



14 May 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 9 Curriculum Enrichment Days – 26 June/27 June 2025

We have now finalised all the arrangements for the two Curriculum Enrichment days on Thursday 26 June and Friday 27 June 2025, 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.

The cost of the trip is £22.

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 prices are rising. 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. 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 MCAS system

<https://www.mychildatschool.com/MCAS/MCSParentLogin>. If you are unable to pay online you can pay by cash or by credit/debit card (either in person or over the phone) but **you still need to give consent** to confirm that you are satisfied with the arrangements outlined in this letter.

Parents of students entitled to free school meals can still consent to their child attending this trip via MCAS as there is a non-payment option.

If you are making an online payment, please use the MCAS system to give your consent. If you are paying by cash/card or receive free school meals, please use the slip at the foot of this letter to give your consent and return the slip to the Finance Office/Student Reception.

The deadline for consent/payment is **Friday 6 June**.

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 Wordsworth
Head of School
The Castle School

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Please return this slip to the Finance Office/Student Reception by Friday 6 June if not giving consent through MCAS.

Enrichment Days 26-27 June 2025

I give permission for my son/daughter to attend these Enrichment Days.

Form to attend these Enrichment Days.

Signed (Parent/Carer) Date

Year 9 Students

Thursday 26 June		Friday 27 June	
GOM Houses	RBY Houses	GOM Houses	RBY Houses
Expedition on Exmoor	Careers: Employer Visits PSHE: Misogyny & Incel culture Year 9 Volunteering	Careers: Employer Visits PSHE: Misogyny & Incel culture Year 9 Volunteering	Expedition on Exmoor

Expedition on Exmoor

Organising teacher: Mrs C Curno

Price: £22.00

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 and drink
- 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 P Hunt

As part of the Enrichment days, we are planning visits to local businesses. 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. Where the business is mobile or home based, the employer will be coming into school.

The visit may include:

- A tour of the business
- A talk by staff
- 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 activity, 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 response is advised as places are allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Students will be asked to make choices via a link that will shortly be sent out on ClassCharts, which will provide more information about the employer to help students choose. Selections need to be completed by Monday 2 June 2025.

RBV will be visiting on Thursday 26 June and GOM on Friday 27 June.

Confirmed so far:

Employer	Area of Interest	No. of Places Available
RBV - THURSDAY 26 JUNE		
Barchester Manor Care Home	Health and Social Care	10
Bridgwater & Taunton College: Cannington Campus	Farm, Animal & Nuclear	12
Bridgwater & Taunton College: Taunton Campus	Health & Nursing	30
Honest Burgers - Tech Team (in-school)	Digital, hospitality	10
Intelligent Enterprise Products	Digital, IT	12
Karie's Health & Fitness + Army Physical Training (in-school)	Fitness industry	12

Lush	Retail/Cosmetics/Beauty	10
Mercedes Benz	Motor sales and servicing/mechanics	12
Somerset Heritage Centre	Historical records, museum archiving, local studies	15
Tops Day Nursery	Early years education, childcare	10

GOM - FRIDAY 27 JUNE		
Barchester Manor Care Home	Health and Social Care	10
Bridgwater & Taunton College: Taunton Campus	Early years education, childcare	15
Croft Surveyors	Building surveying, architectural work	12
Intelligent Enterprise Products	Digital, IT	12
Lush	Retail/Cosmetics/Beauty	10
Musgrove Park Hospital	NHS Careers	25
National Trust, Fyne Court	Conservation, wildlife, historical interest	12
RSPCA, West Hatch	Animal welfare, charity	12
Somerset Heritage Centre	Historical records, museum archiving, local studies	15
Taunton Fabrications	Engineering, welding & fabrication	10
Taunton Railway Station	Transport, Rail	12
Tops Day Nursery	Early years education, childcare	10

PSHE

Organising teacher: Mr M Wilkins

Students will be in tutor groups focusing on the following:

Misogyny & Incel culture

Learning objectives:

- Define misogyny and understand its impact on individuals and society.
- Explain the INCEL (Involuntary Celibate) subculture and recognize the potential risks associated with its ideology.
- Identify how misogynistic beliefs are perpetuated online and in social spaces.
- Evaluate the consequences of harmful gender stereotypes and negative social narratives.
- Develop critical thinking skills to challenge and counter misinformation and harmful narratives.
- Explore healthy perspectives on gender, relationships, and mutual respect.

Year 9 Volunteering

Organising teacher: Mr D Beer

Year 9 Students will be completing a one-hour volunteering session during the Enrichment days. Students will be working with their form tutors to consider how they can give back to their local community.

This goes towards receiving an accreditation of Bronze, Silver or Gold for The Castle Challenge that all Year 9 students have been competing in this academic year.