



The De Montfort School

UNLOCKING YOUR CHILD'S POTENTIAL

Parent Voice Meeting **Tuesday 13th July 2015 6pm**

Present:

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

Apologies

Mrs C Kent, Vice Chair of Governors

1. Feedback on Parent's Evening & Information Evenings (Mr Weston)

The recent Year 9 Parents' Evening was held in 2 venues and this made it much better for parents to speak to staff without everyone else overhearing what they were saying. We will use this format for future Parents' Evenings. The Parents Information Evening that we held for Year 7 is something that we plan to put on for each year group.

We have decided to hold Parents' Information Evenings during the first 3-4 weeks of the autumn term. At this meeting we will give information about the key events for the year group. We will follow these up with a Parents' Evening later in the year. The new system will give parents contact with the Heads of Learning and all the contact details for these staff are also on the website.

All pupils in each year group will have an e-version of their year book which explains what will happen throughout the year.

It was suggested that all Parents' Evenings take place at the High School as there is much more space and it is a better venue. This would allow the same system to be in place that we used for the Year 9 Parents' Evenings, with 2 large venues being used. Parents felt it was good for parents of younger students to see the high school where their son/daughter would come from Year 9 onwards.

2. Enrichment

It was noted that Enrichment Week was extremely hectic and busy for some pupils. Some pupils were exhausted at the end of the day.

Concern raised that some of the letters about trips had to come back very quickly and it was hard to get them back by the deadline. A number of students had been disappointed that they couldn't go on certain trips due to a restriction on numbers. It was suggested that in future students are restricted to only choosing a limited number of trips in Enrichment Week. This would ensure a fair distribution amongst all students.

Parents asked for clarification on the reasons behind Enrichment Week. Mr Nichols said most schools try to have some days where pupils do completely different things to their usual curriculum but when you do it for odd days it becomes fragmented. The idea of Enrichment Week is to give all pupils a different experience. We were very ambitious to do this after the busy year we have had. Feedback from staff was very positive and attendance by students was good.

It was noted that the week at Middle School was much more hectic as they did more trips out. Mr Nichols said we have changed the week for next year, to enable a smoother end of term.

Mr Nichols explained that from September, all students will have to select one lunchtime club a week to enrich their time in school.

3. Homework Feedback

Mrs Lovecy explained that at the previous meeting we had showed the PVT a package called 'Show My Homework'. However, we have now developed our own homework monitoring system which we have trialled with year 9 students. The system works in conjunction with our own homework timetable, so you will only see homework for students on the appropriate evenings. The system is colour coded and pink means that no homework has been set. If no homework is being set we will ask staff to record this on the system so that students and parents know this information.

Homework set over the summer holidays can also be on the system.

We will send instructions to all parents in September. Once the system is set up Heads of Faculty will be able to quality control homework.

4. A.O.B.

Mr Nichols said he will ask different members of staff to attend the PVT meetings next academic year so that it is not the same staff for every evening that parents are with.

Mr Nichols confirmed that we will publish the dates of the PVT meetings for the next academic year well in advance to try and get new members to join the group. Mrs Carol Kent represents the Governing Body at the PVT meetings and she feeds back to Governors on the progress of the group.

Dates were set for the next academic year.

Mr Nichols advised everyone that Honeybourne 1st School have been given the go ahead to convert to an academy. Mr Nichols has met with Nigel Huddleston MP who has said he is concerned about some of the potential changes to schools in the Evesham area. Mr Nichols has also raised his concern about academisation with Nigel Huddleston and he said he has

heard lots of good things about this school since September and he will not stand by and allow academisation to happen. Nigel Huddleston is going to write to the DfE and Nicky Morgan to advise what he has heard. Nigel Huddleston is also taking the issue of poor funding for Worcestershire schools very seriously.

Mr Nichols reported that he had recently been at a conference where Peter Hall Jones spoke and he was very impressed with our Professional Exploration and Learning Ambassador systems.

Mr Nichols gave everyone a copy of his analysis of Parent View. This will be given to OFSTED as it shows the immense progress made over the year and it makes clear the level of support from parents.

Mr Nichols said that detentions have fallen during the year despite us being much stricter with pupils. This shows that students are also working hard and have the determination to make big improvements. Mr Nichols advised everyone that we still need to work on the classrooms to improve the environment.

Parents willing to speak to OFSTED Inspectors:-

Mr J Clifford

Mrs K Ingles

Mrs A Keitley

Mrs C Smith

Mrs S Stephens

Mrs J Winfield

5. Date of Next Meeting

- ❖ Tuesday 13th October 2015 6pm. All parents are welcome to attend.

Mr Nichols thanked all the parents for their tremendous support for our school over the last year and their constructive and supportive comments on our improvements. Please invite other parents to join the group. We want as many parents as possible on the PVT.

Meeting closed at 7.40pm