



5th October 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

Parent/Carer Update

I am writing to thank you for your continued support of the measures we have put in place to ensure the safety of the students, enabling them to access a full curriculum. At the time of writing we have had no confirmed Coronavirus cases and all student 'bubbles' have been able to remain in school. We are now four weeks into term and, although some systems may feel tiresome (for example, lining up in between each lesson) it is important that we keep all the systems in place in order to minimize the risk of virus transmission. The added difficulty last week was, of course, the weather, but we have managed to find safe solutions to this by asking students to line up in well ventilated, large indoor spaces, where they can at least stay dry.

I would be grateful to you for reinforcing the key messages with your child as we continue to navigate these extraordinary times, namely;

- To bring in the correct equipment every day, including the correct books, as we cannot lend pens/pencils etc
- The need to sanitize hands before each lesson and at the end of each lesson
- To adhere to social distancing regulations by keeping a safe distance from others and wearing a mask when moving between lessons and on buses

As we have now got systems working very well, my next steps will be to focus more closely on the learning in the classroom. Staff have done a fantastic job of settling students back into school and establishing good learning routines. However, we are all having to find different ways of how best to support learning and raise student aspiration in a more restrictive environment. Please encourage your child to talk to you about what they have learnt during the day and to show you their books. At the moment we are not seeing enough students completing home learning so I would be grateful for your support with this by checking they are completing it.

With respect to attendance, whilst our priority must be to keep students safe, it is also imperative that students are attending school as much as possible. Because so much learning time has been lost since March, and we run the risk of losing more time in the coming weeks/months, please ensure you do all you can to support your child's full attendance. If you have any questions please contact our Attendance Officer, Mr Huntley, by email at mhuntley@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk.

Once again, thank you for your support.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Veal', is written in a cursive style.

Mrs J Veal
Executive Headteacher