



South Dartmoor Community College

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Empowering everyone to be the best they can be.

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Dear Parents / Carers

WELCOME BACK

We hope you have had a good summer break and that your child is looking forward to returning to school later this week. As a reminder, Year 7, 10 and 12 students return on Wednesday 4 September and all students are expected in school from Thursday 5 September. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch, as the school switchboard is now open and staff are back at work, engaged in training and administration work.

Over the summer, we have had huge investment in the site totalling in the region of half a million pounds. Some of the work has been to improve the infrastructure and ensure longevity of the buildings, such as IT upgrades and roofing improvements. A large amount has also been spent on the refurbishment of our classrooms; many of the teaching spaces have been painted and re-decorated, floorings have been replaced with brand new carpets, ceilings have been replaced and brand-new fixtures and fittings installed and, some rooms, such as the Food Technology rooms, have had a complete overhaul. More will follow on Social Media where we will share photos of these fabulous, modern learning spaces with you, so you can appreciate the extent to which the investment has had positive impact on our school. It is nothing less than our students deserve!

We also have further exciting developments to share with you over the coming weeks. The first is the launch of our REACH programme on a Wednesday afternoon, which will impact students in Y7, 8 and 9, and is a direct response to both student voice and parent feedback. It is essentially designed to give all students the opportunity to engage with enriching, enjoyable experiences and activities provided by the school in school time, and students can choose from many diverse physical, creative and academic options every half term. A letter will follow shortly and I urge you kindly to look out for it, read it and share it with your child. Students will also have assemblies about it on their return, when they will be asked to make their selection.

Finally, in case you have not seen our press releases over the summer regarding our former Y11 and Y13 students, I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate our students' outcomes with our parents. Once again, our students achieved fabulous results in both GCSEs and A levels. Our results at GCSE place us in the top 20% of schools in England and Wales in English and Maths for the second year running and, overall, our students made better progress than their peers nationally. Once again, we place highly in the league table for local schools. Our Sixth Form students also continued our positive trend of strong academic outcomes and we have delighted in supporting them to go on to the next phase of their lives. These results show that students do well at South Dartmoor; whether at Sixth Form or at GCSE level, students are taught well by experienced staff who know both their curriculum and their students. We are excited to be working with you to support our current students to fulfill their potential and we look forward to welcoming you all in to school over the coming months.

We look forward to seeing your children later this week.

Best wishes

Mrs Jen Veal
Executive Head teacher

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