



South Dartmoor Community College

Executive Head teacher | Mrs J Veal

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Dear Parent / Carer

INFORMATION FOR THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024

As the end of term approaches, I am writing with information that I hope you will find helpful in your planning.

Sports Week

This will take place during the week beginning 10 July. Students have been informed and we would ask for your support in ensuring students come to school appropriately equipped, particularly if the weather is hot and sunny. We are not expecting unreasonable temperatures for this week. However, we have a Risk Assessment in place and we will adjust activities accordingly to ensure children are kept safe.

Curriculum Enrichment Days

These will take place on Wednesday 19 July to Friday 21 July. If you have not yet given your consent for your child to take part in these, kindly go on to ParentPay where you will find the means to do this. Children who do not have consent will be expected in school on those days and will not be allowed to participate in any trips.

Year 10 and 12 Work Experience

This takes place in the last week of term. If your child has yet to secure a placement, please contact us at the earliest opportunity so that we can support arrangements for them. Any child not participating in Work Experience will again be expected on site.

Staffing information

I am delighted to say we are fully staffed next year with subject specialists, despite the national picture of teacher shortages and recruitment difficulties. As always, we will be saying goodbye to several members of staff while also welcoming new ones to SDCC. Below is an outline of some of our staffing changes for your information.

Maths and Business: Kerry Ackerman has secured a promoted post as Deputy Head of Maths at Okehampton and we also say goodbye to Andy Reeve, who is leaving to explore opportunities outside of education. Barry Rodgers has also secured a promoted post as Head of Business at Paignton. Joining us in this department, we are delighted to welcome Sam Barnes and Adam Dyer.

Science: Ben Lovick, who has been with us for over 20 years, has accepted a job as Head of Physics at Churston Ferrers. Garry Murphy, who has also been with either SDCC or the Atrium for many years, also leaves us to enjoy opportunities outside education. Peter Schofield, who has been our stalwart Science cover teacher this year, is moving to Dawlish to take up post as Head of Science. We will be welcoming Emily Bingham and Ethan Merrington-Pink into the Science team as well as the Trust lead for Science, Simon O'Neill (a Physics specialist) from September.

Languages: We say goodbye to Sarah Amador, who is taking up a post at Eggbuckland Community College.

Creatives: Lucy Beer in Food Technology has secured another teaching job at Trinity school in Teignmouth, following her return from maternity leave.

Social Sciences: Martin O'Halloran is retiring at the end of this year.

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Leadership Team: Becky Flint has secured a job as Deputy Head at Teignmouth and is already beginning her transition to that post this term. Gizela Daemi-Rashidi also leaves us to return to Cornwall. John Bradford will move from being responsible for Assessment to looking after Teaching and Learning and Nathan Cox will become Assistant Head covering the Assessment responsibilities. Abi Slater has been appointed as Director of Sixth Form.

Pastoral Team: Naomi Parker will be moving from her role as Head of Year 7 to a role in our new Nurture Base and we have appointed Mandy Solly, who currently works at Moretonhampstead Primary School, into this vacancy. We also say goodbye to Matthew Medd, who has secured a job working with 'Looked after Children'. We currently have two vacancies for Assistant Pastoral Workers, and intend to appoint into these roles in the next week. This will ensure we are able to meet the needs of all our students both in and out of lessons. Nathan Cox will take over as Head of Y11 (current Y10), much in the same way as he has worked with our current Y11 this year.

Regardless of the length of time staff have been with us, I am sure you will want to join me in thanking those who are leaving for their contribution to the school, its students and community. The hard-work, dedication and care from these members of staff has been fabulous and I know each and every one will be missed. Our new members of staff, I am equally sure, will establish important relationships quickly and be wonderful additions to our staff team. In September, I will share with parents / carers a document outlining roles and responsibilities, so you are clear who to contact if you have questions.

Start of Autumn Term 2023

The summer term finishes at 15:10 on the 21 July. The new term will begin for students in Y7 and Y10 on 6 September. 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.

College priorities 2023–24

We have had many external visitors to school this year who have confirmed that we are now a 'Good' school. The quality of educational provision we provide is in line with, and better in places, than the Ofsted framework for 'Good' denotes. Therefore, we are looking forward to welcoming Ofsted back again to confirm this judgement and award us the Good that we deserve. In the meantime, our priorities for next year are aligned with all WeST schools and are as follows:

1. *Curriculum and its enactment (teaching and learning)* – Delivering well-planned curriculums effectively to ensure core knowledge is identified, articulated and sequenced to be ambitious and challenging for all students.
2. *Assessment* - Ensuring all students know what to do to get better in a subject, leading to strong student outcomes.
3. *Inclusion* – Providing equality of student experience, making sure that the needs of learners are met such that there is full engagement in school life and independence is developed so students are ready to take those next steps.
4. *Literacy* - Ensuring all students are able to access the curriculum fully, resulting in improved student outcomes and life chances, by reading at, or above, age-related expectations and by articulating verbally and in writing effectively and accurately.
5. *Attendance* – Students will achieve better and be more successful if they attend well (95%+). Developing our culture intentionally through raising standards, promoting our values and enhancing positive attitudes should translate into good attendance for our students.

It is this last priority that we will particularly be seeking parent/carers support with. Please help us to help your child do the best they can, by fostering a positive attitude to the importance of being present in school every available day. To this end, we also have a new Educational Welfare Officer who will be working with us and our families to raise the attendance of our students.

Uniform

We have been excited to see the transition to our new uniform and students have been pleased to wear blue shirts with no tie. We are looking forward to all students (except next year's Year 11) being in new uniform from September. If you have any questions about this, please contact us as soon as possible.

I would like to finish by thanking parents / carers for all their support this year and by wishing you all best wishes for a relaxing and enjoyable summer break.

Kindest regards



Mrs Jen Veal
Executive Head teacher

