



The De Montfort School

UNLOCKING YOUR CHILD'S POTENTIAL

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

Present:

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

1. **Welcome Back & Term So Far**

Mr Nichols welcomed everyone back and welcomed all the new parents. Everyone introduced themselves.

Mr Nichols said we have had a big improvement in the amount of litter around the school sites. Uniform and planner checks are carried out on the gate every day and these are going very well. We have had a lot of visitors in school since September and they have been very positive about what they have seen. Our School Improvement Partner has also been in school a couple of times as well.

Students have settled in well. Year 11 students have been particularly good and have gone straight into booster sessions. From the meetings Mr Nichols has had with year 8 students they want staff to be stricter with them.

We are slowly increasing standards across the whole school. Both sites are immaculate and there is a real genuine sense of pride in the school.

Mr Nichols said we have got an issue with girls' skirts. We made it very clear last year that from September 2015 all girls should wear knee length black skirts. We have had 1 or 2 parents who have complained about the cost of replacing the old skirts. We have also had some parents who have asked what is happening about the girls wearing the wrong skirts. We are going to send out a very strong letter before the end of this half term and then we will have to send students home if they have the wrong skirt on. On the way home and on the way to school our pupils look excellent apart from the skirt issue.

NB: If girls are able to wear trousers we need to be clear on what is accepted.

The language that students use outside school needs to be improved. Mr Nichols said we have been targeting bad language. Appropriate behaviour is needed on the way to and from school by all students.

Clubs have not started in some areas and a new list of clubs has been put together. Sports Club information is not being sent out. It was agreed that the Clubs information should go on the website. The parents of new students have been very pleased with the start their children have made.

ACTION: Mrs Sampson to arrange for Clubs information to be put on the website

ACTION: Letter re skirts

ACTION: Address swearing through assemblies

2. Feedback & Information Evenings

The quality of information presented by staff at the Information Evenings was very good. The issue was that we did not get enough parents attending. Year 10 and 11 Evenings were seen as particularly useful.

FROG is excellent. If there are any queries with FROG you can email Stuart Wilson who did the FROG presentation. Thank you to all staff involved in the Information Evenings

ACTION: Mrs Sampson to ask Mr Wilson to change Positive Points to Stamps on FROG

3. New Homework System

New homework system is going well. Parents were especially pleased by the responses from staff who have been emailed by students with homework queries as this was felt to be really helpful.

There have been one or 2 issues with the online homework timetable. The homework system is not linked into our timetable and so if there is a timetable change there will be a short delay before homework is on the system.

Concerns were raised if the system says 'no homework set'. Mrs Lovecy is following up any 'no homework set' when she does weekly checks. Parents like receiving a text for missing homework. It was noted that some homework is not being marked and sometimes there is no feedback.

ACTION: Please email Mrs Lovecy if homework is not marked

Parents want staff to be reminded in briefing about the critical importance of homework being marked with feedback. Books to come home for students to do their homework in rather than them having to use pieces of paper.

ACTION: Mr Nichols to speak to staff about books coming home

Some teachers said they will be telephoning home to say how well pupils are doing but then haven't followed this up with the phone call. Mr Nichols said a lot of staff have been telephoning home and he has also been making calls.

ACTION: Mr Nichols to remind staff to make positive calls home as often as possible

4. PTA & Charitable Status

Parents felt this was worth pursuing. Parents suggested that we ask pupils what they would like to purchase if we raised money through a PTA. It was felt that by having a PTA we would be able to involve the wider community.

ACTION: Mrs Sampson to get further details about PTA & Charitable Status to bring to next meeting

5. A.O.B.

We need to make some more connexions with the Vale of Evesham School to build our links back up as our students enjoyed working with their students.

Mr Nichols told PVT that TDMS is under constant scrutiny. We are waiting for an Ofsted inspection at any time. The DfE also want to turn schools that have not got good exam results into academies and they want to make schools into sponsored academies wherever possible. Mr Nichols explained that he has been resisting this. Mr Nichols is speaking to the Local Authority about what we have been achieving. In the last conversation with John Edwards at the Local Authority he mentioned that he is meeting with the DfE and needed information about why they should not make us into an academy. Mr Nichols has put an A4 page together to say what we have done since September. Mr Nichols gave a copy of this document to everyone.

Attached to the back of this information are the latest Parent View figures. We have 37 responses on this. Mr Nichols said if you want to do something to help the school please ask all parents to go on this. Parent View figures are reset to zero every September. Parents would like to write to John Edwards to advise him of their support of the school. PVT asked if we could invite John Edwards to a PVT meeting. Parents are very support of Mr Nichols and the school. It was agreed that the parents would put a letter together which will go through Mr Nichols for John Edwards and the DfE in support of the school.

ACTION: Mr Nichols to collate information from parents about their support

Mr Nichols said he wanted to keep parents fully briefed about what is happening to us in school.

6. Date of Next Meeting

❖ Tuesday 1st December 2015 6pm. All parents are welcome to attend.

Mr Nichols thanked all the parents for their tremendous support for our school. 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 7.30pm