

September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

**Year 7 Curriculum Enrichment Days – 17 October/18 October 2023**

We have now finalised all of the arrangements for the two Curriculum Enrichment days on Tuesday 17 and Wednesday 18 October 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 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 **Monday 2 October**. 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

Tuesday 17 October		Wednesday 18 October	
GOM Houses	RBY Houses	GOM Houses	RBY Houses
Exeter Places of Worship Visit	Weymouth Aquarium Visit	Weymouth Aquarium Visit	Exeter Places of Worship Visit

### **Exeter Places of Worship Visit**

Organising teacher: Mrs M Norris

**Cost: £14.50**

As part of our unit on Religious Authority which looks at how scriptures are used, how communities worship together and how religions follow spiritual guidance, we are visiting places of worship in Exeter. We are visiting a mosque and Exeter Cathedral. Students will have a tour of the buildings and the worship space and complete an education booklet which will assist them in their learning of the topic. They will also have the chance to ask questions and talk to the different representatives of the religions.

Students will need to register in their form room at normal time and then meet on the playground at 9.10am ready to depart at 9.30am and return by 3.20pm.

Students should wear school uniform and bring some form of head covering (scarf or hat), as well as a warm/waterproof coat suitable for walking outdoors. Students will be asked to remove their shoes when entering the mosque so socks should be worn. Students will need to bring a packed lunch and a drink.

### **Weymouth Aquarium Visit**

Organising teacher: Miss M Crossan

**Cost: £20.50**

As part of the Year 7 Science curriculum, students will be learning about ecology and the environment, looking at habitats, classification and the adaptations of different species.

The visit to Weymouth Aquarium will enable students to find out about a variety of species from around the world, their adaptations, habitats and the threats facing them. They will be provided with a booklet focusing on these areas to complete during their trip.

Students should wear full school uniform. All students will need to bring a packed lunch, drink and a pen and pencil. They may also bring a small amount of spending money to use in the shop if they wish.

We will register as normal and will travel to Weymouth by coach. The journey will be approximately 1 hour 45 minutes each way. We will depart from school at 9.30am and to make the most of the day, will return at 5.00pm.