

November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

**Year 7 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 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 trips 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 give consent via Scopay to confirm 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 **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 7 Students

Wednesday 24 January		Thursday 25 January	
GOM Houses	RBY Houses	GOM Houses	RBY Houses
Bristol Theatre Trip – Wicked		PSHE Democracy Money E-safety Relationships Bullying	

### **Bristol Theatre Trip - Wicked**

Organising teacher: Mrs A Step

**Cost: £31.70**

We are delighted to be taking the whole of Year 7 to the theatre during the January enrichment days. We have booked tickets to see the matinee performance of Wicked at The Bristol Hippodrome on Wednesday 24 January. The cost of the trip will be £31.70

Students must arrive at school in uniform and register as usual at the normal time. Before we leave, students will take part in a carousel of workshops that will focus on the musical with their Arts' faculty teachers and tutors.

We will leave school at approximately 12:30pm and travel to Bristol by coach. Students must bring a packed lunch with them and this could be eaten either at school before we leave, at break time, or once we have arrived in Bristol. The matinee performance begins at 2:30pm and lasts 2 hours 45 minutes inclusive of the interval. We anticipate returning to Taunton by 6:45 – 7:15pm – traffic dependent. The coach will drop students at the bus stop at the front of Bridgwater and Taunton College.

We advise that students bring plenty of food/snacks and water to last until they get home. Students will be asked not to eat during the performance and respect theatre etiquette throughout.

Key information:

- Come to school at the usual time in uniform
- Theatre workshops with your teachers in the morning
- Departing The Castle School at 12:30pm
- Returning to school at approx. 6:45pm
- Bring a packed lunch, snacks and water

If you have any questions about payment for the trip please contact student finance. For general questions about the day please do not hesitate to contact us.

### **PSHE**

Organising teacher: Mr M Wilkins

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

#### **Democracy**

Learning Objectives:

- A look at how democracy has shaped our country and how other societies govern themselves.

#### **Money**

Learning Objectives:

- To identify how to manage your money in the future.
- To understand the cost elements of running a household.
- To understand how a bank balance works.
- To find out where to seek support and advice on money matters.

#### **e-safety**

Learning objectives:

- To teach students how to assess their own safety online.
- To make sure students are aware of how to report online concerns and know the appropriate adults to seek out if they have concerns.
- To increase student awareness around their digital profile online.
- Make students aware of the latest threats to their safety from the online world.

## **Relationships**

Learning objectives:

- To identify what makes positive relationships.
- To know and identify what makes some types of relationships harmful.
- To identify what makes positive relationships.

## **Bullying**

Learning objectives:

- To recognise when bullying is occurring.
- How and who to report bullying to.
- Strategies for dealing with bullies.