



The De Montfort School

UNLOCKING YOUR CHILD'S POTENTIAL

Parent Voice Team (PVT) Meeting **Tuesday 13 June 2017 at 6pm**

Present:

Mr G Nichols, Headteacher
Mrs F Lovecy, Deputy Head Teaching & Learning
Mrs J Sampson, Business Manager
Mrs C Kent, Vice Chair of Governor
Mrs N Chambers, Librarian

1. Ofsted

FL thanked the parents who attended the Safeguarding Working Party Meeting.

Mr Griffiths raised a concern about safeguarding issue at the meeting but GN advised him that it was not appropriate for this meeting and will be dealt with outside the meeting.

GN explained the Ofsted judgement and the Ofsted process to parents. GN said Ofsted were concerned with the Y6 SATS results but they were not interested in the headline (18%) improvements of the Y11 results, they are only interested in the Progress 8 measures. A large number of schools in Worcestershire have gone into categories following their OFSTED inspections.

GN said Ofsted's overall assessment of the school is accurate because we are on a journey and we are improving. The report is saying about 80% of what we are doing is correct but we are not all doing it and not doing it fast enough. There is about 20% that we need to do differently. They said that behaviour was very nearly good but not quite as some staff had said that behaviour was not good with all students.

Ofsted reported that Safeguarding is very good in that we have a culture of safeguarding in the school.

The report said that Leadership needs to be tougher with regard to anything that is not being done. There are lots of positives that come through the report. We will get to where we need to be and particularly with the support of parents. The report says we are moving in the right direction.

GN said that Requires Improvement is not a failing. We are not yet good but Ofsted are coming back to monitor within 3 months to check how we are doing and then they come back fully within the next 2 years. GN has visited a school that has just come out of Requires Improvement and is now good so we are learning from others and sharing ideas.

We had the largest number of parental responses to the parent survey from any school the Inspectors could remember and they could not argue with that level of parental support.

A parent commented that Requires Improvement was called Satisfactory until recently but the criteria has changed.

It was perhaps unfair that we were judged on Y6 results when we only have students for 2 terms. We had been told that Ofsted would not look at Y6 results this year.

Parents said the inspector was quite hostile in his manner. GN thanked the parents who volunteered to come into school to meet with the inspector.

They wanted to look at Sixth Form vocational but we have hardly no students doing this. Ofsted also said there are issues of consistency but we know we have the right teachers we just need to ensure they all follow our agreed strategies. We have good policies in place. Since the inspection GN has seen a change already which is positive.

GN said he had students who emailed him after the OFSTED Report was released because they were upset by some of the comments and they are proud of their school. Following this GN did an assembly about the pride of the school and where we are and the students who had emailed him then contacted him again and thanked him for this. There is a lot of pride in our students at The De Montfort School.

Parents asked when Ofsted came into school if they had an agenda for trying to put us into an academy. GN said this wasn't clear and they did give us an opportunity to show what we could do.

Parents asked about the comments about governors and what we are going to do to address this area. GN said when he first came to the school governors were kept at a distance but now they are active and are very supportive of the school.

GN said the Pupil Premium spending plan for the school was criticised as the plan was not rigorous enough. This is because Governors should oversee PP spending and Ofsted gave the governors a really tough time. There is an agenda nationally with PP students so that we 'Close the Gap. PP money is given to schools but is only for the benefit the students on PP and the students must not be singled out for being on PP. Both PP and Governance are to have external reviews to help us improve.

2. One Site

GN explained we have made a plan to be on one site and close the Middle School site. This is 70% down to the educational benefits and 30% down to the financial benefits. The LA will be responsible for the Middle School site once we vacate it. Every day there are many students who come from the Middle School to the High School site to use the High School facilities. Students have to be supervised during these movement times. If we remained on 2 sites students can have access to the facilities on the site they are on but they would not benefit from the facilities available at the High School site. Staff also work across site but this is a challenge as they have to move backwards and forwards every day. When GN came to the school it was 2 schools and 2 sites with 2 groups of staff with separate briefings. We then had to put in a lot of double lessons reduce the movement time. The move to One Site will help us return some of the double lessons back into single lessons. Staff are really positive about this. Timings of the day will be exactly the same as they are currently.

Parents asked if the school is big enough to accommodate all students. The answer is yes. In 2014 there had been 8 years of falling roles and the top year groups were getting smaller and smaller.

