



# The De Montfort School

UNLOCKING YOUR CHILD'S POTENTIAL

11 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I wanted to write to tell you how delighted we have been about the way that students have returned to school this week. The students' attendance has been above 95%; we know that the best place for our students is at school in lessons.

As our students have returned to school, we have raised our expectations of conduct. We feel that where there are high expectations in school, it will help us create a climate and culture that supports all students' progress. Our students have responded exceptionally well to the changes, and the calm and purposeful atmosphere is palpable. Having the opportunity to walk around the school over the past two days, it has been a pleasure to see students fully concentrating and enjoying their learning.

We wanted students to look and, therefore feel, that they are ready to learn and being dressed smartly in uniform is part of this. School uniform plays a key role in promoting pride, self-confidence, and a feeling of belonging within the school. The improvement in the uniform standards across the school has been remarkable. It is clear that our students are taking pride in themselves and their appearance. To support families over the past three weeks, we have donated over 350 uniform items to help students to meet our standards.

Mobile phones can be a source of emotional stress and this is one reason why we have asked students not to use mobile phones during the day. Our students have responded really well and it has been encouraging to see them at break and lunchtimes talking and enjoying each other's company rather than staring into a digital device.

We do understand that some students may still be anxious about returning to school after such a long break. To support this, we have maintained a Senior Intervention Tutor for each year group. We have also increased the time our School Counsellor is in school to provide additional support to students who need it. If you have any concerns about your son/daughter, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school.

Next week, we will be offering extra-curricular activities after school; we want as many students involved as possible. We believe that, after the extended period of lockdown, students need opportunities to reengage with recreational activities that will support their wellbeing.

Yours sincerely

Stuart Weston