



# The De Montfort School

UNLOCKING YOUR CHILD'S POTENTIAL

28 May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As we reach the end of the half term, all the staff have been pleased with the hard work and determined attitude that our students have demonstrated.

It has been a busy term and today we said goodbye to our Year 11 and 13 students. All of them have worked hard in the final few weeks of their courses and we wish them well in whatever they choose to do next.

We have continued to focus on our core expectations of good behaviour in lessons and around the school site. It has been a pleasure to see that classes have remained purposeful and our students have demonstrated an excellent attitude towards their learning.

In addition, this half term we have been developing the TDMS lesson experience. We believe that in the correct environment, with excellent teaching and well-planned lessons, all students can succeed. Just as we have high expectations of behaviour, we also are aspirational for what our students can achieve with the correct support and challenge.

We have been working on three key areas; the start of lessons, questioning and the work that our students complete in the lessons. We have asked all members of staff to start every lesson with a 'low stakes quiz'. These are not formal assessments, but they provide an opportunity for students to recall the information from previous lessons. This approach will help them to save the information in their memory.

We have also asked staff to direct their questions in lessons to particular students, rather than asking them to offer answers. With a 'no hands up' approach, teachers have the opportunity to evaluate the understanding of all of the students in the class. If we simply ask for students to offer answers, we will only ever know about the students who have easily grasped the lesson content.

Providing students with the opportunity to apply their knowledge is an essential part of learning. We have asked teachers to make sure that around 70% of the lesson time is dedicated to allowing students to work independently. With this, students will develop their understanding of the work that they are covering in the lesson.

The behaviour and attendance of our students will continue to be important as we move into the final half term of the year and Mr Hyde has provided more information on our key focus areas in his pastoral update letter.

We have made good progress so far this year, however, there is still more work to do if we are going to meet our target of providing an outstanding educational experience for all of our students.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your support this year. I hope that you and your family have a relaxing half term break. We are looking forward to welcoming all of the students back on the 7 June.

Yours sincerely

Stuart Weston