



South Dartmoor Community College

Executive Head teacher | Mrs J Veal

Balland Lane | Ashburton | Devon | TQ13 7EW

01364 652230 | www.southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk



Empowering everyone to be the best they can be

11 September

Dear Parent / Carer

RE: Literacy Intervention

At South Dartmoor Community College, we believe that strong reading skills are the foundation for success across the curriculum and beyond. As part of our commitment to ensuring that every student becomes a confident and capable reader, we have developed a comprehensive whole-school approach to reading.

At the centre of this provision is the reading programme that takes place during morning tutor time. These sessions are short, structured reading lessons designed to provide regular reading opportunities to develop students' reading accuracy, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

Over the next couple of weeks, we will begin placing students into the reading pathway that best meets their current needs, using reading assessment data and information gathered by staff. To ensure that every student receives the support they need, students are placed into reading groups based on their current reading profile. These groups are dynamic, meaning that students may move between groups as their reading skills develop. This enables us to provide tailored support that meets the needs of each individual learner and ensures that every student is accessing the most appropriate reading provision.

Depending on their current reading profile, students may participate in one of several reading pathways:

- Fresh Start Phonics for students who require support with decoding and foundational reading skills.
- Reading Fluency interventions for students who can decode accurately but need to improve reading confidence, expression and comprehension.
- Tutor Reading Programme, where students read and discuss a class text with a reading tutor to further develop comprehension and reading stamina.
- Reading Scholars, which provides stretch and challenge through higher-level reading, discussion and critical thinking activities for students reading above age-related expectations.

The aim of this approach is to ensure that all students are reading at, or above, their age-expected level. Reading is a gateway skill that underpins learning in every subject, and research consistently shows that strong readers are more likely to achieve academic success throughout their education.

We appreciate that some parents may have questions about students spending tutor time in reading groups rather than with their usual tutor group. Please be assured that students will continue to be a member of their original tutor group, receive pastoral support and remain part of their year community. All students will spend at least one morning each week with their tutor group, ensuring they continue to access key messages, build relationships and benefit from the pastoral support that having a tutor provides.

We recognise the important role that parents and carers play in supporting reading at home and appreciate your continued encouragement of regular reading beyond the school day. If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to discuss your child's reading pathway in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact me at lhutchinson@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk.

Kind regards

Lara Hutchinson

Literacy Lead

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