

Spring 2016

MONTGOMERY High School

News

'Dream' Come true

for Montgomery Students
as part of RSC Shakespeare
festival.

Proud of our young musicians

Musician of the year awarded to
Montgomery's best

Inside Stories



Fishy Goings on



Fast & Furious



Football Champions

Principal: Mr A. Nicholson



It is hard to believe we are heading into the Easter break already. Time just seems to fly by so quickly in schools. I am greatly encouraged by all the positive activity at Montgomery over the course of this academic year. Staff have really pulled out the stops to lay on a wide variety of curricular and extra-curricular learning opportunities despite a number of constraining factors.

This year we have placed the greatest possible emphasis on keeping our teachers in front of the classrooms. Hence, by previous standards, there have undoubtedly been fewer school 'trips'. This drive to concentrate on the essentials of keeping to our routines has certainly benefited the overall learning environment in school. Students have not suffered significant disruption and the need to deploy supply teachers has been kept to a minimum. I am delighted to report that teaching staff attendance currently stands at 98.6% for this year so far. I think that is an amazing figure and underscores the commitment of teachers at Montgomery to help our students learn. The equivalent figure last year was 92%, so we have seen a massive 6.6% rise which translates into an incredible 3000 additional lessons taught by our core staff this year so far! Indeed we have saved so much money on supply costs that we have been able to invest £60,000 in improving our ageing IT systems. More infrastructural improvements will follow as we get the budget totally under control.

Pleasingly, despite a drive to keep all our staff teaching to the greatest possible extent you will see from this term's newsletter just how many additional activities are taking place. The range is extensive and the achievements are stunning. I do hope you enjoy the read and maybe you will see reference to activities your sons and daughters have enjoyed.

I hope all our students find something additional on offer through the programme, to engage them and encourage their wider social and health related development. I hope also that all our students and families enjoy a peaceful and relaxing Easter break. Having said relaxing, I am aware that many students are preparing for GCSE exams and staff will be at school offering additional lessons. Montgomery continues therefore to be a hive of activity even in our down-time!

Best wishes for a productive and enjoyable Easter

Tony Nicholson

What is a STEM Club?

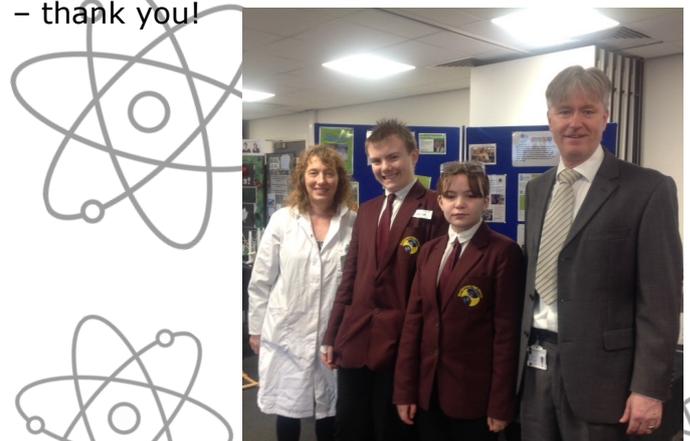
A STEM Club gives students the chance to explore aspects of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. Clubs have sprung up all across the country outside of lesson time, and come in all shapes and sizes. Our club formed by Mr Byrne, Mrs Bach and supported by Mrs McMullan in July 2015 is absolutely unique.



Activities include practical experiments, investigations, group work, competitions, discussion, reflection and fun! In January, we visited Ribble Discovery Centre at Fairhaven Lake. By February, we were participating in the 'STEM Club of the Year' competition at Blackpool and The Fylde College!

Impact of STEM Clubs

Research tells us that through STEM Clubs, our students gain team work and leadership skills, their confidence and engagement in STEM increases, as well as their motivation to study. We all thoroughly appreciate the enthusiastic support and encouragement we receive from staff in our Science Department – thank you!



Mrs Bach, William Tomkinson, Catherine-Ann Cooper-Thompson and Mr Byrne at B&FC.



