacted. Incident recorded on SIMS as bullying, form tutor kept informed for both.
If appropriate restorative methods implemented using PCSO.
Letter of apology to victim from bully written.
Support provided for bully and victim as needed by pastoral manager/form tutor/ pastoral team.

Second Incident:

Written warning given to student.
Day of isolation for the bully.
Incident recorded on SIM, form tutor kept informed for both.
If repeat to same victim, victim supplied with a book and asked to keep a record of any further issues.
Parents of bully and victim contacted.
Letter of apology to victim from bully written.
Support provided for bully and victim as needed by pastoral manager/form tutor/ pastoral team.

Third Incident:

Parents of bully and victim informed. Meeting between LBAM and parents of bully arranged.
One day Internal Exclusion requested from GSH.
Contract of future behaviour signed by the bully and Student Support Plan put in place. Daily monitoring of bully from the LBAM.
Continued record keeping required for victim if repeated behaviour.
Support arranged for victim as needed, (peer mentor, keyworker etc.)

Forth Incident:

2-Day Internal Exclusion requested from GSH.
Parents of bully and victim informed.
Meeting between Progress Manager and parents of bully arranged.
Pastoral Team informed of escalating issue. Student Support Plan reviewed or revisited. Daily monitoring of bully from the PM.
Continued record keeping required for victim if repeated behaviour.
Support arranged for victim as needed, (peer mentor, keyworker etc.)

Fifth Incident:

3-Day Internal Exclusion requested from GSH.
Parents of bully and victim informed.
Daily monitoring of bully from the Pastoral Team. Further support for bully discussed at reintegration meeting.
Continued record keeping required for victim if repeated behaviour.
Support arranged for victim as needed, (peer mentor, keyworker etc.)

Sixth Incident:

External exclusion(s) and reintegration meeting with GSH. Final warning from GSH given and any further interventions and support offered.
Continued record keeping required for victim if repeated behaviour.
Support arranged for bully and victim as needed, (peer mentor, keyworker, external agency referrals.) Daily monitoring of bully by GSH.

Seventh Incident:

Exclusion and final meeting with parents to discuss any further support or options available. SCA to monitor student and issues(s) of non-compliance. Consideration of managed move or permanent exclusion if no/insufficient progress.

How to become an...

Anti Bullying
Ambassador

Anti-Bullying Ambassador Application Form

Complete this form to apply to become an anti bullying ambassador 2022.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the form and being passionate about stopping bullying and supporting others!

Write your full name below.

