

May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 9 Curriculum Enrichment Days – 19 June/20 June 2024

We have now finalised all of the arrangements for the two Curriculum Enrichment days on Wednesday 19 June and Thursday 20 June 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 17 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 Lamb
Headteacher

Year 9 Students

Wednesday 19 June		Thursday 20 June	
GOM Houses	RBV Houses	GOM Houses	RBV Houses
Expedition on Exmoor	Careers: Employer Visits PSHE: Activity to be confirmed	Careers: Employer Visits PSHE: Visitors – Broadway Lodge	Expedition on Exmoor

Expedition on Exmoor

Organising teacher: **Mrs Curno**

Cost: £21:00

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
- 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

PSHE

Organising teacher: **Mr M Wilkins**

RBV – PSHE activity to be confirmed

GOM – Broadway Lodge guest speakers

Broadway Lodge - Addiction recovery centre. (GOM)

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 second 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.

Careers: Employer Visits
Organising teacher: **Mrs P Hunt**

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 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 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 response is advised as students are allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Choices will be sent to students to via ClassCharts. These need to be completed by Tuesday 21st May.

RBV will be visiting employers on Wednesday 19 June and GOM on Thursday 20 June.

Employer	Area of Interest	No. of Places Available
Evo Agency	IT/Digital Marketing/Web Design	20
Somerset Heritage Trust	Heritage careers (archives, local studies, museums)	10
Southwest Pathology Services	Pathology/Laboratory	12
Lush	Retail/Cosmetics/Beauty products	10
Barchester Manor Care Home	Health and Social Care	10
Tops Day Nursery	Early Years educations, child care	5
Barclays Bank	Banking, finance	10 (Weds RBV only)
Croft Surveyors	Building surveying, construction	6 (Weds RBV only)
Mercedes Benz	Motor sales and servicing/mechanics	10 (Weds RBV only)
BTC Taunton Campus	Early Years education, childcare	15 (Weds RBV only)
BTC Taunton Campus	Health, nursing	20 (Weds RBV only)
Taunton Fabrications	Engineering, welding & fabrication	12 (Thurs GOM only)
RSPCA	Animal welfare	6 (Thurs GOM only)
Musgrove Park Hospital	NHS Careers	40 (Thurs GOM only)