

Spring 2018

MONTGOMERY High School

News

Schools Alive

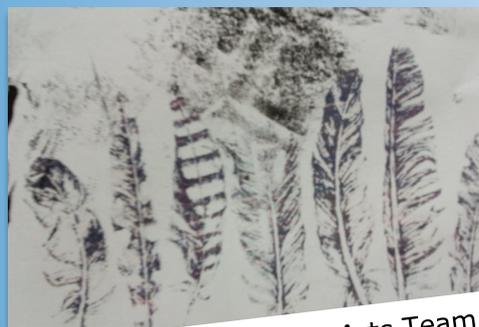


Meet our talented Students

Inside Stories



Spooky Goings on in Science



Meet the Expressive Arts Team



Interview with Molly



Principal: Mr S. Careless

Dear Parents/Carers,

As the Spring term of just 10 weeks draws to a close, it is with continued pride that I reflect on the progress our school continues to make through the Montgomery Family working together.

You will see in this newsletter, the fantastic achievements made by our students, your children. The successes are down to hard work and commitment; from the students to improve themselves and from our staff who offer them the opportunities.

MONTGOMERY STANDARDS

Our Montgomery standards are helping to build the positive reputation of the school and have led to a significant increase in the number of students opting to join us on our improvement journey next year in year 7. Regarding our standards, we thank you whole-heartedly for continuing to support the school in its strict line on uniform including: - shoes, ties, jewelry, piercings and the use of mobile phones. Next, we are looking for students to take more responsibility for the environment we all share and ensure that all dining halls, corridors and outside spaces are litter-free. This forms part of our value-driven agenda

of Respect, Resilience and Pride.

Learning Respect, Resilience and Pride

Year 11 students are approaching their final exams and hopefully you are seeing them working hard and revising at home. There are many intervention opportunities for them to take advantage of before, during and after school to help them reach their potential this summer. Thank you to all the parents who attended Parents' Evening on March 8th, but if for any reason you couldn't, please feel free to contact us for advice on how to support your son/daughter over the exam period.

It has been another term of amazing sporting successes led by our Curriculum Area Leader of PE, Mrs Campbell. Her enthusiasm, skills of organisation and most of all belief in our students, is a strength of the school. She set herself a target of raising £1500 for new school kits for the teams going on the Football and Netball Holland Tour at Easter. This was a tough challenge, so Mrs Campbell gave herself a full two weeks to do it in! The students themselves worked tirelessly to sell raffle tickets, run the donut stalls and compete in a staff vs student's 5-a-side competition. The target was obliterated in the two weeks, amassing a total of £2600. I would like to thank all of our PE staff for their dedication to our students, who often tell me how much they appreciate it.

There is also a Science/MFL trip going to Paris over Easter and a Humanities visit going to London and I know you will echo my thanks in advance for staff giving up their holiday time to enable students to expand their horizons.

I have attended two superb school

events over the recent weeks in which students demonstrated their outstanding talents in the Arts. Firstly, Year 10 Drama groups performed scenes from The Crucible over three nights in February. This was part of their GCSE and the level of skill on show was inspiring to see. Secondly, I was treated to some exceptional singing and musicianship in Annie Unplugged. All the performers did themselves proud and the audience left knowing they had seen something special. Annie Unplugged was a fund-raiser for our main school production of "Annie" which starts its 3-night run on Monday 19th March.



You are probably not aware that Blackpool School Improvement Board have placed all Blackpool schools, both

secondary and primary, into groups to work together on even smoother transition from Year 5 up to Year 8. Montgomery has been placed in a Family of schools with the primaries:- Anchorholme, KinCraig, Bispham Endowed, Westcliff and Norbreck. It has been a pleasure to work with the Headteachers of our excellent feeder schools and see the great work that happens before students arrive in Year 7. Our job is make sure that there is no dip in progress in moving from primary to secondary.

Lastly, I would like to thank again all parents/carers for working closely with us. We have seen a significant increase in attendance at Parents' Evenings this year, with the last three being over 70%. Increased communication between the Montgomery Family will only result in students making even better progress.

Enjoy the Easter break,
Mr. Careless



On the very last day of the autumn term the students were treated to a visit to Panto Land. Jolly good fun was had by all as the staff put together their annual Panto presentation. A big thank you to Mr Dickson for coming up with the script which is always on point and very topical as well as weaving in the magic of a traditional panto.



He's Behind You!

We know the students enjoyed this end of term treat.



Intermediate Mathematics Challenge

On Thursday 1st February a group of 44 students in Year 10 took part in the Intermediate Mathematics Challenge organised by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust. This is a very highly regarded national examination that tests the ability of students to independently solve problems using a wide range of mathematical skills.

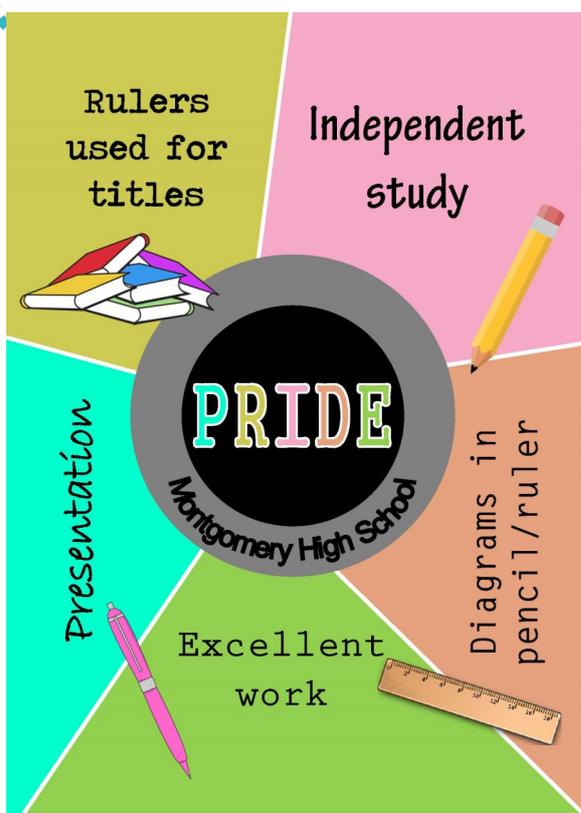
The results arrived recently in school and we are delighted to announce that one student was awarded a Silver Certificate and nine students were awarded a Bronze Certificate.

We look forward to seeing what our Year 8 students can achieve in the Junior Challenge which will take place in April. Silver Certificates awarded to: Niamh and Bronze Certificates awarded to: Harvey, Connor, Ryan, Kira, Chloe, Kai, Katy, Liam & Niamh. Congratulations to them!



carerstrust Spring Ball 2018

On the evening of Saturday 3rd March Group Tutor, Mr Diver, attended the Blackpool Carers Charity Ball at the De Vere Hotel. He was delighted to see one of our students not only feature in a video clip shown at the event, but winning Blackpool's Young Carer of the Year. Joseph was delightful and very, very modest as he received his award off the Mayor of Blackpool and then also spoke on stage in front of the 330 attendees! A fantastic achievement. It is brilliant to see one of our own recognised for their hard work and selflessness. There are a number of Montgomery students who care for other members of their family and who still manage to get themselves organised and ready for learning. That's resilience for you!



