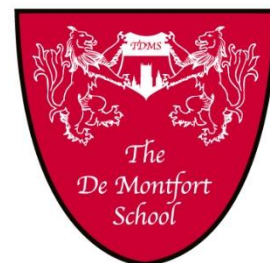


The De Montfort School

UNLOCKING YOUR CHILD'S POTENTIAL



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

20 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

At The De Montfort School we take pride in the role we take in supporting students both pastorally and academically. A significant part of this is Safeguarding the student's welfare and supporting students and families when they are in need, including signposting them to further services or referring them to provision. We are aware the Coronavirus national emergency will cause all sorts of strains and anxieties in families and in the community. A small number of students will be in school but we are still holding responsibility for all our students and would like to make parents and carers aware this:

- Any parent/carer can contact school if they have Safeguarding concerns for their own children or are aware of risks to other children. This includes any type of abuse (physical, emotional, neglect or sexual), child sexual exploitation, criminal exploitation, domestic abuse, alcohol or drug misuse. Parents or carers can also choose to self-refer or anonymously report a concern to Worcestershire Children's First on: [01905 822666](tel:01905822666). Out of hours: [01905 768020](tel:01905768020). If worried about contacting directly please contact the TDMS Safeguarding team on the number/emails below.
- We are aware students may have questions, be worried and suffer from anxiety during this time. Childline on 0800 1111 can be used or contact school (use details below) if you would like to discuss the issue and we will support.
- Some students may have other mental health problems, low mood or suicidal thoughts. Emergency help should be sort from Papyrus Hopeline 0800 068 41 41 or Samaritans 116 123, For ongoing problems use Kooth <https://www.kooth.com/> or contact school (detailed below) for a referral. Sixth Formers can use the Healthy Minds Website - a range of materials and a chance to self-refer <https://www.hacw.nhs.uk/about-healthy-minds/>.
- General health worries/normal teenage thoughts might cause worry. We are aiming to get an update on the school nurse service and will let you know. In the meantime, you can use the school nursing text service on 07507 331 750. This is not 24 hours but a response will be received. We can also make referrals to the sexual health nurse. Medical support is treated as confidential.
- The Government has announced that families on Free School Meals will receive vouchers but it is not understood how these will be distributed yet. We are able to refer to Evesham Food Banks if you need that support but please be aware that these services are currently under strain. Adventure playground also supply food without an appointment: 01386 442154. We also have a stock of sanitary towels in school for student use - please contact us if required.
- E-Safety: we are aware there will be a strain on parents and carers to supervise their children. Please make sure you are checking laptops/PCs/tablets and phones, that parental controls are set and privacy settings are

Headteacher: Guy Nichols BSocSC (Econ), NPQH

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



set on social media. It is very advisable that regular checks are done to ensure your children are safe online. Mr Wilson, our school Network Manager, will send out some further guidance. If you feel your child is at risk or you know something has happened, contact CEOP (Child Online and Protection Agency) on <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/> or use the Report Abuse button which you can search on Google. If there are serious cyberbullying issues ring 101 and a PCSO will assist.

- Wider ways we can support are [linked here on our Early Help Offer](#) - we will try our best to meet your needs from this document – the Parental support and some of the referral support Tier 2 and 3 will be available. Obviously without the contact in school some services will not be available. Please email the Safeguarding Team below.
- There is wider information in the final part of the Early Help Offer with information and contact details on services.
- Students who are young carers will be under great strain. If we are aware of young carers, we will contact them direct. If anyone else becomes a young carer please contact us for support.

Please be aware we expecting some of these services will be very strained during this period so some patience may be needed. If you are struggling however, please contact us and we may be aware of alternative choices.

Information will be updated as we find out more.

To contact the Safeguarding Team:

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs F Lovecy - flovecy@tdms.worcs.sch.uk

Phone: 07547 329838 (School hours please)

Deputy Safeguarding Leads:

Sara Wells: swells@tdms.worcs.sch.uk

Sarah Green: sgreen@tdms.worcs.sch.uk

We wish you all the best. Please stay safe and well.

TDMS Safeguarding Team