



The De Montfort School

UNLOCKING YOUR CHILD'S POTENTIAL

Parent Voice Meeting **Tuesday 2nd June 2015 6pm**

Present:

Mr G Nichols, Headteacher
Mrs C Kent, Vice Chair of Governors
Mrs F Lovecy, Deputy Head
Mrs J Sampson, Business Manager
Mr M Sandell, Senior Assistant Head
Mr S Weston, Senior Deputy Head

1. Parents' Evenings

Mr Nichols explained that the discussion about Parents' Evenings has come about because some parents feel that due to the length of time parents have with staff during Parents' Evenings they are not giving as much information as they would like. There are concerns that some parents felt they waited a long time for their relatively short meeting with the teachers. There is also very limited privacy about the way that Parents' Evenings are currently run and this is sometimes an issue if parents wish to discuss confidential issues with teachers.

Mr Nichols told PVT that Mr & Mrs Flaxman have come up with a possible solution. Mr Flaxman explained the idea. Mr Flaxman said that Information Evenings are really helpful and could replace Parents' Evenings. The idea is that each faculty could have an evening whereby they deliver relevant information to all parents about what the students will be studying throughout the year and will show parents how they can support their son/daughter. At the end of the evening there could be an opportunity for teaching staff to meet with specific parents if necessary.

Parents asked if they could receive a telephone call from teachers to advise them of progress or areas of concern.

It was felt that maybe Year 9 students would need more time with teaching staff than other year groups due to their option choices.

A suggestion was made that postcards could be sent home more frequently to advise of rewards.

Parents felt that if you advised parents of year 7 students upwards that Parents' Evenings would not take the usual format, they would quickly understand how they can contact staff and what the system is. Parents are able to contact the HOL at any time and all their contact

details are on the website. Parents felt the new Progress Reports are excellent and give a full picture of how students are doing in school.

2. Reporting

Mr Nichols reported that he is having one to one meeting with all Year 10 students.

Mr Nichols said that when he met with the Year 11 students they were very concerned about the behaviour of at least 35 pupils in their year group. By the next meetings Mr Nichols had with the students this number had dropped to 8 and the group had begun to understand what was expected of them and a whole series of catch up sessions had been put in place for students. As a consequence of this when Year 11 students went into their exams they were much more confident. Mr Nichols said that the Year 10 pupils have been respectful and generally feel very valued. The Year 10 students have treated their meetings with Mr Nichols as something that is important and we have created a culture shift.

Mr Nichols told PVT that the Year 10 pupils have been given a lot of targets, particularly with their Attitude to Learning as an outstanding Attitude to Learning will mean that students will progress well in their subjects.

3. Homework

Mr Nichols explained that we have made a lot of improvements but we still need to improve the setting, monitoring and quality of homework. Steve Jones, our School Improvement Partner has said the quality of marking has improved albeit there are some inconsistencies between subjects.

Mrs Lovecy presented 2 solutions to the homework issue. The first solution is a short term solution. This system requires 2 Learning Ambassadors in each lesson to complete a blue slip to record what homework they have been given and to record in which lesson. The slip is then put in a box so that the House Ambassadors collate them and record the information on a spreadsheet. This is then collated centrally so that there is an overview of the whole school homework.

The Learning Ambassadors are involved in discussions about the quality of homework. The information will be shared with Heads of Learning and Heads of Faculty on a weekly basis.

Mrs Lovecy then demonstrated a system which could be in place from September whereby all homework is recorded onto a system on the school website called 'Show My Homework'. Anyone who goes onto the website can see the homework for the whole school, but each student and all parents can have a login so that they see their son/daughter's homework directly. It is a quick and easy system to use and there are excellent reports available from the programme which means homework can be monitored.

Parents felt this would be a good system. We will still ask students to put their homework into their planners as well as viewing their homework on the website.

4. A.O.B.

Mr Nichols thanked everyone for attending the Parent Voice Team meetings and said we have been growing in number as a group. If you know anyone who either has concerns or would be interested in joining the group, please bring them along to the next meeting.

Work Experience - If students are out of school for work experience and the Berlin trip will they be given any work to help them catch up? Mr Weston explained that all Year 10 pupils take part in the Work Experience activity so there will be no extra work set during this time. As it is only a certain number of students who go on the Berlin trip they may be set catch up work.

Mr Nichols confirmed that all Year 10 students will have work to do over the summer holidays. Parents asked for USBs for Year 10 students so that they can work over the summer holidays.

ACTION: GN to arrange for Year 10 students to have USBs for summer holiday work

5. Date of Next Meeting

- ❖ Monday 13th July 2015 at 6pm. All parents are welcome to attend.

Meeting closed at 7.15pm