

September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 9 Curriculum Enrichment Days – 17 October/18 October 2023

We have now finalised all of the arrangements for the two Curriculum Enrichment days on Tuesday 17 October and Wednesday 18 October 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) but you still need to login to ClassCharts 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 **Monday 2 October**. 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

| Tuesday 17 October | | Wednesday 18 October | |
|---|---|---|---|
| GOM Houses | RBY Houses | GOM Houses | RBY Houses |
| Blackrock Outdoor Education Trip | PSHE: Assertiveness Rights & Responsibilities Diversity Guest Speaker | PSHE: Assertiveness Rights & Responsibilities Diversity Guest Speaker | Blackrock Outdoor Education Trip |

Blackrock Outdoor Education Trip

Organising teacher: Mrs S James and Mr J Clapp

Cost: £45.00

We are very excited to offer all Year 9s the opportunity to take part in a full day of outdoor activities at Blackrock Outdoor Education. A day of outdoor muddy fun which helps teach problem solving, helps develop independence, test physical limits and assess risk.

Students will need to register in their form room and then meet on the playground at 9:10am ready to depart at 9.30am. Students will travel by coach and will return by 5.00pm.

Students will not be expected to wear school uniform but will need to wear appropriate warm clothing for the activities and comfortable shoes/trainers. Please note that students will get very muddy so be sure to wear old clothing/footwear!

Students will be expected to bring the following:

- A back pack for their belongings
- A change of clothes/shoes, towel and black bag for dirty clothes
- Packed lunch
- A coat

PSHE

Organising teacher: **Mr M Wilkins**

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

Assertiveness

The learning objectives for this lesson are:

- Know the differences between the terms: assertive, passive and aggressive.
- Consider how to respond to different situations that require assertiveness.
- Link assertiveness to challenging harassment and prejudice.

Rights and Responsibilities

The learning objectives for this lesson are:

- Everyone has the right to refuse.
- Understanding the importance of democracy and the UK's political system.
- To know the impact of not having one or more British values.
- To understand the legal system in the UK.

Diversity

The learning objectives for this lesson are:

- To recognise the lasting effect prejudice has on individuals and society.
- To appreciate and celebrate the range of national, regional, religious and ethnic identities in the United Kingdom.
- To know what is unacceptable prejudice-based language and behaviour, offline and online, including sexism, homophobia, racism, ableism and faith-based prejudice
- To know the laws around protected characteristics eg employment

PSHE - Guest Speaker

Students will have a session with our returning guest speaker Andrew 'Bernie' Bernard on the topic of harmful sexual behavior.