



# South Dartmoor Community College

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*Empowering everyone to be the best they can be.*



12 December 2024

Dear Parent / Carer

## **End of term and Christmas best wishes**

As we reach the end of another busy and productive term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and engagement with our school community. Your involvement in your child's education is hugely valued; working together is the best way to ensure students fulfil their potential.

## **This term's achievements**

We are immensely proud of the hard work and achievements of our students this term, as always. They have shown remarkable resilience, enthusiasm and a commitment to their studies and extracurricular activities. The REACH launch, for students in Years 7 to 9, has been particularly well received and we all enjoy that particular part of our week. Year 11 students have had great success in their mock exams and Year 10 students have settled really well to their examination courses. It goes without saying that our Sixth Form students remain a complete delight! It is the students, their hard work and efforts that make our school a vibrant and inspiring place to learn and grow. They are a credit to you, as parents, and the school community, as well as themselves. Look out for our termly newsletter, the latest version of which will be shared next week. Plus of course, we had Ofsted, which finally gave us the Goods (five of them!) that we knew we were. The parental support was incredible and easily the best bit of the whole inspection. 93% of parents said they would recommend us – that is among the highest percentage almost ever known! Thank you to you all for your continuing and unwavering support.

## **Staffing changes**

As we approach the festive season, I would like to inform you of some staffing changes for the New Year. Chris Hodges, who has worked at the school for two decades is leaving us to pursue other opportunities. I am sure you join me in wishing him well for the future and in thanking him for all he has done over the years for the students and community. Matt Abercrombie joins us from January for two terms. He is an experienced former Head of Geography and a subject specialist. Kirsty Abercrombie joins us in January as our permanent Head of Languages. She takes over from Ali Wickham who left us last summer. She is also a highly experienced practitioner, and former Head of MFL, and is looking forward to introducing French and Spanish back in to the A Level offer. Dave Ray has been kindly stepping in in the interim and he will now be teaching mainly Motor Vehicle Mechanics and Technology over three days. We are deeply grateful to him for ensuring the students had continuity of an excellent language provision over this last term. Sue Nicholson, a teaching assistant who has worked at SDCC for 13 years, also retires this term; once again we thank her and we wish her all the best for the future.

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## Attendance

Next week we have our Christmas dinner on Wednesday, which is combined with a day of Christmas festivities. We will be teaching the planned academic curriculum right up until the last minute on Friday 20 December and, unlike some other local schools, we will not be closing early. Please ensure your child comes to school on this day, as the learning will be as important as any other day of the term. Furthermore, the last day always has a very lovely feel to it and being a part of that is really important for mental health and well-being.

Finally, on behalf of the staff, I want to wish you all a relaxing and happy Christmas holiday. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year; the Spring Term starts on Tuesday 7 January for all students at 0840.

Best wishes



Mrs J Veal  
Executive Headteacher

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