

The De Montfort School

UNLOCKING YOUR CHILD'S POTENTIAL



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23 October 2019

Dear Year 8 Parent/Carer

TDMS achieved tremendous results last year and is now in the top 10% of schools for Progress 8 nationally. We are very proud of this achievement as it shows the direction the school is going in and the potential pathway to success ahead for your child.

Underpinning our success is the fact that our students start their GCSE options as soon as they reach Year 9. This is a year earlier than other schools within our area; having more time to focus on the subjects that interest children has an enormous impact on their potential performance.

Your child is, of course, in very capable hands in making the right GCSE decisions and Mr Ballantine, Year 8 Head of Learning, had an outstanding impact in supporting Year 11 last year and brings enormous experience and expertise to the role.

Our provisional Progress 8 figure is +0.3 which means that, on average, each student gained one third of a grade better than they were predicted. Indeed, there were some students who gained results in excess of 3 grades better than predicted across all their subjects!

Our students' successes have allowed them to gain access to our Sixth Form or to head off to college or the apprenticeship place that they were hoping for.

Although our published Progress 8 was impressive at +0.3, we are expecting it to rise following verification and it is also worth noting that our students who had been with us at TDMS since Year 6 made exceptional progress (see table below):

	Progress 8 Figure
All students combined	+0.656
Boys	+0.634
Girls	+0.681
SEN (all categories)	+1.401
High ability students	+0.549
Middle ability students	+0.713
Low ability students	+0.626

These figures would place us in the top 5% nationally and are unrivalled locally.

Headteacher: Guy Nichols BSocSC (Econ), NPQH

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Following last year's success, we are looking forward to enabling your child to do even better as they progress through our school and visiting lessons in Year 8, there is definitely a very positive atmosphere.

The next few months are very important for your child and it is never too early to start those conversations surrounding their option choices going into Year 9. Our **Options Evening on 23 January 2020** provides the perfect opportunity to discuss choices with our teaching staff and fully equip yourselves with the information you and your child need.

We understand that the 'grass often looks greener' but we are certain that both pastorally and academically TDMS offers the very best for your child. We also pride ourselves on caring for the mental health and welfare of our students. Indeed, of the small number of students who did leave in September for pastures new, many have already returned to TDMS, citing the earlier Year 9 options and teacher support as their main reasons for returning.

We are not complacent however, and if you have any concerns regarding your child as they complete Year 8 and start to consider their GCSE options, please do contact us at school.

We hope that you are equally excited about the next important phase of your child's journey at TDMS.

Yours sincerely



Guy Nichols



Alex Ballantine