

The De Montfort School

UNLOCKING YOUR CHILD'S POTENTIAL



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

14 September 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

We have been delighted with the exceptional way in which our students have started this new school year at TDMS. Our students always integrate extremely well and we have a real sense of community in the school. Although they have their own areas, Year 6 students are already exploring and meeting the older students at lunchtimes. Staff have been glowing about the excellent attitudes towards learning from the vast majority of students, and our students have said how pleased they are with the continued high standards of behaviour in school during lessons, at break and at lunchtimes. Students have also arrived fully equipped for learning, critical to prevent any waste of time.

Stamps and Rewards

In Years 6 – 10, students will continue to receive up to 3 stamps for every lesson. Whilst in Year 11, students will receive a score from 0 to 5 from each of their subjects each week with the points accumulating towards their Prom.

Tutor time

Tutor time first thing is going well and reinforcing our belief that it is critical that your child has a Tutor who sees them first thing every day as the person best placed to deal with any issues that may occur. Tutors are, of course, supported by a Senior Intervention Tutor and Head of Learning but, initially, if you have any concerns, worries or questions we ask that you contact your child's Tutor. A list of the contact details for each Tutor is included at the end of this letter.

Student Leadership

We are continuing to develop our student leadership opportunities, including Learning Ambassadors, Year and School Councils and House and Sports Captains. House assemblies will start soon and it's always a pleasure seeing Year 6 to Year 13 students working together in their Houses. Please do encourage your child to seize the opportunity to become a student leader. We believe student leadership has a significant impact on the quality of teaching and learning and behaviour, and staff are already on the look-out for their Learning Ambassadors.

Parent Voice

Parents have endorsed our drive to become an exceptional school and in particular our increased expectations of behaviour. Our highly committed **Parent Voice Team**, now in its fifth year will continue to meet each term. Dates are on our website and our next meeting is **Tuesday 23 October at 6.00pm. We welcome all parents to join this group** so we can work together to meet the needs of our children.

Headteacher: Guy Nichols BSocSC (Econ), NPQH

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Please do follow our progress on Twitter and complete the 2 minute on-line anonymous **ParentView** (icon on our website), as this really helps us to maintain our progress. Last year 90% of parents said they would recommend our school to another parent, but we are aiming for 100% and we recently had some fabulous comments on Facebook:

"I have been completely surprised by the whole experience. They are very supportive and my son is one happy & confident young man."

"I was so upset, I really didn't want TDMS but from our experience I couldn't have been more wrong!"

"The school try to progress each and every child and is interested in all of them."

"For me, the best school by far. They were amazing with my lad."

Reporting and Attitude Towards Learning (ATL)

Following parental feedback, we are adapting our reporting system and removing colours from the progress table. With the new grading system at GCSE from 9 to 1, our coloured reporting of progress grades has become less effective.

Staff have been understandably cautious in assessing current attainment against GCSE grades (particularly in Years 7 to 9) and many students therefore appeared to be performing below expectations when actually, they were making good progress.

Following on from my assemblies and our belief that the most critical piece of information is the Attitude Towards Learning grades, we propose to really emphasise their importance at TDMS by assigning a colour. The ATL gives a very strong indication as to whether your child is engaged in their learning and directly links to the progress they then make and the likelihood of them reaching their full potential.

In addition, we are introducing a truly aspirational 1* ATL. This is to challenge our students to strive for even higher ATLs.

The criteria for ATL grades 1 to 4 remain the same as before, but a 1* will be even more aspirational. In essence, a 1* is for students who always give their very best and never give up and show real resilience when challenged.

The colours will appear as follows:

1*	Exceptional
1	Outstanding
2	Good
3	Poor
4	Unacceptable

We are extremely proud of the work ethic of the vast majority of our students and hope that our students will see this new challenge as aspirational and exciting, particularly for those students who really pride themselves on doing their absolute best at all times in every subject.

The new system will come into immediate effect.

A few reminders:

- 1. Detentions: Same Day means Same Day** – We expect 100% support in ensuring that detentions are completed that day. We will continue to text alert you, so it is essential that we have your up to date contact details. Staff will attend to discuss the reasons for the detentions so it is essential that students are there. **This year, if a student does not attend the detention, they will be expected to do a longer, one hour detention after school the following day.** For students arriving at school late, in the wrong uniform, without a planner or correct equipment, Tutors will be immediately addressing these issues to support improvements. Please also note that staff can give a 'work ethic' detention to ensure our students understand the importance of hard work and effort, reinforcing our emphasis on ATL.

