



31 March 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

I hope this letter finds you well. Tomorrow, Thursday, is our last day of term and I am pleased to say that the fine weather is due to continue for us well into the Easter holiday. Students have been back in school for over three weeks now and they are to be commended for the sensible and safe manner in which they have returned. It has been a pleasure to have them all back. There has also been a marked improvement in learning behaviour, enabling students to get the most out of every minute's learning time and I am proud of the students for responding so well to our high expectations.

### **Arrangements for end of Spring Term/start of Summer Term**

As usual, school will finish at the normal time of 3.10 pm. Buses and taxis will all run as usual. School will start on Monday 19 April at 8.45 am. The warning bell will sound at 8.43 am and students should be in school by this time, making their way to lessons to avoid being late.

As we move into the Summer Term, the weather should be warmer, so we are expecting full and correct uniform from all students on our return, with no need for extra coats, hoodies or jumpers. Our health and safety routines will remain in place and, at the time of writing, there is no suggestion of changing any of the systems we have in place. We will remain responsive to the Government's announcements and adjust our practice where appropriate. I will write on our return to update you of any changes.

### **Hydration**

We now have additional 'fill up' points around the site for water bottles. We would encourage students to bring a bottle so they can keep hydrated during the day.

### **Blazers**

In the anticipation of warmer weather moving into the summer, we will reinstate non-blazer days, when the weather is particularly hot. The normal routine would be for all students to wear blazers in to school regardless of weather and then their tutor and/or teacher will inform them if it is a non-blazer day.

### **Asymptomatic testing**

I am pleased to report that we have had no positive cases in our school community since returning to face to face learning, despite a close call on Monday. The Government requires us to continue the asymptomatic testing programme throughout Easter and therefore asks that students should:

- continue to test twice a week at home (all those who are able to).
- report positive, negative or void results using the [report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result](#) portal before returning to school or college for the summer term, either the night before, or morning of, the first day back to find and isolate any positive cases.

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Over Easter, for the purposes of contact tracing, students, parents and carers need only inform the school of a positive case if the symptoms develop before the end of Saturday 3 April or they have tested positive with a lateral flow device test (and will subsequently need to book a confirmatory PCR test), again, before the end of Saturday 3 April. Thereafter, if symptoms develop (from Sunday 4 April onwards), you do not need to inform us.

Where students test positive for COVID-19 during the holidays using an LFD test, they will only need to inform us if they will still be self-isolating when we return. Please contact us on [covidlft@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk](mailto:covidlft@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk) if this is the case. Students, parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace.

### **Staffing changes**

We say goodbye this term to Jonathan Lewis, who has had an association with the school since 1995. As some of you may know Jonathan has MS and is now retiring on health grounds. We are grateful to him for all he has done for South Dartmoor and its students; he has dedicated his career to ensuring outstanding music provision for all. We wish him well in his retirement.

Heather Davidson, English teacher, also leaves us to enable her to take some time to care for her mother. I am sure you join me in thanking her for all she has contributed to the school and to wish her well for the future.

Finally, we say goodbye and thanks to Sally Woodhouse, one of our School Counsellors, who has been with us for 10 years. Sally is going on to pursue different avenues within Counselling, but she will be continuing with her private work. We are looking for a replacement through the counselling network.

Many thanks, once again, for your continued support through very challenging times. I hope you all have a relaxing and restful Easter break.

Best wishes



Mrs J Veal  
Executive Head teacher