



South Dartmoor Community College

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Empowering everyone to be the best they can be.



20 November 2024

Dear Parent / Carer

Rank Order Information

We hope this letter finds you well. As part of our ongoing efforts to support and motivate our students, we are introducing an initiative called Rank Order Information (ROI) which will be shared with students and parents shortly, using data from (and up to) the mock exams. Students have already been introduced to this concept in assemblies and through informal conversations.

The primary goal of ROI is to boost motivation and provide students with a tangible measure of their progress. By understanding their rank, students can better gauge their efforts and identify areas for improvement. It is also provided based on assessing students through formalised examinations, giving an idea of where students at South Dartmoor compare to other students in their year group before they are compared to the national cohort in August of Year 11. This rank order information will now be readily available to you while the outcomes can still be influenced. The lower the number in the rank column, the better the student is doing in that area.

This initiative has been successfully implemented in other high-performing schools and has proven to be an effective tool in enhancing student outcomes. It is also aligned to our school value of 'Truth', as it provides an honest reflection of how students compare to others. This exactly mirrors the national grading system, as the results are based on norm referencing (comparison to other students in the same cohort) rather than criteria referencing (how students perform relative to what they know).

The Rank Order Information will be included in the students' reports and will be displayed on an anonymised leaderboard within the school. Within the report that goes home, there will be rank order information regarding students' academic performance, attendance and learning behaviours, as well as effort on learning platforms such as Sparx. Often there is a strong correlation, as you would expect between attendance and effort in home learning with student outcomes and therefore ranking. On the anonymised leaderboard in school, each student will be assigned a unique six-digit random code, allowing them to identify their own position on the leaderboard without revealing their identity to others. This ensures that no student can identify another unless they choose to share their code.

The leaderboard will be refreshed after the February mock exams, allowing students to see the improvements they have made. This will provide an additional opportunity for students to track their progress and stay motivated as they prepare for their final exams. For students who find themselves at the lower end of the rank order, we will provide bespoke interventions and support to help them improve. This may include additional after-school sessions, support with reading, or other tailored resources.

We understand that some parents/carers may have concerns about this approach. Please be assured that the anonymity of each student is a top priority. However, if you prefer that your child does not appear on the rank order leaderboard, you have the option to opt out. To do so, please complete the attached Microsoft form and return it to the school by Friday, 28 November. [Microsoft Form - Opt Out of Ranking Leaderboard Display](#) .

So, in summary:

- Students will be ranked, just as they are in the GCSE exams to give 1 – 9 grades
- They will be ranked for attendance, attitudes to learning, maths, English and home learning
- Information will go home to all students in the reports
- An anonymised leaderboard will be displayed
- Students will be given their code and that is the only way they can be identified
- Parents can opt out by filling in the form link above

We believe that this initiative will empower students to take charge of their learning and strive for excellence. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Nathan Cox
Assistant Headteacher

Truth Respect Equality Excellence