

SUMMER EDITION

NEWSLETTER

SOUTH DARTMOOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE & SIXTH FORM • SUMMER TERM 2023 • ISSUE 6



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Executive Head Teacher's Message

As we approach the end of another academic year, it is a good time to reflect on what we have achieved together over the course of the past 12 months. As you will see in the subsequent pages, there has been a huge array of events and activities, most notably this term the Year 11 and Year 13 leavers' celebrations, which were lovely occasions, the transition events and Open Evening for Years 5 and 6, the exams season, the curriculum enrichment experiences, trips, concerts and Year 10 work experience, to name but a few. It has been wonderful and I consider myself very lucky to work at South Dartmoor. I have said it before, I know, but I could not be more proud of our students - they are a pleasure to be with and a delight to work with.

However, it has also been a term affected by industrial action and the profile raising of some of the issues facing education currently, resulting from years of chronic underfunding.

It was for that reason I invited Mel Stride MP in recently, to show him and tell him about our school, about how fortunate we are in many respects and about what students deserve from the education system. I hope that he took away useful information to influence political policy, as well as the key messages that students as wonderful as ours, and those yet to come through the system, deserve only the very best. I take my responsibility as a leader within education very seriously and I will continue to campaign on the issues facing children in our schools and wider society today.

I hope you enjoy reading our news from this term and on behalf of all the staff I wish you a relaxing, restful and happy summer.

Jen Veal
Executive Head Teacher

Emergency First Aid

Sixth Form students from both A Level PE and CTECH sport successfully passed their Emergency First Aid at Work course. Thank you Alex at Airside Medical Services for delivering the course. It was fantastic to have a front line paramedic to deliver high quality, essential skills.



Suffrajitsu Workshop

We'd like to say a big thank you to Back-to-Back Theatre productions for delivering a bespoke Drama workshop to a group of our Year 9 and Year 10 girls.

The workshop focused on being female in a modern day society and explored how female students can feel empowered and have a voice. We'd like to thank the students for tackling difficult issues with maturity and respect.

They were truly excellent and a credit to both themselves and the school.



Fantastic Opportunity

One of our Year 7 students has embraced the fantastic opportunity to read the manuscript for a local author. Natan O was invited to read the manuscript and provide his opinion on the novel, an opportunity to which he has shown much dedication.

We are thrilled that one of our own has been involved in such a high-profile experience for our local culture and literature scene.

Community

Students in Year 7 enjoyed a visit from Father Abbot of Buckfast Abbey. They were thoroughly engaged, captivated and had many questions. Father Abbott always speaks with such warmth and his talk will further enrich the Christianity unit we deliver in the summer term.



MP Praises “Excellent Progress” at SDCC

We welcomed local MP and Secretary of State for Work and Pensions Mel Stride to the school on 7th July. Executive Headteacher Jen Veal talked about the school's improvement journey since the school became part of the West Country Schools Trust.



Mrs Veal and Mel Stride MP

Although South Dartmoor's most recent Ofsted gave the school 'good' ratings in all areas

except one, the college officially remains an 'RI' school. Ofsted was positive about the school's leadership, pupils' personal development, pupil behaviour and attitudes. Sixth Form provision was also rated 'good' with record numbers of students enrolled for next year.

Mr Stride said: "South Dartmoor has been through a turbulent time but its progress in the past couple of years has been excellent and the teaching staff should be really proud of that. In many aspects its last Ofsted were highly encouraging. This is a school that serves its community well."

Mrs Veal added: "Students do really well at South Dartmoor. The curriculum is ambitious, the teaching and learning is of consistently high quality and our

students' outcomes are strong. We are a caring school and I am deeply proud of our students.



Jack L, Mrs Veal, Mel Stride MP, Aaron D and Rachael K

Our values are truth, respect, equality and excellence and we work hard to ensure these values are embedded in everything we do. We are well placed to get a 'good' judgement next time we are inspected, which will more accurately reflect the quality of our provision and the huge steps forward we have made."

Richard Chappell Dance Workshop

It was a privilege to welcome Richard Chappell Dance into work with a group of dancers from Year 7-13. RCD is an associate company at Exeter Northcott and a critically acclaimed ensemble, which creates sensational dance and theatre.



