

September 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 8 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 trips. 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 @Bristol and the PSHE day will be in 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**

Monday 10 October		Tuesday 11 October	
GOM Houses	RBY Houses	GOM Houses	RBY Houses
@Bristol	PSHE (in-school)	PSHE (in-school)	@Bristol

@Bristol

Organising teacher: **Mrs I Sully**

Cost: £16.00

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 8 will be visiting @Bristol where students will have time to explore a range of the hands-on STEM activities. They will be following a trail which will encourage them to explore the various attractions and develop their understanding of how STEM plays a vital role in our world today. In addition, they will have the fantastic opportunity of seeing a science show exploring how STEM is used in the latest space exploration technology.

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 @Bristol. Students should wear school uniform and should bring a packed lunch, a bottle of water and a pen. Should they wish to, students may bring a camera and a small amount of money to spend in the @Bristol shop.

PLEASE NOTE: IF YOUR CHILD IS GOING TO @BRISTOL ON THE MONDAY (GOM HOUSES) THEY WILL BE BACK AT 3:45PM. TUESDAY (RBY) WILL RETURN WITHIN THE SCHOOL DAY.

PSHE

Organising teacher: **Mr M Wilkins**

Economic Understanding

Students will gain a brief understanding of financial planning relevant to their age group and also begin to look at responsibilities they will have later in life.

Friendships

A look at how friendships can develop both in a healthy and unhealthy way as well as recognising when they need to change their behaviour or be confident enough to stand up for their points of view.

Personal identity

As young people mature, their sense of self undergoes massive change through puberty. This lesson will look at how to deal with this change in a mature way.

Democracy

A look at how democracy has shaped our country and how other societies govern themselves.

Rule of Law

What are our personal responsibilities with regard to the law and what laws currently affect your age group.

Puberty

Students will participate in group and class discussion about sexual development and activity, recognising that variation is normal and that it is easy to make assumptions about what is the 'norm' and seeking to correct common misconceptions. They will identify sources of information, advice and guidance regarding sexual development and activity.

Self Confidence

This lesson aims to help students understand that we grow by overcoming challenges and that fear is normal and something everyone experiences. Students will learn that by treating challenges as opportunities, we can overcome our fears.

Family Relationships

Building on work in Year 7, students will develop their understanding of the diverse nature of family networks, recognise the possible tensions and challenges that can arise in different family set-ups and identify sources of support for young people when family relationships change and how young people can access such support.

Legal Highs

Students need to understand that 'legal' does not necessarily mean safe, and recognise the possible peer pressure around legal highs. They will learn skills to remove themselves from uncomfortable situations and identify what is meant by 'legal high'.

Personal Safety

To enable students to identify situations that may compromise their personal safety and discuss how to deal with these situations as well as explore the possible outcomes based on their responses.

Somerset Road Safety will be coming into school to promote an understanding of road safety issues to ensure the safety of students as cyclists as well as increase their awareness of other road users as they cycle around Taunton and beyond.

CURRICULUM ENRICHMENT DAYS – 9 and 10 October 2017

CONSENT FORMS

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

Visit to @Bristol

I would like my son/daughter (student’s name and form) to participate in the Year 8 Visit to @Bristol. 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 £16.00 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 Date