



May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

## **Changing the pastoral structure: Consultation outcome**

I am writing to you as part of our ongoing consultation process in regards to making changes to the pastoral structure. The changes, alongside the rationale for change and timescales have been set out in our previous communication with parents. We would like to thank you for your views and considered questions during the length of the consultation process.

After carefully considering all the feedback, which has included the views of parents, students, staff, Governors and the wider community, we have decided to move to a Horizontal pastoral system at South Dartmoor.

After reviewing the feedback, It is clear that way South Dartmoor has previously organised itself to meet the social and academic needs of students to ensure personal development and an overall feeling of wellbeing now needs to change to meet the current and ever changing needs of our young people.

South Dartmoor College has always operated a Vertical system within Houses. However, it is time to change and adopt a Year Group structure which will allow tutoring to more closely match the 'rhythm' of the College academic year therefore a more efficient and effective vehicle for giving students in all year groups a higher level of personalised support when they need it most. In essence students would receive a better deal.

## **How will my child benefit?**

Staff have discussed at length the change and have identified the following advantages that a change will bring for our students:

- The ability to target academic guidance and support for year groups based on the 'rhythm of the year.'
- Easier delivery of specific age related PHSE and careers advice.
- Help clarify and simplify the role of the tutor – focusing on one age group and their needs at the time of their development.
- Enable tutors to become 'experts' in their tutor group as they progress with their students – a greater sense of ownership and belonging.
- Encourage tutors to develop closer links with the families of their tutor groups.
- Allow Y7 students to be developed into 'South Dartmoor Students' without the influence of older students.
- Aid communication and consistency in tutor groups – allowing the tutor to focus on one-year group.
- The structure complements the national Key Stages structure.
- Tutors specific skills or interest may be able to be utilised and aligned to specific year groups.



# South Dartmoor Community College

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Principal Kevin Dyke

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- Heads of Year will have less students to support and therefore able to react quickly when issues arise.
- The year group structure better reflects the external academic pressures students face enabling tutor teams to support students at pressurised times.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your invaluable feedback during the consultation process. The College will be sending parent's further information regarding timings of the restructure, which at present is subject to change due to the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic and school closures.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "K Dyke".

Kevin Dyke  
Interim Principal South Dartmoor Community College

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "D Vile".

Dan Vile  
Assistant Principal