Richard Chappell (Artistic Director) and Ena Yamaguchi (Company Dancer) joined us to deliver a workshop that was technically challenging and completely inspiring.



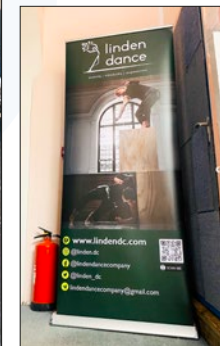
Linden Dance Company and the Tinnars Moon Festival

The Junior College Dance Company sat at the heart of a bold and aspirational idea, born from the wonderful team at Linden Dance Company. As part of the curtain-raiser for the Tinnars Moon Festival which was held at the Ashburton Arts Centre in April, Linden Dance company founders, directors and dancers, Sara and Chris,

worked with our dancers for just 5 hours to create a thrilling and challenging piece of choreography, inspired by the concept of 'Unconscious Bias'. Students then performed at the Ashburton Arts Centre the following day, to share their exceptionally mature and intricate choreography.



The students took on a huge challenge with nothing but enthusiasm and determination, capturing South Dartmoor's values perfectly. A huge well done to all involved, and thank you to Linden Dance Company and Ashburton Arts Centre for the wonderful opportunity.



Students took part in a technique class followed by some improvisation and then enjoyed learning repertoire from RCD latest production 'Hot House'. Students were then treated to a stunning solo performance from Ena Yamaguchi, giving them a sneak peak into the work which toured earlier this year.



Team Spirit

Throughout the week, students have been competing for their tutor groups in rounders and athletics.

We have seen some outstanding displays of performance and of team spirit.



Open Evening

Thank you to all the families who took the time to come and visit South Dartmoor last night and share in the excitement of our Open Evening. It was wonderful to see some many people from our community wanting to find out about all the fabulous opportunities SDCC has to offer.

We look forward to seeing lots of these young people throughout the next year at various different transition events in preparation for September 2024!



Languages

Congratulations to Josh in Year 7, who won the national 'Languages Local To You' competition run by Exeter University.

He took a photo in a cemetery in Ivybridge and did some brilliant research to find out why the Japanese for 'rest' appears on this headstone from 1940. Josh went to the opening of the exhibition in Exeter, which then headed to London and Sheffield.



Josh says: "I found a headstone in a graveyard in Woodlands Cemetery in Ivybridge. The headstone had 'Yasumé' written on it, which is Japanese for rest, relax.

The person died in 1940 during the Second World War. Japan invaded China and the West Pacific Islands. They also bombed Pearl Harbour. I think this person might have come to Ivybridge from a former British Colony. I think 'yasumé' is to say goodbye and rest in heaven."

Home & Away

You might be heading abroad this summer. If you are, be sure to have a go at using some phrases in the local language and do ask your child to fill us in on your adventures when we get back in September.

If you are staying closer to home, here are some great ways for your child to work on their foreign language skills. Either way, we hope you have a wonderful summer.

Bonnes vacances & buenas vacaciones.

- Find out which of your teachers can speak the most languages
- Watch a vlog in the language you are studying
- Write a short paragraph about a country where they speak the language you are studying that you would like to visit. Why would you like to visit it?
- Find out how to say the following phrases in the language you are studying:
 - Excuse me
 - Could you repeat that?
 - Thank you
- Learn ten new words in the language you are studying
- Find out which language would be most helpful for your dream job
- Find out the names of this year's five most popular musicians or bands in China
- Find out how many of the top 200 songs in the Spotify UK charts are in a language other than English. How about in the language you are studying?
- Find out which is the world's most spoken language and list the countries where it is the official language
- Learn the happy birthday song in the language you are studying
- Practise the language you are studying on an app for 10 minutes
- Find a video or cartoon on YouTube in the language you are studying and watch it
- Look at the labels on your clothes and work out which item was made furthest away
- Teach your parent or guardian a phrase in the language you are studying
- Learn how to write a phrase in a language that has a different script
- Listen to a song in the language you are studying
- Change your social media app settings into the language you are studying for one hour
- Cook a dish from a country where they speak the language you are studying

Careers Fair

We held a careers fair at school, which gave students from Years 8, 9, 10 and 12 access to a wide range of information from employers, colleges, universities and apprenticeship providers.

