

Evaluation Visit

South Molton College

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Leadership and management

The quality of leadership and management is good.

Strengths:

- The principal's dynamic drive has been instrumental in improving the school particularly his focus on teaching and learning
- His astute approach has re-energised and empowered the staff especially through well thought out professional development
- The principal's commitment to school improvement is shared by a carefully re-structured highly competent leadership team
- Good opportunities have been created for middle leaders to develop and they have responded positively to the challenge
- The governors are aware of the need to develop their skills so they can hold the school to account more effectively.

Key challenges:

- Changing the culture in the classroom so that teachers take more responsibility to intervene and challenge to accelerate the pace of learning
- Spreading the good practice in teaching and marking so that there is greater consistency.

Quality of teaching, learning & assessment

Overall quality of teaching, learning and assessment is good.

Strengths:

- Relationships are good between teachers and students and this leads to a positive learning climate
- Students want to learn and achieve well
- Teachers are keen to improve their practice
- Teachers know their students well because of the increasingly accurate data they receive
- DIRT time is evident in most subjects enabling students to reflect on their learning.
- Key challenges:
 - Teachers need to take more responsibility for intervention themselves so they target learning for the different ability levels including the higher attaining students
 - Students would value more opportunities for interactive learning (group work)
 - The marking and feedback policy is not consistently used, especially ensuring that students respond to marking.

Personal development, behaviour and welfare of pupils

Pupils' behaviour is good and they feel safe.

Strengths:

- Students are proud of their school and value being part of the school community
- They are keen to contribute in lessons and even when teaching is less than engaging students still want to learn
- Students feel safe, know who to go to if they are upset and are confident that any bullying is tackled effectively. They have good awareness of e safety, cyber bullying and radicalisation.

Key challenges:

- Students would benefit from knowing more about post 18 opportunities before they decide their options for Key Stage 4.

Outcomes for pupils

The outcomes for pupils are good based on current data.

Strengths:

- Attainment in English is predicted to rise and be above average
- Attainment and progress overall look better than the 2015 cohort and Year 10 are predicted to achieve similarly although the data is less clear because of changes to the examination system.

Key challenges:

- Improve achievement in English so it is the same as in maths
- Lessen the variation between subjects.

Outcomes for disadvantaged pupils

- Outcomes of disadvantaged pupils are good.

Strengths:

- A number of interventions are having a positive impact
- The gap between Pupil Premium and other students is closing for attainment and progress
- The attendance gap has diminished.

Key challenges:

- To identify the interventions that are having the most impact so that resources can be better targeted
- Teachers need to take more responsibility for these students through interventions in their classroom.