Detentions have continued to fall, following an impressive 32% reduction last year with students increasingly recognising their responsibilities for their own behaviour.

2. **Homework** – Please use our online system so, together, we can ensure your child is completing the right amount of homework. Please also help us in our insistence on high quality presentation and pride in this work.
3. **Uniform** – Our guidance is very clear so please do ensure that your child is perfectly dressed; this includes appropriate shoes and skirt length. We have recently confirmed that although our uniform can be purchased from The School Uniform Shop in Evesham or online through David Luke or Banner, if parents wish to purchase the uniform from others suppliers they are free to do so. At school we stock badges which can be purchased to sew onto any black blazer.
4. **Communication of Concerns** - We do our utmost to address any concerns so please do contact us directly and come and see us if there is any particular area you would like to draw our attention to.

As Ofsted said in May 2017, we have a *“relentless drive to inspire pupils and staff to always give of their best within a culture of high ambition and aspiration for all”*.

Thank you for your continued support of our determination to become the exceptional school our students deserve.

Yours sincerely



Guy Nichols
Headteacher

Year 6 Tutors	6RAD - Mrs Adkins radkins@tdms.worcs.sch.uk	6LH - Mrs Hackett-Smith ehackettsmith@tdms.worcs.sch.uk
	6JCO - Miss Cox jacox@tdms.worcs.sch.uk	6JP - Mrs Pitkeathly jpitkeathly@tdms.worcs.sch.uk
Year 7 Tutors	7NA - Mr Andrew nandrew@tdms.worcs.sch.uk	7SPA - Miss Palmer-Young spalmeryoung@tdms.worcs.sch.uk
	7DCS - Mrs Caswell dcaswell@tdms.worcs.sch.uk	7JRA - Mr Ransted jransted@tdms.worcs.sch.uk
	7JHY - Mr Hooley jhooley@tdms.worcs.sch.uk	7TST - Mrs Stanyer tstanyer@tdms.worcs.sch.uk
Year 8 Tutors	8KBT - Mrs Bateman kbateman@tdms.worcs.sch.uk	8KH - Ms Herbert cherbert@tdms.worcs.sch.uk
	8JC - Mrs Cox jcox@tdms.worcs.sch.uk	8CT - Ms Thomas cthomas@tdms.worcs.sch.uk
	8LG - Miss Gunter lgunter@tdms.worcs.sch.uk	8JVY - Mr Valley jvalley@tdms.worcs.sch.uk
Year 9 Tutors	9RH - Mr Hancock rhancock@tdms.worcs.sch.uk	9NK - Mrs Keogh nkeogh@tdms.worcs.sch.uk
	9RJ - Mr Jansen rjansen@tdms.worcs.sch.uk	9AS - Mrs Stanley astanley@tdms.worcs.sch.uk
	9JJO - Mrs Johnson jjohnson@tdms.worcs.sch.uk	9CS - Mr Stephens cstephens@tdms.worcs.sch.uk
Year 10 Tutors	10GB - Mr Belfield gbelfield@tdms.worcs.sch.uk	10NJ - Mr Jones njones@tdms.worcs.sch.uk
	10JFI - Mr Field jfield@tdms.worcs.sch.uk	10SL - Ms Leonard sleonard@tdms.worcs.sch.uk
	10BJ - Mr Jones bjones@tdms.worcs.sch.uk	10DP - Miss Patel dpatel@tdms.worcs.sch.uk
Year 11 Tutors	11PCH - Mr Chapman pchapman@tdms.worcs.sch.uk	11LL - Mr Lungley llungley@tdms.worcs.sch.uk
	11MC - Mrs Clayfield mclayfield@tdms.worcs.sch.uk	11TS - Miss Scanlon tscanlon@tdms.worcs.sch.uk
	11JHP - Mr Hopkins jhopkins@tdms.worcs.sch.uk	11CWA - Mrs Walden cwalden@tdms.worcs.sch.uk
	11JH - Miss Hurley jhurley@tdms.worcs.sch.uk	
Sixth Form	12MCA - Mrs Causer mcauser@tdms.worcs.sch.uk	13SHO - Ms Howell showell@tdms.worcs.sch.uk
	12RM - Miss Marriott rmarriott@tdms.worcs.sch.uk	13SJ - Mr Jennings sjennings@tdms.worcs.sch.uk
	12MSP - Miss Spiers mspiery@tdms.worcs.sch.uk	