It was a valuable experience and the feedback from the exhibitors was impressive.



Princess Yachts Visit

A Year 10 Design and Technology visit to Princess Yachts in Plymouth provided an excellent opportunity for students to learn about the marine industry and the various career pathways available in this field. Students were welcomed by the staff at Princess Yachts and given a tour of the site. It gave them an insight into how luxury yachts were manufactured, the intricate design process and the cutting



edge technology used in the production process. They were also able to see the different stages of production, from hull construction to the installation of engines and electrical systems.



www.southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk/yachtsvisit

HSBC

Year 12 students attended a session with Audrey Stevenson, Network Manager at HSBC. They heard about various job roles within banking and different career paths into the industry, and how banking is changing to adapt to the changing demands of their customers and fraud prevention.



NEON

Eight of our Year 12 students have helped kick off research by the National Education Opportunities Network into how best to fund university education in the future, as part

of a national conversation on student finance.

Read more here :

www.southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk/nationaleducation

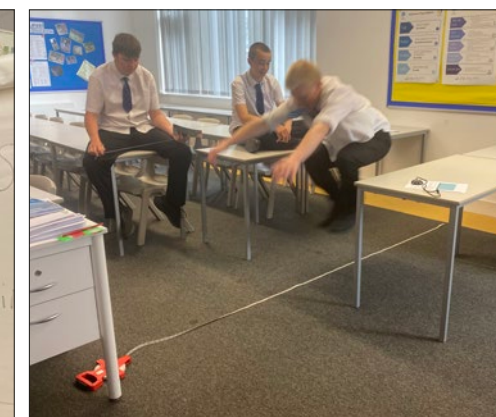
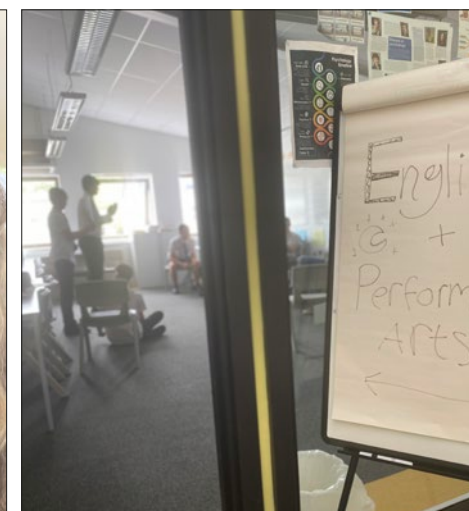


Getting to Know Your Sixth Form

As part of the recent Careers Day which we hosted at our Sixth Form Centre, students in Year 8, 9 and 10 ventured upstairs to some of our A Level teaching spaces as part of the 'Getting to Know Your Sixth Form' experience.

Subject specialist teaching staff, along with Year 12 and 13 student subject ambassadors led an aspirational range of activities which captured the imaginations of all students, enabling them to solve crimes, become graphic designers and delve deep into

English Literature by bringing them to life through Performing Arts. For more information about our Sixth Form please contact sixthform@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk



Ten Tors

This year six teams of our incredible young people took part in the Ten Tors Challenge 2023, after months of hard training - battling against the elements and having fun along the way. Each student achieved something amazing and overcame so much to make it to the start line and the training team couldn't be prouder of all of them.



Green Team was the first back, at around lunchtime. Although they crossed the line as a five, the full team were reunited at the end, showcasing what Ten Tors is really all about - team work and supporting your fellow team members.



Blue team came in strong as a team and marched across that finish line, getting the job done.

As part of their training the students walked, camped and this year had a fully funded activities day. This day was a result of the fantastic adult Ten Tors Trek which we have set up to fundraise for our outdoor education provision.



Orange team lost a few players but were far from out of the game. Coming in with a great time and holding their heads high. Happy tears and pasties to celebrate.



Pink smashed it. Coming in just after lunchtime.



There was a big cheer for the yellow team as they crossed the finishing line. Also dressed to impress!

From the fundraisers, volunteers and all of those cheering you on - congratulations. Thank you for being such an inspiring group to work with. Rest your feet over the summer and I will see you next year for the next challenge!

