

# The De Montfort School

UNLOCKING YOUR CHILD'S POTENTIAL



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

30 January 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

As you know we had a fire at The De Montfort School on Friday 19 January at 11.45am. The Fire Brigade were called immediately and were able to put out the fire within 20 minutes of their arrival. All students and staff were evacuated extremely quickly and safely and the Fire Brigade commented on how calm, well-ordered and effective our procedures had been.

We reassured parents that everyone was safe with our first message on social media at 12.09pm.

I was extremely proud of our students and staff who were perfectly behaved throughout. They stood silent in the freezing cold weather and we were all relieved to be given the all clear after about 45 minutes to move to the warmth of the Main Sports Hall and Large Hall.

As more information became available from the Fire Brigade we took the decision to send home Year 6 and the Sixth Form and this enabled the rest of the school to return to lessons period six.

Our canteen staff were brilliant in accommodating large numbers in just one venue and staff provided constant reassurance and support for the students. A special thank you also goes to our cleaners who came in early to start the clean-up operation and our premises staff who worked tirelessly throughout the weekend so we could fully open on Monday.

We have an excellent record for safeguarding and our fire drills and our procedures ensured the safety of everyone on site and thankfully no-one was hurt or injured.

In my letter (October 2018) regarding critical incidents, we did ask that parents:

**DO NOT contact the school as we must leave the phone lines free for emergency services.**

Unfortunately, our phone lines were inundated by calls from parents and, whilst we fully understand why parents might seek to contact the school in these circumstances, these calls hamper our ability to address the incident as effectively as possible.

**DO NOT ring your child, as any use of phones must be managed carefully for everyone's safety.**

Headteacher: Guy Nichols BSocSC (Econ), NPQH

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Some children rang their parents with exaggerated statements creating more anxiety and then these parents, of course, then rang their children. Please do remind your child to follow staff instruction regarding whether to contact parents or not and please do not ring them.

**DO NOT come to or near the school to collect your children as you potentially place yourself and others in danger and you might prevent access by the emergency services.**

Fortunately, very few parents arrived and emergency services were therefore not hampered.

Naturally we are hoping to never experience another critical incident, but if we do, we ask that everyone follows the advice given above. In the event of an incident, please rest assured that crucial information will go out via text. Our Critical Incident Policy can be found on the website.

Thank you as always for your support of the school.

Yours sincerely

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

Guy Nichols