



The De Montfort School

UNLOCKING YOUR CHILD'S POTENTIAL

Parent Voice Meeting **Tuesday 28th April 2015 6pm**

Present:

Mr G Nichols, Headteacher
Mrs C Kent, Vice Chair of Governors
Mrs J Sampson, Business Manager
Miss E Shepperd, Associate Assistant Headteacher (Student Leadership)
Mr S Weston, Senior Deputy Head

Apologies

Mrs F Lovecy, Deputy Headteacher
Mr M Sandell, Assistant Headteacher

1. Pastoral System (Mr Weston)

In September we had a horizontal structure at the Middle School and a vertical structure at the High School. We made the decision that we would change to a horizontal system across the whole school.

We have put in place Heads of Learning (HOL) and Senior Intervention Tutors (SITs) to provide effective pastoral support across the school. HOL are in place across each year group and we have 2 SITs at the High School with 1 at the Middle School.

Attitude to Learning is graded between 1 (outstanding) and 4 (unsatisfactory). From September the criteria will be clearer and linked to our core values with staff training and a poster in each classroom. ATL criteria will also be in student planners.

A query was raised about the possibility of not having multiple tutors. We try wherever possible to have one tutor but this is not always possible as we do also include part time staff in our tutor system.

2. Student Leadership (Miss Shepperd)

The house system from the middle and high schools needed to be made into one system across the whole school. We therefore rebranded and re-launched the house system. Each house has a member of staff in charge and houses have a whole school focus:

Shackleton – Charities

Mandela – Environment (which includes the re-launch of the Eco Team)

Dahl – Community

Curie – Health

We have a Head Boy and Head Girl at both the High School and Middle School democratically elected.

We now have house competitions throughout the year across a range of areas including sport, art and a number of other subjects.

The role of the Prefect is already well established at the Middle School in Year 8 and will be launched at the High School.

Miss Shepperd showed the parents the Learning Ambassador Passport to Perfection booklet which each Learning Ambassador completes.

Mr Nichols said some students have not yet been given a role of Learning Ambassador but the system is in the early stages of development. The objective is to inspire pupils and the vision is that every pupil will be a Learning Ambassador for at least one subject at some point during their time at TDMS.

Parents felt that communication of the new system could have been better. Some felt there needs to be a limit on the number of badges. We will review if current badges will last until the end of next academic year as they have only just been given out.

Mr Nichols explained that this system was not in place in September and he had wanted to move quickly and in the process of this pace there have clearly been some teething problems.

Learning Ambassadors have a set of rules in place and they know that if there are infringements such as detentions they will lose their badge.

Mr Nichols asked parents to encourage any friends who they know have been upset by the new Learning Ambassador roles to speak to him as we want to get this right.

Going forward there will be greater clarity over the Learning Ambassador roles, but we should recognise that for many students it was already proving quite a success.

3. Feedback from Year 7 Information Evening

Parents felt this was an excellent evening and very informative. English and Maths had provided excellent information and the information provided about the Progress Reports was very helpful. Mr Nichols reported that our School Improvement Partner had said one of the biggest problems that the school had in September was that pupils were not always aspirational enough and were “passengers”. Here a lot of work has gone in to raising aspirations and expectations. There is a lot of information on the school website regarding the Progress Reports and a series of Frequently Asked Questions.

Reporting – Mr Nichols circulated a draft year report.

Parents felt that this was more appropriate and helpful to parents as it gives good information about their son/daughter along with the regular information from the Progress Reports.

Parents' Evening - Mr Nichols asked parents to consider how Parents' Evenings are organised and if they can help with coming up with a better system. Parents generally felt that the 5 minute slots weren't long enough.

Suggestions:

Parents' Evenings should be early in the school year and could we consider having a number of year groups on the same evening?

Longer slots for parents who need them or for teachers to follow up longer conversations with a telephone call the following day.

It was noted that for staff and parents the face to face meeting is really important particularly as we are making a lot of changes at the moment. Parents were asked to forward further ideas for improvements to Parents' Evenings to Mr Nichols.

4. A.O.B.

Mr Nichols explained that Mr Steve Jones, School Improvement Partner would like to meet with a number of parents on Thursday 7th May at 4.30pm when he comes in for his half termly meeting. The following parents agreed to meet with Steve Jones:

Sophy Beck
Annette Keitley
Maria Scott
Mandy Sinclair
Claire Smith
Jane Winfield

This meeting will be held at the high school.

Parents asked that we now only put positive comments into the press as we have apologised enough for the past and we need to be more positive.

Mr Nichols reminded parents that on Parent View they can go back in and change their views and please ask other parents to register on Parent View if they have not already done so.

5. Date of Next Meeting

❖ Tuesday 2nd June 2015 6pm. All parents are welcome to attend.

Mr Nichols thanked all the parents for their tremendous support for our school and their constructive and supportive comments on our improvements.

Meeting closed at 7.40pm