

The De Montfort School

UNLOCKING YOUR CHILD'S POTENTIAL

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



31 January 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

At TDMS we believe that excellent attendance and punctuality are critical in giving your child the best possible chance to achieve their full potential at school and getting them ready for their adult life.

In order to really address our need to increase attendance at TDMS, we have employed an Education Welfare Officer (EWO) and a Pastoral Support Worker (PSW). They will be providing as much support as possible in helping parents get their children into school.

Our attendance has risen by 1%, from 92% last term to 93% this term but our goal has to be 96% attendance for every student, and I have reinforced our expectations and the importance of attendance in my assemblies this term.

Every day, every half day and every lesson really does count, as the link between poor attendance and poor attainment is indisputable.

- A child with 90% attendance misses the equivalent of **one whole month** of education each year which, over their school life, equates to **one whole year** of education missed
- This 10% absence actually gives them less than a 50% chance of success in their examinations, because it leads to one whole GCSE grade drop across every subject that they take

As a reminder for all, please read the following regarding School Attendance Legislation.

Attendance and Punctuality

The Education Act 1996 states that as a parent, you must ensure your child receives appropriate full-time education according to their age, ability and aptitude. If your Child is registered at a school then they must attend regularly and punctually. It is your responsibility as the parent to ensure good attendance. If not, you could be found guilty of an offence.

Headteacher: Guy Nichols BSocSC (Econ), NPQH

www.tdms.worcs.sch.uk | office@tdms.worcs.sch.uk | Sports Centre: 07881 506156



Request for leave of absence during term time

Amendments to the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006 state that Headteachers may not routinely authorise leave of absence during term time, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Unauthorised leave of absence for the purposes of a holiday could lead to a Holiday Penalty Notice fine of £60 per parent, per child. If not paid within 21 days this fine increases to £120 per parent per child. Failure to pay the £120 fine within the period of 22 to 28 days may lead to Court proceedings.

Absences add up quickly and have a devastating impact on attainment so if you have any questions regarding the above, or any concerns regarding getting your child into school, please do contact us immediately as we can help and support you.

Our new reward system which recognises the winning tutor group in each year and the 100% attenders, is having an impact and we will be publishing our weekly attendance every week to keep you fully informed on how we are doing.

A big well done to everyone who has already raised their attendance. We know that working together really does make a difference.

Thank you again for your support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Guy Nichols', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Guy Nichols