We now have over a 1000 followers on twitter. Keep up with us @MontyHighSchool





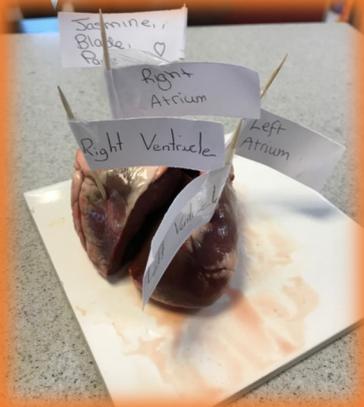
The Science department at Montgomery has enjoyed a fantastic term. We continue to enrich the learning experience of our students by offering as many extra-curricular activities, visits and practical learning activities as possible, within our challenging curriculum. The aim is to motivate and inspire our students to share our passion for Science and build an inclusive team ethos in the Curriculum Area; a culture that we believe will allow our students to reach their full potential. As well as our popular and established STEM and Science Clubs, we have continued our long standing collaborations with the Institute of Physics, the Ogden Trust and the Royal Society of Chemistry and have also took part in the 'Challenge the Impossible' national campaign aimed at raising aspirations and the STEM Challenge at Blackpool and the Fylde College. We have also promoted with enthusiasm British Science week and are due to take out a trip to Disneyland Paris over the Easter break. It has been busy, busy, busy, but we absolutely love it!



Science is at the heart of everything we do



Students in year 7 have been getting to grips with the structure of the heart, quite literally! Each group had their own lamb or pig heart to dissect. The first task was to label the 4 different chambers (left and right ventricle and left and right atrium), as well as identifying the different veins and arteries associated with the heart itself. Then it was time for the gruesome bit... cutting it open! Our students really enjoyed this series of lessons, and now have an excellent knowledge and understanding of what a mammalian heart looks like and how it functions.



Led by Miss Healey and Mrs Bach, our excited Year 7 and 8 students have been developing their science, technology, engineering and maths skills with a series of weekly engaging and though provoking challenges.

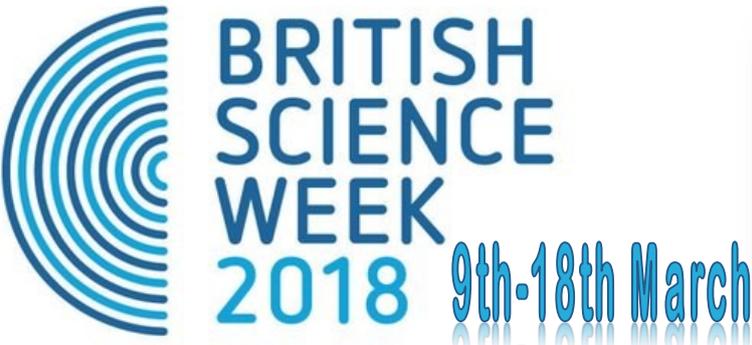


In line with the Harry Potter theme at school during World Book Day on Thursday 1st March, we put our students through a rigorous potion making class. This included students working from a potions booklet, making homemade lip balm and soaps and observing the magical wonders of dry ice explosions. Well done to all students who have been involved, they have worked tirelessly with a smile and deserve a huge amount of credit for the endless enthusiasm and passion for Science, long may this continue!

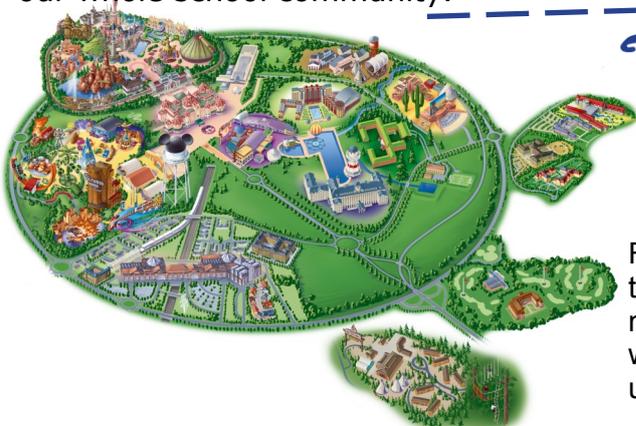


Young Engineers STEM Skills Challenge 2018

In February and then again in early March, Mrs Bach accompanied a talented team of Year 10 Science students to Blackpool and Fylde College to compete in the Young Engineers STEM Skills Challenge 2018. Having successfully qualified through to the final from the heats, and with the chance to win £10,000 for the school, the team engaged in a challenging project to assemble a fully operational and functioning crane from basic materials. The team worked brilliantly together under high pressure and showcased their electromagnetic based prototypes to a large audience on both days. Although we did not win overall, we qualified from a difficult heat and finished a very respectable 6th place in the final. Our students deserve huge credit for their efforts and represented the Science team and Montgomery as a whole tremendously well. Most importantly, the students loved every second of the competition! **Well done indeed!**



The theme for this year's British Science Week has been "exploration and discovery", encouraging young people to think about everyday discoveries and how they affect their lives by exploring science in the world all around us; from their home and schools, to their local area and wider environment. It also enabled young people to consider what might we explore further in the near future, for example, is it possible for us to colonise another planet, such as Mars? In embracing these themes, we have conducted a number of discovery and exploration based challenges. The Year 10s soared through the rocket challenge, whilst our Year 8s were busy making erupting volcanoes from around the world. Our Year 7s become part of the pharmaceutical industry and successfully completed the titration challenge and our Year 9s focused on different ways to extract metals, including electrolysis, reduction with carbon and even the mighty thermite displacement reaction. We also had a prominent display up in the main school reception promoting British Science Week where students, parents and visitors had the opportunity to guess at what our resident skeleton, Bony Tony was up to. A tutor time activity looking at scientific discoveries proved very popular with students, as did our lunch time demonstrations throughout the week. There was a real buzz around school about Science all week, and this embodies the passion for Science we want to inspire within our whole school community.



Disneyland PARIS

From 23rd March- 28th March 58 students and 7 staff will be travelling to Paris, France on a Science department trip... look out in the next newsletter to find out what we got up to, or even better, spread the word and follow us on twitter @montyparis2018 to keep fully updated!

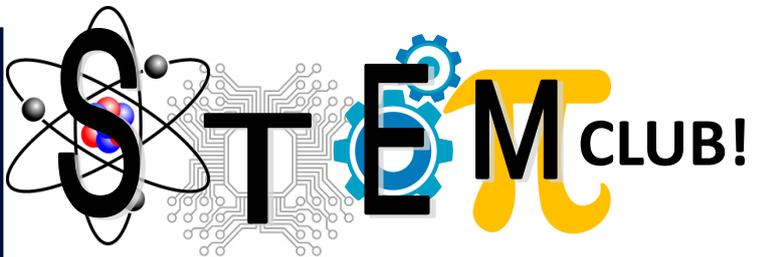
CHALLENGE THE IMPOSSIBLE @ Montgomery

60 Students in Year 11 this term took part in the 'Challenge the impossible' campaign. This is a campaign ran by educational charity Teach First, to increase the amount of careers education available to young people in schools. Colin Ferguson, Director of Teach First for the North West of England spent the morning in the Science department to discuss his career to date. Colin is a Cambridge graduate, who later trained to be an English teacher before working in his current role. Students heard first-hand what it was like to apply to Oxbridge and were given advice on what to include on an application, as well as what to expect from subsequent interviews. He also spoke to



students about university life in general, something that is crucially important in raising aspirations and motivation to succeed as we approach the summer exam season. These sessions were well-received by students and Colin commented on how much he "enjoyed coming into Montgomery to speak to students about having high aspirations and believing in themselves".

well-received by students and Colin commented on how much he "enjoyed coming into Montgomery to speak to students about having high aspirations and believing in themselves".



