



# The De Montfort School

UNLOCKING YOUR CHILD'S POTENTIAL

23 April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

## Information, advice and guidance interviews

Firstly, I would like to introduce myself to you. My name is Mel Thomas, and I have joined TDMS as Deputy Headteacher, with particular expertise in post-16 education.

I will be supporting Year 11 students, along with our Sixth Form students, as part of my role here, and I wanted to let you know of some planned opportunities that are happening from next week to support your child in making informed decisions regarding their next steps.

As you will be aware, applications for TDMS Sixth Form have been open online, at the school website, for some time, and we have offered students the opportunity to indicate which subjects they would like to study, to inform our broad and balanced post-16 curriculum. We have analysed this information and are now in a position to discuss next steps, and our curriculum offer, with our Year 11 students.

Every student in the year group will be invited, across the course of the next two weeks (beginning w/c 26 April 2021), to a 1-1 advice and guidance interview with me, in the Sixth Form block. The aim of the interview is to support students in making appropriate choices about their post-16 studies, discussing their aspirations and advising them regarding a pathway which is best suited to supporting them in achieving the wonderful range of things they wish to be or do in future. It is important that they attend, as it will be their first opportunity to attend a face-to-face meeting since the recent closures due to COVID-19, and they will be able to ask any questions concerning their pathways that they wish to, to ensure that they are able to make fully informed decisions.

The interview is also an opportunity for students to be signposted to further support if they are unsure of their next steps, or to submit an application to TDMS Sixth Form, should they wish to, if they have not already done so. There are exciting changes happening, including investment in IT infrastructure and new Sixth Form facilities, for September, supporting the growth of the Sixth Form and our strong emphasis on creating and sustaining a vibrant Sixth Form community.

In order for you to support students at home prior to the interview, may I recommend the following websites:

<https://icould.com/> - this website offers careers inspiration and advice for those unsure of next steps.

<https://www.ucas.com/> - this website is the portal through which students research Higher Education choices. It is useful to check the A-level, or other Level 3 requirements here, by degree programme.

<https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/> - this website allows you to see A-level courses that are essential and desirable by future pathway.

I look forward to discussing your child's options with them over the next few weeks.

Kind regards

Melanie Thomas (Ms)  
Deputy Headteacher – School Improvement