



5 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 11 Progress Evening by Video Call - Appointment Booking

As I am sure you are aware, last night the Prime Minister made the announcement that exams would not take place in the usual format this summer. We do not yet know what this means and what assessment methods will be used to award grades but as soon as we have any information we will let you know.

We hope that by next week, in time for our scheduled progress evening, we will have more information. With that in mind I would like to warmly invite you to attend our Year 11 Progress Evening on Thursday 14 January from 15:45 – 19:00. Due to the national lockdown, the Year 11 Progress Evening will be run remotely with meetings via video calls using the 'Parents Evening System'.

Many schools have already tried and tested this system and feedback from parents and staff has been very positive, mainly because there is no queuing or waiting around as timings are adhered to religiously due to the automated nature of the system. Furthermore, there are also no background noises or distractions such as there can be in big venues in school. However, it is worth remembering that each appointment lasts exactly 7 minutes (there is a timer in the corner of the screen). This means conversations need to be really focused in order to make the most of the appointment. As a result, you may wish to prepare questions in advance so you can maximise the time. If, following the evening, you still find yourselves with unanswered questions or that simply time had run out before you had finished, please contact the member of staff directly and a further conversation can be arranged. Staff email addresses are formed as follows; staff initial staff surname (no gap)@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk.

So, for example, my email address is jbradford@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk.

To book appointments for all Year 11 students at South Dartmoor and the Atrium, please visit <https://southdartmoorcommunitycollege.schoolcloud.co.uk/>. (A short guide on how to add appointments is included with this letter.) Login with the following information:
Student's First Name/Surname/Date of Birth.

This allows you to choose your own appointment times with teachers and you will receive an email confirming your appointments. Other staff also available for appointments are Adam Fox (Head of Year 11), Jared Baldwin (Head of 6th Form) to discuss 6th form applications and courses and Jackie Ellis (Careers Adviser).

In addition, we are running an information evening for parents focused only on 6th form courses, applications and career advice. This evening is on Monday 18 January from 15:45 until 17:45 and will also be by video call appointment. Appointments can be made with Adam Fox, Jared Baldwin and Neil Whitelaw, Deputy Head of 6th form, to discuss the 6th form, and Julie Randell for careers advice.

Appointments for both evenings can be made from 09:00 on Tuesday 5 January and will close on Tuesday 12 January at midnight. Should you wish to make any changes after this date please contact the school office.

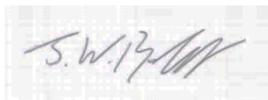
Please also find a guide for how to attend appointments over video calls below:

<https://support.parenteveningsystem.co.uk/article/801-video-parents-how-to-attend-appointments-over-video-call>.

Cont/d

I hope these evenings will offer you valuable information and support during this important year.

Yours faithfully



Mr J Bradford
Associate Assistant Headteacher

Trust Respect Equality Excellence