



South Dartmoor Community College

Principal Kevin Dyke

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January 2020

Dear Parent and Carer,

I would like to confirm arrangements for the forthcoming exam period for year 11 students. Students will remain at College until the completion **of their last exam**. This will allow the College to maximise the impact of specialist teacher input throughout the exam period.

The College has made this decision in the best interests of our students and is supported by research in regards to the impact of study leave on exam outcomes. Research shows that keeping students in supervised and planned lessons will lead to dramatically higher exams outcomes. During the exam period year 11 will follow their normal timetabled lessons, which will enable the College to create many opportunities. This will include;

- Organised revision sessions and workshops
- Revision assemblies
- Health and well-being support pre and post exams
- Accessing school counselling
- Peer revision sessions

During the exam period we would recommend that you encourage and support your son/daughter to maintain a rigorous revision schedule. Remember regular short sessions (30 minutes) of revision are the most effective. We would also encourage students to consider the following revision tips:

1. Draw up a revision timetable, making sure there are regular breaks built in.
2. Exercise – Physical activity increases heart rate which makes blood circulate faster. This in turn ensures that the brain gets more oxygen which increases productivity.
3. Find a quiet place – Make sure you revise in a place where you can be uninterrupted.
4. Get down to it in the morning – Research shows that you are more likely to do all the planned work if you start early.
5. Spice up your revision – Use a bit of colour! Drawing colourful learning maps will help you to memorise facts.
6. Past papers – A lot of examiners do not bother with inventing terribly innovative questions, once you have done three or four papers chances are that some of the questions that come on the day will look familiar.

7. Use your family and friends – Ask people around you to test you and give you feedback.
8. Rewards – It is not all about work, you will need breaks too. Students who manage to find the right balance between study and leisure are the ones that get the top marks.

Uniform expectations during exam period

During the exam period students must continue to wear their uniform correctly and smartly throughout to all exams. Students out of uniform will be at risk of not sitting examinations.

Shirt signing event

To mark the end of year 11, South Dartmoor will be holding a shirt signing event on **Tuesday the 16th June at 2pm** on the Sports field (weather permitting) or Sports hall. Students will need to be in full uniform for the shirt signing. There will be a free ice cream and music to enjoy. In previous years this has been a great way for students to mark their final day here.

College Prom

The Prom will be held at the **Moorlands Hotel** on **Tuesday 30th June** starting at 6.30pm.

Finally, thank you for your support over the last five years. I wish you and your son/daughter well during this important time and I hope that they will make the most of the opportunities available to them in college. Should you have any questions please contact your son/daughter's Head of House.

Yours faithfully,



Kevin Dyke – Principal



Dan Vile – Assistant Principal