

November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 11 Curriculum Enrichment Days – 24 January/25 January 2024

We have now finalised all of the arrangements for the two Curriculum Enrichment days on Wednesday 24 January and Thursday 25 January 2024, 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.

In order to finance trips, we ask that parents/carers make a voluntary contribution. The school subsidises some of the costs of the enrichment activities but is finding that costs are rising. If you are able to help in the financial support of this activity, there is an option to pay an additional £5. If we do not receive enough parental donations, the trip will need to be cancelled. 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, parental consent is still required through **Scopay**. If you have any queries on the funding of this trip, please contact the school's Finance Office.

Payment for trips can be made using the online Scopay system <https://www.scopay.com/castleschool-somerset>. If you are unable to pay online you can pay by cash/cheque (made payable to The Castle School) or by credit/debit card (either in person or over the phone) but you still need to login to Scopay to give consent and confirm that you are satisfied with the arrangements in this letter. If you do not wish your child to participate you will need to login and give a reason why. We value your feedback and will take this into consideration in our future planning. The deadline for payment/consent is **Friday 8 December**. You can pay in instalments if it's easier to spread the cost over the next month.

Please ensure that we have your up to date emergency contact details and any relevant medical information for your child, as this information is taken from our school database.

School trips are covered by the Trust insurance policy. Please be aware that:

- a) except for visits abroad, insurance arrangements are the same as for students in educational establishments, i.e., that the Trust can only insure against the proven negligence by the Trust and/or its employees; and
- b) the Trust 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 you may consider taking out your own personal accident cover to supplement this if appropriate.

Please would you direct any further enquiries to the named teacher who is organising the activity.

Yours sincerely



Mr J Lamb
Headteacher

Year 11 Students

Wednesday 24 January		Thursday 25 January	
GOM Houses	RBY Houses	GOM Houses	RBY Houses
Poetry Live (Oxford)		Year 11 Transition themed Day (In school)	

Poetry Live Trip (Oxford)

Organising teacher: Mrs N Whysall

Price: 37.50

As we move towards the GCSEs, we have been given a very exciting opportunity to go and see some of the poets that the Year 11 students will have to write about in their Literature exam at Poetry Live! They will be reciting their poems and giving talks about the background of the poem: some of the information will not have been heard outside of these events so it puts students who attend at a real advantage. During the day, the students will also hear a lecture from the chief examiner of AQA about the Literature papers and how to tackle them: this in itself is invaluable. They also receive a booklet about the poets and their work.

We will leave school at 7:15am (students need to be here at 7:00am) and aim to be back by 6.15pm. Students will need to bring a packed lunch as there will be no opportunity to leave the auditorium and students are expected to wear school uniform. If they suffer from travel sickness please ensure that they have taken the relevant medication and that students with asthma etc have inhalers with them (if needed).

Year 11 Transition Themed Day

Organising teacher: Mr D Simpson

Year 11 will be exactly one month way from their PPE exams, so we will be using this day as a chance to focus on revision skills and how we prepare thoroughly for exams. We will also have sessions around transition from school to college, including a visiting speaker from the NCS (National Citizen Service) and university visitors.

We have organised via Next Steps South West for student ambassadors from the University of Exeter to visit. They will deliver an engaging and informative session for the whole year group, focusing on independent learning skills and study strategies.