

The De Montfort School

UNLOCKING YOUR CHILD'S POTENTIAL



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

20 September 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

Our children have made a superb start to this new school year at TDMS. Each year, we say that our new children seem to have settled even quicker and this year has been no different. Our Year 6 children have already been using the exciting new play equipment and our extensive astro pitches at both break and lunchtimes, alongside all the other year groups, giving that real family feel we have at TDMS. It's great that so many children are active at break and lunchtimes, so important for their health and mental well-being. We have also been especially pleased at how smart our children are and thank you for your support in getting all of our girls wearing the new school skirt and the boys wearing black socks!



Although Year 6 have their own areas, they seem to want to explore, mingle with the older children and make new friends. This ability to mingle, we believe, is very important and supports our anti-bullying culture at the school. At TDMS, children and staff represent 26 nationalities, with each nationality symbolically endorsed by having their national flag displayed in both of our main dining halls and on our plasma screens, celebrating our cultural diversity and our International Award Status.

Headteacher: Guy Nichols BSocSC (Econ), NPQH

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Results

Our summer results were extremely pleasing, in particular our GCSE/BTEC Progress 8 (the government's key indicator of school performance), which was significantly positive (+0.35). Although 2019 figures await formal verification, this is the performance expected of a very good school. We have been relentless in our desire to become an exceptional school and, whilst we recognise we have much more to do, everyone connected with TDMS should be very proud of the improvements we have made and very excited about the future.

"I got really great results from really great teachers." "None of you ever gave up of any of us."

Attitudes Towards Learning (ATL)

My start of term assemblies reminded our children that an excellent ATL leads to progress and success and I am delighted that staff have cited that the vast majority of our children are trying very hard. Meanwhile our children have said how pleased they are with the continued high standards of behaviour during lessons, at break and at lunchtimes. To continue our emphasis on ATL, last year we introduced an aspirational 1* ATL, designed to recognise those children who always give their very best, never give up and show real resilience when challenged and to also inspire all our children to aim higher and be the very best they can be.

The ATL criteria are in your child's planner and on their reports, the colours will appear as follows:

| | |
|----|--------------|
| 1* | Exceptional |
| 1 | Outstanding |
| 2 | Good |
| 3 | Poor |
| 4 | Unacceptable |

Stamps and Rewards

Years 6 – 11 will continue to receive up to 3 stamps for every lesson, enabling our children to demonstrate their pride in really having a go in all of their lessons. Please do look regularly at their planners to see how many stamps they have been getting and in which subjects.

Homework and Marking

We have a new marking and homework policy. Key pieces of work will be marked using blue paper and key pieces of homework in yellow. This system of colours will help us and you more easily track each child's progress in their studies. The full new policy is on our website.

Tutor Time – First Thing

Our move to having tutor time first thing worked very well last year, reinforcing our belief that it is critical that your child has a tutor who sees them first thing every day, as they are 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 believe student leadership has a significant impact on the quality of teaching and learning and behaviour, so this is an area for real development this year, building upon our successful Colours System using Full and Half House and School Colours, introduced last year. We plan to re-launch our Learning Ambassador system, starting with Years 7 and 8 and we have ambitious plans for our Sixth Formers to support the wider life of our school and, in particular, support our younger children with their learning. Please do encourage your child to seize any opportunity to become a student leader.

Extra-curricular

Last year, almost half of our children were actively involved in a club or activity at lunchtimes whether it be sport, music, drama, dance or IT and already this year, this number has risen significantly with our new play equipment. Please do encourage your child to be active at break and lunchtimes and to speak to us about any new clubs or activities they would like us to introduce. Large numbers of staff give of their time to support these activities and we are always looking to add in new opportunities. In addition, our community use our facilities, extensively, after school.

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 sixth year will continue to meet each term. Dates are on our website and our next meeting is **Tuesday 22 October at 6.00pm. We welcome all parents to join this group** so we can work together to meet the needs of our children.

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. Over the last 6 years, 529 parents have completed the survey with 91% saying they would recommend our school to another parent, but we are aiming for 100%.

