

The De Montfort School

UNLOCKING YOUR CHILD'S POTENTIAL



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

12 September 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

At TDMS we believe that excellent attendance and punctuality are fundamental in ensuring maximum progress and that our 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. This means he or she attends school every day and at the very least achieves the school target of **96%** attendance or above.

Clearly going to school regularly matters!

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.

We realise some absences are unavoidable due to health problems or other circumstances. But, we also know that when students miss too much school— regardless of the reason – it can cause them to fall behind academically.

Punctuality

If your child is persistently late to school we will consider this to be 'persistently absent' and will be treated in the same way 'persistent absence' is monitored and sanctioned.

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 can equate to the equivalent of 1 whole GCSE grade drop
- Your child is less likely to succeed if he or she is persistently absent—which means missing 19 or more days over the course of an entire school year. Absences can add up quickly
- A child is persistently absent if he or she misses just two days every month!!

(please continue overleaf)

Headteacher: Guy Nichols BSocSC (Econ), NPQH

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The **Education Welfare Officer** will be working with our school to monitor the attendance and punctuality of students, as well as take any supportive and legal action to ensure all students attend school regularly. You should also be aware that if absences are “unauthorised” you may ultimately become at risk of legal action under Section 444 of the Education Act 1996. Children registered at a school must attend regularly. Failure to do so could lead to legal action being taken. Upon conviction the maximum fine could be £2,500 and/or up to three months imprisonment.

We don't want your child to fall behind in school and get discouraged. Please ensure that your child attends school every day and arrives on time. We are happy to help and support if we can do so but the responsibility for ensuring regular attendance is that of the parent or carer.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Guy Nichols', written in a cursive style.

Guy Nichols