



# South Dartmoor Community College

Executive Head teacher | Mrs J Veal  
Balland Lane | Ashburton | Devon | TQ13 7EW  
01364 652230 | [www.southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk](http://www.southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk)

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



22 December 2025

Dear Parent / Carer

## **Key Stage 3 Mid-Year Assessments, 12 January to 27 January 2026**

Next week students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will commence their mid-year assessments. Students know about these and teachers have been preparing them for assessments for a while now.

Assessments will run during normal timetabled lessons and take up to one hour to complete. For English, Science, History, Geography, Modern Foreign Languages, Religious Studies and PE, 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 have been preparing students with revision lessons, as well as posting revision materials and guidance on ClassCharts for English, Maths and Science. 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.

This week, we are issuing students with their unique exam number. For Years 8 and 9 this will be the same number that was issued last summer. In order that the assessments start smoothly, please can you remind your son/daughter of the importance of knowing this number. If they are not sure, ask them to approach their teachers prior to the 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 next report and will be sent to you later this term.

## **Mid-Year Reports and Rank order Information**

This term we will be reporting rank order information to Year 7, 8 and 9 students and parents, using results from the mid-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. Student names will not be displayed publicly.

The primary goal of Rank order information 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. 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).

In summary:

- Mid-year reports will be emailed home to parents / carers. Year 9, week beginning 9 February. Year 7 & 8 during the week beginning 23 February. Reports will contain rank order information with 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 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.
- Student names will not be displayed publicly.

We believe that rank ordering empowers 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