



South Dartmoor Community College

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Empowering everyone to be the best they can be.

17 July 2025

Dear Parent / Carer

RE: SUMMER WELL WISHES AND USEFUL INFORMATION

Working in Education is a delight; working with young people is a privilege and working with SDCC students, an absolute joy! No two days are ever the same and there is never a dull moment. As a result, time flies! It was only 10 months ago that we welcomed Ofsted on site. We were delighted with our great 'Good' and, most especially, the overwhelming parental and community support. South Dartmoor really is a very special place; excellent relationships underpin our high standards and expectations, and students thrive in both their academic learning and through their holistic experiences. The introduction of REACH this year, is testament to that and we will see it again, I am sure, in the results in the summer. Fundamentally, SDCC students are great young people; they are honest, polite and respectful, kind and considerate, and try their very best. They are a real credit to you as parents/carers and we have enjoyed working together with you in order to get the best for them. We continue to build on these successes and, looking ahead, we are excited for the new academic year and the opportunities it brings.

Newsletter

Tomorrow, as tradition dictates, you will be sent a link to our Summer Term newsletter. Every term I find it remarkable how much we get involved in, how engaged and resilient our students are and how much we achieve together as a community. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as we enjoy having lived it!

Staff Changes

Jack Brown and Tom Webb, both Early Career Teachers who have been with us for a year, are leaving us to explore other teaching opportunities, Jack at Kingsbridge and Tom in Higher Education. We wish them both well, as they continue their teaching journeys.

At the other end of the scale, Rob Benzie, who has been in education for almost 50 years, and who has been a stalwart part time teacher in our Sixth Form for five years, is going to give retirement a try, although he will be back voluntarily to support the wonderful SDCC community to deliver High Performing Events, Moors Week for Year 7, as well as assemblies and Y12 tutoring. We are grateful for all he has contributed to SDCC and education over the years and are pleased not to be saying a final farewell.

We do say 'au revoir' to Dave Ray, however, who has been at SDCC for 12 years. He is going to pursue other opportunities, including life in France and some renovation work. Dave was due to reduce his hours last September but instead he stepped in at the start of this academic year as full time Head of Languages, purely to ensure our students continued to get excellent language provision. We will always appreciate his loyalty and commitment, and we wish him and his family all the best.

Nic Bush, also one of our part time Sixth Form teachers is taking a year's sabbatical and we look forward to hearing all about her adventures next year. Dan Young is moving from Languages into English, initially to cover Kate Chambers' maternity leave. We are grateful to him for being so versatile and flexible.

Joining SDCC to start their teaching careers are Sophie Goldstone, who is a graduate in French and Spanish and Ewan Murray, a Cambridge graduate in Human, Social and Political Science. They will join the Languages and Social Sciences Departments respectively. It is a delightful coincidence that Ewan is another 'Murray'; he is not related, but Danny Murray taught him some time ago and was the person who inspired Ewan to become a teacher. Sometimes it feels like a very small, and perfectly formed, world!

Cont/d ...

Becky Wright also joins us in Maths; she is an experienced teacher who has considerable teaching and leadership experience. Also, Alice Lovell, who has trained with us this year in PE, is staying on to join the PE team in a part time capacity next year. We are very much looking forward to working with them all.

Finally, Pete Merrick (Site Supervisor), David and Dawn Lord and Barry Stocker (Cleaners) are also retiring this year. They have worked at SDCC for a combined total of over 72 years! Their commitment and dedication to looking after the fabric of our learning and working environment is commendable and we are hugely grateful to them all for their service. I am sure you join me in wishing them all the very best.

Academic Year 2025 – 2026

Our doors will reopen for students in Years 7, 10 and 12 on Friday, 5 September and for Years 8, 9, 11 and 13 students on Monday 8 September. We would encourage students to check that their uniform is ready for use in preparation for the return from the summer, including all their equipment to access their learning. In particular, it will be important to check that blazers and school shoes still fit! If you require support with any aspect of this, please do not hesitate to contact us (school opens to staff on the 3 September) in order that we can offer assistance. To purchase uniform, please use the link here [SWI Schoolwear](#). You will find answers to all enquiries regarding sizing on the SWI website and any issues regarding placing an order, ranging from technical help with the website to tracking orders, should go direct to SWI.

As always, I extend my very deepest thanks to all parents / carers for your support. It is the foundation upon which our school's success is built. On behalf of the staff, I wish you all a safe, restful and an enjoyable summer holiday.

Best wishes



Mrs Jen Veal
Executive Head teacher

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