Short answer text

Write your email address below.*

Short answer text

REACH

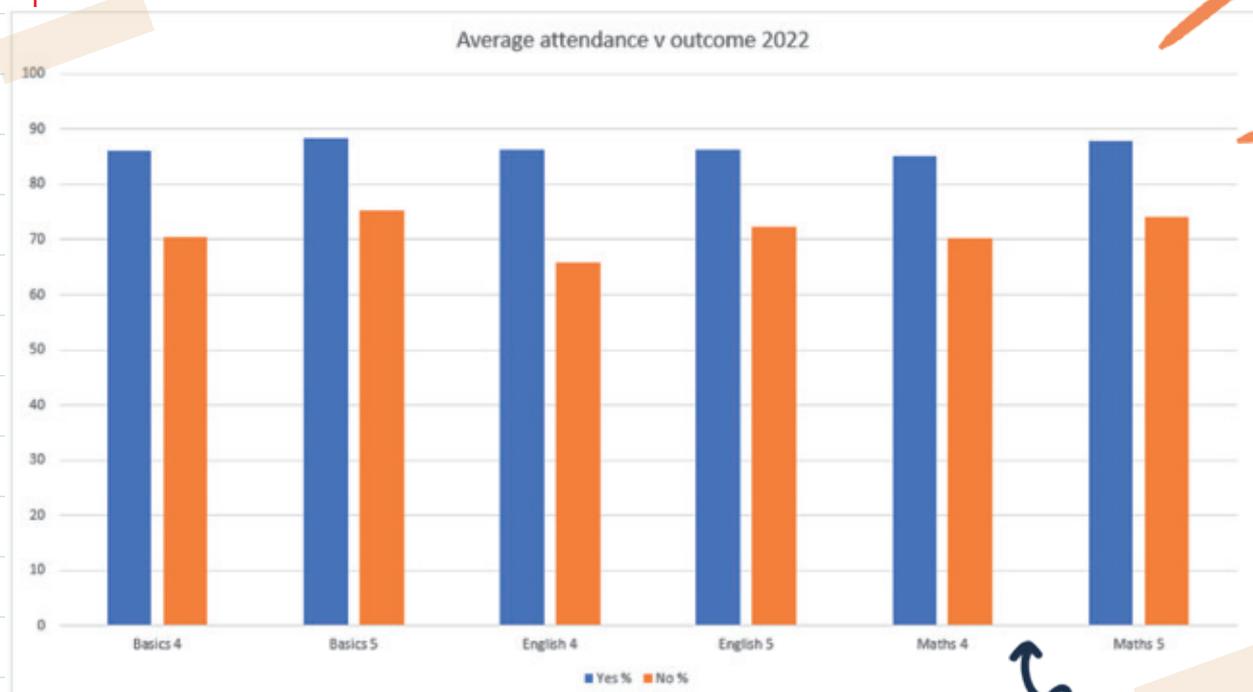
OUT

Attendance

v

GCSE Grades 2022

LOOK AT HOW YOUR
ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL
CAN AFFECT YOUR RESULTS!



HERE IT CAN BE CLEARLY SEEN THAT THE STUDENTS
THAT HAVE ATTENDED MORE REGULARLY HAVE ACHIEVED
BETTER IN MATHS AND ENGLISH GRADES!



100% **Domino's** **Pizza Parties** are back!



All students that are in school all term and have 100% attendance will receive a bronze badge, certificate and an invitation to the end of term pizza party.



The Christmas Attendance draw



Students with 98%+ attendance in the Autumn Term will be given a ticket to the Christmas Attendance raffle.



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about HOW TO COMBAT ONLINE BULLYING

Defined as "ongoing hurtful behaviour towards someone online", cyber-bullying makes its victims feel upset, uncomfortable and unsafe. In the digital world, it has numerous forms – such as hurtful comments on a person's posts or profile; deliberately leaving them out of group chats; sharing embarrassing images or videos of someone; or spreading gossip about them. Cyber-bullying can severely impact a young person's mental health ... so, in support of Anti-Bullying Week, we've provided a list of tips to help trusted adults know what to look for and how to respond to it.

1. GET CONNECTED

Playing online games together with your child or connecting with them on social media (providing they're old enough) is not only fun but also an excellent way of establishing some common ground to discuss things you've both seen or done online – as well as keeping an eye on who your child is communicating with in the digital world.

2. KEEP TALKING

Regular chats with young people about their online lives are good practice in general, but they can also be an excellent refresher to help prevent cyber-bullying situations. Topics you might want to revisit include why it's important to only connect online with people we know and trust, and why passwords should always remain secret (even from our best friends).

3. STAY VIGILANT

Observe your child while they're using technology and just after they've used it. Are they acting normally, or out of character? Possible signs of a problem may include seeming quiet or withdrawn, jumpy or anxious, angry or repeatedly checking their phone. When you feel it's the right time, you may want to check in with them to see if everything is OK.

4. MAKE YOURSELF AVAILABLE

If an online bullying incident *does* occur, it may take a while before your child is ready to open up about what happened. Just gently remind them that they can always come to you with any problems – and that they won't be in trouble. You might also suggest a trusted family member they could turn to, in case they feel too embarrassed to tell you directly.

5. BE PREPARED TO LISTEN

When conversations about online bullying *do* take place, they're likely to be difficult, emotional and upsetting for both you and your child. Actively listen to your child while they're bringing you up to speed, and try not to show any judgement or criticism – even if they haven't dealt with the situation in exactly the way you would have hoped.

FURTHER SUPPORT AND ADVICE

If you or your child need additional help with an online bullying issue, here are some specialist organisations that you could reach out to.