As one parent said in the summer *"As a parent I am thrilled with the results achieved by my daughter and her friends. The school's teachers do more than teach our students, they build relationships with them, encouraging them to do well and they know that they genuinely care for them"*.



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 your child is there. **If a child does not attend the detention, they will be expected to do a longer, one hour detention after school the following day.** For children 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 children understand the importance of hard work and effort, reinforcing our emphasis on ATL.

Detentions have continued to fall every year, with children 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 children deserve.

Yours sincerely



Guy Nichols
Headteacher

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|-------------------|---|---|
| Year 6 Tutors | 6EC - Mrs Clements eclements@tdms.worcs.sch.uk | 6JLS - Mrs Lewis jalewis@tdms.worcs.sch.uk |
| | 6CDL - Mrs Griffiths agriffiths@tdms.worcs.sch.uk | 6RMI - Mr Miller rmiller@tdms.worcs.sch.uk |
| | 6SHK - Miss Hook shook@tdms.worcs.sch.uk | |
| Year 7 Tutors | 7DCS - Mrs Caswell dcaswell@tdms.worcs.sch.uk | 7JRA - Mr Ransted ransted@tdms.worcs.sch.uk |
| | 7SL - Ms Leonard sleonard@tdms.worcs.sch.uk | 7AS - Mrs Stanley astanley@tdms.worcs.sch.uk |
| Year 8 Tutors | 8NA - Mr Andrew nandrew@tdms.worcs.sch.uk | 8JHY - Mr Hooley jhooley@tdms.worcs.sch.uk |
| | 8MC - Mrs Clayfield mclayfield@tdms.worcs.sch.uk | 8GP - Miss Povey gpovey@tdms.worcs.sch.uk |
| | 8RHA - Mrs Hawtree rhawtree@tdms.worcs.sch.uk | 8TST - Mrs Stanyer tstanyer@tdms.worcs.sch.uk |
| Year 9 Tutors | 9JC - Mrs Cox jcox@tdms.worcs.sch.uk | 9HPG - Miss Ponting hponting@tdms.worcs.sch.uk |
| | 9LG - Miss Gunter lgunter@tdms.worcs.sch.uk | 9CT - Ms Thomas cthomas@tdms.worcs.sch.uk |
| | 9KH - Ms Herbert cherbert@tdms.worcs.sch.uk | 9JVY - Mr Valley jvalley@tdms.worcs.sch.uk |
| | 9NJ - Mr Jones njones@tdms.worcs.sch.uk | |
| Year 10 Tutors | 10RH - Mr Hancock rhancock@tdms.worcs.sch.uk | 10KL - Mrs Lippett klippett@tdms.worcs.sch.uk |
| | 10RHU - Miss Hughes rhughes@tdms.worcs.sch.uk | 10CS - Mr Stephens cstephens@tdms.worcs.sch.uk |
| | 10JJO - Mrs Johnson jjohnson@tdms.worcs.sch.uk | 10KZD - Miss Zeronian-Dalley kzeroniandalley@tdms.worcs.sch.uk |
| Year 11 Tutors | 11GB - Mr Belfield gbelfield@tdms.worcs.sch.uk | 11SJ - Mr Jennings sjennings@tdms.worcs.sch.uk |
| | 11PCH - Mr Chapman pchapman@tdms.worcs.sch.uk | 11DP - Miss Patel dpatel@tdms.worcs.sch.uk |
| | 11JFI - Mr Field jfield@tdms.worcs.sch.uk | 11TS - Miss Scanlon tscanlon@tdms.worcs.sch.uk |
| Sixth Form | 12CD - Mrs Dolan cdolan@tdms.worcs.sch.uk | 13MCA - Mrs Causer mcauser@tdms.worcs.sch.uk |
| | 12JHP - Mr Hopkins jhopkins@tdms.worcs.sch.uk | 13LL - Mr Lungley lungley@tdms.worcs.sch.uk |
| | 12CWA - Mrs Walden cwalden@tdms.worcs.sch.uk | |