

The De Montfort School

UNLOCKING YOUR CHILD'S POTENTIAL



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Dear Parent/Carer

At TDMS we believe that excellent attendance and punctuality are fundamental in ensuring maximum progress and that students grow up with the correct work ethos for their future lives.

Our goal this year is to ensure that every student attends school regularly and therefore achieves the school target of **96%** attendance or above.

Following national guidelines to help improve attendance and students in school, we would like to highlight some changes we have made to our school attendance policy (this can be found on the TDMS website):

- Students who are persistently late to school in the morning (after 9.15am, when registers close) will be treated as persistent absence. This may ultimately place parents at risk of legal action under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996. Parents will be informed in writing if this applies to their child.
- **Leave of Absence Requests and Holiday Absence.** If parents choose to remove their child from their education provision and this absence is unauthorised, they may face a penalty fine of up to £120 per parent per child (if paid within 21 days of the notice, this fine can be reduced to £60). Applications for leave of absence during term time must be completed by the student's parents/carers (**request for leave during term time – this can be found on the school website**) and submitted to the Headteacher at least 4 weeks prior to the leave.

Attending school has a huge impact on a student's academic success. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and in life.

Clearly going to school regularly matters!

There are strong links between poor attendance and poor attainment.

- A child who has 90% attendance misses the equivalent of 1 whole **month** of education each year which over the course of their school life equates to 1 whole **year** of education missed
- This 10% absence can equate to the equivalent of 1 whole GCSE grade drop across all subjects
- Persistently absent, which means missing 19 or more days over the course of an entire school year means your child is less likely to succeed. Absences can add up quickly
- A child is persistently absent if he or she misses just two days every month!

If you have any questions or need more information please contact the school.

Yours sincerely

Guy Nichols

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