



Dear Parents / Carers

Changes for SDCC and Atrium Studio Hub Provision for September 2020

I hope this letter finds you all well. As we approach the summer holidays we reflect on what has been the most unprecedented couple of months. We have been overwhelmed with the resilience and resourcefulness of all of our students and our staff. Students have risen to the challenge and continued to engage with their education, ensuring that they have made the most of the opportunity to facilitate their own learning. With great power comes great responsibility and our students have yet again demonstrated their maturity and integrity. We are grateful to you as parents / carers to, for your support of students with their independent learning; we know that this may not have been easy at times.

We are very much looking forward to returning to school in September and we are writing with information on some of the exciting new developments that will be in place this coming academic year.

Executive Principal

Mrs Jen Veal has been appointed as the new Executive Principal for South Dartmoor Community College (SDCC) and the Atrium Studio. Mrs Veal has already been working at SDCC and Atrium this term in order to prepare for September. Mrs Sam Morcumb will work across both schools, continuing to support the leadership of Atrium Studio and also SDCC as Assistant Head teacher.

Sixth Form Provision Relocation and Consolidation

We are relocating the Sixth Form, to a new Centre at the heart of the College. Our Sixth Form provision, already the most consistently successful Post 16 centre in the area, (top 10% nationally for student progress,) will be enhanced by its new location and improved facilities. South Dartmoor and Atrium Sixth Form have operated in close partnership since the Atrium Studio opened and this exciting development will facilitate a more efficient and enhanced Post 16 education for all our students. The new Sixth Form Centre will be the upper floor of the Atrium Studio. This will bring significant benefits to our students and their learning experience.

All Sixth Form facilities will be centralised, with easy access for students to the Library, careers and specialised departments such as the Sciences, Music and PE that require specialised classrooms and resources. This will significantly reduce the time students have to spend moving around the site, with all the College facilities and resources only a few minutes away from the new Sixth Form Centre. The new Centre has the most modern classrooms in the college, with enhanced ICT and display resources. BYOD Wifi will be available in the new Centre to allow students to continue to bring their own Laptops or tablet devices. A dedicated student study room, with work areas and PCs will be located in the Centre, as well as additional study areas in the 'Gallery' and Sixth Form Resource Centre.

Atrium Year 9 Entry Freeze

Due to COVID-19, Year 8 students have had a very disrupted year and they have not had the duration and stability of a strong Key Stage 3 foundation in order to prepare them for GCSEs. In addition to this, Atrium's prospective Year 9 students have not had the benefit of the usual transition and induction opportunities that would normally be in place for them over the summer term. We are also mindful that September is still a long way off and the conditions and measures associated with the pandemic are still variable.

To this end, the decision has been made to 'freeze' the Year 9 intake for the academic year 2020/2021. This will ensure that incoming students get the KS3 preparation they need and have access to teachers they know, should remote 'Lockdown learning' need to be implemented again. It also means that throughout the year next year, the students can receive the smooth transition and induction into Atrium that they deserve.

SDCC and Atrium Subject groupings

We are mindful that there are various factors that impact a child's ability to engage with learning remotely during COVID-19. Staff at Atrium studio and SDCC want the best for all students. We have taken the opportunity over the summer term to monitor remote learning, assess past performance and identify the needs of students across all curriculum areas in both schools.

The geographical proximity of both school sites lends itself perfectly to the opportunity for subject specialists and expertise to be 'pooled' in order to provide the best opportunity for students to engage with the curriculum in a class or group that is right for them post 'Lockdown'. This will enable students to be taught in groups with others that are of the right mix and ability to support them to make progress towards their GCSEs. This may mean that Atrium students will access some subject rooms or teachers at SDCC and vice versa. This is not unfamiliar to them, as many students access option subjects across both sites already. All Atrium students will remain Atrium students and will retain access to their 'Home school' facilities and staff.

SEND

We are delighted to have been able to appoint Mrs Sally Banfield as Assistant Head teacher for Inclusion, with responsibility for SEND and students entitled to Pupil premium. The SEND provision will be centralised across both SDCC and Atrium schools under her leadership.

Collaboration

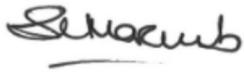
The improved symbiotic nature of the relationship between SDCC and the Atrium will not only support students to receive an enriched curriculum and school experience, it will also provide a seamless working environment for staff, enabling them to focus on the core aim of delivering quality first teaching. It is an exciting opportunity for all stakeholders to benefit from the enhanced collaboration.

SDCC and the Atrium provide a comprehensive education for students from 11 – 18 with breadth across the schools to support students in both academic and vocational educational journeys. Students have access to a broad range of subjects at KS3 leading to a comprehensive suite of options at KS4. These options provide a tailored springboard to a successful post 16 educational programme. Either capitalising on the phenomenal academic outcomes of the sixth form enabling a large numbers of students to continue their education at Russell group universities, or utilising the Atrium's extensive network of employers in the built environment to secure industry standard qualifications in Design, Engineering and Construction and also high quality apprenticeships. The collaboration of the two establishments continues to enable the educational offer for students in the locality go from strength to strength.

There is no doubt that these most unusual last couple of months have provided us the opportunity to take stock of the educational landscape. At SDCC and Atrium Studio we find ourselves in the most fortunate position of being supported by our new Trust to embark on the next exciting phase of our growth and development.

We look forward to sharing the inevitable successes that the collaboration will bring over the coming months and years.

Yours Sincerely,



S. Morcumb
Principal
Atrium Studio



K. Dyke
Principal
South Dartmoor Community
college



J Baldwin
Head of Sixth Form
Atrium and South Dartmoor 6th
Form Hub