Mr Byrne will be leading the 'Guardians of History' project aided and abetted by Mrs McMullan, Mrs Beardwood, Mr Meakin and Mr Duckworth. The sessions for students run after school and through interactive educational workshops, they will discover the reasons that led to the outbreak of war in 1914, the incredible technological advances that occurred during those years, and discuss what the end result was for all sides, Victors and Vanquished.

As well as written work, and educational role-play, each student will build an Airfix WW1 tank. We are planning to display examples of our work in reception in time for the Anniversary of The Somme on July 1st, and present assemblies about what we have learned together with Mr Duckworth.



Connor Higgins and Callum Clarke led session two with their presentations about the technicalities of a WW1 Mark IV tank.



Cross Country

Syd Bairstow is our cross country queen this year. Our energetic athlete made it all the way to the English Schools Cross Country Championship after coming 6th in the Lancashire schools cross country at Witton Park. The dreadful muddy and windy conditions didn't deter Syd from a fantastic performance at Wollington Park, Nottingham. Her natural stamina and sheer determination is second to none and she was positioned 295 out of 400 on the day.

Considering Syd doesn't focus her training on her running at the moment but more on her swimming, you can clearly see she has the natural ability to do well in a variety of different sports. Well done Syd on this fantastic achievement.



APPRENTICESHIPS which one works for you?



Apprenticeship Morning

Thursday 31st. March 2016

10:00a.m — 1p.m

Assembly Hall, Montgomery School

Come along to our Apprenticeship Morning to speak to Training Providers and Employers about apprenticeships for when you leave school. They will give advice to you and complete applications with you to help you find an

Apprenticeship!



YOU'RE HIRED!



Shakespeare Schools Festival

Marking the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, 212 school children from Blackpool took to the Grand Theatre stage on March 8th as part of a nationwide schools' Shakespeare festival in partnership with the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC).



The Dream is a series of six local festivals involving schools and regional theatres across the country who are all part of the Learning and Performance Network - the RSC's three year national partnership programme with schools and local theatres.

In Blackpool, **The Dream** festival took place on the 8th March and involved 212 pupils from Montgomery High School, St Mary's Catholic College, Our Lady of the Assumption Primary School, Anchorsholme Academy, Mereside Primary School, St Cuthbert's Primary School, Thames Primary School, Marton Primary School and Park School.

Inspired by Shakespeare's well known comedy, **A Midsummer Night's Dream**, each school has worked in collaboration with education practitioners from the RSC and the Grand Theatre to develop and direct an original scene. All the scenes are then brought together to create a single performance which is performed for the festival.

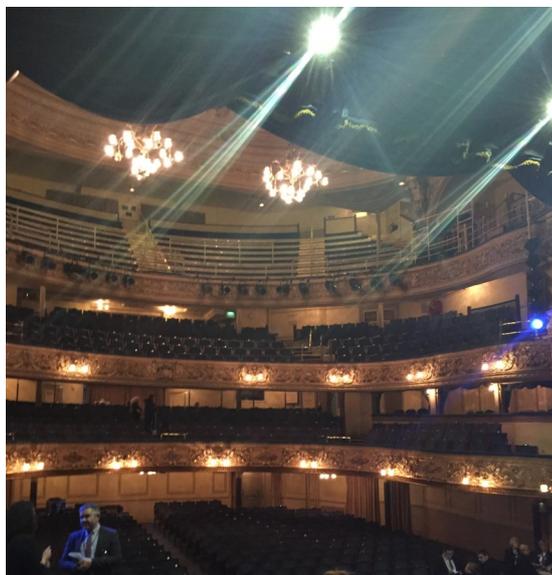
In Blackpool students performed to packed audiences, including parents, RSC staff and invited VIPs.

Nationwide, **The Dream** festivals will involve over 900 pupils from 42 primary, secondary and special schools who will perform to community audiences in their respective regions.

Rachel Walmsley, lead teacher and event manager, from hub school, Montgomery, said, "The performances of 'The Dream' were the crowning moment of our three-year project with the RSC. The students were astonishing in their dedication and hard-work preparing for the performance and were a credit to their schools and the inspirational staff who have worked with them during this project. We are indebted to the RSC and the Grand for supporting us during this whole wonderful experience."

Jacqui O'Hanlon, Director of Education at the RSC added: "This year the RSC is celebrating the legacy of our house playwright who, 400 years on, still continues to fire imaginations and inspire young minds. We've chosen **A Midsummer Night's Dream** - one of Shakespeare's best known and best loved plays - to help us mark this special anniversary year. Later in the year, our national touring production and our 'Dream Team' schools initiative will make sure that as many people as possible have a chance to join in, but these six Dream festivals are a brilliant way to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our LPN schools as well as kick off our national celebrations."

The Learning and Performance Network is generously supported by Arts Council England, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation, Ian and Catherine Ferguson, The Equitable Charitable Trust and The Grimmitt Trust.



There's something FISHY going on at Montgomery

This term year 9 students, currently undertaking the new Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE, got hands-on in the kitchen. With a key focus on practical skills, they were tasked with filleting and preparing a whole fish from scratch using freshly landed fish, supplied by local business Kendal Fish & Seafood's, based in Fleetwood. Whilst initially apprehensive, all students got fully involved, and had well and truly mastered the art of filleting by the end of the lesson. They all produced highly skilled, restaurant quality dishes to be proud of. Watch out Rick Stein, we definitely have some star chefs in the making.



tootoot
make a noise

Shortly before the Christmas holiday Mr Kilmurray attended a national conference where the school was invited to

join a new innovative programme "Tootoot." This is an interactive application which allows students, parents and careers to report bullying or any other concerns quickly and easily, directly to school 24hrs day through a smartphone or any Web Based Device.

We are delighted that students reported in our latest Ofsted report that they feel safe at Montgomery and we are confident this new app will further enhance this feeling and reassure students, carers and parents that incidents are taken seriously

Once an incident or concern has been reported on the App, a message is sent directly to a member of staff who will deal with the incident and the student will receive a reply confirming that a member of staff has received the message.

Students being and feeling safe at Montgomery is our highest priority and we will continue to strive to ensure students feel safe and can flourish academically and socially.

The App is free to download from Google Play and Apple App Store and special assemblies have been presented to introduce this programme to the students. If you have any questions or concerns regarding "tootoot", please do not hesitate to contact Mr Burns or Mr Benson.



U16 Girls



Blackpool Football Club Tournament

On Monday 29th February the U16 girls' football team participated in the Blackpool Football Club Tournament. The girls played exceptionally well, not conceding a goal in the whole tournament.

Montgomery 3 Unity 0
Montgomery 2 St George's 0
Montgomery 2 Baines 0
Montgomery 3 Aspire 0

Montgomery were overall winners of the tournament, demonstrating great teamwork, determination and work ethic to achieve.

Players: Jordyn Ellison,
Charmaine Cardwell-Wilsdon,
Taylor Holland, Ellie Spooner,
Tia Worrall, Lauren Baines &
Caitlin Ellis.





Miss G Smith -
Designated
Safeguarding Lead

Mrs J Hughes -
Deputy Safeguarding
Lead



Mr P Morton -
Designated Person

Miss D Marini -
Designated Person



Below is some information for parents to help raise awareness about current safeguarding issues. Please contact any member of staff if you have any concerns.

Child Sexual Exploitation – Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a type of [sexual abuse](#) in which children are sexually exploited for money, power or status. There were over 100 CSE crimes in Blackpool in 2015.

In November all YR9 and YR10 students watched a performance of Chelsea's Choice which raises awareness of the issues surrounding Child Sexual Exploitation.

Below are two links with more info on CSE.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/child-sexual-exploitation/what-is-child-sexual-exploitation/>

<https://lancashire.police.uk/cse>

Esafety – Social media is widely used by many young people however there are risks associated with it.

