

13th September 2019

Dear Parent / Carer,

I hope you have all enjoyed the glorious summer and that your child has settled back into the school's routine.

I wanted to write to you today about an upcoming BBC programme which we expect to be broadcast on Monday 16th September at 7.30pm. You may already know that the programme is due but I am keen that you are fully informed as to the context and aware of the positive actions that have been taken in recent months to stabilise the Trust and its academies, and which mean they are in a much stronger position than may be reported.

BBC Inside Out South West's programme will focus on South Dartmoor Community College (SDCC) and its finances, and will also by definition reference the wider work of South Dartmoor Academy Trust and its schools. There is also the possibility that the programme will be "trailed" earlier on 16th September by other media outlets.

The programme may make for difficult viewing but I hope I can reassure you of the excellent work that has been done in recent months – we are aware this has not been an easy period but both myself and Lee Miller, Interim Chief Operating Officer, are providing strong strategic leadership, working closely with Trustees and governors, individual schools, and the Department for Education and its officials.

We are very clear that the Trust and all its academies, including SDCC, are moving forward positively, including to improve the financial position. Additionally, an excellent new interim Principal, Kevin Dyke, has started at SDCC. As you know, towards the start of 2020, each of the schools within South Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust will start an exciting new chapter when they join a new trust early in 2020. Potential partners are being considered by the Regional Schools Commissioner for the South West and will be selected shortly, based on expertise in school improvement, and strong governance and leadership. This will further safeguard their futures and ensure that children and young people receive a good-quality education.

A statement to that effect has been sent to the BBC, and we hope they properly reflect the significant progress made.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support and to again stress that if you have any matters you would like to raise, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Best wishes,

Angela Barry
Interim Chief Executive Officer
South Dartmoor Academy Trust