(Science Technology Engineering and Maths)

Stem club is a curriculum-based activity club led by Mrs Bach and Mr Byrne. The spring term has seen us continuing with our topic of Space. We have devised and constructed 'Egglanders' to safely land a regular egg, via a parachute, out of a Science Lab window! We have worked in teams to discuss and put in order of importance a list of fifteen potential resources we would need to survive a successful landing on the Moon (two 100lb tanks of oxygen were deemed of most importance, whilst a box of matches was quickly dismissed as relatively useless, there being no oxygen in the atmosphere!) We've experimented on the acidity of Astronauts' urine, and investigated how to pass important instructions to each other with the minimum of words, and having successfully landed on the surface, we've built balloon-powered moon rovers to gad about between the Seas of Serenity and Tranquillity.



We did say in the autumn newsletter that we would let you know how we got on at the North-West STEM School of the Year awards, and we are delighted to report that we came 'Runner's up' for the second year running.

Mrs Bach and Mr Byrne asked Alex (Yr11) and Katie (Yr8) to represent us at the Blackpool Sixth Form venue. This was no small feat, as both were expected to not only regale two pairs of judges with demonstrations and information (and answer spontaneous questions that they could not have possibly prepared for) but also speak in depth to numerous adults and students from other schools for over two hours. We could not have asked for two more engaging, self-appreciating, well-mannered and articulate students to represent Montgomery High, than Alex and Katie, who won £500 for our Science department.

Congratulations!



Every February marks LGBT history month. This event

LGBT history month



commemorates and educates people about lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender history, including both gay and related civil rights movements. It also coincides with the anniversary of the abolition of section 28 in 2003.

Students from Stonewall Ambassadors group at Montgomery have been marking this occasion through a variety of different events. In the first week of February, every morning the ambassadors presented assemblies which they had organised, educating students about the importance of not using homophobic language. The ambassadors also made a noticeboard in L-block full of posters and pictures encouraging students to treat everyone equally. Finally at the end of the month, students made cakes (rainbow cake, sponge and chocolate), and sold them outside the Dining Room at break times to raise money for Stonewall. As a brand new group we are really proud of what we have achieved over the past few months. Watch this space for more events from us later in the year!

FAST & FURIOUS

English

Department



Following successful entries to the English department's 'design a Christmas advert competition', three lucky students in Year 9 were selected to compete against other schools in the annual 'British School Karting Competition' held at Manchester Arena.

This competition, open to drivers aged 13-18, featured the new range of Biz Eco electric Karts with a top speed of 40mph. The 550 meter track really tested the students, especially when faced with some tough competition.

The three students involved all performed brilliantly over both sessions and, despite missing out on a medal, showed they really have what it takes to pursue this hobby further. Who knows, Montgomery could have the next Formula One superstar.



Students in years 7 and 8 have been getting creative in order to enter the BBC's 500 Words story writing competition.

Ideas were varied, from a boy who turns into a mouse to a dad stuck in a computer game to a super spooky forest full of demons. Students really did let their imaginations run wild!

The deadline for entries is February 22nd and the response so far has been fantastic! 500 Words 2018's winners will win Chris Evans' height in books and will also get to ride in THE Chitty Chitty Bang Bang before taking tea on the Thames aboard HM The Queen's rowbarge – Gloriana.

Good luck to all our entrants!

THE ODYSSEY

10 years to get home but we enjoyed every minute of it!

Last December, an expedition of nearly 140 brave Year 8 warriors ventured from the safety of Montgomery, battled elements and traffic

unknown, to finally land upon the shores of Blackpool Sixth Form and witness the Greek epic performed exquisitely by the drama students. Their version of the dramatic story, which included eye to eye encounters with mythical monsters such as the dreaded Cyclops and the mysterious Sirens, was being created by Blackpool Sixth students and staff and delivered with such skill and vivacity that the students who attended were completely enraptured in the world of Grecian monsters.

This is just the latest development in a 'Classics for All project' spearheaded by Blackpool Sixth which has seen local primary and secondary pupils learning Latin, taking part in Roman Army-style military training and interviewing Cleopatra. It also links directly into our students' current studies into classical literature and assisted them in discovering an unknown world of turmoil and triumph. Year 8 stared straight into The Odyssey's abyss and came out the other side laughing!



We would like to tell you all the things we did for World Book Day this year! It was BRILLIANT! The theme was all things book related with a 'Harry Potter' over-arching.

Here are the things we got up to: There was a travelling story for each Year Group that was read in sections in different lessons, carrying the narrative on from lesson to lesson and leaving students dangling and wanting to know the next part!

The Library was 'Harry Potter' themed with students and staff in there enjoying all things book related. The English team and others dressed up as characters from books!

The menu in the dining halls was Potter themed for the day. In Science, students made Potter potions. In Computing students quizzed to find out which Potter character they were representing. In History students had a competition to enter and Mr Wade taught Potter history. Ms Farnworth ran a 'Potato Character' competition and there was a book swap for students and staff. English we decorated our doors as book covers; ran a book mark competition for Year 8; launched a narrative writing competition; discussed our favourite books; and generally loved all things reading related. Students in Year 7 all received the £1 World Book Day Voucher and any students in other years who requested a voucher received them from their English teacher or the Library. So much going on!



It may be winter outside...

Period two started with Mrs Bradford following on from the mighty Ms Farnworth's powerful introductory reading to the 'Tell-Tale Heart' that kicked-off **period 1**...

Drop Everything and Read

DEAR Time is Coming Soon...

- ▶ DEAR stands for Drop Everything and Read
- ▶ Once a week for 15 to 20 minutes you will be reading in lessons along with the whole school during Silent Time
- ▶ Year 11 will be doing this too, but as part of their English lessons
- ▶ DEAR time will begin Period 1 on Tuesday 13th March 2018
- ▶ You will have the opportunity to read for pleasure in school so make sure you have a book with you
- ▶ The following week it will be Period 2 on Tuesday, then Period 3 and so on...
- ▶ You know the importance of reading so we are not going to go over that again @
- ▶ Remember that the Library is in M1

Christmas in January?

On Wednesday 10th January, a selection of Year 11 students were lucky enough to attend a stage adaptation of A Christmas Carol at the Octagon Theatre in Bolton.

While the adaptation wasn't quite true to the original story, it provided many talking points, and was a good source of revision for students' upcoming GCSE exams.

The behaviour of all involved was impeccable, particularly when asked to sing along with the performance, as our students showed they were still in the Christmas spirit. One student's haircut even got an honourable mention by the Ghost of Christmas Present!

The English Curriculum Area have another Year 11 visit planned in May to attend a performance of Blood Brothers in Manchester.

The Anime & Manga Club

Miss Wood and Mr Byrne have run this reboot of the Montgomery Anime & Manga Club weekly, since September 2017.

