



20<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly we hope this communication finds you well in what continues to be challenging times as we learn to live with COVID-19. We would like to start by thanking parents and carers for their support during this time and I am sure you join us wanting to express our gratitude to the staff within the Trust who have gone above and beyond at times to ensure that schools could continue as close to normal as possible.

As the Trust Board, our purpose is to provide the strategic direction for the Trust which includes oversight of the quality of education that your child/ren receives at their school. It has been a very busy and exciting year for us and there is much to celebrate and be proud of. The Board itself have welcomed four new trustees which strengthens the governance capacity and their wealth of knowledge and experience is already leading to positive outcomes. More information on the Trustees can be found [here](#).

The Trust has grown again and now welcomes The Promise School into our family which will open in September in temporary accommodation across two sites whilst we wait for their purpose-built site to be completed, which is on track for Easter 2023. The Promise School is a brand new school and will cater for children from 4-16 with social, emotional and mental health issues. The school will serve the West Devon and South Hams area with admissions through the local authority using the EHCP (Educational Health Care Plan) process. Looking to the future we are hopeful that our management partnerships with Milton Abbot and Mary Tavy & Brentor will see these schools convert to academies in the Trust.

As you are most likely aware, 14 of our 18 schools have welcomed a visit from Ofsted inspectors. Some of the reports have been received but not all and we are expecting these imminently. We are very pleased with the outcomes of these visits which have shown that all schools understand the vision and values of the trust and that staff feel supported and part of a larger network. Collaboration between schools is happening and staff are embracing the opportunities open to them. The Trust has also been commended for supporting school improvement. It has been hard for staff to manage these inspections at times due to COVID related staff absence but we thank all involved for showcasing the schools.

Part of our vision is to include our communities more in all of our schools and ensure your voices are heard and that you feel valued. Communication is an area for improvement within some of our schools and we are taking steps to improve this over the next academic year. Next year our schools will regularly send out surveys and provide opportunities for parents and carers to give feedback; please do complete these or come along to forums etc if you get an opportunity as the outcomes this voice capture are used for future planning.

This term many of our students have been through the first set of summer exams and assessments since the pandemic hit and their behaviour and attitude has been excellent. We hope they enjoy their summer before receiving their grades and moving onto their next stage of education, whatever that may be.

01837 650 910 | [info@dartmoormat.org.uk](mailto:info@dartmoormat.org.uk) | [www.dartmoormat.org.uk](http://www.dartmoormat.org.uk)  
Holsworthy Skills Centre| Western Road | Holsworthy| Devon | EX22 6DH





The Festival of Hope was an outstanding week of activities and was designed as an opportunity for all the Trust's schools – and its students – to fully reconnect following the challenges posed by the pandemic, with events taking place across the area, including some superb sporting events which saw schools coming together to take part in rounders, netball, football and cricket. As part of this, the Festival was ably supported by businesses and organisations across the region - all complemented by some glorious Devon sunshine. Planning has already started for next year's festival and we cannot wait to see what this includes.

We are committed to communicating with parents and carers, receiving your comments and ideas, and working with you for the best outcomes for the children. Some of our local stakeholder boards still need more governor representation. Please visit our [website](#) if you are interested in joining us continue to strive to make positive outcomes for all our children across the Trust. We are particularly keen to appoint foundation governors who play an important part in ensuring that the Christian distinctiveness of our church schools is preserved and upheld. Their role is to link the parish with the school to strengthen and build a dynamic relationship.

Despite the recent challenges in our schools brought about by the impact of the coronavirus, the Trust Board is excited and optimistic about the future of the Trust. Strong foundations have been laid for our journey of school improvement and we shall continue with our upward trajectory and maintain the pace of improvement.

We hope you enjoy the summer break and look forward to welcoming you and your child/ren back in September for another amazing year at Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust.

With best wishes

A collection of handwritten signatures from the Trust Board members, arranged in three rows. The first row contains five signatures, the second row contains five, and the third row contains two.

**Trust Board**

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