

December 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

**Year 9 Curriculum Enrichment Days
Tuesday 29 January and Wednesday 30 January 2019**

We have now finalised all of the arrangements for the two Curriculum Enrichment days on Tuesday 29 and Wednesday 30 January 2019, 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.

Please read through the information carefully and complete the relevant form(s) attached, which should be returned to the Finance Office at the school by Monday 14 January 2019.

In order to finance the Royal Signals Museum trip, 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, a completed consent form is still required. If you have any queries on the funding of this trip please contact the school's Finance Office.

An EV5 external visits form is attached and this will cover all activities off site. **Please ensure this is completed and returned with the permission slips. If this form is not returned your child will not be able to go on the trips.** Please would you direct any further enquiries to the named teacher who is organising the trip.

All trips and activities are normal school uniform. Please refer to the individual guidance for each activity for details of any specific clothing requirements.

Yours sincerely



**Mrs F Gormley
Deputy Headteacher**

Year 9 students

Tuesday 29 January		Wednesday 30 January	
GOM Houses	RBY Houses	GOM Houses	RBY Houses
Royal Signals Museum	PSHE	PSHE	Royal Signals Museum

Costs:

Royal Signals Museum, Dorset	£12.50
PSHE	Free

Important trip information for Year 9 students

Royal Signals Museum, Blandford

Organising teachers: **Mr N Morton/Mrs I Sully**

Science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) have a profound impact on our everyday lives and play an important role in UK industry, which is currently experiencing a shortage of skills in these areas. In order to engage students in STEM subjects, The Castle School will be following a STEM enrichment plan involving activities in and out of school. As part of this, Year 9 will be visiting the Royal Signals Museum. During their visit they will take part in the following activities:

- Codebreaking Workshop where they will learn about and use ciphers and codes from the Ancient World to the Enigma machine of WW2 and come to appreciate their relevance to almost all aspects of our lives today.
- Communications on the modern battlefield.
- A tour of the Royal Signals Museum.

On return to school, all students will be expected to complete a piece of homework detailing something new that they have discovered during their visit to the Royal Signals Museum.

We will leave school at approximately 9.00am and return by 4.00pm. Students should wear school uniform and should bring a packed lunch, a bottle of water and a pen. They may also want to bring a camera and a small amount of money to spend in the Museum shop.

PSHE

Organising teacher: **Mr M Wilkins**

The day will cover the following topics:

Bereavement

This sensitive area will be dealt with in a kind and caring manner. Bereavement affects all of us at some time in our lives. This lesson will explore the feelings and emotions people experience at these times. This should help students to understand that different people react and cope with loss in many different ways.

If your child has or is going to suffer bereavement, you may feel this lesson is not appropriate for them at this time. If so, please contact the school and we will look into alternative provision.

Learning Outcomes:

- Identify and understand the feelings people experience when somebody they are close to dies.
- Recognise that it is normal to feel a range of emotions when someone dies, including guilt and anger.
- Identify and evaluate ways of coping and supporting others in coping with bereavement.
- Access support if they are affected by bereavement.
- Support someone close to them who is affected by bereavement.

Year 9 Options Process

A follow up to the Year 9 Options Evening.

A Good Impression

Learning Outcomes:

- Identify the key points that form a good impression when first meeting someone.
- How to prepare for interview.
- Understand what an employer/college interviewer will be looking for.

- Link the above outcomes to planning towards students' future development.

Assertiveness

Learning Outcomes:

- Explain that there are different ways of responding to conflict.
- Recognise passive, aggressive, and assertive behaviour.
- Explain why it is better to behave assertively, rather than passively or aggressively.
- Identify the key attributes of being assertive.
- Demonstrate assertive communication, for example by being an active listener and using "I messages".

Careers – Careerpilot

Representatives from Next Steps South West will be delivering an "Introduction to Careerpilot" session. Careerpilot is a free site that helps young people plan their future study and work. The website aims to provide 13-19 year olds in the South of England with information on the full range of choices available at 14, 16 and 18, including apprenticeships, college, high level study etc.

The website also includes information on 22 job sectors and links to providers in the South of England. This will give the students an opportunity to think about their future study and career plans at a time when they are considering their GCSE options.

Please sign the consent form and return to the Finance Office with the payment **by Monday 14 January**

CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT DAYS – 29 & 30 January 2019

Royal Signals Museum, Dorset

I would like my son/daughter (student's name and form) to participate in the Year 9 activity, Royal Signals Museum. As parent/carer, I have read, fully understood and am satisfied with the details supplied about the above mentioned activity and agree to my son/daughter taking part in it.

As parent/carer I would be willing/unwilling* to make a voluntary contribution of £12.50 to cover the cost of the trip. I enclose cash/cheque (made payable to The Castle School/**I have paid online** or by credit/debit card* (*Please delete as applicable).

I am currently receiving Free School Meals.

a) Except for visits abroad, insurance arrangements are the same as for students in educational establishments, ie, that the Academy can only insure against the proven negligence by the Academy and/or its employees; and

b) The Academy 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 I may consider taking out my own travel insurance to supplement this if appropriate

Signed (Parent/Carer)

Date.....