



# The De Montfort School

UNLOCKING YOUR CHILD'S POTENTIAL

## **Parent Voice Meeting** **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2014 6pm**

### **Present:**

Mr G Nichols, Headteacher  
Mrs F Lovecy, Deputy Head  
Mrs J Sampson, Business Manager

### 1. Homework

FL thanked everyone for sending homework information back.

Homework timetable does not neatly cover the 2 week school timetable. If homework is on a day when the teacher does not take the class they naturally cannot set homework.

### **ACTION: We need to look at homework timetable to reflect 2 week timetable**

- ❖ Suggestions that stamps could be used for each subject to ensure teachers know students have put homework in their planners.
- ❖ Heads of Learning have looked at planners over a 2 week period. Students in year 9, 10 and 11 were unsure what homework they had each day. This is being resolved as all students are putting their homework diary into their planners.
- ❖ GN said if planners are not bought to school, we may well introduce same day detentions.
- ❖ Homework needs to be clearly on the board in class and clearly written in the planners.
- ❖ Due back date is not currently put in planners. Students could put the date of return by homework set.

### **ACTION: Establish a firm system that all homework is written into the planners and get students to put the due date by it so parents are fully informed and able to support their child in meeting the deadline**

- ❖ Homework gives structure and support. Longer term a one week timetable would be easier for students and parents and would help with homework planning.

- ❖ FL said we have done a quality check on the homework. HOD will continue with this checking in future. FL has spoken to some staff about homework issues.
- ❖ Parents don't tend to like homework sheets. Noted but sometimes sheets are sent home instead of student's books because the books don't always come back to school. GN said 'outstanding' would be that the students want to show parents and staff their level of work.
- ❖ We have put stickers in Year 6 and 9 books so that we can analysis the responses from parents. We will feedback at the next meeting.
- ❖ Suggestion for a book to be used for homework so that all homework is in one book. Unfortunately this would be difficult because of marking by different staff. We could, however, consider having a separate homework book for each subject.
- ❖ One parent has not had any feedback for any subject that their child has completed and all homework had been on sheets of paper rather than in their books. Sometimes the work set has errors in it.
- ❖ In English one student had been given a pre-printed reply slip which was stuck into their planner and this was a brilliant way of a quick response to homework. Parents felt this was an excellent system. FL to explore further.
- ❖ Putting homework in a very small box sends out the wrong message. Need sufficient space to ensure the expectation is of quality homework being seen to be completed.
- ❖ Staff are not always aware of the problems that homework can cause. Those pupils who are not getting recognition for completing homework on time need to be noticed. GN suggested a meeting between the HOF and a number of parents so that staff can hear how homework is from a parent's point of view. List of parents willing to take part in a meeting was obtained.
- ❖ Post it notes were put on one project to record comments which was felt to be a good idea. FL to explore further.
- ❖ One maths teacher gave out one free 'Get out of homework free' for students who did the best homework on time. This really motivated students. FL to explore further.
- ❖ There are some very good practitioners across school who have ideas that we need to share across the school. FL to identify role models of best practice and a means of sharing.
- ❖ If students did homework on the computer it is hard for parents to monitor if they have completed homework. Do we need to get homework signed off by parents?
- ❖ It was agreed that homework is important and is an opportunity to reinforce learning.
- ❖ If students don't understand the work, parents should inform teachers.

2. IPUs

- ❖ GN said school reports have been an issue in all schools. One report a year to parents does not necessarily give information at the right time of the year. A solution could be to send out IPUs every 6 weeks as a meaningful report on student progress.
- ❖ On the IPS there is an end of year target. Every student sits an assessment before the information is put onto the IPU. The IPUs are colour coded and shows parents where each student is in terms of their progress.  
Red = making below 3 level progress  
Amber = on track or slightly ahead  
Green = doing very well and are making 4 levels of progress. We want to have all pupils on at least green!  
Gold = outstanding  
Parents thought the colour coding was really good.
- ❖ There is an assessment completed for every subject and attitude to learning is also recorded in a separate column.

This will stop students who are doing very well from slowing down as they can see what they have done over a 6 week period. It gives you a constant idea of where pupils are.

- ❖ Parents believe the new IPUs to be excellent
- ❖ Could homework and revision not be set on the same week?
- ❖ We have good support in place for students re interventions. We are introducing peer to peer support across the school.
- ❖ Parents felt a 5 minute slot at Parents' Evening was a waste of time with no useful outcomes.
- ❖ The IPUs will be sent out ahead of Parents' Evenings so that a useful conversation can take place between parents and staff.
- ❖ Suggestion was made to blank out empty columns on IPU to save confusion and perhaps landscape.
- ❖ Baselines are set by the amalgamation of English & Maths data.

3. Uniform

- ❖ It was noted that this is much smarter now. GN said we are looking at new ties for all students.
- ❖ The tie will be black with one stripe in the house colour on it. Student Leaders will have multiple stripes in their ties. The school logo will have to be below the knot. We will provide a new tie for every student to be ready for January 2015.
- ❖ Girls will also have ties.

- ❖ Discussion about what colour shirts we would have. Should we have blue shirts for middle school and white shirts for high school? General consensus was that white shirts are smarter.
- ❖ Girls' uniform will be black skirt or trousers with skirt length to be agreed as currently it is too short.

4. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 6pm is the date of the next meeting. All parents welcome to attend.

5. A.O.B.

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

**ACTION: Minutes to go on website for all parents.**

Meeting closed at 7.50pm