



South Dartmoor Community College

Executive Head teacher | Mrs J Veal
Balland Lane | Ashburton | Devon | TQ13 7EW

Empowering everyone to be the best they can be.



06 September 2024

Dear Parents/Carer

REACH programme Years 7 – 9

REACH (**R**ealising **E**ducational **A**spirations through expanding **C**ultural **H**orizons) is a new curriculum enrichment initiative for all students in Years 7 – 9. Whilst we recognise and maintain the importance of our taught curriculum and work hard to balance the creative with the academic, we also acknowledge that trying new experiences, fostering interests, learning to self-regulate and overcome challenges also plays an important role in the development of young people whilst nurturing their sense of self and supporting their well-being.

The enrichment programme will enable all KS3 students to dive deeper into their interests and broaden their horizons by trying new experiences and expanding their skillset. The activities on offer are integrated into the school timetable and curriculum with sessions taking place every Wednesday afternoon, either starting at 13:30 or 14:10 and finishing in time for the buses. Most activities are free and on site or within walking/running distance. However, there are a small number of more specialised activities e.g. Horse Riding/Rifle Shooting that are either further afield and/or will incur a cost. If finance is a barrier to participation, please don't hesitate to contact jdistin@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk who will be able to discuss support that we have available.

Each activity will run for a half term with students selecting their preferred activities, a term in advance. This term the programme will commence on Wednesday 18th September and run for 6 weeks up until October half term. Whilst we would encourage students to select a range of activities across the year, the same or similar activity can be requested. Those students duplicating activities will be encouraged to take more responsibility as they become more experienced and take on mentoring and leadership roles, supporting others whilst developing their own leadership skills. We will endeavour to allocate students to their preferred activities, however, this may not always be possible due to numbers and in this instance, we will look to ensure that everyone during the year, has an opportunity to experience a particular activity of interest. The activities on offer will be updated termly as some will be season dependent!

As part of the REACH programme students will also have access to UNIFROG, an online careers and skills platform, where students will record their activities and the skills that they have learnt. This will help them to record achievements and build a personalised CV and personal statement supporting them in future applications to Sixth Form, Apprenticeships, University and the world of work.

Linked [Here](#) is a booklet with all the available activities and their associated details. Kindly discuss this with your child and support them to make an informed choice. Over the next few days, students will then have the opportunity to complete a form in school indicating their preference. If the activity requires payment this will be added to parent pay in due course. Once we have all the requests, we will allocate students to activities and will then share with them what they will be doing in preparation for the first session on Wednesday 18 September 2024.

If you have any questions, please contact jdistin@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk.

Kind regards

Emma Gallagher.

Truth Respect Equality Excellence

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