



South Dartmoor Community College

Executive Head teacher | Mrs J Veal

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24 August 2023

Dear Parent / Carer

Important 'Return to School' Information Re: Uniform

We are very much looking forward to seeing your son/daughter back at South Dartmoor Community College. We hope all our students are having a good summer holiday and are relaxed and reenergised ready for the start of term.

As a follow up to our communication at the end of term, please see below a reminder of the uniform expectations, including all changes.

We would encourage students to check that their uniform is ready for use in preparation for the return from the summer, including all their equipment to access their lessons. In particular, it will be important to check that blazers and school shoes still fit! If you require support with any aspect of this, please do not hesitate to contact us (the earlier the better) in order that we can offer assistance. We are also aware that some students might enjoy experimenting with unusual hairstyles during the holiday. Please be aware that the hairstyle expectations remain as published and students must wear their hair in a manner deemed appropriate for school. In addition, there has been no change to our zero tolerance on nose and tongue piercings.

Uniform plays a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of an educational institution and setting the appropriate tone. We have clear school uniform and behaviour for learning policies that help set the standards for successful learning in the classroom for all students. School uniform also creates a level playing field of expectations and promotes equality. The changes we have made to uniform have taken into account the importance of cost, equality, practicality, modernity, comfort, image and quality.

Ties:

These will no longer be part of our college uniform, therefore, from **September 2023**, these will not need to be worn. This decision has not been taken lightly, but we feel now is the right time to move away from the traditional shirt and school tie combination. This will make our uniform more cost effective, practical, comfortable and modern.

Shirts:

We have listened carefully to students regarding the shirt colour. They have been very vocal about how the white shirts can be very see-through and not always practical in terms of keeping them clean and looking smart. The new uniform will address this issue. From **September 2023**, the school shirt will be a standard light blue (please see attachment). These are available in outlets that also sell white shirts, as well as our uniform supplier, for the same price. These shirts should not be logoed.

Blazers:

There was mixed opinion regarding blazers and therefore there will be no change to blazers. These remain a compulsory part of the uniform.

Optional Jumper:

The new college jumper can be purchased from our supplier. There is a choice of a round neck and a v-neck jumper. For the time being, these are not compulsory items of uniform. However, non-school uniform jumpers are not permitted and so if your child is likely to get cold, we would recommend a college issue jumper from **September 2023**.

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Trousers, Skirts, Shoes:

There will be no change to college policy on these items.

Year 11 Students:

Understandably, as students reach Year 11, they are often reluctant to purchase new items of school uniform, given the short time they have left with us in the 'uniformed' part of the school. Therefore, there is no expectation, nor obligation, for students in Year 11 to move to the slightly tweaked uniform arrangements. As we have done this year, we will be introducing the 'Class of 2024' hoodies for students in the year group. They were extremely popular and we hope to introduce these much earlier for our new cohort of Year 11s. We will ask students in September to place orders and they will be able to be worn as soon as they arrive in October. This will replace the shirt and blazer.

We always continue to review our policies to make sure our uniform is affordable, comfortable and smart, and we always welcome feedback on any element of our provision. I have attached a copy of the new uniform and equipment agreement for your information, which provides more detail. Students have been advised of the changes in assembly. Regardless of the changes listed above, key points to remember are:

Hoodies: No hoodies should be worn at any point during the school day. Blazers are compulsory.

Skirts: These must be the standard school skirt available from SWI. Students must not roll the skirt up. The school logo must be visible at all times.

Socks: From September 2023, socks will **not** be able to be worn over tights. If these are worn without tights, they must be logo and pattern free (white, grey or black).

Shirts: Shirts will move to blue for all students from September 2023. These will not need to be worn tucked in.

Piercings: If additional piercings (other than those permitted) are worn to school, your child will be asked to remove them and they will be confiscated for the remainder of the day.

Shoes: Plain, black shoes/trainers should be worn. Leather ankle boots (flat soled) are acceptable. *Dr. Marten* boots can only be worn with trousers. Trousers must **cover** the boots completely. Trainers must be completely black with no bright logos.

Tights: If worn, these must be in good condition with no holes or ladders.

If you require support with any aspect of uniform, please do not hesitate to contact: dvile@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk in order that we can offer assistance.

To purchase uniform, please use the link here [SWI Schoolwear](#). You will find answers to all enquiries regarding sizing on the SWI website and any issues regarding placing an order, ranging from technical help with the website to tracking orders, should go direct to SWI. In conjunction with SWI, we are able to offer a free delivery service to SDCC for items you order. As items arrive, they will be available for students to collect from Main Reception after school each day. Students will be informed by their tutor if items are ready for collection.

The New Term 2023-2024:

Will begin for students in Y7 and Y10 on 6 September (Year 7 make to make their way to the School Hall for the start of the day). All students in Years 7 – 11 will be expected in school on 7 September by 08:40. Our Sixth Form students will begin slightly later; their term will start on Friday 8 September at 08:40, when all students will be expected to be in.

Thank you in advance for your continued support in ensuring our standards remain high to give our students the very best opportunities to be successful.

Kind regards



Mr D Vile

Assistant Headteacher, Culture

Truth Respect Equality Excellence