

South Dartmoor Academy – The First Year

Ashburton, Widecombe and Buckfastleigh Primary Schools formed the South Dartmoor Academy with South Dartmoor Community College in April 2011. In July 2011 we were joined by Ilsington Primary School. The schools have been very busy over the past year...

- *The Learning Champions programme and staff INSET from Graham Powell have ensured that a clear focus on learning has been at the forefront across the Academy.*
- Dance sessions (half day a week) are currently being run in the primary schools, led by dance teachers from SDCC. Children have been developing their own dances and creating dance music videos.
- *A member of staff from SDCC has been offering outdoor education programmes for all academy schools, working in school and taking children onto Dartmoor.*
- Staff from the primary schools joined SDCC staff for a training day with nationally acclaimed behaviour and SEN experts, Finton O'Regan and Bill Rogers in January.
- *Staff have shared expertise and developed aspects of the curriculum to ensure a smooth transition for the pupils from primary to secondary.*
- A Modern Foreign Languages scheme of work has been developed by staff from all schools.
- *Subject leaders from SDCC have visited all Academy primary schools to discuss ways to develop a 4-19 curriculum.*
- Reading training has been organised and attended by staff from all schools.
- *A Maths problem solving training day was held at SDCC in January – primary staff worked closely with SDCC staff and a nationally acclaimed maths expert.*
- A primary member of staff has been appointed to coordinate ICT development across the Academy. He is working to improve ICT provision across all schools and helping staff to communicate and share ideas more effectively.
- *Students from all schools visited SDCC on the final day of the autumn term to take part in the Christmas festivities and share performances and songs from Christmas plays.*
- Children with additional needs have had more support from the Educational Psychologist to ensure their individual needs are being met.
- *A photography project involving all pupils led to a public exhibition in cafes in Ashburton, Widecombe and Buckfastleigh in July.*
- An internal financial audit has been carried out across all schools.
- *The primary schools are currently working with SDCC to organise catering from April 2012.*
- The academy has taken on the coordination of caretaking, cleaning and grounds maintenance since September, giving schools more flexibility and economies of scale.
- *A member of staff from SDCC continues to support all schools in health and safety issues.*
- Parent support advisors, Tracey Anthony and Chrissie Franklin, continue to design parenting courses for target groups of families and support families in need.
- *Academy ICT support is allowing schools to get the most from ICT resources*
- Student sports leaders from SDCC have been leading after-school clubs in primary schools.
- *37 members of staff and governors from across the academy will be running in the London Marathon in April to raise money for WhizzKidz.*