Childline: talk to a trained counsellor on 0800 1111 or online at www.childline.org.uk/get-support/

National Bullying Helpline: counsellors are available on 0845 225 5787 or by visiting www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk/cyberbullying.html

The NSPCC: the children's charity has a guide to the signs of bullying at www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/ and can be reached on 0808 800 5000

6. EMPOWER YOUR CHILD

Depending on their age, your child might not want a parent 'fighting their battles for them'. In that case, talk through their options with them (blocking the perpetrator, deleting the app and so on). By allowing your child to choose the path they take, you're putting them in control but are also demonstrating that you're there to support them along the way.

7. REPORT BULLIES ONLINE

Cyber-bullying often takes place through a particular app, social media platform or online game. If this is happening to your child, encourage them to report the offender to the app or game in question – ideally with screenshots to support their complaint. Most games and apps have reporting tools specifically to stamp out abusive behaviour and protect users.

8. ENCOURAGE EMPATHY

Protecting themselves online is the priority, of course, but young people should also feel empowered to help if they witness other people falling victim to cyberbullying. Even if they don't feel confident enough to call someone out on their abusive behaviour online, they can still confidentially report that person to the app or game where the bullying occurred.

9. SEEK EXPERT ADVICE

Victims of online bullying frequently experience feelings of isolation and anxiety, a loss of self-esteem and potentially even thoughts of self-harm or suicide. If you think that an incident of cyber-bullying has affected your child's mental wellbeing, then seek psychological support for them. There are some useful contact details in the central panel below.

10. INVOLVE THE AUTHORITIES

If the nature of any online bullying makes you suspect that your child is genuinely in imminent physical danger – or if there are any signs whatsoever of explicit images being shared as part of the bullying – then you should gather any relevant screenshots as evidence and report the incidents to your local police force.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

(certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

TikTok is a free social media platform that lets users create, share and watch short videos ranging anywhere from 15 seconds to 10 minutes in duration. The app gained notoriety for its viral dances, trends and celebrity cameos and can be a creative, fun platform for teens to enjoy. Now available in 75 languages, it has more than a billion active users worldwide (as of spring 2022) and is most popular with the under-16 age bracket. In fact, a 2022 Ofcom report found TikTok to be the most-used social media platform for posting content, particularly among young people aged 12 to 17.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's "Following" feed only displays videos from users someone follows, "For You" is a stream of clips based on their previously watched content. Most videos on a child's "For You" feed will therefore be light-hearted and amusing, but it could potentially surface something unsuitable. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the sheer volume of uploads mean they aren't manually monitored and vetted.

18

CENSORED

DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Due to TikTok's immense popularity, some young people have unfortunately been influenced by videos challenging them to perform harmful, criminal or even deadly acts. One extreme example was the 'blackout' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. It led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With around 1.1 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-16s (or youngsters using a false date of birth) are set to public by default. This not only means that someone's profile is visible to everyone else on the app; it also lets their videos be suggested to others and enables anyone to comment on them or download them.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase emojis in the app. These emojis are then sent as rewards (retaining their monetary value) to other users for videos they've created. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; TikTok's policy is that they can't be bought by under-18s, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birthdate.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like all social networking platforms, TikTok can be addictive: figures show that young people are investing increasing amounts of time in it. In the UK, children with TikTok spend an average of 102 minutes per day on the app, versus 53 minutes on YouTube. This compulsive repeated use can interfere with their sleep patterns – leading to irritability – and distract them from other activities.

TIKTOK NOW

Introduced in late 2022, the 'TikTok Now' feature lets users post a daily video or photo at the exact same time as their friends. Users receive a synchronised notification at a random time of day, giving them three minutes to take a video or real-time photo. This addition can not only be a distraction to young people but could lead to them inadvertently sharing private content such as their location.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account with their child's and control their settings remotely. Parents can then, for example, turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content); set screen time limits; and manage their child's ability to send messages (and to whom). Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

MAKE ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Although under-16s will have their TikTok account set to private by default, bypassing this setting is relatively easy. However, parents have the ability to manually set their child's account to private – meaning that their videos won't be visible to strangers and they won't be able to exchange messages with people who aren't on their friends list.