The High School site is therefore quite empty and could take 1300 students. The Middle School is very cramped with very narrow corridors so the move will be very beneficial as there is so much more space at the High School.

Y6 will have an area and a base. The Sixth Form students support younger students with reading and help to run clubs. This is something that can increase when we are all on one site.

We are looking at the challenges for 1 site such as lunch times and how we will cater for students but we have put a plan in place for this to work. SLT are also currently split across 2 sites and they all do 4-5 lunch duties every week. It makes it hard for managing students being on 2 sites as well.

This will also help us show we have taken action to address issues raised by Ofsted in helping HOF lead their faculties more effectively.

The plan has been discussed for about 5 months and we got the go ahead from the Local Authority on Thursday so we had a Staff Meeting on Monday to advise everyone at the same time. We sent out letters to all students by email and sent out by post letters to the new Y6 parents. GN is going into the 3 First Schools on Monday to speak to the students. By the end of Monday afternoon GN will have seen the vast majority of the new Y5 into Y6 students.

We have a Question & Answer Session on Thursday 22 June from 3.30pm to 5.00pm and we have the Y6 Induction Evening on Tuesday 27 June.

GN will also be visiting Blackminster School to speak to students too once he has liaised with Mrs Button.

Parents asked if the areas will be ready to show the parents of the younger students. Work has already begun on getting the area ready for the Induction Evening with a plan that some areas will be ready by then and the others will be completed over the summer. We will have designated areas for each year for their tutor sessions so that they are grouped by year. We are planning to have tutor bases and HOL together in certain areas.

We are likely to maintain the privilege system between Middle and High School age students so that students have mobile phones from Y9 onwards and we will continue to have the same policy about make-up and girls wearing their hair tied up in Y6 to Y8. Parents agreed with this decision and felt it was good.

GN explained that the tennis courts could be a play area for younger students. The current Y6 and Y7 students will visit the High School to show them all the facilities and where they will go when they return to school in September. We have put a lot of thought into the first few days in September. We are working with a parent governor to advise and support us. If you have any ideas please email them to jsampson@tdms.worcs.sch.uk

There was discussion about entrance and exit points for younger students. We will have some things to do to set the move in place before the end of term.

Parents asked if the move will encourage First Schools to keep their Y6 students. GN said we know there will be some nervousness but we think parents and students will want students to come to TDMS.

6. A.O.B.

The First Schools have now all agreed to put their students through GL assessment and this will show where their students are at the end of Y5 before they come to us. GN explained that the assessment system with SATS is putting the 3 tier system in jeopardy nationally.

Parents said that the Year 11 exam timetables and revision sessions were excellent and thanked everyone involved for running them. GN explained that with every exam students have gone into it has been well staffed and GN has given them a hand shake and wished them luck. Subject staff have often been able to meet students as they come out of the exam to support them too. GN said the only disappointment has been the number of students attending catch up sessions during the holidays.

Parents asked what support is given to the school with regard to addressing the issues raised by Ofsted and moving to one site. GN said from SLT we have allocated roles to look at the logistics of moving to one site. Stuart Weston and Tim Dolan are responsible for the planning for the move and GN is overseeing the Ofsted work and seeing the First Schools to ensure they are fully updated about the move. JS is dealing with the Local Authority on a day by day basis. FL is responsible for the Teaching & Learning and ensuring staff are focusing on this consistently.

GN said having support from the PVT at the Q & A Session on 22 June from 3.30pm to 5pm would be really helpful. Parents asked if the session could be extended.

It was agreed that we will hold a further PVT meeting prior to the Q & A Session so that parents can bring ideas to that meeting. An additional PVT meeting is scheduled for 20 June at 6pm.

GN advised that in relation to our finances our staff percentage is too high and the LA have directed us to reduce this so when staff leave we have not been able to replace them. Parents asked how students will be advised of staff replacement. GN said where staff are moving to promotion in another school or to other roles we have had to let them go. Staff leaving will make sure students know it is not a reflection on them but it is a new challenge they are taking on.

7. Date of Next Meeting

- ❖ Tuesday 20 June 2017 at 6pm. Strategic Group to look at One Site
- ❖ Tuesday 11 July 2017 at 6pm. All parents are welcome to attend.

Future Meeting dates

Tuesday 11 July 2017

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 7.25pm