



# The De Montfort School

UNLOCKING YOUR CHILD'S POTENTIAL

## **Parent Voice Team (PVT) Meeting** **Tuesday 18 October 2016 at 6pm**

### **Present:**

Mr G Nichols, Headteacher  
Mrs F Lovecy, Deputy Head Teaching & Learning  
Mrs J Sampson, Business Manager  
Mrs N Chambers, Librarian

Everyone introduced themselves at the start of the meeting. Mr Nichols explained that the idea of PVT meetings is to improve the school. Please try and make the issues general rather than just about your child.

### 1. Feedback on the Partnered Review

Mr Nichols explained that since his arrival at the school the Local Authority and DfE have been keeping a watching brief on the school. The DfE have a drive to make as many schools into academies as possible. There was a meeting with the DfE at the beginning of this term with GN. The DfE were very tough and said we are doing the right things but that we need to look at the wider picture. Mr Nichols said he did not want to look at academisation so soon after bringing 2 schools together.

However the Local Authority thought it would be a good idea for us to have a mini inspection. We set up a schedule which was open and reflective with observations and work scrutiny of Years 6, 9, 11 and 12. They also wanted to meet with Governors and Parents and they wanted to meet SLT and students. Y6, 8, 9, 11 & 12 students were spoken to and they went into a lot of lessons. The team was made up of an ex HMI inspector, a Headteacher from an outstanding school, and two School Improvement Advisors. They produced a report which is on our website.

Our document has been summarised into this one which has been given out to parents tonight. This is the kind of report that OFSTED would give us.

Mr Nichols said we had a twilight session last night which looked at marking. It is not easy to get marking that is effective and we are now looking at the impact of marking. Before we addressed the issues around marking in some areas there was work that was not marked. It is now about how well we do marking. Mr Nichols told parents they could help us with improving marking as they see when students get work marked. Mr Nichols asked parents to come back with examples of where marking has been really good. It was noted at the staff training that best practise is different in each subject and what works well in one subject may not in another. We have to achieve good marking if we are going to be an exceptional school.

Mr Nichols explained that the report notes that behaviour has improved and is now a strength. Sixth Form students have said that the younger students are extremely motivated and this includes Y9 students. There is still room for some students to be more actively learning and we need to eliminate passive learning. When we employ staff we always ensure they are passionate about their job.

Performance of Pupil Premium students is a key area for development and boys are behind girls in their achievements. We need to ensure that students who regularly work hard are praised for this. We need to celebrate the good achievements from the Attitude Towards Learning. There are some parts of the report which we can fix such as the end of double lessons where the pace can dip. If we go back to single lessons we have an issue with staff moving across site.

Mr Nichols explained how the homework detention system works. Students receive a warning one the first day and told that they must bring their work in the next morning; if it does not come that day they attend a faculty catch up. If they do not turn up to the faculty catch up they get a detention.

### **Partnered Review**

#### **Positives**

Marking Policy  
Behaviour/ATL  
Parental support  
Students view of the school

#### **Areas for Development**

Effective Marking  
Passive → active learning  
Gaps non PP and PP  
Gaps girls – boys  
Doubles – planning  
Quality rather than quantity

HOF and HOL have to know about the quality of T & L from the teachers in their faculty. If a parent wants to know something it should be the HOF that they go to. Maths is an area where meaningful feedback is being discussed rather than giving students marks. Parents feel that students may have got a lot of maths papers on a memory stick but they also need to have the marked answers so that parents can help students if they get stuck on the work. Papers need to be returned with the working out on it. Parents felt that on FROG there are a lot of resources missing.

**ACTION: GN to speak to Maths faculty**

**ACTION: FL to find out about missing resources on FROG**

Quality feedback is really important for the school to improve and Mr Nichols thanked the parents who spoke to the inspectors. Mr Nichols said that our students were very supportive of the school.

We had 2 very successful Open Evenings. Mr Nichols said he had visited Blackminster to give out the dates for Open Evening so there should have been no confusion however the Local Authority got the wrong date on the admissions information. We have a "Seeing is Believing Day" tomorrow where the school is open to anyone who wishes to visit the school.

Parents said they wanted to compliment the school on the fact that Y9 students can select their options before they come into Y9 and felt this has been excellent.

Parents noted that the review did not mention SEND students and they thought this was an area that OFSTED were particularly keen to look at. Mr Nichols said that the focus has moved to Pupil Premium but we have very good SEND provision in the school. The quality of the staff supporting

SEND students is very high. The inspectors did not see any lessons that they would consider inadequate.

## 2. Evaluation of the Start of Term

Parents asked for feedback on how the Y12 students doing. Students are doing really well and realise there is a big step up from Y11.

Mr Nichols said we had an incident with the Sixth Form football team but he investigated it and gave them a chance to put it right. The students blamed themselves and explained what had happened to Mr Nichols. Mr Nichols said he issued different levels of punishment to the students depending on what their involvement was in the incident. Mr Nichols said he is looking for more support at lunchtimes and these students have volunteered one lunchtime each per fortnight.

Mr Nichols explained that we did not go ahead with the Sixth Form uniform as it was 50/50 between who wanted it and who did not. We thought we were moving too fast on it this year. We are delighted to have 76 students in Y12.

## 3. A.O.B.

Mr Nichols asked parents to go onto Parent View if they have not done so already.

Parents said that a few students attended the other Middle School Open Evenings were less impressed with what they saw, however they loved the Middle School at TDMS.

Parents asked for consideration to be given for the Information Evenings as they felt if you have more than one student in the school it is the same information being given out at each evening and becomes a bit repetitive.

Mr Nichols told parents if they have a child in Y11 we are running revision sessions at half term and the timetable will be published shortly.

Parents were asked to put themselves forward to be on the list of parents who are happy to be contacted to speak to the inspectors when we have an OFSTED Inspection.

## 4. Date of Next Meeting

- ❖ Tuesday 6 December 6pm. All parents are welcome to attend.

### Future Meeting dates

Tuesday 7 February 2017

Tuesday 28 March 2017

Tuesday 23 May 2017

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 7.45pm