

November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 9 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 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 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 **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 login to Scopay to give consent and confirm that you are satisfied with the arrangements 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 9 Students

Wednesday 24 January		Thursday 25 January	
GOM Houses	RBY Houses	GOM Houses	RBY Houses
<p>PSHE: #NAOS -The art of debating</p> <p>Consumer Choices and Rights</p> <p>Drugs and County Lines</p> <p>Broadway Lodge - Addiction recovery centre. (in-school visit)</p>	<p>Careers: Introduction to Higher Education - Visit to University Centre Somerset</p> <p>PSHE: Risk</p> <p>Health Awareness</p> <p>PE</p>	<p>Careers: Introduction to Higher Education - Visit to University Centre Somerset</p> <p>PSHE: Risk</p> <p>Health Awareness</p> <p>PE</p>	<p>PSHE: #NAOS -The art of debating</p> <p>Consumer Choices and Rights</p> <p>Health Awareness</p> <p>Broadway Lodge - Addiction recovery centre. (in-school visit) TBC</p>

(Day 1 GOM/ Day 2 RBY)

PSHE Guest Speakers

Organising teacher: **Mr M Wilkins**

Broadway Lodge - Addiction recovery centre.

Broadway Lodge offers residential addiction treatment and recovery places to people from across the UK. The Castle School has worked with the centre for over ten years to bring the reality of addiction and the impact it can have on people's lives to our students. Students have one hour with the lead counsellor from Broadway Lodge as he talks through his work and the work of the centre. The second hour will be spent hearing directly from people suffering from addiction. The third hour allows the students to talk directly with the clients from Broadway Lodge. This is an extremely powerful experience and previous students have said it has significantly changed their thinking around addictive substances and behaviours.

The objectives are:

- Know the effects of addiction on people's physical, mental, emotional and financial health.
- Recognise addiction and understand the impact of this.
- Question the mixed messages about drugs from media, film and culture.
- The unknown consequences and addictiveness of taking drugs.

PSHE

Organising teacher: **Mr M Wilkins**

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

#Not at Our School – the art of debating

The learning objectives for this lesson are:

- Know the characteristics of positive and healthy friendships (in all contexts, including online) including trust, privacy, consent and the management of conflict and reconciliation in family relationships.
- How to plan a balance between school, work, leisure, exercise and online activity.
- The characteristics of mental and emotional health; to develop empathy and understanding about how daily actions can affect people's mental health.
- To start to understand how to challenge discrimination #notatourschool.

Consumer Choices and Rights

The learning objectives for this lesson are:

- To equip young people with the knowledge to fully exercise their consumer rights.
- To give students an understanding regarding the law and how to complain if their consumer rights have been breached.
- To signpost information and organisations that will support people if they find themselves in disputes as consumers.

Drugs and County Lines

The learning objectives for this lesson are:

- Understand the wider ripple effect of drug use and addiction for example: how it can affect families, drugs convictions and future life, criminality, and exploitation.

- To be able to use knowledge from PSHE in order to keep safe in future situations, for example using a dynamic risk assessment if needed.
- How to recognise when others are using manipulation, persuasion, or coercion and how to respond.

(Day 2 GOM/ Day 1 RBY)

Careers: Introduction to Higher Education - Visit to University Centre Somerset

Organising teacher: **Mrs P Hunt**

Students will visit the University Centre Somerset with their tutors. UCS will host a session for students introducing them to Higher Education and offering HE taster sessions from a range of different subjects. Students will be sent details of how to book onto their chosen sessions via Eventbrite.

PSHE

Organising teacher: **Mr M Wilkins**

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

Risk

The learning objectives for this lesson are:

- Know the online dangers associated with grooming including chatrooms and social media.
- Know the dangers of gambling and gaming.
- Know the dangers of meeting strangers or acquaintances and getting into cars etc.
- Start to begin to assess risk using real world scenarios.

Health Awareness

The learning objectives for this lesson are:

- To begin to understand the choices available, to protect ourselves during intimate relationships from STIs.
- To understand the choices around birth control and how these affect individuals.
- To be aware of the choices around delivery during labour.
- To understand the legal responsibilities that come with parenthood and how this affects adult life.

PE

Following a session on Health Awareness, students will have an hour of PE. They will need to bring PE kits to school.