

November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

**Year 8 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 Wednesday 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. 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, parental consent is still required online through the Scopay system. If you have any queries on the funding of this trip, please contact the school's Finance Office.

Payment for this trip can be made using the online Scopay system <https://www.scopay.com/castleschool-somerset>. Please note, you will need to tick the consent box before you can pay. 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 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 8 Students

Wednesday 24 January		Thursday 25 January	
GOM Houses	RBY Houses	GOM Houses	RBY Houses
<b>Art trip – Cardiff and Exeter Museums</b>	<b>PSHE</b> Personal safety Puberty Body image  <b>Careers:</b> Careers Pilot Achieve your Ambition	<b>PSHE</b> Personal safety Puberty Body image  <b>Careers:</b> Careers Pilot Achieve your Ambition	<b>Art trip – Cardiff and Exeter Museums</b>

### **Art trip – Cardiff and Exeter**

Organising teacher: Mr D Simpson

**Price: £9.50**

### **Cardiff: National Museum of Cardiff**

Form time as normal and then to the tennis courts at 9.00am. Depart at 9.15am from college lay-by. Return by 4:30pm.

**8M1 and 8M2:** Wednesday 24 January

**8B1 and 8B2:** Thursday 25 January

### **Exeter: Exeter RAMM**

Form time as normal and then to the tennis courts at 9.00am. Depart at 9.15am from college lay-by. Return by 3:20pm.

**8G and 8O:** Wednesday 24 January

**8R and 8Y:** Thursday 25 January

Students will either visit the National Museum of Cardiff (8M1, 8M2, 8B1, 8B2) or the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM) Exeter (8G, 8O, 8R, 8Y) which house a variety of art exhibits and items relating to the natural world.

During their visit, students will be given some guidance to help interpret the exhibits; they will then be given a task to complete as they move around the museum. Studying artists and learning about the world of art is invaluable to our students, and we are keen that everyone should be given an opportunity to see and interpret art in a gallery setting.

Students will need to wear school uniform, but we are happy for them to wear trainers as there will be a lot of walking to do during the day. They will need to bring a packed lunch, water for the day, their Year 8 Art sketchbooks (Art teachers will distribute these) pencils, a rubber and any other useful drawing equipment.

### **PSHE**

Lead teacher: Mr M Wilkins

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

#### **Personal safety**

The learning objectives for this lesson are:

- To enable students to identify situations that may compromise their personal safety and discuss how to deal with these situations as well as explore the possible outcomes based on their responses.

#### **Puberty**

The learning objectives for this lesson are:

- As young people mature, their sense of self undergoes massive change through puberty. This lesson will look at how to deal with this change.
- The lesson will pick up and continue on the themes of body changes within science but extend into signposting help from school counselling, nurses and assistance with practical aspects like general hygiene and period poverty.

#### **Body Image**

The learning objectives for this lesson are:

- To make informed choices with regards to sleep, diet, exercise, work, revision and balancing time spent online. To recognise and manage choices about physical activity.
- Know the causes and triggers for unhealthy coping strategies, such as self-harm and eating disorders, and the need to seek help for themselves or others as soon as possible.
- Know how to recognise when they or others need help with their mental health and wellbeing; to explore and analyse ethical issues when peers need help; learn strategies and skills to provide basic support and identify and access the most appropriate sources of help

## **Careers**

Lead teacher: Mrs P Hunt

### **Careers: 'Achieve Your Ambition'**

Students will attend an assembly presentation delivered by ex-students on how they achieved their goals and how they developed strategies to build resilience.

### **Using Careerpilot to research skills for different jobs**

Students will find out more about jobs and careers and the types of skills that are needed for each job. By the end of the session students will be able to use skills information to work out whether they have the correct skills for the job.