



The De Montfort School

UNLOCKING YOUR CHILD'S POTENTIAL

Parent Voice Meeting **Tuesday 2nd December 2014 6pm**

Present:

Mr G Nichols, Headteacher
Mrs C Kent – Vice Chair of Governors
Mrs F Lovecy, Deputy Head
Mrs J Sampson, Business Manager

Welcome to everyone and particularly the new parent who has joined tonight. All parents are welcome to attend.

1. Matters arising on the minutes of 04.11.14.

- ❖ A new homework timetable will be arranged in the new term to reflect the new timetable.
- ❖ The system has improved so that students record homework in their planners with the dates for handing in the homework recorded at the side of the homework set.
- ❖ The minutes of the previous meeting were posted on the school website.

2. Head of Faculty English & Maths

- ❖ Tammie Scanlon – Head of English and Jon Hopkins – Head of Maths joined the meeting.
- ❖ The stickers which were put into English & Maths exercise books for parental comments have been a success. Staff felt well supported by parents as they received comments back. If issues were raised then staff were able to follow them up.
- ❖ The success demonstrated in English & Maths has been discussed with all Heads of Faculties and we are rolling it out for the whole school for parental comments over the Christmas holiday. Each year group will have a subject in which stickers will be put into the books. The books will then go home over Christmas for comments from parents. Throughout the year parents will see the books for all subjects but not all at the same time. Parents will be notified via either a letter or newsletter about the parental comment stickers.
- ❖ English and maths had 100% return with their books which students took home to get parental comments in. GN said we will send text messages to remind students and

parents to return their subject books after the Christmas holiday. Stamps could be given to students who return their books on time.

- ❖ Concern over homework set which was for 100 words to be learnt for maths. Mr Hopkins explained that this is a requirement from the exam boards now, but he will get clarification for parents on how soon and how many words students need to learn and look at ways to break down tasks into manageable steps.

ACTION: Homework policy to be brought to the next meeting

- ❖ Parents asked for greater clarity and clear expectations from the teacher when setting homework (eg timing of exercise, quantity of homework expected).
- ❖ Some teachers are still setting homework on sheets of paper rather than in exercise books and this means that students don't receive feedback about their homework.

ACTION: GN to ask staff to provide some form of recognition that homework is being handed in and being marked

- ❖ Postcards are still sent out to students for praise particularly at middle school.
- ❖ Telephone calls home to advise parents about pupil progress are very much appreciated.

3. Literacy Leaflet was disseminated

- ❖ What else would parents like support with?
- ❖ Parents felt that being asked to sign the reading record several times whilst students are reading books is helpful.
- ❖ Last Year's Treasure Island map for reading – was very good and was part of a national challenge.
- ❖ A Maths leaflet or a guide with word definitions could be helpful for parents.
- ❖ Planners could have more information such as words for Maths and other subjects.
- ❖ More information to support parents with their child's learning could go on the website.
- ❖ A list of suitable books and film which relate to each subject could be given to pupils.
- ❖ Parents asked what the school policy is on language in books that pupils read. Of Mice and Men has some quite explicit language in, however this is a nationally set piece of text for all students. We will hold a Literacy Evening for all parents later in the year.

ACTION: Parents to bring any further ideas back to the next evening

4. IPUs

- ❖ There was positive feedback from parents about the new IPU's. The end of year results were not as vigorous and reliable as we now need so we had to set new baselines for students. GN reported that progress is improving quickly. Colour coding has been appreciated by parents, although not all parents find it easy to understand.
- ❖ Red tends to get your attention and might mean we need to be careful not to focus on the negative and focus on the positive.
- ❖ On the parent portal data can be seen for every student.

5. Year 6 & Pyramid

- ❖ Some of the first schools are putting a proposal together to keep pupils into Year 6 and 2 schools have gone to consultation. GN has written a letter to the governors of the schools to ask them to pause in their decision process. GN has written a letter to parents at TDMS to ask for their support. GN explained that we have one school with 2 nurturing environments.
- ❖ GN said before his arrival he did not understand how the system was set up but now believes it is a very impressive system. Progress is good and by the end of KS4 results have historically been very good.
- ❖ On 16th December GN has been asked to host a meeting for the first school headteachers and governors.
- ❖ GN explained that schools will get pupil funding for year 6 pupils but there is no capital money available.

6. Parent View

- ❖ Parents were given a graph showing comparisons at the beginning and end of November. It was noted that the number of responses has risen and the results have improved with parents changing 'disagrees' to 'agrees' and strongly 'agrees' to 'unsures'.
- ❖ GN thanked everyone for their support with Parent View.

7. Date of Next Meeting

- ❖ Tuesday 13th January 2015 6pm. All parents are welcome to attend.

8. A.O.B.

- ❖ GN thanked all parents for their input. All parents were invited to visit the school during the working day.

- ❖ Year 11 will receive a results sheet for their mock exams which will mirror what they get for their final results. Parents agreed with the format of the Mock Exam Results Sheet.
- ❖ A few small changes are to be made to the uniform letter and then it will be sent out to all parents.

Meeting closed at 7.50pm