Club President, Lee-Mei told us that the inspiration for the original club came from a need for a place where students from all year groups interested in this topic could meet and feel comfortable.

Mr Byrne writes that; although this club is not specifically curriculum-based, all their work exploring this genre, including; writing original stories and drawing Anime inspired characters can feed into corresponding mainstream subjects. Please see

the illustrative examples from the joint winners of our original Christmas story competition – Alex (Yr11) with 'The Wanderer of Christmas' and Hannah and Yulan with 'Kaneki is away.'



MONTGOMERY FOOD BANK



This Term year 10 students have been encouraged to think about others, specifically themselves, their school environment and those in our wider school community.

After an assembly from "Kindness Matters" Ambassador, John Magee, the Year 10's have a "kindness matters" focus. They have also been challenged to take part in the 'pay it forward' initiative by helping out year 11 prefects around the school, if a Year 10 student helped out a prefect at break or lunch then they were given a raffle ticket which went towards a prize draw for themselves and their tutor group.

This also allowed Year 10 students to experience the role and responsibility of our Year 11 prefects. Well done to Miss Kinsey's group who achieved over 300 raffle tickets for their random acts of kindness to help the Year 11 prefect team!

Further to this, Year 10 have been challenged to donate items for the Montgomery food bank. The year group have been given the challenge of donating one item each in order to reach our target of 250 items. So far, this is going fantastically well, Year 10 students and families have shown so much generosity, with many students donating bags full of food and personal care items. These will now be donated to families within the Montgomery community who are in need of a little extra help.

Year 10 are also in the midst of a tutor group tug of war competition, the purpose of which is to help build relationships within each tutor group; help build team spirit whilst and, of course, promoting some healthy competition! We look forward to finding out who the winners are! Well done everyone that has come to the sports hall at break to participate and cheer the participants on! The group winners so far have in been Miss Greenwood, Mr Houlihan, Ms Lee, Mr Meakin and Miss Morgan's tutor groups. The next matches will take place the next few weeks!



Options Evening

March 2018

When March rolls around each year school gears up for an extremely important event in the lives of all Year 8 students. It's Option Time. This means that our 12 and 13 year old students have to make up their mind about which subjects to study at GCSE. This is not an easy decision, so to help them we run our option evening where students and parents can find out from the experts just what it's like to study different subjects at GCSE and what these subjects can help you do, career wise, in the future.

We also arrange for every student to have an Option discussion with a designated member of staff. This helps to really finalise their choices.

Decisions made? We hope so and wish all our Year 8 students good luck with their future studies.



Levels of

Have you given 100% every lesson, every day?

A M B I T I O N

A - Attendance

M - Montgomery Way

B - Bonus Points

I - Involvement In Extra Curricular

T - Tutor Checks

I - Involvement: Charity Events

O - Outstanding

N - Next Steps

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

11

10

9



An Interview with

In this issue we are featuring the success and inspiring stories of some of our past students.

Let's meet Sophie Richardson who recently revisited Montgomery to take part in a Year 8 Options event about careers and the world of work. Sophie works as a fundraiser, in London, for the WE organisation. You can read more about her fascinating work in the article that follows. Read on!



Sophie Richardson

When did you start and leave Montgomery High School

I was at Montgomery from 1999 to 2004.

After your recent visit would you say that school had changed very much?

I was surprised by how little had changed. I thought after all this time it would feel very different but there are lots of wonderful teachers still working there and it still feels like my old school!

After 6th form where and what did you study?

I went to Queen Mary, University of London and studied French and Linguistics. I did a four year course which meant that I was able to gain a year of work experience, teaching in a secondary school and a sixth form in France for my third year of the four. Living and studying in London was a bit of a shock at first after spending my whole life in Blackpool but once I settled in, it turned out to be an amazing city with lots of opportunities!

How did this lead you in to your current field of work and what is it you actually do?

I currently work for WE, an organisation dedicated to empowering people to change the world. I'm the Director WE Schools, leading our schools engagement teams, educational partnerships and fundraising. My degree doesn't directly relate to the work I do now, however the skills I developed at Uni, the life skills and self-dependency I learned from moving away from home and the communication skills from a languages based degree have all proved invaluable in my career so far.

What is your fondest memory of your school days at Montgomery and do you still have your leaver's book, etc?

Yes, I still have my Leavers' Book, as well as my tie (with the swords!) and my blazer. I had some really fantastic times at Montgomery and have really fond memories of my amazing teachers and friends, as well as the school trips such as skiing in Italy, the Geography trip to Edinburgh and the History trip to Germany. I also loved taking part in the school shows which gave me the confidence to speak and perform in front of people, something which serves me well in my career.

Was there any incident or event at school that you are now embarrassed to have been involved in?

I wouldn't say there was an incident or event I was embarrassed to be involved in, however, there's definitely things I remember worrying about that I look back on now and think 'that was not worth getting stressed over'!

Where do you see your self in another ten years?

I hope I am still learning and still happy, open-minded and taking every opportunity that comes my way. I'm not sure what career I'll be in in 10 years' time but I hope I'm still spending my time doing something worthwhile and supporting others.

What did you do when you left Montgomery?

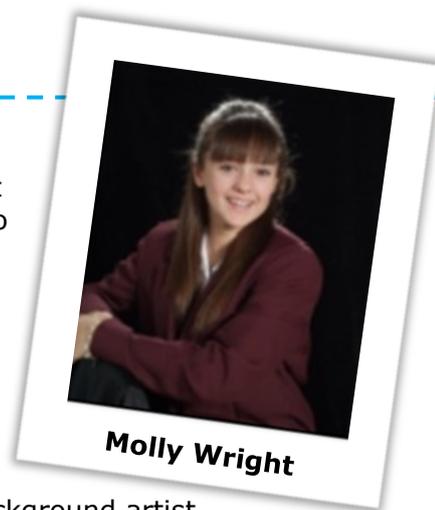
When I left Montgomery I went to Blackpool Sixth to study BTEC Performing Arts, Photography and Graphics. I then went on to do a foundation course at ALRA North while working part time at a bakery. When I left ALRA I began to work as a singing teacher, but 3 weeks later I was offered a role in The A Word. Since then I've appeared in BBC1 drama Our Girl and more recently, Apostasy, an independent film which will be released this year.

What was your first big break?

The A Word was my first professional acting job.

What was your route into acting?

While I was at college, I did some research and found a small agency in Manchester who eventually took me on, from there I began working as a background artist and body double. A couple of years later my agent put me forward for a role in a soap, I missed out on that one but from there he began putting me forward for other roles.



What are your memories of Montgomery?

How long have you got? I remember seeing my form group for the first time, Scrooge my first school show, very much regretting dancing and rapping in front of my entire year group in a neon skirt and legwarmers... I don't recommend it. I remember going for frequent chats with Mrs Coultas in the library after school, having to take a step outside while my classmates dissected hearts in science, daily hash browns, "Chair or fresh air!", being a dancing tree in The Wizard of Oz and being completely made up at getting to play Belle in Beauty and The Beast, and I remember finding some of my best mates! I could go on... but I won't.

Who were the teachers that inspired you?

To name a few; Miss Perrin, our group tutor who was always there to listen when needed. Mr Duckworth who taught using stories, I loved that, his lessons were hard to forget. Mr Morton who gave me much needed extra help during my GCSEs. Mr McArdle, who despite having an entire year group to look out for... did just that.

