



# The De Montfort School

UNLOCKING YOUR CHILD'S POTENTIAL

## Parent Voice Meeting Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015 6pm

### Present:

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

### Ideas to increase Parental Engagement

We want to develop how we interact with **Twitter and Facebook** to increase our communication channels. There will be a link to take the reader directly to the school website. We plan to release a tweet several times a week. The Twitter icon should be on the top of the website home page to be more obvious and perhaps in a box so that visitors see the Twitter feed instantly. You do not need a Twitter account to view Twitter. We do not allow anyone to post comments on it and we have locked Facebook so that negative comments can't be seen.

**Year Group Open Days**, we could send invitations to parents of a particular year group.

- ❖ Could we send **Emails to parents rather than letters** as this is quicker than the post?
- ❖ **Headteacher Update Evening** via a formal invitation to parents. We have got very strong parental support and this evening could be for parents to get an update on where we are and hear about what has changed since September. This would include data on what we have achieved so far and where we are going. "The Journey So Far....."
- ❖ **Parent View** to be available at all Parents' Evenings.
- ❖ Send a "**good news**" text out weekly.
- ❖ Do a **parent survey** so that we can feed comments back to the school.
- ❖ One suggestion was for pupils and parents to have the opportunity to meet with GN on a monthly basis; one month pupils and the next month parents. It was however thought more manageable for **HOL to have regular contact with parents and students**.

- ❖ A suggestion was made to hold a **TDMS Road Show** in Evesham town centre.

### Homework Policy

- ❖ All parents were given a copy of the draft Homework Policy. FL to take this to Governors next week for approval.
- ❖ Parents felt all year 5 parents should receive a copy of the Homework Policy when they come to the Year 6 Information Evening.
- ❖ Could something be added to the policy that for language subjects a dictionary or phrase book is required to support homework?
- ❖ Staff have not reported any issues with pupils not bringing books back into school when homework has been set in their school books, so this has been a positive step.

### IPU

- ❖ IPU now being called Progress Reports.
- ❖ It was noted that red can worry parents but GN reported that students do understand why it is red and if they have red on their Progress Report they need to show an improvement at their next assessment date. All students have also had assemblies to explain how the system works.
- ❖ Parents want to know at what point they need to be worried when looking at the Progress Reports. GN said that if students did not make progress after 3 assessments further questions need to be asked. Parents asked if the FAQ or a text could be sent to explain this.
- ❖ GN explained that our HOL and SITs together with a horizontal pastoral system means we can support pupils much more effectively.

### Year 6 and Pyramid

It was suggested that GN would hold an Information Evening for parents to present the case for why we should keep year 6 students in the current system. GN has been working closely with Bengeworth and St Richards'. Our year 6 results need to be good to demonstrate the effectiveness of the three tier system. If the system changes first schools may have mixed year groups as they may be dealing with small numbers of pupils. GN said we need to make sure our year 6 pupils are doing very well.

GN asked the parents to support the Year 6 Pyramid Information Evening.

GN thanked the parents for their support which has been invaluable.

## General

Plasma screens in both schools have had a big impact. Information is now instant, which means students look at the screens throughout the day as they move around school.

GN, in meetings with Year 11 students has had very positive comments from students that teaching has improved, student behaviour has improved a lot, and there has been a realisation in their group that it really matters how well they do. No student has spoken about going to another local high school. Given this, it was thought that perhaps Year 10 students should also have the opportunity to meet with GN to discuss their future. If we had meetings with all year groups, the HOL could do the meetings with year groups 6 to 9.

The new house system should allow students to promote their achievements both in school on the plasma screens and outside school through Twitter or text messages.

## A.O.B.

- ❖ Parents queried why there is no crossing outside school? GN said there have been long standing problems with parking and traffic access to all the schools and we are trying to look into this.
- ❖ Please advise FL if you would like something on the agenda.

## Date of Next Meeting

- ❖ Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2015 6pm. All parents are welcome to attend.

Meeting closed at 7.50pm