Esafety assemblies were held in December for all year groups. The main messages given to students were:

- ◆ Don't post any personal information online – like your address, email address or mobile number
- ◆ Think carefully before posting pictures or videos of yourself. Once you've put a picture of yourself online most people can see it and may be able to download it, it's not just yours anymore
- ◆ Keep your privacy settings as high as possible
- ◆ Don't befriend people you don't know
- ◆ Don't meet up with people you've met online. Speak to your parent or carer about people suggesting you attempt to meet them
- ◆ Remember that not everyone online is who they say they are
- ◆ If you see something online that makes you feel uncomfortable, unsafe or worried leave the website, turn off your computer if you want to and tell a trusted adult immediately

The internet is a wonderful place to learn and create. There are lots of links for parents about safer internet use on the school website in the safeguarding section under the information heading.

Parental Advice

Please encourage your child to behave appropriately on social media. The internet is a very powerful resource which used in the wrong way can be very damaging and cause a lot of conflict and upset.

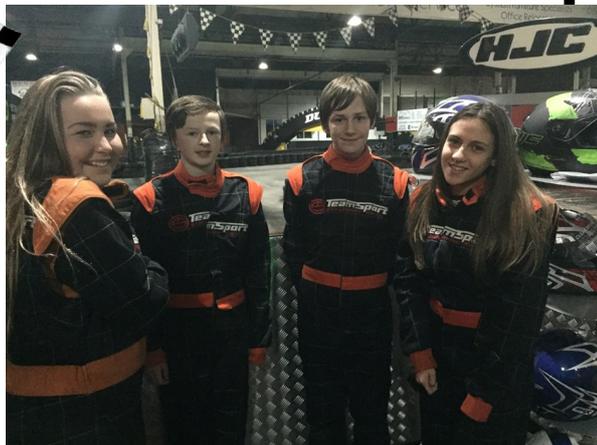
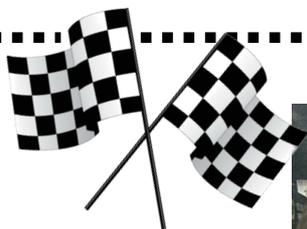
The websites below provide lots of helpful advice for parents.



Below is a link to an issue of the Vodafone magazine "Digital parenting." It provides lots of useful information for keeping children safe online.

<http://www.vodafone.com/content/parents/digital-parenting.html>

FAST & FURIOUS



The world is a fast and furious place nowadays, and Montgomery High School knows that better than most. From the urgency with which work is completed to the speed with which punctuality comes ingrained, the students of Montgomery High School are used to being quick. Now, however, the students are moving even quicker in a whole new way. That's right, Montgomery High School has gone Go Karting!

On the evening of February 25th, five Year 9 students visited a Go Karting track in Warrington to participate in this year's British Schools Karting Championship. The BSKC, as it is colloquially known, prides itself on offering a fantastic opportunity for school and college students between thirteen and eighteen. Working in association with the British Automobile Racing Club and the Motor Sports Association, the BSKC aims to motivate and inspire young people, using the discipline and control taught through racing to improve behaviour and attitude towards learning. Following this the process also teaches team work, communication, organisational and leadership skills. Through this rare and positive opportunity, students build confidence and gain important abilities, key to a successful life style. The competition also aims to break down any sexist connotations regarding motor sport by inviting both girls and boys to take part.

I spoke to one of the students who attended, who told me, "It was very fun! We all had a really great time and we can't wait try again next year! It's a national competition and we're honoured to be representing Blackpool."

It is of course notable that Sports Personality and three time Formula One World Champion Lewis Hamilton began his career as a champion Go Karter. Will any of the Montgomery Students follow in his footsteps? Not just yet, but there's potential. Although the students finished in ninth and eleventh place in this practice race and unfortunately did not make it through to the region finals, they feel as if they have benefited from the evening greatly, and are ready for the next event. "We learnt all the fundamental skills with which we can grow our overall ability." I was told. "Sure we may not have done as well as we'd like this time, but we were up against lots of different people who probably have a lot more experience! On the day itself, we went from doing laps in one hundred and twenty seconds to sixty five seconds. If we can almost halve our lap times on one day, then we're going to keep getting better in the time between this and next year!"



