



Dear Parents, Carers and Wider College Community

Changing the school day from September 2020: Consultation

I am writing to you as part of a consultation process to make changes to the College day. The changes, alongside the rationale for change and timescales are set out below. We would like to take on board your views before putting in place any changes for September 2020.

In summary, the proposal is to:

1. Change the start time of the College day to 8.45.
2. Change the finish time of the College day to 3.10pm
3. Reduction of tutor time by 10 minutes from 25 minutes to 15 minutes

Why change the school day from its current format?

Change the start time to the College day

From a safety perspective, by changing the start and end time of the College day it will mean students having fewer days where they travel home from school in the dark, especially when attending any after College activity, which we hope will lead to increased participation in extracurricular activities, revision and other clubs. This will positively affect both the physical, mental and social development of our students.

Reduction in tutor time

The length of tutor time was increased in the past as we were delivering our Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Education during our tutor time and Impact days. It is our intention to move PSHE into curriculum time next academic year to enable it to be delivered by a dedicated team of teachers. We intend to continue with Impact Days for specific themes and topics throughout the year delivered by both tutors and specialists.

As a College we continue to really value the opportunity for tutors to meet their tutees at the start of the day, providing an opportunity to focus on dealing with any issues that have happened the previous day or overnight more effectively without disrupting students' learning in lesson time. In addition, it allows the College to reinforce key expectations around uniform and coming to school equipped at the start of the day.

The tutor period will remain an opportunity for a weekly assembly to introduce key themes, reinforce our core values, giving out key notices and to meet individual students to discuss their progress.

Upon deciding the new timings, we have considered the following aspects of school life:

To enable students / staff to work collaboratively with our WeST partner schools



Now that the college has entered into the WeST Multi Academy Trust there are a number of opportunities that now present themselves to both students and staff. Students will have the opportunity to work as a consortium practically within their chosen Sixth Form subject, however we have already had a number of students using other WeST schools both to study and participate in trips and activities. Staff have also participated in joint training sessions run before, during and after College and taught in more than one of the WeST schools during the same day. By moving the times of the day closer to our partner schools' it will increase the opportunities in the future.

Impact on extra-curricular activities

We are committed to extra-curricular provision and have considered the impact the change may have on student uptake of these opportunities. We currently have large amounts of activities running before and after school and some during lunchtime. By finishing at 3.35pm, as we currently do, clubs end in the dark in the winter months and it is a late finish for both students and staff. Our commitment to running after school activities remains unchanged and I believe that an earlier finish time will allow staff the opportunity to run further after school clubs.

Aligning our end of the day with other local secondary schools will also help the arrangement of sporting fixtures and Performing Arts. Currently students are occasionally withdrawn early from Period 5 which would be less likely in this model.

Buses

We shall consult with the bus companies but we are confident that they will be able to accommodate these changes from September 2020. In addition, it is hoped that the changes in the times of the College day will enable the buses to exit the college quicker as they will not need to come from other schools and colleges in the local area after they have completed their School runs.

Student behaviour

We strive for the highest standards of conduct from our students and our records from reducing the two break times to 35 minutes has shown a reduced number of behaviour incidents which occur during this time and maintain student focus on learning in the afternoon.



South Dartmoor Community College

Interim Principal Kevin Dyke

Balland Lane, Ashburton, Devon, TQ13 7EW
Tel | (01364) 652230 Fax | (01364) 654069
Website | www.southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk
Email | enquiries@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk

Proposed New Timings SDCC Mon to Fri Atrium Mon and Fri

Activity	Lesson Start	Lesson End
a.m. Registration (assemblies)	8.45am	
Lesson 1	9.00am	10.00am
Lesson 2	10.00am	11.00am
Break 1	11.00am	11.35am
Lesson 3	11.35am	12.35pm
Lesson 4	12.35pm	1.35pm
Break 2	1.35pm	2.10pm
Lesson 5	2.10pm	3.10pm

Proposed New Timings Atrium Tue - Thu

Activity	Lesson Start	Lesson End
a.m. Registration (assemblies)	8.45am	
Lesson 1	9.00am	10.00am
Lesson 2	10.00am	11.00am
Break 1	11.00am	11.35am
Lesson 3	11.35am	12.35pm
Lesson 4	12.35pm	1.35pm
Break 2	1.35pm	2.10pm
Lesson 5	2.10pm	3.10pm
Lesson 6	3.10pm	4.10pm

Consultation Arrangements

Alongside this consultation with parents & carers there will also be consultation with members of the Local Governing Body, students, staff and other stakeholders running concurrently.

If you would like to share your views, please complete this online form:

https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SDCC_changing_times_of_day_consultation

The consultation period will end at 12am on 20th March 2020. We will then consider the comments and will inform all stakeholders of the outcome before the end of Term 5 to facilitate any changes that may occur from September 2020.

Yours faithfully

Kevin Dyke
Interim Principal South Dartmoor Community College

Samantha Morcumb
Atrium Studio School