

May 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 7 Curriculum Enrichment Days – 20 June/21 June 2023

We have now finalised all of the arrangements for the two Curriculum Enrichment days on Tuesday 20 June, and Wednesday 21 June 2023, 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 **ClassCharts**. 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). Confirmation of payment will be accepted as parental consent and that you are satisfied with the arrangements outlined 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 **Monday 22 May**. 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 Thomson
Deputy Headteacher

Year 7 Students

Tuesday 20 June		Wednesday 21 June	
GOM Houses	RBY Houses	GOM Houses	RBY Houses
Chepstow Castle Trip	Careers: Achieve your Ambition/Career Pilot PSHE Topics: Not at Our School, Prejudice and protected characteristics, Drugs	Careers: Achieve your Ambition/Career Pilot PSHE Topics: Not at Our School, Prejudice and protected characteristics, Drugs	Chepstow Castle Trip

Chepstow Castle Trip

Organising teacher: Miss J Norton / Mr M Lowe

Cost: £17.25

As part of the Year 7 History course, we will be studying Medieval society and more specifically, the development of castles and fortifications. This visit will be an excellent opportunity for our students in Year 7 to experience these developments for themselves. Students will go on a tour of the castle, take part in designing strategies for defending and attacking fortifications, and be enthralled by our Medieval re-enactor, archer and fletcher.

This exciting enrichment visit will help prepare students who later opt for GCSE History for their future GCSE field visit.

We advise all students to wear home clothes and sensible shoes or trainers or they will not be allowed to walk around the castle; students need to be prepared for all weathers as the area is very exposed, ie rainproof clothing, sun cream, sun hats etc. All students will need to bring a packed lunch and a pen and pencil. They will need at least two bottles of water - no food/drink is available to buy.

We will travel to Chepstow by coach. The journey should be relatively short, lasting approximately 1 hour 15 minutes each way. We will meet at the Bridgwater and Taunton College layby (SCAT) at 8.15am ready to leave by 8.30am and return by the end of the school day, at 3pm.

Careers: Achieve your Ambition / Career Pilot

Organising teacher: Mrs J Corbett

Introduction to Careerpilot

Year 7 will participate in an 'Introduction to Careerpilot' session. Students will be introduced to the Careerpilot website and how it can be used to find out more information about careers, courses and options at 14, 16 and 18. Students will review their individual skills and plans at intervals during their time at school.

Achieve Your Ambition

Year 7 will participate in an 'Achieve Your Ambition' session.

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-centred 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 8 and 9.

PSHE

Organising teacher: Mr M Wilkins

Students will be in tutor groups focusing on the following topics:

Not at our School

Learning Objectives:

- Know the characteristics of positive and healthy friendships (in all contexts, including online) including trust, privacy, consent and the management of conflict and reconciliation in family relationships.
- How to plan a balance between school, work, leisure, exercise and online activity.
- the characteristics of mental and emotional health; to develop empathy and understanding about how daily actions can affect people's mental health.
- To start to understand how to challenge discrimination #notatourschool.

Prejudice and protected characteristics

Learning Objectives:

- To know about the unacceptability of prejudice-based language and behaviour, offline and online. Including sexism, homophobia, biphobia, transphobia, racism, ableism and faith-based prejudice.

Drugs

Learning objectives

- State what a drug is and give examples.
- Describe how different drugs affect the body.