Montgomery High School's Associate Principal, Mr Kilmurray, is a backer of the scheme. I spoke to him about his opinion of Go Karting, to which he told me, "I think it's a wonderful opportunity! We chose the students who are gaining the most achievement points in Mathematics in Year Nine, as maths is important to racing. You've got power to weight ratios and the angles of descent. We chose Year Nine to compete as they were firstly old enough to take part and secondly the lightest students we have, giving them an advantage over the other schools."

So there you have it. The talented kids of Montgomery High School turn their hands to a new talent. There may be a long way to go before we can claim that Montgomery is the school of a future Lewis but that's no problem for the fantastic five students who took part. Like the school itself, they're improving all the time and they're doing it quickly.

Indoor Athletics



Above photo: Year 8 girls and boys at Lancashire athletics championship

During the past few months both the year 7 and 8 boys and girls have been working tirelessly to be the best that they can be, in a variety of disciplines in both track and field events.

Montgomery High School won the Blackpool Indoor Athletics competition in style and progressed to the Lancashire finals which took place at Hyndburn sports centre. The year 8 boys and both year 7 & 8 girls represented the school phenomenally well and were a credit to themselves.

Stand out performances came from Tyra Vickers from year 7 who won the Triple Jump competition confirming her status as Lancashire school champion, Ellis Wilson who won both the 2 lap race and the standing vertical jump and Liam Skillbeck who won the 4 lap race. A huge well done to all students involved.

Year 8 Girls Team

Kaya Harwood,
Sophia Burgess,
Keisha Masterson,
Elle Whitehead, Lydia Shaw,
Darcy Barrett

Year 8 Boys Team

Joseph Windows,
Liam Skillbeck,
Marcus Masterson,
Jaden Moss, Cam Bairstow,
Ellis Wilson,
Nathan Winstanley

Key Dates for your Dairy

31-03-16	Apprenticeship Morning 10am - 1pm
27-04-16	Literacy Event Grand Theatre
28-04-16	Year 10 Fieldwork in Bowness
09-05-16	External Exams Commence
17-05-16	Year 10 RE Morning

EASTER School

**Timetable for Easter School:
Monday 28th March – Friday
9th April 2016**

*Easter School will operate on
the following days from
10am - 2.00pm.*

Time	Monday 28 th March	Tuesday 29 th March	Wednesday 30 th March	Thursday 31 st March	Friday 1 st April
10am - 12pm	EASTER MONDAY SCHOOL CLOSED	ECDL PowerPoint GD (L16) Graphics – WA (T1) Dance – WS (AH) Spanish – BL (L9) German – GB (L12)	ECDL Word GS (M15) Dance – WS (AH) Geography – CH (M7) History – DH (M4)	ECDL Excel MI (L16) French coursework KA/BK (L11/L10) Photography – HY (L14) GCSE PE WS/GE (M15/M16) Apprenticeship Morning (AH)	ECDL Unit 1 WN (M17) Computer Science MI (L16) Animal Care – MA(L15)
12pm - 2pm	EASTER MONDAY SCHOOL CLOSED	ECDL PowerPoint GD (L16) RE – SK (M10) Graphics – WA (T1) Dance – WS (AH) German – GB (L12)	ECDL Word GS (M15) Dance – WS (AH)	ECDL Excel MI (L16) GCSE PE WS/GE (M2/M3)	ECDL Unit 1 WN (M17) Computer Science MI (L16)
Time	Monday 4 th April	Tuesday 5 th April	Wednesday 6 th April	Thursday 7 th April	Friday 8 th April
10am - 12pm	Geography – CL (M9) French(Reading/Listening) KA/BK (L11/L10)	English Lit – MG (E11) Child Development - FD (M5)	Art – CX (E6)	Maths (F) – AW (O9) Maths(H - A/A*) - WM (O2) Maths (H - C/B) – MY (O8)	BTEC Sport SM (TR) Art – LX (E7)
12pm - 2pm		English Lang – MG (E11)			BTEC Sport SM (TR)

The Library is also open for independent study each day. Please could all pupils sign in through Main Reception. Thank you.



Head boy Hits the Highs



Head Boy, James Nash, has been successfully selected

by the National Youth Orchestra to play the trumpet.