What did you get in your GCSE's?

I got C's in Maths and English, a B in science and music, and A/D*s in Performing Arts, Art and Design, P.E and ICT... I was most proud of my C in Maths, thanks Mr Fernandez!

How are you enjoying working on The A Word?

The A Word is the best experience I've ever had, I loved every second of it.

What are your plans for the future?

Acting isn't the sort of job you can make any plans for, I just plan to appreciate whatever comes my way and hope it doesn't stop!

Who is the most famous person you've worked with?

Christopher Eccleston or Michelle Keegan are probably the most recognisable names, both are lovely.

Who inspires you?

I was lucky enough to come away from The A Word with 5 wonderful mentors. Morven Christie is probably my biggest inspiration, as well as being one of my favourite actors, she helps, guides and advises me whenever I need it. She also introduced me to my current agents! I don't know what I'd do without her. My family, however, are always who inspire me to keep going, to work hard, and keep my feet firmly on the ground.

What advice would you give to students who want to pursue acting?

Don't do it unless you have a real need to do it. Acting is unreliable, everything is last minute, rejection is a weekly occurrence and financially, you never know when the next job might come... other than that, it's the best job in the world!

When you are rich, will you remember your old Progress Manager and give him a bob or two?

(Giggling) See the above response....so that's a no then Mr McArdle!!!



Molly (bottom left) with her co-stars on the A word

Football The Y7 football team won the district ESFA (English Schools') 5 aside football competition this term beating teams from Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre. They came up against Baines in the final, beating them 3-1. Montgomery were 1-0 down within the first 5 minutes but with true grit and determination they saw off Baines convincingly. The team will now go on to represent Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre in the regional stages of the cup competition.

All the boys represented Montgomery impeccably and were a pleasure to watch!



Basketball

We held the Y11 Blackpool Schools' Basketball Tournament at Montgomery this term. The Montgomery students played fantastically well, with several not being part of the basketball team in previous years and they very much enjoyed the event. They all showed great sportsmanship, teamwork and a competitive spirit in their matches and both our teams won a couple of games (including beating St Mary's A) with St Mary's B being crowned overall champions. The students names are below but I would just like to give a special mention to Jenson who played in every match, performing to a good standard.

Participating students were: Matty, Sam, Callum, Lewis, Ollie, Liam, Mason, Ryan, Rhys, Paul, Jake and Jenson

The Y11 girls' basketball team also played in their tournament at SMCA. Unfortunately, they lost against St Mary's, which meant St Mary's won the double in this sport!!! Congratulations to them.

The team were: Caitlin, Holly, Rebecca, Isobel & Kacey

The Y10 futsal team were also in action at FUSE in the Nationwide Kinder+ Futsal Tournament hosted by Fleetwood Town FC. We took two teams and both performed exceptionally well but unfortunately we lost by 1 point to Baines in the overall final standings.

The Y10 basketball team won the Blackpool Schools' Basketball Tournament, beating both St Mary's and St George's. A great performance by some very talented Y10 boys, the team line-up included: **Jamie, Ellis, James, Jake, Liam, Freddie, Gabriel, Jamie, Cam and Will.**



Y7 Blackpool Schools' Badminton Tournament

The Y7 girls played exceptionally well at the Y7 badminton tournament, with several team members never having experienced badminton before, as it hasn't yet been studied in Y7. The girls played with smiles on their faces and enjoyed the tournament, finishing in a well-respected 3rd position.



The Y7 boys' badminton team were crowned Blackpool Schools' Badminton Champions! Brilliant lads.

Badminton

Last week our U16 badminton team beat Cardinal Allan in the Red Rose Badminton Competition. The team consisted of: Matty, Lewis, Joel and Liam. They all played exceptionally well and in the end convincingly beat the opposition.

Both the Y9 boys' and girls' basketball teams finished in 2nd place in the Blackpool Schools Basketball tournament one cold Tuesday evening.

Y9 Girls: Mira, Tegan, Daisy, Aimee & Harriet

Y9 Boys: Spencer, Jack, Jenson, Al, George & Josh





The Y10 girls' football team played in the Blackpool Schools Football Tournament on a Tuesday in February, competing against teams consisting of Y11 students, therefore playing up a year. They became runners up in the tournament, playing exceptionally well. The team were: Sophia, Ella, Maddie, Holly, Lauren & Kaya.

Athletics

A big congratulations to the year 7/8 girls and boys who took part in the Blackpool Indoor Athletics Competition on Tuesday 6th February. The results were:



- Year 7 boys - 1st place
- Year 8 boys - 1st place
- Year 7 girls - 3rd place
- Year 8 girls - 1st place



Year 7, 8 boys and year 8 girls have all reached the Level 3 Lancashire School Games Athletics County Finals!

All the students involved were a credit to the school and were absolutely fantastic.

Blackpool Community

Sports Awards

We attended the Blackpool Sports Awards On Thursday, unfortunately we didn't get the results we hoped for but were recognised for our continuous "outstanding commitment" to sport in Blackpool. Matty, a Montgomery student nominated for an individual award, was pipped at the post by a national BMX cyclist and we were runners up to Park Community Academy for both "Team of the Year" and "Secondary School of the Year." Ella of Year 10, only informed us on the day that she was also attending the awards ceremony and that she had been nominated for "Volunteer of the Year", an award which she only went on and won!! She volunteers every Saturday at Norbreck Tennis Club, coaching younger children. Fantastic!

Montgomery SMASH

by Jessica

FUNDRAISER TARGET!

Students and staff at Montgomery high school, have raised a smashing £2566 to get desperately needed sports kits. The cause was to provide the school sports tour, to Holland, with a brand new kit, taking place from the Christmas period until the 9th February.

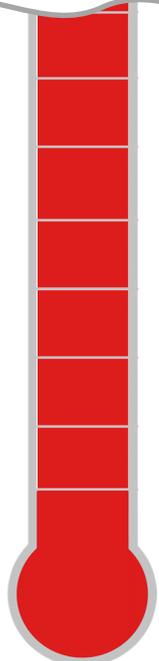
Montgomery P.E. Staff claim they only intended to raise £1500, but the school completed a variety of different activities to interest everyone. These included: selling Krispy Krème doughnuts, Millie's cookies, a huge raffle and they also did a Staff vs Students football match. However the activity that raised the most money was the raffle. Students were encouraged to sell the tickets to everyone around them. Mrs Campbell, who started the fundraiser, said they "smashed it".

It wasn't all as simple as it sounds. During the fundraiser, the school ran into some difficulties. They were selling so many tickets that they ran out of tickets and had to buy more to sell as many as possible. It was that popular! To raise the prizes for the raffle, Montgomery P.E. teachers Mrs Campbell and Mr McNiven, went around and asked local businesses to help them with donations.

The lucky students will now be able to go to the sports tour in Holland, and play netball and football against European teams, wearing a fantastic new kit. They are due to set off, to Holland, on the 26th of March. Mrs Campbell said "the new kits will give students more pride in what they are doing and in their school."

The school has done incredibly well to raise this much money. Staff have said that the spare money is going towards new hoodies for the students on the tour. Montgomery have passed their goal and are extremely happy with the outcome.

