

September 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

**Year 7 Curriculum Enrichment Days – 8 and 9 October 2019**

We have now finalised all of the arrangements for the two Curriculum Enrichment days on Tuesday 8 and Wednesday 9 October 2019, details of which are attached. We have endeavoured to provide a range of activities for all students and have subsidised a number of these activities to try to keep costs to parents/carers as low as possible. These Curriculum Enrichment days offer valuable opportunities for students to experience activities not normally available in the curriculum.

**We anticipate all students will take part in all activities.**

Please read through the information carefully and complete the relevant form(s) attached, which should be returned to the Finance Office at the school, **by Monday 30 September.**

In order to finance these trips, we ask that parents/carers make a voluntary contribution. We very much hope you are able to contribute; if we do not get enough contributions we will have to cancel the trip. As the school receives a grant for students currently receiving free school meals, we do not require a contribution from these students as this can be funded from the grant; however, a completed consent form is still required. If you have any queries on the funding of this trip, please contact the school's Finance Office.

Unless stated otherwise, all activities will be leaving and returning within the normal school day.

An EV5 visit consent form is attached and this will cover all activities off site. **Please ensure this is completed and returned with the permission slip.** If this form is not returned, your child will not be able to go on the trip. Please would you direct any further enquiries to the named teacher who is organising the trip.

**The trip to Magdalen Farm is non-school uniform. Compass for Life is normal school uniform. Please refer to the individual guidance for each activity for details of any specific clothing requirements.**

Yours sincerely



**Mrs F Gormley**  
Head of School

## Year 7 Students

Tuesday 8 October		Wednesday 9 October	
GOM Houses	RBY Houses	GOM Houses	RBY Houses
Visit to Magdalen Farm	Achieve your ambition PSHE (In-school)	Achieve your ambition PSHE (In-school)	Visit to Magdalen Farm

### Important trip information

#### **Visit to Magdalen Farm**

Organising teacher: **Mrs L Stone**

**Cost: £ 16.50**

The new GCSE Geography specifications are focusing on students investigating the UK in detail. It is important that students start to develop their knowledge of the UK and their local area. We will be visiting Magdalen Farm in Chard to experience the outdoor classroom. We will be studying geographical skills and learning about sustainability on a local and global scale.

Students will take part in three sessions at Magdalen Farm:

- Hands on farming - visiting the animals and kitchen gardens
- Low ropes course
- Orienteering and map work exercises

Students will not be required to wear school uniform but should make sure they are wearing sensible shoes or trainers and must be prepared for all weathers as most of the day will be spent outside (eg raincoat, layers if it is cold etc). Students will need to bring a packed lunch and a bottle of water (there won't be an opportunity to buy food).

Students will need to be at school by 8:45am to be registered as normal, so that we can leave school at 09:00am. The journey is expected to take about an hour by coach depending on traffic. We expect to leave no later than 14:20pm from Magdalen Farm to be back at school just before the end of school at 15:20pm.

#### **Achieve Your Ambition**

Organising teacher: **Mr J Thomson**

Year 7 will be taking part in an 'Achieve Your Ambition' day in half year groups.

Achieve Your Ambition aims to support the learning of students, helping them to unlock their potential and gain confidence. It is a framework that will be used during their time at The Castle School, supported by their tutors. Achieve Your Ambition starts with the idea of what success is. Students will discuss and explore what happiness and fulfilment mean to them. They will also look at how they can be successful at school, in work, with family and friends etc. and will start to develop their own moral compass to guide them through life.

Achieve Your Ambition contributes to high expectation and a culture of success through its child centered approach and by creating a unique environment within the classroom. At its heart is a desire to encourage ambition, confidence and thirst for life-long learning within students. It enables the children to create a direct link between what they want to achieve and what the school wants to teach them. Students will come back to the programme throughout Years 7 - 9.

#### **PSHE**

Organising teacher: **Mr M Wilkins**

At the end of the last academic year we reviewed the PSHE curriculum. In response to feedback from parents, students and staff we have remodelled the delivery and content of the curriculum to further improve our provision.

As a school we have created a group of teaching staff who are responsible for developing and delivering the more sensitive areas of the PSHE curriculum. The advantage of this is your children will benefit from higher quality delivery and resources from a team of people actively supporting each other to bring the best possible outcomes to our lessons. This means that the enrichment days will host a reduced PSHE programme and the more sensitive material will be covered at other times in the year.

### **E-Safety**

Objectives

- To teach students how to assess their own safety online.

- To pose questions and situations to students to work through with their peers to come to conclusions on the best course of action.
- To make sure students are aware of how to report online concerns and know the appropriate adults to seek out if they have concerns.
- Make students aware of the latest threats to their safety from the online world.

## Relationships

### Objectives

- To appreciate the range of different relationships they are now being exposed to as they transition from primary school to secondary.
- To understand that other people grow up in different family units to their own. To enable students to show understanding of how each of these units has its own positives and challenges – and to develop empathy for others.
- To recognise what constitutes a healthy relationship and unhealthy relationship. How they can cultivate healthy relationships and change the unhealthy ones.

## CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT DAYS – 8 and 9 October 2019

### CONSENT FORMS

Could you please fill out and sign all the consent forms and return them to the Finance Office with the payment **by Monday 30 September 2019**. **There is no form or cost for Achieve Your Ambition as it is an in-school activity.**

### Magdalen Farm Visit

I would like my son/daughter ..... (student's name and form) to participate in the Year 7 activity, Magdalen Farm visit. As parent/carer, I have read, fully understood and am satisfied with the details supplied about the above-mentioned activity and agree to my son/daughter taking part in it.

As parent/carer I would be willing/unwilling\* to make a voluntary contribution of £16.50 to cover the cost of the trip. I enclose cash/cheque (made payable to The Castle School). **I have paid online** or by credit/debit card\*. (\*Please delete as applicable).

I am currently receiving Free School Meals.

a) except for visits abroad, insurance arrangements are the same as for students in educational establishments, ie, that the Academy can only insure against the proven negligence by the Academy and/or its employees; and

b) the Academy is a member of the RPA (Department for Education risk protection arrangement) which provides personal accident cover (see copy of the policy on the school website for details) but I may consider taking out my own travel insurance to supplement this if appropriate.

Emergency telephone number should we need to contact you (**essential**) .....

Signed .....(Parent/Carer)      Date .....