This is an outstanding achievement as there are limited places across England. He has performed on several occasions at prestigious venues including the Barbican and the Royal Albert Hall.

James has been playing the trumpet since he was 8 and has a Diploma in Musical Performance. He performs a wide range of genres from classical to jazz and popular music.

James hopes to pursue a career in music and perform professionally and we wish him well! To find out more about James & the National Youth Orchestra visit their website https://www.nyo.org.uk/meet-the-orchestra#double_bass

Lost Property



Please remember to label all clothing & check lost property at student services before the end of each term.

The MONTGOMERY Way

P	- Punctuality	Be where you need to be on time
A	- Attendance	Be there to do your best
U	- Uniform	Wear it with pride "Look the part/ Play the part
S	- Safe / Sensible	Think about how your decisions & behaviour affects others & yourself
E	- Exam Success	Gives you the stepping stones for the next stage of your life

Ambition Points

Have you given 100% every lesson, every day?

- 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

Recent Themes in Assemblies

Pride

Resilience

Progress

Integrity

House colours

Toot Toot

Year 10 & 11 Blackpool Schools Netball League



Year 10 & 11 girls participated in the annual Blackpool Schools Netball League during the winter term of 2015. Both teams played remarkably well, showing great team spirit and a drive to succeed and be successful against the opposition. Both year groups finished 2nd in the league falling short against St George's, who put on an inspiring performance.

Year 10 netball team

Montgomery 11 Highfield 2
Montgomery 6 St George's 11
Montgomery 18 Aspire 0
Montgomery 15 St Mary's 2

Year 11 netball team

Montgomery 6 Unity 2
Montgomery 6 Highfield 4
Montgomery 1 St George's 17
Montgomery 6 St Mary's 3

BADMINTON Year 8 & 9 Girls and Boys

Both teams were successful, finishing in first place in the Blackpool Schools championships and qualifying for the Lancashire tournament that was held at Stanley Park. In the Lancashire tournament both teams performed admirably but came up against some outstanding players. They both finished 3rd in the plate competition and 7th best in Lancashire overall.



Year 10 & 11 Boys



The Year 11 boys performed excellently to win the Blackpool Schools' championships and progress to the Lancashire Schools event held at Stanley Park. The boys just missed out on qualifying through to the main semi finals meaning they qualified for the plate event. The boys played well and finished 8th overall.

Don't forget School starts back early after the Summer break

Wednesday 31st August School Opens

Year 8 Netball



Our Year 8 & 9 netball teams represented our school amazingly well during the freezing conditions this autumn. Our Year 8 team was undefeated throughout the duration of the season with outstanding performances from all girls involved.

These performances enabled them to clinch the title of year 8 Blackpool Netball champions.

Each week the year 8 girls played some fierce netball demonstrating numerous key skills throughout each game which ultimately enabled them to succeed and win every match. A huge well done to all Year 8 girls involved.



Year 9 Netball

Our Year 9 netball team was also undefeated this season with some fantastic performances from numerous students. Speed, agility and good tactical play enabled the Year 9 girls to clinch the title of Year 9 Blackpool Netball Champions. Brilliant focus and determination from all of the girls. A huge congratulations to all involved.

Summer 2016 Term

Dates for your diary

April

Monday 11th School opens for Summer Term

May

Monday 2nd May Day Closure

Half Term Closure 30th May – Friday 3rd June

July

Thursday 21st Inset Day

Friday 22nd Inset Day

Monday 25th Inset Day

Wednesday 20th School Closes for Summer holidays

August

Tuesday 30th Inset Day

Wednesday 31st School Opens



Blackpool
Music Service

Blackpool Music Service held its annual Musician of the Year competition at Springfield Methodist Church on Tuesday 8th March.

Montgomery had two students involved in the event Kieran White in

Year 8 played the piano in the KS3 category and Brandon Hindle in Year 11 played the accordion in the KS4 category.

Both students played exceptionally well on the evening and there was some tough competition.

Brandon was awarded first place in his category and won the overall title of Musician of the Year.