



# South Dartmoor Community College

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

21 July 2026

Dear Parent / Carer

## Useful Information and Summer Well Wishes

As we come to the close of another full and successful academic year, I would like to thank you for the ongoing support and partnership you have given us. South Dartmoor remains a very special school community, shaped by strong relationships, high expectations and a culture that encourages students to be ambitious, kind and resilient. There has been a great deal to celebrate this year, including the quality of teaching and learning across the school, the commitment and progress shown by our students and the positive outcomes they continue to secure. At the heart of this are our students themselves; honest, polite and respectful young people who are kind, thoughtful and determined to do their very best. They are a credit to you as parents and carers, and it has been a pleasure to work alongside you to support them in achieving their potential. We will continue to build on all that has been achieved this year and look ahead with real excitement to the opportunities the new academic year will bring.

## 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

We are delighted to welcome a number of colleagues to SDCC from September. Dr Ross Castle joins us in Maths and Physics, Elias Fox joins the Science team and Louis Jones joins the Geography Department. All three have trained with us this year and already know our school, our systems and, most importantly, our students. We are very pleased that they will continue their teaching journeys as part of the SDCC community.

We also welcome Elise Harvey to the History Department. Elise is an experienced teacher and we know she will bring a great deal to the team and to our students. Phoebe Tilson-Hurst also joins our MFL team in a part-time capacity. She is also a very experienced teacher, relocating from the South-East, and we are very much looking forward to working with her. Lastly, joining our dedicated support staff team, we welcome Karen Hegarty and Shireesha Fullee; more information will follow regarding their roles in the new academic year.

We say goodbye to Suzanne Mieczkowska who has been with us for 21 years. She has contributed a huge amount to the school over the years, including being part of a highly successful and popular History and Ancient History team, readily joining in with diverse activities to engage students, from running Year 11 Masterclasses to inspiring aspirations (look out for a fabulous photo in the Newsletter!) and in recent months running 'Knitty Gritty' in REACH. We also say goodbye to Andy Carpenter, whose input and involvement at SDCC has been invaluable, and Dom Cheston, who has been our Cover Supervisor and part time Geography teacher as well as our Girls' football lead. Tamara Dixon, our Safeguarding Lead, also leaves us at the end of this term and we will look to recruit her replacement early next academic year. In the meantime, Dan Vile will be Designated Safeguarding lead. We shall miss them all and I am sure you join me in thanking them and wishing them well wherever life takes the next.

Finally, I have been asked to support two secondary schools in Cornwall next year. I will spend the majority of my time in South Dartmoor but in order to ensure consistency in leadership, Emma Gallagher will become Head of School and both Abi Slater and Kerri McCarthy will join the team as Acting Assistant Headteachers. Congratulations also extend to Maxine Theobald, who becomes our Year Leader for Year 8.

### **Academic Year 2026 – 2027**

Our doors will reopen for students in Years 7, 10 and 12 on Friday 4 September and for all students on Monday 7 September. We have set ourselves the challenging target of 100% attendance on both these days, as evidence shows that student attendance across the year is more likely to be better, and resulting outcomes stronger, if students attend the first days of the academic year. We are grateful for your support in achieving this ambitious target.

We would encourage students to check that their uniform is ready for use in preparation for the return from the summer, including all equipment needed to access their learning. In particular, it will be important to check that blazers and school shoes still fit. To purchase uniform, please use the link here [SWI Schoolwear](#). You will find answers to all enquiries regarding sizing on their website and any issues regarding placing an order, ranging from technical help with the website to tracking orders, should go direct to SWI. We have been informed that new uniform stock levels are in a strong position currently. Please remember that the company offers a 15% discount and free delivery if you shop early. The recommended final order date is Sunday 16 August to those who have not yet placed an order. This date will hopefully ensure delivery of items before the start of the new term.

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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