GOAL



SCHOOL GAMES

Sportsability Festival at Blackpool Sixth Form College

A BIG thanks to Mr Dave Rohman (Sports Development Officer / School Games Organiser) and Mrs Campbell (Curriculum Leader of PE) for inviting us to participate in this fantastic event. Mr Byrne writes: We have been fortunate to attend these School Games in Blackpool over a number of years now. Every year it is different, and every year it is a rich learning experience for our students; not just in acquiring new sports skills, but in the opportunity to socialise and play alongside peers from other schools like Park and High Furlong. The event is a unique, inclusive activity programme designed to engage young people in PE & Sport, including any children that find PE challenging.



Mr Byrne, Shannan, Macawley, Kyle, Tooba, Catherine-Ann and Mrs McMullan, all had a chance to play, including:- Seated Volleyball, New Age Kurling, Fencing and various Athletic activities.

Shannan gave the morning 10/10. She said her favourite activity was the seated volleyball, and her best memory was part of the athletics activities where she was timed jumping from side to side.

Macawley gave the morning 8/10. He said his favourite activity was part of the athletic tasks where they measured his standing jump. (1.69, 1.70 and 1.85 respectively) He also played seated volleyball and curling.



Sports Tour Kits



The kits have arrived and the Gazette came in one Thursday to take a picture and I'm sure you'll agree the students don't half look good in them – fingers crossed the performances in Holland are as impressive as the kits!! Here are some of the students modelling them!!



ADAM WINS MAJOR PE AWARD



Former student Adam Scott wins a major PE award as a newly graduated Junior Soldier from the Army Foundation College. What a fantastic achievement.

In the army PE is referred to as PT which stands for Physical Training. Adam was put through his paces at the Infantry Training Centre in Catterick, as well as in the MOD training areas within the Northumbria National Park. Tough! Adam hopes to join the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment following in the footsteps of his older brother Jack. We wish him the best of luck in his future career.



ARMY
BE THE BEST



istory



As usual, Montgomery students made a lasting impression at the Holocaust Memorial Day event which is held in Blackpool every year on a date as close to the 27th January as possible.

Holocaust Memorial Day takes place on 27 January each year. It's a time for everyone to pause to remember the millions of people who have been murdered or whose lives have been changed beyond recognition during the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. On HMD we honour the survivors of these regimes and challenge ourselves to use the lessons of their experience to inform our lives today. The 27 January marks the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp.

HMD is a time when we seek to learn the lessons of the past and to recognise that genocide does not just take place on its own, it's a steady process which can begin if discrimination, racism and hatred are not checked and prevented.

We're fortunate here in the UK; we are not at risk of genocide. However, discrimination has not ended, nor has the use of the language of hatred or exclusion. There is still much to do to create a safer future and HMD is an opportunity to start this process. Because of this we hold assemblies across all year groups to remind students about the relevance of history to the world we live in today.

The students involved in the event read out appropriate news extracts and stories from around the world and also focussed on the events surrounding the Manchester Arena bombing. The use of the Tony Walsh's poem "This is the Place" was extremely emotional and really made the audience think.



Are you 15-17 years-old? Do you live in Blackpool and the surrounding area? Don't miss your chance to do NCS North West!

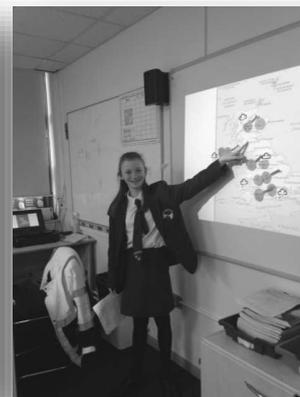
Meet amazing people, learn skills to boost your CV, live away from home, and create memories you'll never forget.

www.ncsnorthwest.co.uk

WEATHER FORECASTING



Some of our Year 7 students have been trying their hand at weather forecasting. It's never easy to predict the weather and even harder to stand up in front of your classmates to deliver an entertaining and engaging forecast. Maybe some of our students may take up meteorology as a career!



Meet the team for expressive

As Expressive Arts incorporates art, music, drama and media studies at Montgomery, we decided to share our favourites with you...

ARTS

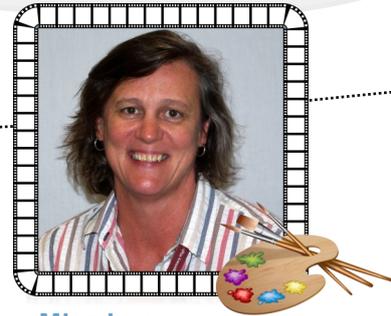


Art. David Hockney. I love his art work. He has such a distinctive face, I particularly like his self-portraits.

Music. I like many genres of music and I particularly like solo artists. Eddi Reader is the singer I have seen most times in concert.

Drama. The musical "Evita". It reminds me of my annual trip to London with my family – we always went to see a show!

Media. The film "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri". A fantastic film that touches every emotion.



Miss Lennox
Subject specialism art



Mrs Smith
Subject specialism music

Music. I like all styles, but particularly 80s Pop. I enjoy going to live concerts.

Art. L.S. Lowry. I like his stick figures and his naïve style. He is a local artist from where I used to live.

Drama. I like live theatre and musicals. My favourite musical is "Avenue Q" – great songs, use of puppets and its funny!

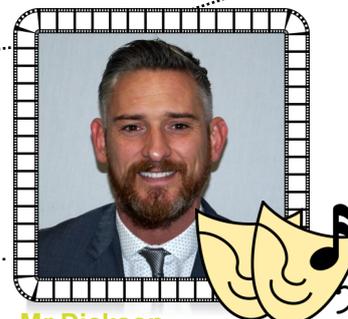
Media. I like animal and nature programmes, particularly "The Blue Planet".

Drama. My favourite playwright is Tennessee Williams.

Art. Miro. I always like the simplicity of the colours and shapes.

Music. Whatever mood I am in on the day!

Media. Radio 4 "Gardeners' Question Time" and "Rupaul's Drag Race".



Mr Dickson
Subject specialism drama

Art. Ernesto Neto. I love his use of space and fabric.

Music. P.J. Harvey. Ever since I was at university, I have loved listening to her songs and lyrics.

Drama. Marina Abramovic. A very passionate performance artist.

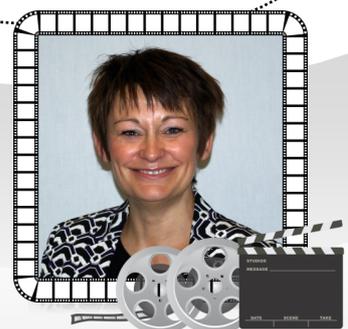
Media. The book "Catcher in the Rye". My dad gave me this book when I was a teenager and it was the first book that I truly engaged with – it sparked my imagination.

Media. "Pinterest". A great starting point for **any** project.

Art. The textile artist Louise Gardiner. I enjoy creating textile art myself and she is an inspiration.

