

May 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 9 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 9 Students

Tuesday 20 June		Wednesday 21 June	
GOM Houses	RBY Houses	GOM Houses	RBY Houses
Careers – Employer Visits PSHE Topics: Misogyny, Sexual Harassment and Sexual violence	Exmoor Expedition Challenge	Exmoor Expedition Challenge	Careers – Employer Visits PSHE Topics: Misogyny, Sexual Harassment and Sexual violence

Exmoor Expedition Challenge

Organising teacher: Mrs C Curno

Cost: £21.25

For the expedition element of The Castle School Challenge, students will be travelling to Exmoor National Park where they will start their expedition from Simonsbath and complete a challenge walk across Exmoor to Pinkery Centre. They will need to work in small groups within tutor groups to navigate the whole tutor group to set check points under National Park and school staff supervision.

Students will need to wear clothing appropriate to changing conditions on Exmoor (which can be very different to Taunton) eg sunhat, sun cream and waterproof coat and trousers if you have them. They will need a rucksack to carry water, lunch and any spare items of clothing on the walk. Footwear suitable for rugged terrain (trainers/walking boots are perfect footwear). We would recommend wearing trousers due to the risk of ticks being present. This is an opportunity for students to explore a beautiful part of the countryside whilst developing team work, navigation skills and resilience.

Students should arrive at school at normal time and register as usual. We plan to return to school for 3:20pm (dependent on traffic).

Students need to bring/wear:

- Packed lunch
- Good walking boots or sturdy trainers
- Wet weather clothing eg raincoat with a hood, trousers if possible (we will be outside all day).
- Sunhat, sun cream
- Small rucksack to carry essentials

Careers – Employer Visits

Organising teacher: **Mrs J Corbett**

As part of the enrichment days, we are planning visits to local employers.

The purpose of the visit is to give your child an insight into the world of work, focusing on the skills employers look for in future employees. It gives students an experience of a workplace.

The visit can include:

- A tour of the business
- A talk by the manager
- Work shadowing

Interviews to help look at work skills

In most cases the visits will last about 2 to 3 hours. The exact timings are different for each placement and full details will be notified to students when the final selections have been made.

The dress for the day is school uniform. Transport will be provided if the business is out of town.

There is no charge for this day and it is expected that all students in Year 9 will take part.

Some of these placements will be more popular than others so an early reply is advised as students are allocated on a first come, first served basis. Forms will be emailed to students to complete. These need to be completed by **Friday 19 May**.

GOM will be visiting employers on Tues 20 June and RBY on Wed 21 June.

Employer	Area of Interest	No. of places available
Audi	Sales (motor vehicle)	10
Barclays Bank	Banking, finance	6 Wed only RBY
Evosite	IT/digital marketing/web design	15
Lush	Retail, cosmetics, beauty products	10
Musgrove Park Hospital	Dietetics	25 Tues only GOM
Barchester Manor Care Home	Health and social care	10
RSPCA	Animal welfare	6 Tues only GOM
Somerset Heritage Trust	Heritage careers (archives, local studies, museums)	20
South West Hair Academy	Hairdressing	10 Tues only GOM
Taunton Fabrications	Engineering, welding and fabrication	6
Keir Construction (visit to site at Musgrove Park Hospital)	Construction careers including surveying, project management	8
WPA (Western Provident Association)	Insurance, customer service	8 Wed only RBY
Yeovil Town F.C.	Football, physiotherapy, marketing, grounds-person	15
Cannington campus	Animal management, agriculture	15 Wed only RBY

PSHE

Organising teacher: **Mr M Wilkins**

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

Misogyny, Sexual Harassment and Sexual Violence

Put together by guest speakers, students will take part in a workshop:

- To understand the law relating to sexual harassment.
- To be aware of Public Sexual Harassment (PSH) and how to confidently challenge it.
- To understand how sexual violence is not part of a normal healthy relationship.
- To challenge harassment in their friendship groups, school and the wider community.
- How to report sexual harassment.