

The De Montfort School

UNLOCKING YOUR CHILD'S POTENTIAL



Four Pools Road, Evesham, Worcestershire, WR11 1DQ | Telephone: 01386 442060

4 June 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back to our final half term of the year.

Looking forward to next year, I am writing to inform you of some important changes we propose to make from September 2018 at TDMS.

1. Moving tutor time to the beginning of the school day

Staff have asked for this change to enable them to be as effective as possible in their roles as tutors. We believe that tutor time will be much more effective first thing in the day for a number of reasons:

- Essential information can be communicated
- Immediate support is available to overcome any concerns or worries helping the day get off to the best possible start
- Tutors will also be located in their classroom areas, so there is reduced pressure on movement from a tutor base to their classroom
- This complements our “meet and greet” at the gate policy reinforcing the importance of building positive relationships
- Tutors can ensure students are in the right mind set and are fully equipped for their learning
- Tutors are the best placed to address any poor punctuality, which currently disturbs a number of lessons first thing in the morning
- The tutor is also best placed to address any repeated concerns regarding uniform, which has not always been well observed by some students and has caused concern to many parents

2. Putting back the start and end of the day by 5 minutes to 9.00am and 3.30pm respectively

Despite our best efforts, a large number of our students arrive delayed to TDMS because of complicated local bus schedules. Our concerns regarding this issue have been heard but buses are still frequently late in the morning and late to collect in the afternoon. We have been assured by the bus companies that this small change in arrival and departure times will both enable students to arrive on time and reduce the current hanging around and waiting at the end of the day.

Headteacher: Guy Nichols BSocSC (Econ), NPQH

www.tdms.worcs.sch.uk | office@tdms.worcs.sch.uk | Sports Centre: 07881 506156



3. The lengthening of break time by 5 minutes from 15 minutes to 20 minutes

At present, 15 minutes at break time provides a short time for students to mingle, but it is too short for any opportunities to use our facilities, in particular the large astro. This additional time will enable our students to have a greater opportunity to let off some steam, whilst still being able to arrive on time for period three.

Please note that the extension of break has not reduced lesson time, we have simply removed the 5 minute movement time currently between period 2 and tutor time as we just don't need it!

Assembly / Tutor	9.00am
Lesson 1	9.20am
Lesson 2	10.10am
Break	11.00am
Lesson 3	11.20am
Lesson 4	12.10am
Lunch	1.00pm
Lesson 5	1.50pm
Lesson 6	2.40pm
School ends	3.30pm

4. The introduction of a special PSHE lesson each week, delivered by the tutor

At TDMS we believe that our students have an entitlement to exceptional personal development, including Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Careers Education. To support this aim, we are overhauling our current arrangements and we will have a designated lead for PSHE. From September 2018 all students in Years 6-9, as well as the Sixth Form, will have a timetabled lesson delivered by their form tutor.

This period will take place on Wednesday period 3 each week. Our Heads of Learning will, with the designated lead, oversee the development of our new curriculum to ensure that there are coherent and engaging programmes across all year groups. The programme will roll into Years 10 and 11 over the following 2 years, but until then Years 10 and 11 will continue to benefit from our PD (Personal Development) Days.

5. The introduction of a one-week timetable (TD)

Now that all staff and students are based at one site, we have been able to consider simplifying our curriculum and staffing arrangements by adopting a one-week timetable from September 2018. This will bring considerable benefits in terms of greater consistency for students in all year groups, as well as more streamlined arrangements for homework.

We are delighted that our Parent Voice Team have fully endorsed these changes and we believe that these five changes will bring multiple benefits to our students.

Thank you again for your support of the school.

Yours sincerely



Guy Nichols