



The De Montfort School

UNLOCKING YOUR CHILD'S POTENTIAL

Parent Voice Meeting **Tuesday 24 May 2016 at 6pm**

Present:

Mr G Nichols, Headteacher
Mrs F Lovecy, Deputy Head Teaching & Learning
Mrs C Kent, Vice Chair of Governors
Mr S Wilson, Network Systems Manager
Mrs J Sampson, Business Manager

Mr Nichols welcomed everyone to the meeting. Mr Nichols introduced Mr Wilson (Network Systems Manager) to the meeting to do a presentation on the new school website.

Parents said they liked the new website and they agreed with the design. The new website can be viewed by going onto <https://dev.tem.sch.uk>

Parents asked if it was possible to put the email addresses of all staff onto the new website, but Mr Nichols explained that it was good protocol to go through SLT or HOF so that information could be monitored. Mr Nichols also said we need to give teachers a work/life balance and the system currently in place gives them a certain amount of protection against feeling that they need to be available 24/7 for students and parents.

1. Minutes of Meeting held on 15.03.16.

Minutes of the meeting held on 15.03.16. were read and agreed.

2. Feedback on Exam Timings and Procedures

Year 8 exams have gone well and these have been held at the High School in the Sports Hall. Students have been very well behaved. This process is about getting the students ready for their GCSE exams.

The Year 6 SATS feedback was good. Mr Nichols said they were very well organised. The down time for students at the end of the SATS week was excellent as these were tough tests.

Year 10 Science exams have taken place for some students. The Year 10 Parents' Evening worked very well and having the revision books for sale was excellent.

Mr Nichols told PVT that we had one Year 10 students with poor behaviour in their exam and we are dealing with this. Behaviour of all other students was very good.

Year 11 students have an excellent revision timetable in place which works into the exam timetable. If the revision groups are too big they don't work as well. Two thirds of a year groups doing a revision session together in the hall is too big. Mr Nichols explained that we have a problem with a group of students who do not realise how important their exams are. As parents we need to find a way of breaking this down so that students understand the importance of working hard at school. The staff are putting in an incredible amounts of hard work to support students. Parents asked if it would help this group of students by bringing in external speakers to tell them about life after school and how important their school years are. At Middle School there is a higher level of aspiration so these students should approach their exams in a more positive way.

A suggestion was made that we have a forum in Year 11 so that students could tell us what worked well for them. This could then focus and model what we do with revision and booster sessions in the future.

ACTION: GN to look at starting at Year 11 forum after the exams finish

Parents felt that the continuity of the staff in the English department had made it difficult for students to form a relationship with their teacher. Some students struggled to know who to turn to for support. Mr Nichols explained that he has been working closely with the English Faculty as 3 of their staff including the Head of Faculty are all on maternity leave. We have 3 teachers in post covering these absences but Mr Nichols is also providing support through additional revision and booster sessions to support students. Mr Nichols is also working with a small group of students who need very individualised support in English to give them a chance of succeeding in their exams.

Mr Nichols said we are trying to instil in students that you have to do your best when you are at school. Students in Years 6, 7 & 8 are demonstrating that they understand this but there are small pockets in other year groups where they do not think the same. We need to bring students who have left the school back to speak to the younger year groups about how they worked and perhaps what they would have done differently whilst they were in years 6 to 11. We have a Careers Officer employed in school that supports students with finding out what their aims are and she works with students to ensure they have a goal or ambition.

ACTION: GN to identify Year 11 students who could come back and speak to other year groups about their successes

3. Calendar Comments for Next Year & Feedback on Year 8 & 9 Options Process

Parents felt the Year 9 Parents' Evening was too late in the year. PVT thought it was a good idea to have the Faculty Information Evenings at the beginning of the academic year. The Year 9 Parents' Evening is taking place after students have started their options and this is felt to be too late. The reason for the current date is so that teachers can talk to parents about how their son/daughter has settled into the subjects they have selected, but we will look at the date of this in future years.

For parents and students in Year 8 we had an Options Evening and then a Parents' Evening and this worked very well.

Mr Nichols explained that currently we are not able to run as many choices in the options for students as we would like because we do not have large enough numbers of students at TDMS but as time goes by we will be able to increase what we offer students.

Parents felt the Information Evenings were good. The Options Evenings were very busy and it was difficult to speak to staff. Suggestion that we could do the Options Evening in 2 waves.

The information part of the Options Evening is important to have at the start of the options process so to have the talk at 2 time slots would help. This would mean that the subjects could then deal with parental and student queries in two waves, rather than having everyone at once. The students have been very positive about choosing their options in Year 8. Students have been really good and have continued working in all subjects which has even included the subjects they are not continuing into Year 9. Parents want to have the Information Evening at the beginning of the year for all year groups.

ACTION: GN to speak to HOF about having 2 waves for the Options Evening

Some parents felt the Skills Show was a waste of time.

ACTION: GN to feedback Skills Show information to SLT

4. Student Equipment and Organisation

Equipment – Mr Nichols explained that he has written a draft letter to go out to parents which explains how we aim to get the school to exceptional. Part of this requires all students to be prepared for learning and for them to bring the correct equipment into school. Currently the students who are not prepared for learning are causing us a problem.

Parents felt that for students at Middle School the parents would need to ensure they provided the students with the correct equipment, but for students at the High School, students should provide their own equipment. Mr Nichols explained that we sell all items in school at very low prices so there is no excuse for students not having equipment. A lot of time is being wasted at the beginning of lessons and this is causing other students a problem and it is not acceptable. At the WLT tonight the view was that we do not want to take on a battle where we are going to lose.

Parents felt we need to be supported by all parents to ensure students come to school with the correct equipment to do their work. Next term we need to highlight this as a big issue and from September, make this an expectation. PVT said they back the school with the expectation that all students come prepared for learning. Mr Nichols said that we will have a real push with Year 9 and Year 10 students next half term but the letter will be sent to the whole school.

ACTION: GN to send letter regarding equipment to all students

Skirt Lengths – Parents feel that skirt length is still not long enough for girls. We need to have a reminder for all girls after the half term holiday that they should wear knee length skirts. Next term will be much easier when the Year 11 students have left as they are the last students who could still have the old EHS skirts.

ACTION: GN to speak to KG about talking to the girls re skirt length

Parents asked about the dress code for Sixth Form students. Mr Nichols to speak to Mr Sandell, Head of Sixth Form and ensure information is sent out as soon as possible

ACTION: GN to speak to MS about Sixth Form dress code

5. A.O.B.

Please advise Mrs Lovecy about any agenda items you would like included in the next meeting.

Parent View is still doing very well.

In the recent Parental Survey we had 97% of parents recommending the school. Parents asked if the survey results could be put onto the school website.

ACTION: FL to arrange for Parental Survey results to be posted on website

6. Date of Next Meeting

- ❖ Tuesday 12th July 6pm. All parents are welcome to attend. We will have a celebration of the work done by the Parent Voice Team during the year at this meeting.

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 7.25pm