Miss Upton

This year we featured in several media reports, including on BBC Spotlight, where yellow team were seen planning the route and talking about the challenge ahead. Year 9's Aurelia F was on BBC Radio Devon talking about the event with her dad, Charles, who has been volunteering for us and is a member of Dartmoor Search and Rescue.

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0fdk1dh (at 7.10am)

Vic and Ross Stamp, who took part in the Ten Tors challenge in 2010, saw the team off from the school, where they are now volunteer trainers. Mrs Stamp told BBC News: "Seeing it from the other side is quite different and brings back all the memories from when we did it."

www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-devon-65435074



Team Purple finished in some brilliant costumes.

BMX

Amos G, Coby W and Ned G are competing in the BMX racing European Championship in Besancon, France, representing Team GB. They have been competing on the regional, national and European stage throughout 2023 and have been putting in some great results, which means they will take part in the World Championship stage later this summer.

Regionally, Coby is 4th while Ned is 5th, racing a year up. While on the national stage, Coby leads the Male 12s, with Ned 7th and Amos 6th in the Male 13s.



Hockey

Mrs Hutchings played for the England Hockey O35s at the European Championships in Nottingham. The team had three wins against Wales, Ireland and Germany, before facing the Netherlands and securing a place in the a semi final.

Football

On the last teaching day of term we hosted the first annual KS3 End of Year Football Cup. Teams led by Mr Malone and Mr Cox went head to head in a winner takes all game.



Our leaders ran a KS2 Girls' Active Football Festival. The leaders range from Year 7 to Year 12 and are a wonderful example of our students inspiring the next generation. Rain did not stop play!

Our U16 football team managed to secure a 5-0 win against Teign School, with two goals each for Harriet C and Jas C and a goal for Eloise S. Our U14s also played in a fixture against the visiting school. Battling against the constant rain, they demonstrated excellent teamwork, determination and resilience, resulting in two great games. We are extremely proud of all of them. A big thank you to our Sixth Formers, Amy and Sarah, for their refereeing and coaching on the day.



Somerset Cricket Trip

South Dartmoor's cricket club experienced some top-level cricket involving several international players. With over 40 students attending over the two days, students watched Somerset CCC play Hampshire CCC held at the Cooper Associates Ground, Taunton.

Aside from the cricket, students were able to enjoy visiting the world-famous Millichamp and Hall handmade cricket bat-making shop, Somerset CCC Museum, meeting the players, and taking part in various cricket-related challenges.

Thanks to Becky Mason and Louise Ogley for their help with the trip. We hope to be back next year!



Cricket

The U13 girls and U15 mixed cricket teams competed at the Chance to Shine Outdoor County Finals, after they qualified for the competition at the District Round last month. Full match reports can be found here:

www.southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk/chancetoshinefinal



Football

Congratulations to Y7 student Raphie G on signing his contract with Yeovil Town academy. Raphie will be playing in the Junior Premier League Team with aspirations of making it through the academy to the first team!



Diving

Year 7 student Ava C competed in the Diving National Age Group Championships in Sheffield. Ava competed against the top competition from across the nation and was able to achieve 4th in the 1M Springboard and 1M Synchro, 8th in the 5M Platform and 9th in the 3M Springboard as well as being a part of the Top England Team with Plymouth Diving team!

This is an amazing achievement, which highlights the dedication and hard work shown.



Cycling

Year 8 student John rode the "Grande Route" in Dartmoor with his cycling club. He did 108 miles in eight hours and 53 minutes, an elevation gain of 10,733 ft at an average speed of 13.5 mph. This amazing achievement comes after weeks of training. He is rightly proud of himself, as are we. A brilliant example of dedication and mental and physical resilience.



Rugby

Year 9 student Teyah K and her teammates at Newton Abbot Rugby Club got a taste of what it is like to play at an international level, when they had a game at Twickenham ahead of the women's grand slam decider England vs France. The team played in front of a record breaking audience and Teyah managed to score her first try of the season. We are all very proud of her and can't wait to see her back playing at Twickenham in years to come.



Our Year 12 A Level PE students led a cricket coaching session for our Year 9s. The sixth formers were able to apply some of their theory on feedback to a practical situation and the Year 9s were able to take advantage of working with our talented role models.



Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 SDLC Athletics

The Year 3/4 and Year 5/6 SDLC athletics tournaments were brilliantly battled out amongst the pupils from Bovey Tracey, Buckfastleigh and Ashburton primary schools. The pupils took part in the quadkids activities of sprinting, middle distance running, throwing and long jump. They also added a timed team relay and a speed bounce for extra competition. Our sport leaders did a fantastic job of explaining the activities and recording all the pupils' scores on all the stations.



Inspire Day

Pupils across the Dartmoor School Sport Partnership took part in an Inspire Day at Exmouth, run by Exmouth Watersports. The group split into four and rotated around the four water based activities of kayaking and paddle boarding. They then played some beach based activities including volleyball, beach cricket, beach footy and a sandcastle competition.



Football Ambassadors

Our football ambassadors led the sessions for the KS2 girls' football festival. The girls joined a carousel of six activity stations all designed to improve

their football skills in dribbling, passing, shooting, attacking and defending. They finished the event with a couple of matches.



For a full details of this term's events please see:

<https://www.facebook.com/dartmoorssp>

Tuition Funding

We are pleased to be able to offer additional group tuition for trumpet, violin and tuned percussion - thanks to new funding from the Devon and Torbay Music Educations Hubs for the next academic year.

www.southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk/musiccentre



Thank you to all students and families who supported this term's concerts. The hall was full of music, energy and warmth. All year groups have worked extremely hard on their music making and have committed to weekly rehearsals, sound checks, performances and much more.

Musicians in the Making Concert

May saw the return of our annual Musicians in the Making Concert. This event is a platform for soloists and small ensembles to perform music of their choice. Students from all year groups rehearsed material and auditioned to create an exciting evening which included a varied and inspiring programme.



Gala

A packed hall supported our Summer Gala Concert on Friday 7th July. We welcomed a wide variety of genres and ages onto stage and took the opportunity to celebrate the music making that has taken place at South Dartmoor throughout the academic year.

The Junior Orchestra from our Primary Music Centre made their debut public performance since its opening on 22nd October. The centre has received funding for 2023/24 and will continue to grow with further exciting opportunities, thank you to the Devon and Torbay Music Education Hubs. It was also time to thank and celebrate the contribution and achievements of our Year 13 students who have given so much to the school since they joined in 2016. We wish them every success for their future on their next steps.



Year 5 - Our Open Morning

We were thrilled to have hosted Year 5 students from our local primaries at South Dartmoor last week. Our agenda for the day was packed with engaging activities, including subjects such as History, Maths, Art and PE.

The dedication, concentration and passion for learning exhibited by the students left a lasting impression on our staff and student leaders. They displayed remarkable teamwork, kindness and adept problem solving skills throughout the day. In Art, their imagination soared as they created a multitude of enchanting creatures inspired by the art of doodling and poetry.

Undoubtedly, it was a day brimming with fun and excitement for all involved. We extend our sincere gratitude to the primary schools for their unwavering support, and to the parents for their involvement and organisation.



Primary Schools

Primary school children experienced a variety of alternative sports at the South Dartmoor Learning Community Festival. Trampolining, dodgeball, badminton, short tennis and frisbee were taught by our wonderful Sport Leaders. Pupils learnt new skills and tried different sports.



Moretonhampstead Primary School

Mrs McCarthy and Mrs Woodward visited Moretonhampstead Primary School to deliver an engaging and enlightening workshop on light and electricity to enthusiastic Year 6 students. They demonstrated how light can be split using a prism, creating a mesmerising rainbow of colours. The students marvelled at the phenomenon of refraction, as their understanding of light took a leap forward.



A hands on experiment allowed the young scientists to create their own cell. Armed with coins, paper, and foil, they experienced the joy of discovery as they constructed their miniature power source. Excitement filled the room as the homemade cells came to life, sparking their imagination.



They then delved into the realm of electricity, introducing the young learners to the electrical symbols used to represent components in a circuit, unlocking the secret language of electrons. With hands on activities, they had the opportunity to build and draw their own circuits, bringing the abstract world of electrical currents to life.



Science Week

The Science Team visited Ashburton Primary School to wrap up Science Week with a grand finale assembly that left everyone buzzing with excitement.

