



South Dartmoor Community College

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Empowering everyone to be the best they can be.

30 April 2025

Dear Parent / Carer

Key Stage 3 End of Year Assessments

Starting from Monday 12 May students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will commence their end of year assessments, with the exception of English, which will start next week.

Assessments will run in much the same way as they were in January. Students will sit them during normal timetabled lessons and they will take up to one hour to complete. For Science, History, Geography, Modern Foreign Languages, Religious Studies and Computer Science, assessments will take place in our IT suites. Students will access their assessment via Teams and this will be scheduled in advance for them.

While it is important for students to approach these assessments seriously, we are committed to minimizing any undue pressure and stress through careful preparation and support. Teachers will be preparing students with revision lessons, as well as posting revision materials and guidance on ClassCharts. Our goal is to ensure that these assessments serve as a constructive tool for their continued academic growth and teachers will use the information they provide for future curriculum planning.

During the last assessments, in January, students were each issued a unique exam number. We will be handing these out again and would be grateful if you could remind your son/daughter to look after this number carefully as they will enter it at the start of every assessment. This will help us when we come to analyse the results so that we can adapt our curriculum where needed and offer the best level of support and intervention to meet the needs of all students moving forwards.

As always, attendance is very important and, in light of this, we will be running catchup sessions for any assessments missed. The results of all assessments will be published in the end of year report and will be sent to you later this term with further details about this below.

Rank Order Information and End of Year reports

As part of our ongoing efforts to support and motivate our students, we are introducing an initiative across the school called Rank Order Information (ROI). The primary goal of ROI is to boost motivation and provide students with a tangible measure of their progress: by understanding their rank compared to their peers, students can better gauge their efforts and identify areas for improvement.

This term we will be reporting rank order information to Year 7, 8 and 9 students and parents, using results from the end of year Key Stage 3 (KS3) assessments. Rank Order Information regarding attendance and learning behaviours will also be included, as there is a strong correlation between attendance and effort in home learning with student outcomes, and therefore ranking. This will not be made public and will not be displayed.

Students will be introduced to the concept of ROI in assemblies and through informal conversations. The initiative has been successfully implemented in Year 11, taking the model from 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 mirrors the national grading system when students sit their GCSE exams in Year 11, where 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).

So, in summary:

- Rank Order Information will be included in KS3 student reports, which will be emailed home to parents / carers during the week beginning 7 July. Reports will contain a link to a guide providing further information.
- In each subject, students in Years 7, 8 & 9 will be ranked against other students in their year group, based on their end of year assessment score in that subject. Each student's assessment grades are then averaged to calculate your child's overall rank position in their year group.
- Students will also be ranked for attendance, attitude to learning and home learning.
- The rank order information will not be displayed publicly.

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

I would like to take this opportunity to wish your son / daughter good luck in their upcoming assessments and thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes



John Bradford
Assistant Headteacher

Truth Respect Equality Excellence