



16 July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Closing Year 12 and preparing for Year 13

As we approach the end of another really positive academic year, I wanted to take this opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our Year 12 students and thank you for your continued support throughout what has been an important and productive year.

You will soon receive your son or daughter's Year 12 report, including their summer mock examination results and UCAS reference comments. Together, this letter and the report provide an opportunity to reflect on the progress students have made throughout the year and to begin preparing for the important transition into Year 13.

At South Dartmoor Sixth Form, we believe education extends far beyond examination results. Whilst academic success remains central to all that we do, we are equally committed to developing informed, curious and confident young adults who are prepared for the opportunities and challenges that await them beyond Sixth Form.

Earlier this month, many of our students attended the WeST Year 12 Supra-Curricular Summer Conference at the University of Plymouth. The event brought together students from across the region for a day of inspiring speakers and thought-provoking discussions designed to connect classroom learning with the wider world. A particular highlight was hearing from South Dartmoor alumnus Tom Kegode, whose message encouraged students to embrace curiosity, seek opportunities and consider the impact they can have in the future. Our students represented the college exceptionally well and were a credit to themselves and our community.

I am also delighted that several students have secured fully funded places on a Level 2 TEFL qualification which will complete on 17 July. This represents another valuable opportunity for students to broaden their experiences, develop additional skills and strengthen future university, apprenticeship and employment applications.



The final week of term will see a programme of Sixth Form Impact Days. Alongside welcoming our future Year 12 students during Enrolment Morning and celebrating the achievements of the current cohort at our Year 12 Celebration Afternoon, students will participate in a range of experiences designed to prepare them for life beyond the classroom.

An expanded Emergency Services Impact Day will see students working with Devon Air Ambulance, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service Road Safety Team, Devon and Cornwall Police and Martial Arts 4 Fun to develop practical knowledge and skills relating to personal safety, risk awareness and emergency response. Students will also participate in our newly launched Mock Interview Programme, supported by volunteers from a wide range of professional sectors, helping them prepare for higher education, apprenticeships and employment through realistic interview experiences.

These opportunities sit at the heart of our Sixth Form culture. They are designed to help students develop not only academically but also personally, ensuring they leave us equipped with the confidence, resilience and independence needed to thrive in adult life.

Looking ahead to September, I would also like to share a brief update regarding our Year 13 programme.

From September 2026, all Year 13 students will have the opportunity to complete a new Level 3 Personal Finance qualification through our Personal Development Programme and Period 0 provision. This exciting addition will allow students to develop a deeper understanding of personal finance, budgeting, borrowing, taxation and financial decision-making whilst gaining an additional recognised qualification.

To facilitate this programme, Period 0 will run Monday to Friday from 8:40am to 9:05am for all Year 13 students, replacing the current Tuesday to Thursday model. This consistent approach will help establish the habits, routines and professional behaviours that support success both during Sixth Form and beyond.

By sharing this information now, we hope families have sufficient notice to review any regular commitments, including driving lessons and appointments, ahead of September. We would be grateful for your support in ensuring these are scheduled outside of Period 0 so that students can fully engage with the opportunities available to them.



Finally, I would like to invite all current Year 12 students and their parents and carers to our Year 13 Next Steps Information Evening on Tuesday 3 November (5:00-6:30pm).

The evening will provide guidance on competitive UCAS applications, apprenticeships and degree apprenticeships, student finance, personal finance and the transition beyond compulsory education. Alongside colleagues and guest speakers, I look forward to sharing how we will support students and families through what is an exciting and important final year of Sixth Form.

As I reflect on this cohort, I am immensely proud of the maturity, ambition and commitment they have demonstrated throughout Year 12. We look forward to welcoming them back in September and supporting them through the final stage of their Sixth Form journey.

Thank you once again for your continued support and partnership throughout the year. On behalf of the Sixth Form team and staff body, I wish you and your family a restful and enjoyable summer.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Abi Slater
Director of Sixth Form