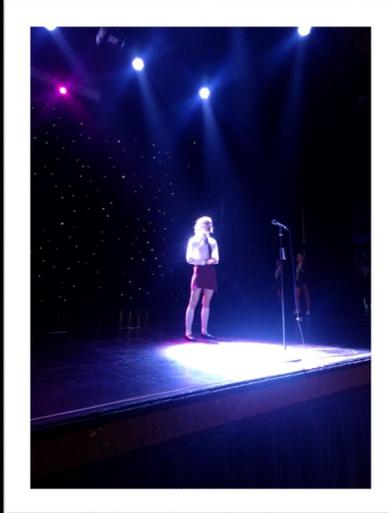
Drama. I like teaching Shakespeare but I also enjoy watching modern playwrights like Edward Albee.

Music. David Bowie. Inspirational and leads the way



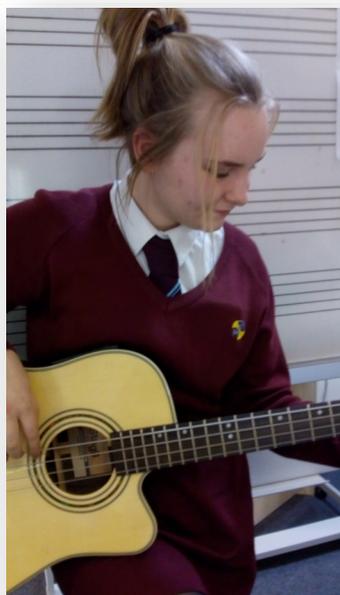
Miss Farnworth
Subject specialism Media Studies

Schools Alive 2018



Monday 5th February saw our students perform on stage at the Grand Theatre to a packed house.

Holly, Rhys, and Skylah sang their hearts out for three numbers, along with thirty of our fabulous students, ranging from year 7 to 11, giving the local community a sneak peek into our annual musical; 'Annie'. Our children brought the house to its knees, particularly when the musical cue was missed for the last song 'Tomorrow', when in true Montgomery spirit our students blasted the song acapella without even blinking an eye about the error, thus showcasing their amazing vocal talents to the whole of the Blackpool audience. Schools Alive is an annual showcase of talent across all primary and secondary schools in the local area, the standard is high and each year we show the local community what you can expect from Montgomery High School is...talent!



Music

As part of the GCSE Music course students are required to compose two pieces of their own music.

The current Year 10 students have been visiting Blackpool Sixth Form recently to use the extensive range of equipment and technology they have to assist them with this process.



As a result of these visits we intend to set up similar equipment here at school, some of which has been kindly donated by the Sixth Form, enabling us to update the way our students create their own music.



Drama



This half term we have the lovely Aishley and Samantha, who are both dancers and artists working with our year 8 and 9 students, an opportunity that has been organised by the Grand Theatre and funded by HeadStart. The workshops have seen our year 9 boys learning break dance in the hall, and although it is early days the boys have semi mastered backspins and managed freeze stands galore. Meanwhile, the year 8 girls were learning routines to afrobeats that will coincide with their attending the Jungle book showing at the Grand Theatre after Easter. The sessions have been fantastic with lots of new skills learned and more to come.

Student Profiles

Hayden of Year 11

Hayden decided to choose art because he thought it would be really enjoyable and he would be able to explore more into a subject that he already enjoyed and hopefully he would get a good GCSE out of it! Now in year 11 he still loves the subject and hopes to study Fine Art at Blackpool Sixth Form and eventually obtain a creative based job.

Hayden says that "If you are thinking of taking art as a GCSE you will be really challenged to try new and sometimes difficult things. You have to be really resilient as you might not always like your work at first, but that's all part of growing and learning."

What a fantastic attitude. We wish you luck in such a competitive field Hayden.



Danny is applying to the prestigious Italia Conti Academy because performing is his strength and career goal. He has danced and acted now for ten years. It feels like he sometimes struggled in mainstream education early on due to a lack of creative subjects in school, he felt like he wasn't interested in much else. Danny has now matured over the past two years into a dedicated performer who wants to do well in as many GCSE's as possible but his aim is to get a grade 8 or 9 in drama and 5 other GCSEs, including maths and English. He has excelled in drama in school and dance outside of school where he has focussed specifically on training in Jazz, Contemporary, Irish, tap and commercial.

Danny has experience in performing both inside of school and out. In school he has played; John Proctor in The Crucible, Napoleon in a devised political piece based on Animal Farm and Phil in DNA. His dance professional credits include; 'The Essence of Ireland', Canon and Ball variety show, Beauty and The Beast, and Snow White.

Danny's overall ambition, after training, is to complete a degree in Musical Theatre and perform as a professional actor and dancer. He would also love to work in community theatre projects raising awareness of the arts in the community. We wish him all the best in his endeavours.



Rhys, an extremely talented young musician

What instruments do you play? Guitar, Bass Guitar, Ukulele, Piano, Drums and Cornet.

How often do you practice? Every day, at the very least, one instrument a day.

What genre of music do you consider yourself to fit into? Pop/Folk/Blues/Dance Pop.

Who are your musical influences/inspirations? I have 3 main influences. They are Michael Jackson, Ben Howard and Nina Simone.

Do you have a favourite song? At the moment it is "Particles" by Nothing But Thieves.

Apart from school, where else have you performed? I have performed live at small venues in Blackpool, Manchester, Liverpool, and Glasgow and recently at Limelight in Belfast.

Do you get nervous before a performance? Yes, definitely. Although the more I perform, the quicker I overcome the nervousness.

What do you feel is your biggest challenge as a musician? Finding my sound.

Why is music important to you? I enjoy it and want to do it as my job.

Do you enjoy writing your own music? How do you go about this? Yes. Normally I write lyrics first then add melody in sections at a time so when I have enough ideas it all falls together.

What are your plans when you leave school? In the summer I plan to travel around the UK performing. I intend to go to a music school in September and pursue a career in the music industry, performing in larger venues.

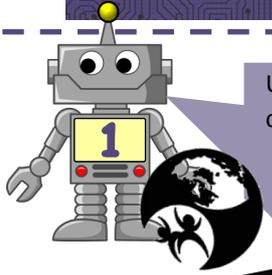
What is your current musical project? Outside of school I go to different studios to record various tracks. At one of these studios I'm finishing off an EP called "Specs and Guesses" which will be out later this year.

What do you feel your biggest achievements are so far? I obtained an A grade in GCSE Music a year early and I have been accepted into the music school I want which will help me to develop as an artist.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years' time? I want to be writing songs for other people.

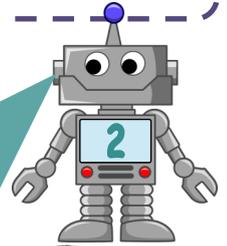


Mr Byrne writes; readers from our Autumn Newsletter may remember that we will be competing in this national competition, along with 369 other secondary schools, and 13 Girl Guiding units! He detailed what will be required of our team, and this is where we are at with two weeks until Showtime. A mixed year group of students has built, named and almost programmed two robots to complete various timed tasks. Look out for a detailed report- back in our summer edition.



UNCLE MONTY

Uncle Monty is being programed to complete 7 separate challenges including a 30 sec 'Showcase' to display co-ordinated movement, use of the LCD screen for our team logo, and the robot speakers for a 'Soundtrack' for Uncle to perform to!



montyzoomer!

