

September 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 7 Curriculum Enrichment Days – 9 and 10 October 2017

We have now finalised all of the arrangements for the two Curriculum Enrichment days on Monday 9 and Tuesday 10 October 2017, 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 Friday 29 September.**

In order to finance these 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, 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.

Unless stated otherwise, all activities will be leaving and returning within the normal school day.

An EV5 medical consent 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 trip. Please would you direct any further enquiries to the named teacher who is organising the trip.

The trip to Magdalen Farm is non-school uniform. Compass for Life is 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 7 Students

Monday 9 October		Tuesday 10 October	
GOM Houses	RBY Houses	GOM Houses	RBY Houses
Visit to Magdalen Farm	Compass for Life (In-school)	Compass for Life (In-school)	Visit to Magdalen Farm

Important trip information

Visit to Magdalen Farm

Organising teacher: **Mrs L Stone**

Cost: £ 15.50

The new GCSE Geography specifications are focusing on students investigating the UK in detail. It is important that students start to develop their knowledge of the UK and their local area. We will be visiting Magdalen Farm in Chard to experience the outdoor classroom. We will be studying geographical skills and learning about sustainability on a local and global scale. This understanding will be vital to students in preparation for GCSE.

Students will take part in three sessions at Magdalen Farm:

- Hands on farming - visiting the animals and kitchen gardens
- Survival in the wild - shelter building and fire lighting skills
- Orienteering and map work exercises

Students will not be required to wear school uniform but should make sure they are wearing sensible shoes or trainers and must be prepared for all weathers as most of the day will be spent outside (e.g. Raincoat, layers if it is cold etc...). Students will need to bring a packed lunch and a bottle of water (there won't be an opportunity to buy food).

Students will need to be at school by 8:45am to be registered as normal, so that we can leave school around 09:00am. The journey is expected to take about an hour by coach depending on traffic. We expect to leave no later than 14:30pm from Magdalen Farm to be back at school just before the end of school at 15:30pm.

Compass for Life

Organising teacher: **Mr M Randle**

Year 7 will be taking part in a 'Compass for Life' day in half year groups.

Compass for Life aims to support the learning of students, helping them to unlock their potential and gain confidence. It is a framework that will be used during their time at The Castle School, supported by their tutors.

The Compass helps provide a core motivating purpose for learning together with direction for the journey through life; a bright shining North Cardinal of aspiration, a sense of purpose and the ability to overcome obstacles. It is supported by the East Cardinal which provides a strong set of values (our ethos); the South Cardinal gives us a clear plan to follow (strategy), while the West Cardinal represents action (our warrior spirit and strength of character - both vital when under pressure).

Students will be given a book to record all their thoughts and reflections, capture achievements and lessons learnt.

Compass for Life contributes to high expectation and a culture of success through its child centred approach and by creating a unique environment within the classroom. At its heart is a desire to encourage ambition, confidence and thirst for life-long learning within students. This is achieved by supporting the dreams and ambitions of each student in a holistic and realistic way. It ensures that children are able to connect the need for learning to achieve their aspirations. It enables the children to create a direct link between what they want to achieve and what the school wants to teach them. Secondly, it enables the students to see the benefit of team-work as they undertake a project together and finally, it looks at the legacy they will leave behind.

CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT DAYS – 9 and 10 October 2017

CONSENT FORMS

Could you please fill out and sign all the consent forms and return them to the Finance Office with the payment **by Friday 29 September 2017**. **There is no form or cost for Compass for Life as it is an in-school activity.**

Magdalen Farm Visit

I would like my son/daughter (student's name and form) to participate in the Year 7 activity, Magdalen Farm visit. 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 £15.50 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 purchases travel insurance through Chubb Insurance 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.

Emergency telephone number should we need to contact you **(essential)**

Signed(Parent/Carer) Date