

May 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 9 Curriculum Enrichment Days – 30 June/01 July 2022

We have now finalised all of the arrangements for the two Curriculum Enrichment days on Thursday 30 June, and Friday 01 July 2022, 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. We very much hope you are able to contribute; if we do not get enough contributions we will have to cancel the trip. 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 the online Scopay system. If you have any queries on the funding of this trip, please contact the school's Finance Office.

Payment for this trip can be made using the online Scopay system <https://www.scopay.com/castleschool-somerset>. Please note, you will need to tick the consent box before you can pay. 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 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 **Friday 27 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

Thursday 30 June		Friday 01 July	
GOM Houses	RBY Houses	GOM Houses	RBY Houses
Careers - employer visits PSHE Topics: #Notatourschool – developing debating/ LGBTQ+ First GCSE History, Food and Philosophy	Expedition on Exmoor	Expedition on Exmoor	Careers - employer visits PSHE Topics: #Notatourschool – developing debating/ LGBTQ+ First GCSE History, Food and Philosophy

Expedition on Exmoor

Organising teacher: Mrs C Curno

Cost: £17.00

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

Careers – Employer Visits

Organising teacher: Mrs J Corbett

As part of the enrichment days, we are planning visits to local employers. This is something that has been very successful in the past pre-Covid and we are delighted that we can offer this to students again.

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 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 unless different attire is indicated when the student's placement is confirmed. Transport will be provided if the business is out of town.

There is no charge for this day and unless students are participating in the first GCSE history, food and philosophy sessions, 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 13 May.

GOM will be visiting on Thursday 30 June and RBY on Friday 1 July.

Employer	Area of interest	No. of places available
Audi	Sales (motor vehicle)	6
Beehive Day Nursery	Childcare, nursery worker	4 (Thurs only – GOM)
Evosite	I.T./digital marketing/web design	10
Lush	Retail, cosmetics/beauty products	4
Musgrove Park Hospital	Medicine and allied health professionals	15 (Fri only – RBY)
Rectory Care Home	Health and social care	10
Rodway Farm, Cannington (campus of Bridgwater & Taunton college)	Agriculture Old clothes must be worn as practical activity.	15 (Fri – RBY only)
Somerset Heritage Centre	Heritage careers (archives, local studies, museums)	15
South West Hair Academy	Hairdressing	10 (Thurs only – GOM)
Taunton Fabrications	Engineering, steel work, computer aided design.	6
Willmott Dixon (visit to Digital Innovation Centre)	Construction careers including surveying, project management	15 (Fri only – RBY)
WPA (Western Provident Association)	Insurance, customer service	8 (Thurs only – GOM)
Yeovil Town F.C.	Football, physiotherapy, marketing, grounds-person	15

PSHE

Organising teacher: **Mr M Wilkins**

LGBTQ+

- To know about the unacceptability of prejudice-based language and behaviour, offline and online, including sexism, homophobia, biphobia, transphobia, racism, ableism and faith-based prejudice.
- To know the laws around protected characteristics eg employment.
- To begin to be confident in challenging discrimination #notatourschool.
- Know the unacceptability of all forms of discrimination, and how to challenge prejudice and bigotry within families.

#Notatourschool – Developing debating

- Question the mixed messages about drugs from media, film and culture.
- Know the danger of gambling and gaming.
- To celebrate the positives diversity brings to the UK, with real world examples.
- To appreciate and celebrate the range of national, regional, religious and ethnic identities in the United Kingdom

First GCSE History, Food and Philosophy

Organising teachers: Mrs P Adams (Food) Mr J Walker (History) Miss S Sibanda (Philosophy)

All students that attend an after school First GCSE will be studying either on 30 June (GOM) or 1 July (RBY).
FGCSE food students will be making advanced skills dishes and recipes will follow.