

23 July 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

In my last letter to you I introduced Mr Kevin Dyke as our new interim principal from September 2019 and I am really delighted that he has already been able to spend a couple of days in school with us, getting to meet students and staff.

Ahead of the new school year, we would like to ensure that we provide an opportunity for Mr Dyke and our staff to take part in additional training together as a team. As such, we will be making a slight change to our term dates for next year. We would like students to return to the College on **Wednesday 4th September** instead of Tuesday 3rd September to enable this session to take place. This will also mean that our last day of school in July will now be **Friday 24th July** instead of Thursday 23rd July.

I would like to apologise for the late change in dates, but we feel that this is an important decision given the recent change in leadership, and one which will positively impact the College and its students. We are very excited to be welcoming Mr Dyke as he brings a wealth of experience to the school and attached is a letter from him introducing himself.

I would also like to take this opportunity to provide you with an update following the roundtable meeting that took place on 16 July between Headteachers from all schools within the Trust, representatives from Local Governing Bodies, the Director of Education for the Diocese and a representative from the Office of the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC).

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the various options for South Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust transferring to a new trust and determine the best process for this. The meeting was very positive, and it was confirmed that there will be a two-week period for stakeholders to make representations on the transfer of the schools to a new Trust. Once this has taken place, a decision will be made by the future RSC, Hannah Woodhouse, in consultation with her Headteacher Board, and the incoming trust will then hold a period of consultation with the respective communities to gather further views and opinions before the transfer takes place.

We will of course be in touch nearer the time to update you with the full details and expect that this will most likely be in the Autumn term.

Finally, I would like to personally thank each and every staff member, parent, carer and the wider community for the amazing effort and support you have given the College throughout the year, and wish those leaving us all the best as they head into their new roles, retirement, maternity or adventures. I will also be leaving the Trust at the end of August and wanted to say what an absolute joy it has been working with your children over the last 12 years – they really are the light in my day.

I wish you all a healthy and happy summer with your families and the very best for the upcoming school year.

Yours sincerely,



Rachel Shaw

Executive Principal/CEO

South Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust