

The De Montfort School

UNLOCKING YOUR CHILD'S POTENTIAL

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1 October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

TDMS: Update regarding uniform and detentions/litter

As you are aware we have taken the decision to maintain as much ventilation as possible in our classrooms as a mitigating factor against Covid-19. We have been seeking further guidance on this area from the Local Authority and Public Health England. As more information becomes available, we will, of course, update you.

Yesterday, I spoke with every class (Years 6 – 11) to ensure that our students understand our new rules and expectations. I believe these new rules (with immediate effect) mean that we will achieve the right balance between ensuring your children are warm and safe, whilst still maintaining standards of dress.

1. Uniform

As long as their uniform is fully correct – blazers are worn correctly, shirts are tucked in, ties are the correct length, shirt top buttons are done up, skirts are not rolled up – **we are happy for our students to wear sensible additional clothes.**

This applies in school, as well as on the way to and from school. We have made it clear that they must collectively help us in ensuring all students keep to the rules.

Sensible additional clothing includes: jumpers/jackets/hoodies/fingerless gloves and (in the event of extreme cold) hats/scarves. The only proviso is that hoods are not being worn.

I have explained to our students that staying safe and warm are the most important factors and that they must all use some common sense in deciding what are the best additional layers to wear.

So, for example, if students have a range of different coloured jackets/jumpers/sweatshirts and some are red or black, then red or black would be the best choice, to keep most closely in line with our uniform. However, if all they have available to keep them warm is a pink jacket, then that is what they would wear. So, where you have choice, please go for warmth and not fashion and go for red or black or plain, rather than bright colours and patterns.

2. Detentions and litter

Detentions and levels of litter are low. However, as case and death rates from Covid-19 are continuing to rise

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nationally, we must avoid anyone having to spend time after school in a detention, where this is clearly avoidable. Detentions increase their risk, your risk and the risk to our staff. The same is also true regarding the dropping of any litter, which then has to be picked up, increasing the risk of transmission.

The students have assured me that they agree with this, and that they will avoid getting detentions, will not drop litter and are grateful for our permission to now wear whatever is needed to keep themselves warm.

So, with your backing, we are:

- Trusting your child to **Be Sensible** (avoiding detentions/not drop litter etc)
- Doing all we can to help them **Keep Warm**, by allowing them to wear plenty of layers using common sense
- Helping them to **Stay Safe**, by still ensuring adequate ventilation in the classrooms.

Be Sensible – Keep Warm – Stay Safe.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of our school.

Yours

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

Guy Nichols