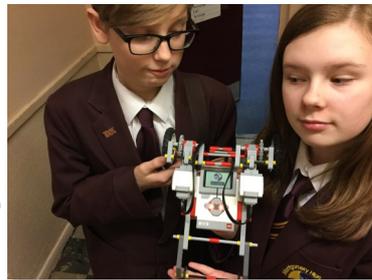
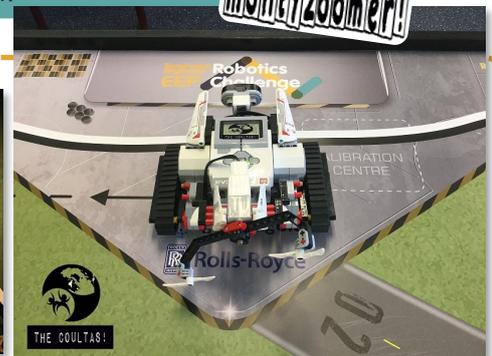
Montyzoomer has only one task to perform – win the speed challenge! Tyler (Yr 7) has worked extremely hard to ensure we have the best possible chance of moving as quickly as possible over 400cm!

The organisers have gone out of their way to give us the best advice possible – 'JUST GO FAST!' – 'Go Montyzoomer, you're coasting through the heat lap trial!'

We would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to the Coultas family for their incredibly generous contribution to resources for our club. They have not only shared a lot of LEGO resources, but also a Mindstorms robot. We have built it and named it, The Coultas. It has been invaluable during the run-up to the competition, as students have 'demo-ed' all the programming on it, before uploading to Uncle Monty. Thank you!



THE COULTAS!



Creative Sculpture Project

"I have thoroughly enjoyed working with Year 8 Montgomery pupils, During the workshops pupils have been very creative and the work completed has been amazing"

Year 8 pupils have been taking part in a creative sculpture project organised by Blackpool Sixth Form College and funded by Headstart, Linda Copeland a local artist has been commissioned to work with three Blackpool schools building a metal sculptures.

Collaborative practices will be introduced through the sharing of work stations and students role within the production team. The theme of birds, wings and flight will be used as the starting point because this highlights the overall focus - encouraging pupils to break through expectations and set themselves an ambitious flight trajectory for their futures.

Participation in the project aims to encourage creative resilience through participation in a collaborative sculpture project with the intention of increasing year 8 pupil's creative ambition.

Task schedule

Taster workshops at Montgomery

Half day workshops at Montgomery drawing design ideas and construction of wire models

Day Workshop at Montgomery creating of copper feathers

Day workshop at Blackpool sixth form assembling sculpture

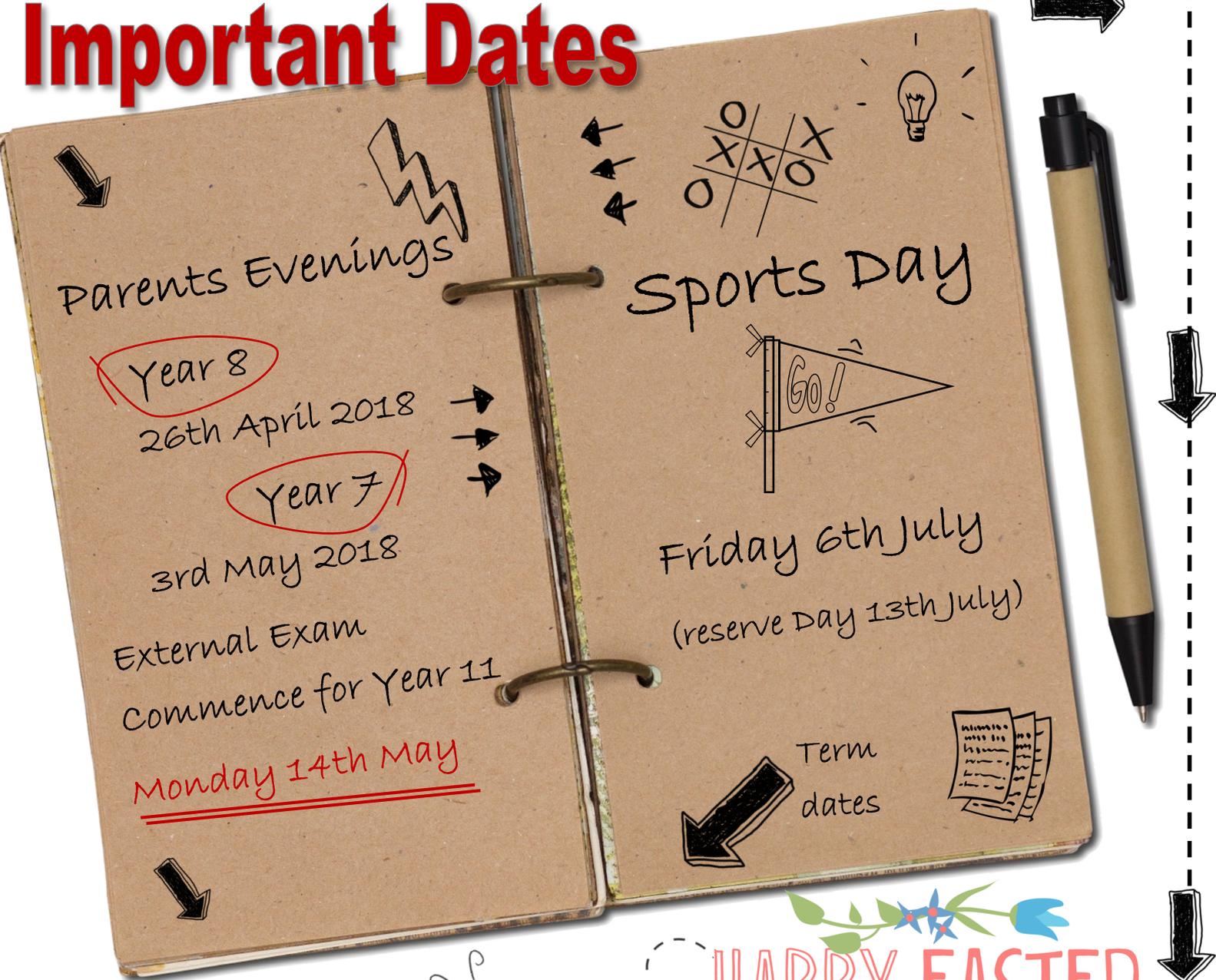
Unveiling and celebration event in July at Blackpool sixth form (date to be confirmed)

The taster sessions will introduce the possibilities of continued creative industries careers and opportunities for participation in local community arts activities. During the short sessions the idea of creating a semi-permanent installation will be presented. If students select to participate in the main workshops the focus will be the realisation of ambitious large scale ideas and collaborative working practices - creating three sculptural pieces which respond to the movement of flight.

The three structures will form a collaborative event exhibited outside the Sixth Form College and subsequently be separated and returned to each school.



Important Dates



HAPPY EASTER

Dates for your diary

Summer

School Opens	Monday 9 th April 2018
May Day Closure	Monday 7 th May 2018
Half Term Closure	Monday 28 th May - Friday 1 st June 2018 (inclusive)
School Closes	Friday 20 th July 2018
Inset	Monday 23 rd and Tuesday 24 th July 2018

2018

Autumn 2018

School Opens	Wednesday 29 th August 2018
Inset	Tuesday 28 th August 2018
Half Term Closure	Monday 22 nd October - Friday 2 nd November 2018 (inclusive)
Inset	Friday 30 th November 2018
School Closes	Friday 21 st December 2018