



The De Montfort School

UNLOCKING YOUR CHILD'S POTENTIAL

Parent Voice Team (PVT) Meeting **Tuesday 6 February 2018 at 6pm**

Present:

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

Everyone introduced themselves.

1. Website Feedback

Parents feel the new website is well presented. Parents of Y6 students had said at the previous meeting that they could not find information on the website very easily. It was not knowing where to find information and what to look for that was difficult. The current Y6 parents did not have an Information Evening at the beginning of term to explain to them how to use FROG. We have now put a Parental Guide together, please see discussion below.

GN explained that we have an open door policy and Seeing Is Believing so please take the positive messages back out into the community about TDMS. If you have any concerns please do not put it on social media but instead come into school and see for yourself.

2. Parent Guide

Parents were very positive about the new guide. We can send this out to current Y6 parents and then in future years we will send it out to all new Y6 parents. Letters should go on the website first and then a text should be sent out rather than the other way round.

3. Evaluation of the Year so far

We are nearly half way through the year and this has been a very important year for the school with the move to one site. GN said from the last meeting parents were very positive. The Middle School did not have very much space and students are enjoying the space and facilities at the High School site. Students are all getting on really well on one site. It was agreed that we need to get the message out into the community about how positive parents feel about students being on one site.

GN said the demographics information received from the Local Authority indicates that there is not a large number of Y6 students needing school places in September and there appear to be large numbers of spare places across the county. Positive messages need to go out wherever possible. Parents said they are delighted with how students leave school but have seen some students smoking tonight; GN and staff on duty will address this. Parents said they feel there are still some students with skirts which are too short and some students wearing trainers and skinny jeans. Parents asked for clarification on the policy on mobile phones for younger students. They feel Y7 are taking pictures in class and they are putting them on Instagram and Snapchat. Y7 and Y8 are taking their mobiles out at break time.

It was noted that some students do not have their Learning Ambassador Badges yet. GN confirmed that all Learning Ambassador badges are with the teaching staff now.

Parents said they thought the organisation on clubs could be improved as some of the students do not always remember to tell their parents they are doing an after school club. There were some problems with the swimming gala and the organisation of it. A suggestions was that we also check with the parents to ensure students can do well at the sport they have volunteered for.

All Y10 students are having 1-1 meetings with GN from this week. Y10 students will be encouraged to purchase Revision Guides following these meetings. Parents asked if in future years the Y10 Parents' Evening could be earlier in the year than it is this year. It was noted that the SATs evening was very good.

4. Attendance & Detentions

We are putting a lot of work into improving student attendance. Attendance and success in exams are a perfect correlation so students need to be in school as much as possible. We are really pleased that detentions and exclusions have halved over the last year.

5. Homework

GN has reminded staff to improve homework and we have had staff training on setting meaningful homework. One parent said some Y7 groups do not get homework and there is little consistency across the year groups. Parents asked what happens about students who do not do their homework and asked for clarification on sanctions issued when homework is not completed. It would be helpful for timings of homework to be looked at so that students don't get all their homework over the weekend.

6. A.O.B.

GN explained about the colour coding on the progress reports. The proposal is to remove the colours on the grades and this will be looked at in more detail. Having listened to requests from parents we have decided that in future the colours will only be on the Attitude to Learning grades, and we will introduce an aspirational grade of 1*. This will be in place from May half term.

7. Date of Next Meeting

- ❖ Tuesday 27 March 2018 at 6pm. All parents are welcome to attend.

Future Meeting dates

Tuesday 22 May 2018 at 6pm

Tuesday 3 July 2018 at 6pm

Mr Nichols thanked all the parents for their tremendous support for our school and thanked everyone for coming along tonight. Please invite other parents to join the group as we want as many parents as possible on our PVT so we maximise our improvements.

Meeting closed at 7.40pm