

The De Montfort School

UNLOCKING YOUR CHILD'S POTENTIAL

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



Friday 24th July 2020

Dear Prospective Year 12 Students and Parents,

Return to school in September 2020

We are extremely excited that so many of our Year 11 students are planning to rejoin us in September 2020. However, because of the need to maintain a high level of COVID security and conform to Department for Education guidelines, when we resume in September 2020, there will be a number of important changes to the curriculum, timetable and organisation of the Sixth Form that will affect our new Year 12 students.

Curriculum and timetable changes

- Because of the necessity of zoning all year groups into bubbles, Sixth Form lessons have been roomed in either the PS rooms, the Design Block – for ICT access, or in specialist facilities for Art, Music and Performing Arts courses, where this is practicable.
- To minimize the movement of students and staff, all lessons across the school have been reorganized into doubles.
- Some Sixth Form lessons will take place after the end of normal school time. By extending our provision in this way, we are able to ensure that students have access to specialist facilities where they are needed. These will be timetabled lessons and are not optional, although they only affect a few subjects in Year 12. I am bound to say that our staff have been incredibly generous in giving up their time to support the needs of our students.
- We are going to change the balance of teaching so that Y12 students will start off with 4 lessons per week, then move to 6 lessons from May Half Term 2021. This will enable us to temporarily prioritise Year 13 students by giving them 6 lessons a week to recoup some of the time that has been lost during lockdown.

Organisational and other changes

- Traditionally, Sixth Form students have been able to go out for lunch. From September 2020, this privilege will have to be suspended to reduce the risk of infection. Students will, therefore, need to bring a packed lunch with them to school. Once on site, students may not leave until their lessons are finished for the day.
- We have increased Private Study facilities so that the Library and PS9 are solely available for Sixth Form use. We have also increased ICT capacity by installing 15 PCs in PS4.
- Staff will continue to use Google classroom to set homework and private study tasks and it will be our home learning vehicle should there be another lockdown. It is extremely important that all students use this facility. For this reason, we strongly advise all students to bring a laptop or Chromebook to school as this will now be an essential piece of equipment. If you would like further advice on machine specifications, please email me directly.
- While we had originally intended to support our new Sixth Formers financially through technology vouchers and text book vouchers, the loss of substantial lettings revenue (in excess of £80,000 to date) and other costs sustained during lockdown has meant that we have had to reduce what we can offer. Nevertheless, we have decided that each student will still be eligible for a £25 voucher for text books, purchased through the school's finance office. Students can also apply for academic bursaries through the Deacle Trust to support further study. We are also exploring setting up a low cost scheme to help parents purchase laptops and PCs. Whilst we are disappointed that we are unable to fully retain our original intent, we are sure you will appreciate how difficult financially the situation has been for the school.

Supporting our Sixth Form has been a top priority in our preparations for re-opening the school in September 2020. If you would like to discuss our plans further or have any other suggestions to make, please contact me at tdolan@tdms.worcs.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Mr T. Dolan, Deputy Head (Curriculum and Achievement) and SLT Line Manager for Sixth Form

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