With this year's theme being "connections," Mrs McCarthy and Mr McGeever tied their demonstrations to different forms

of energy, captivating the audience with a range of experiments, including the famous screaming jelly baby, the explosive mentos and coke experiment, and colourful flame testing.

The assembly not only provided an entertaining show, but also

offered a fantastic opportunity to connect the school community, linking the science curriculum with the broader context of real life applications. The students and teachers were thoroughly engaged throughout the afternoon, inspired by the team's passion and expertise in science.



Results Day

We look forward to seeing everyone again on the GCSE Results Day, Thursday 24th August, where all of their hard work will be rewarded.

Beyond Results Day, we are excited to continue the partnership that we have with

the majority of the cohort, who will be joining us in our Sixth Form from September. We would also like to take this opportunity to wish every student who is going on to new ventures beyond South Dartmoor the very best of luck in all of their future endeavours.



6th Form London Trip

Highlights: Students' behaviour described as **"impeccable"** by Premier Inn staff, staff described as **"cool"** by random couple on the train and Jake Trotman given the floor of the House of Lords whilst the Lords in session debating Wagner and Immigration!

26 South Dartmoor 6th form students enjoyed a 2 day trip to London, taking in Thorpe Park, a tour of the Houses of Parliament, a pressure group workshop, chat with Mel Stride's office, and a walking tour of Westminster, taking in Parliament Square, the Cenotaph, Downing Street, Trafalgar Square and Buckingham Palace.



On Monday the students enjoyed a day at Thorpe Park before an overnight stay at Addlestone's Premier Inn. Whilst at Thorpe Park students were free to go on as many or as few of the big thrill rides as they wished with less extreme rides also well used. After Thorpe Park closed it was off to the hotel where staff could not be more profuse with their praise for our students, certainly in comparison to less well behaved school parties they had

housed recently. The hotel that mainly serves business customers said the best compliment they could give was that none of the staff would have been aware a school group was on site if it was not on their records.

Tuesday saw the group park up in Staines, give a few Ali G Eastside vs Westside shout outs, and head into London. Students made notoriously challenging London commuters into engaged softies who then commented on how "cool" the teaching staff must be at SDCC 😊. After taking in many of the historic sites there was time for a group ice cream in St James Park before having a Guided Tour of the Houses of Parliament.

Jake Trotman who had severely damaged his knee in the run up to the trip, but who had valiantly manoeuvred around on crutches throughout, succumbed to accepting the help of a wheelchair and had a blast. The whole tour was fascinating, and students got to see politicians like Theresa May in action. But Jake was treated to a behind the scenes tour on top, and a 15 minute session on the floor of the House of Lords with debates on Immigration and the Wagner group, whilst the others looked on from the viewing gallery.

After a session looking at pressure and lobbying groups there was a short Q & A with a member of Mel Stride's office before students and staff embarked on their journey home.



The excitement was not over though as an early contender to replace "Barry's Bingo" at next years Yr13 prom emerged with "Jack's Karaoke", as one of the buses remained in full voice until arriving back in Ashburton around 11pm!

Good time had by all.



Leavers' Day

We had the privilege of celebrating leavers' day with our Year 11 cohort, the class of 2023.

They enjoyed a wonderful morning on site for our annual shirt signing event. The morning started with a leavers' assembly which included awards, our first ever 'leavers' auction' and some time spent reminiscing over old photos.

Students signed each other's shirts and staff had the chance to say their goodbyes.



Year 13 Leavers Celebration

We said a final farewell to our wonderful Year 13 students on Saturday 8th July. Their leavers' event, hosted by Dainton Gold Club, was a joyous celebration of the learning journeys each student has been on and a perfect way to wish them the best of luck for their next chapter, whatever that may look like.

We really look forward to celebrating their A Level results with them in the Sixth Form Centre on Thursday 17th August, 9-10am.



South Dartmoor 2023 Prom

A few days later, the South Dartmoor class of 2023 smiled and danced the night away, after having arrived in style at the Moorland Hotel for our annual Prom.

It was a wonderful way to conclude the school year with a fantastic group of people.

They have been a privilege to work with and we could not be prouder of their efforts this year and throughout their time with us.



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