LIMIT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter the settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend that you enable this feature, as it's quite easy for a young person – without realising what they're doing – to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins so they can unlock more features of the app.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If your child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's crucial to talk about the potential risks in this type of app. For example, ensure they understand not to share any identifying personal information – and that they realise they could be exposed to inappropriate content. Thinking critically about what they see on TikTok can help children become generally more social media savvy.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child might be spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something inappropriate or upsetting that they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the possible signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as are failing to complete homework or regularly not eating meals.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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SPORT NEWS

Year 9, 10 and 11 Netball vs Unity

The netball tournament was cancelled due to the weather so we decided to go to Unity to play indoors so the girls didn't miss out.

All teams won! Some great netball was on show from all of the girls! Well done! Each and everyone of them were exemplary.

**YEAR 9
WON 6-8
YEAR 10
WON 9-1
YEAR 11
WON 17-0**



Y7 Boys Football

The Year 7 footballers have made an exceptional start at Montgomery. They won the Blackpool Schools Tournament after winning all their games. They went 10 games unbeaten before exiting the English Schools Cup in Round 4 after a disappointing defeat in the closing stages. We did however beat LSA, Maghull High School & Deyes High School. They have also progressed into the next round of the Lancashire Cup after comfortably seeing off Carr Hill and St Mary's, they have set up an intriguing encounter with Holy Cross from Chorley before the Christmas break as they aim to reach finals day. A very strong squad of players, exciting times ahead for these boys.

Mr McNiven & Mr Sinnett





Year 8 Boys Football

The Year 8 Boys team had a great start to the season with comfortable wins against St Michaels, OLQP and success in the Blackpool Schools Tournament. However, they came unstuck in both the Lancashire Cup and the English Schools Cup with tough defeat.

Mr McNiven & Mr Sinnett



Year 10 Army Day

Our year 10s were treated to a day of team building, resilience training and problem solving. The British Army were in school for the day and the students were exemplary. All students learnt lots and had fun taking part in all of the different activities that were on offer. A great day had by all.

Mrs Gilderdale



Year 9 Boys Football

The Year 9 footballers have made an exceptional start to the season and remain unbeaten as we head into the christmas break. After a BYE in R1 of the English Schools Competition, they comfortably saw off Archbishop Temple in R2 with a 7-1 victory. A superb exhibition of football gave them a 3-1 victory over a strong Broughton High School in R3. They then made the long trip to West Lakes Academy, where they stepped it up a gear to see off another strong opponent 4-1. They await a home tie in R5.

They have also progressed in the Lancashire Cup after a convincing 7-2 victory over Longridge High School, setting up an away trip to Accrington Academy just before christmas. A very strong squad of players who have certainly come together this year to become a real force in all competitions.

Mr Sinnett



Y10 Boys Football

The Year 10 footballers had a great run in the English Schools Competition yet again. They saw off close rivals Baines with a convincing 7-3 victory in R1. It was then two long away days which followed. First, they took on St Bernard's RC High School and dramatically won 3-2 with the winner coming in the final minute of the game. Before, unfortunately losing out on penalties in R4 to Queen Elizabeth School. A great effort from each and every player.

Mr McNiven & Mr Sinnett



Y11 Boys Football

The Year 11 footballers have had a mixed start to their season. They lost out to the current Lancashire Cup Holders LSA in the English Schools Competition. However, they have progressed in the Lancashire Cup after a convincing 6-1 victory over Park High School from Pendle. They have set up an encounter with Broughton High School in the next round.

Mr McNiven



U13 Girls football

The girls took part in the EFL Girls cup featuring 14 schools from Blackpool and Fylde.

We finished as Runners Up

An outstanding effort from all the girls. We fell short in the final to LSA High School. We beat: South Shore, Millfield, St Bede's, Carr Hill and Baines to win the group. Before, beating St Mary's in the Semi Final.

Mr Sinnett



U14 Girls Football

The girls have had a mixed start to the season. After narrowly losing out in the English Schools to a strong school from Preston, the girls focus has turned to the Lancashire Cup. They took on a strong Archbishop Temple away from home. A fantastic display of individual talent and team spirit helped the girls to a 5-3 victory. An away trip to Ripley awaits after christmas. **Mr Sinnett**



Y11 Boys Badminton

The boys won the Blackpool North Badminton Tournament after winning both the singles and doubles competition.



Y10 Boys Badminton

The Y10 boys have won the Blackpool North Group Tournament tonight after narrowly topping the table thanks to winning a playoff point in the doubles.

