



South Dartmoor Community College

Executive Head teacher | Mrs J Veal

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25 September 2023

Dear Parent / Carer

Year 11 Information Evening and Bowling Trip – Tuesday 17 October.

I hope your child has settled in to Year 11 well and is rising to challenges presented to them so far this year. You may have heard by now that our students' results last year were among the best in the South West. We put that down, in no small part, to community and the incredible support parents and carers gave the students, and not just their own! The saying 'It takes a village to raise a child' seemed particularly pertinent to the success of the year group. It was notable that, on Results Day in August, almost every student brought a parent / carer or family member with them and we all celebrated in the Sixth Form Centre together.

For that reason, we are hoping to run a number of events across the year (approximately one per half term) to nurture that sense of community and to bring everyone together with the common aim of enabling our children to succeed as best they can. You, as a group of parents, have already been really supportive and engaged with the students and us over the years, and working together is undoubtedly the best way to ensure they achieve well.

Our first event will be on Tuesday 17 October at 5 pm in the Sixth Form Centre and will replace the scheduled online 'Settling in' Evening. In contrast to other year groups, the Year 11 'Settling in' Evening will be run as an 'Information Evening' and will be an opportunity to come in to school in person to meet key staff, ask questions and come together as a community.

The evening will begin with a short talk from Jen Veal, Executive Head teacher. I will then share some key dates and useful information to help you to support your child as they approach exam periods. Former Year 11 parents will also be there to share their advice and experiences. You are welcome to arrive from 4.30 pm and partake in refreshments.

Prior to the evening event, we would like to take the entire Year 11 cohort Bowling at Haven Banks in Exeter. They will only miss one timetabled, non-examined lesson and it will be a great chance to get the students together as a group to enrich relationships in an informal way. Students will be expected to be in school uniform, as we will be departing school towards the end of the school day, at 1.30 pm. Students will go for an early lunch before we set off. We will return shortly after the talk at 5 pm, where your child will then join you and you can stay and mingle or return to your homes.

Whilst this is not a 'parents evening', staff, speakers and former Year 11 parents will be on hand to answer any questions that you may have about your child's progress and success through Year 11. We very much look forward to seeing so many of you at the first Year 11 community event.

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The cost of the Bowling is £10 and payment and consent for this trip must be completed by Friday 6 October at 5pm via Parent Pay. If the price is a barrier please do not hesitate to get in touch as it is important to us that this event is as inclusive as possible. However, attendance on this trip is not a right, it is a privilege, and we expect students to meet our high expectations in terms of attendance and behaviour in school in order to earn the right to go. If your child is at risk of not being invited to attend we will phone you to have a conversation and see if, together, we can help your child to make better decisions.

Best wishes

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