

# South Dartmoor Community College

# Attendance

# BULLETIN

Autumn term 2

## Why is attendance important?

Excellent attendance at school is linked to better academic progress and attainment by ensuring pupils access a broad, balanced and knowledge-rich curriculum. It also ensures that pupils can benefit from the extra-curricular activities on offer at school that promote good social and emotional development.

## Upcoming Parent Support Sessions

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November

We are fortunate that Mrs Kate Anthony, an Educational Psychologist with over 20 years' experience working with children, families and schools, will be hosting a series of Tea and Topic mornings at South Dartmoor Community College. The next topic she will be presenting on will be: What do I do when they just say 'No'. Strategies to manage defiant and oppositional behaviours at home. In these sessions Kate will help explain the science behind why children may develop defiant behaviours and share some practical ideas on how to support teenagers at home. The session will start at 09:30 and finish at 10:30. All parents/carers are welcome. Details will be sent to all parents shortly via letter.

## How to access support pathways in college

Heads of Year are the first contact for most parents requiring support and guidance. They can be contacted via email or by phoning the college directly. The support toolkit can also be accessed by following this link:

[Support Toolkit add link to website](#)

Students to be in their welcome space by:  
8:40am

Register taken by: 8:40am

Late 'L' mark if student arrives after: 8:40am

Registration closes at: 9:00am

Late 'U' mark if students arrive after: 9:00am

## Attendance message

Parents/carers ensure they have informed the school of an absence **by 8.30am on every day of absence.**

## Attendance support in school

We know for some of our students the 'getting' to school part of the day is difficult and we are looking at removing as many barriers and worries as possible for our students. As part of our attendance and wellbeing strategy, we are running a 'Landing' room for students who are feeling anxious about coming to school in the morning. We will be providing an alternative space for students to arrive. There will also be an opportunity for students to receive a breakfast bar and a drink. We will then send students off to their lesson, hopefully feeling better about the day ahead. We will also see students at the end of the day to prepare the following day.

Please contact Mrs West if you would like to enquire about your son/daughter attending the initiative.

[twest@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk](mailto:twest@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk)

## Attendance notice

Absence from school will not be authorised, for example:

- For any type of shopping
- Looking after siblings or parents
- Minding the house
- Birthdays
- Resting after a late night
- Relatives visiting or visiting relatives
- Because holidays are cheaper in term time
- More than one day for a family wedding

## How to report an absence:

Parents can inform the school of absence in three ways:

1. Call the main school number on 01364 652230, select the option to report an absence and leave a message giving the date of absence and clear reason for absence.
2. Via email at [attendance@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk](mailto:attendance@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk)
3. Call the school on 01364 652230 and speak to the Attendance Officer directly. Parents are responsible for informing the school of the reason for an absence **on a daily basis**, for each day of absence, **by 8.30am**. This forms part of our safeguarding procedures for missing students.

Please use the link to access our full [Attendance policy](#)

