



15 May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Ten Tors 2026 – A Remarkable Achievement

This year's Ten Tors challenge has once again showcased the very best of our students, from those who took on the physical and mental challenge of Dartmoor to those who supported the event behind the scenes alongside the Army.

I would like to offer a very special thank you to Mr Gary Payne, whose dedication, expertise and encouragement have been instrumental in preparing students for this challenge year after year. My sincere thanks also go to our fantastic staff and volunteers who gave their time so generously, through training walks, planning, logistics and pastoral support to ensure students were safe, confident and fully prepared. Ten Tors simply would not be possible without this extraordinary commitment.

The impact of Ten Tors extends far beyond the finish line. It builds confidence, independence and lifelong friendships, and we have been delighted by the overwhelmingly positive feedback from parents and carers about the significant growth in resilience, self-belief and leadership shown by students.

In recognition of our student volunteers, military colleagues offered exceptionally high praise, noting: "In military terms, your students were true 'force multipliers'... They were smart, polite, engaging, respectful and proactive, in short, they were AMAZING."

Student Voice

"I did Ten Tors because I wanted to be outdoors with my friends and learn how to navigate on the moors. The training and the expedition taught me loads of real-life skills like map reading, cooking outside and putting up camp and it's made me so much more confident and resilient. I'm really proud of what I achieved, grateful for the opportunity, and I'm already excited to push myself even further by going for the 45-mile team next year."

Ten Tors is a powerful example of the enrichment opportunities we want every student to access. Our ambition is clear: '100% participation' in a rich co-curricular experience, by removing barriers so that every student can benefit. As we launch our new co-curricular offer next year, with a strong focus on outdoor education, we look forward to giving all students even greater opportunities to develop the skills, resilience and confidence that support lifelong success.

Education Quality Review (EQR)

As part of the Trust's self-evaluation process, Ivybridge Community College recently underwent a thorough Education Quality Review (EQR) on 5 May 2026. Reviewers confirmed strong progress and significant strengths, particularly in achievement, personal development and wellbeing, Sixth Form provision, and leadership, alongside a calm and purposeful culture.

At the same time, the review highlighted key priorities we will continue to strengthen, including improving attendance for vulnerable learners, increasing consistency in curriculum and teaching, and ensuring our inclusion systems work even more cohesively so

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that every learner receives the right support. We look forward to working closely with parents, carers and the wider community as we take this next phase forward.

Uniform updates

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended the Parent Forum on Wednesday, 13 May 2026 regarding the updated statutory Department for Education guidance on school uniform. The slides from the presentation can be viewed [here](#).

The meeting formed part of the College's formal consultation process and provided an opportunity to discuss the guidance, including the requirement that by September 2026, schools must limit compulsory branded or logoed uniform items to a maximum of three items (or four including a tie), whilst also ensuring affordability and access to second-hand uniform. We greatly appreciated the constructive feedback and thoughtful discussion shared during the evening.

Parents and carers who were unable to attend are warmly encouraged to share their views on the proposals by emailing icc@ivybridge.devon.sch.uk by Friday, 22 May 2026. As always, thank you for your ongoing support of the College and for championing our shared values of Respect, Aspiration, Integrity and Compassion within our community.

Yours faithfully

Rachel Hutchinson
Principal