

The Second Year...

The **South Dartmoor Academy** was formed in April 2011 and consists of South Dartmoor Community College and the primary schools in Widecombe, Ashburton, Buckfastleigh and Ilstington.



- South Dartmoor Community College goes from strength to strength with examination results continuing to improve. The College achieved record numbers of 5 A*-C with a 91% pass rate and the Sixth Form is amongst the top 10% nationally for student progress.
- Headteachers and senior leaders have visited all schools to carry out joint/paired observations to ensure consistency of provision. Headteachers continue to meet with other members of the leadership team on a weekly basis.
- Dance and DT sessions (half day a week) have been led in the primary schools by teachers from SDCC. The children are working towards the Art Award Explore.
- Paul Harper, an independent education consultant, continues to work with all primary schools, carrying out observations in some schools and data analysis/self evaluation work in others.
- Students from all schools visited SDCC on the final day of the autumn term to take part in the Christmas festivities.
- The programme of *High Performers* sessions has been very well received by both parents and children. Sessions have been organised in dance, music, science, English, maths, history, media and photography.
- Numeracy and Literacy leaders continue to meet after local strategy briefings each term.
- Staff meetings have taken place with a focus on writing moderation, maths and marking. These involve sharing best practice and ideas between schools.
- Professional development for teachers is being planned for the summer term with a focus on outstanding teaching. Professional development for teaching assistants is currently being arranged with a programme of visits between schools to highlight best practice.
- Back office functions such as catering, caretaking and health and safety are coordinated by the Academy Business Manager. This enables us to make cost savings and deliver a higher quality service for all schools. Very successful Health and Safety Audits have been carried out in all schools over the past term.
- ICT support continues with members of staff working across all schools to ensure the best use of technology across the curriculum.

Two of our Primary Schools have been inspected over the past year
Quotes from OFSTED Inspection Reports

Widecombe Primary (January 2013 – Judgement Outstanding)

'Since joining the academy in April 2011 the school has gone from strength to strength and continues to show capacity to improve further. For example, the sharing of teaching expertise and continuing partnerships with parents, the community and outside agencies have lifted the quality of teaching.'

Buckfastleigh Primary (March 2013 – Judgement Good)

'Since joining the academy in April 2011, numerous links and strong learning partnerships have been established. Membership of the academy has enabled a sharing of skills and expertise which has already had a very positive impact upon the school's overall performance.'

