



5 December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Year 8 Curriculum Enrichment Days – 22 January/23 January 2025

We have now finalised all of the arrangements for the two Curriculum Enrichment days on Wednesday 22 January, and Wednesday 23 January 2025, 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 we do not receive enough parental donations, the trips 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. 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 MCAS system <https://www.mychildatschool.com/MCAS/MCSParentLogin>. If you are unable to pay online you can pay by cash or by credit/debit card (either in person or over the phone) but **you still need to give consent** to confirm that you are satisfied with the arrangements outlined in this letter.

If you are making an online payment, please use the MCAS system to give your consent. If you are paying by cash/card or receive free school meals, please use the slip at the foot of this letter to give your consent and return the slip to the Finance Office/Student Reception.

The deadline for consent/payment is **Monday 16 December**.

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 Wordsworth
Head of School
The Castle School

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Please return this slip to the Finance Office/Student Reception by Monday 16 December if not giving consent through MCAS.

Enrichment Days 22-23 January 2025

I give permission for my son/daughter

Form to attend these Enrichment Days.

Signed (Parent/Carer) Date

Year 8 Students

Wednesday 22 January		Thursday 23 January	
GOM Houses	RBY Houses	GOM Houses	RBY Houses
Aerospace Bristol – Maths Trip	PSHE: Personal safety Changing Bodies Body image Careers: Careerpilot Achieve Your Ambition	PSHE: Personal safety Changing Bodies Body image Careers: Careerpilot Achieve Your Ambition	Aerospace Bristol – Maths Trip

Aerospace Bristol - Maths Trip

Organising teacher: Mr M Pitts

Price: £26.00

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 Aerospace Bristol. From the earliest days of powered flight to the cutting-edge technology of tomorrow, visitors are inspired by fun practical science interactives and amazing exhibits, including more than a century of aviation history, from the earliest powered flights to the last Concorde ever to fly!

As well as a tour of the museum and exhibitions, students will take part in the following interactive workshop sessions:

'Mission to Mars'

Look to the future of aerospace engineering by developing a prototype of a new Mars rover. Work as a team to design, build and test your design.

'Blast-off Rockets'

Explore the key achievements on the road to human flight and space travel. Uncover the physics of escaping the Earth. Discover the science behind how rockets are shaped and powered for space travel. Create, test and optimise your own paper rocket design ready for launch.

Essential Information

We will be travelling by coach. Meet at 8:20am for departure time 8:30am, return to school at 4:45pm (traffic dependent).

Students will meet at and return to the Bridgwater & Taunton College bus bay (located outside Bridgwater & Taunton College on the road in to school).

Students should wear school uniform and are expected to bring the following: -

- a packed lunch
- a bottle of water
- a pen
- Students may wish to bring a camera and a small amount of money to spend in the museum shop.

A mobile phone is also advised so we can collect contact numbers for the day.

PSHE

Lead teacher: Mr M Wilkins

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

Personal safety

The learning objectives for this lesson are:

- 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.

Changing Bodies

The learning objectives for this lesson are:

- As young people mature, their sense of self undergoes massive change through puberty. This lesson will look at how to deal with this change.
- The lesson will pick up and continue on the themes of body changes within science but extend into signposting help from school counselling, nurses and assistance with practical aspects like general hygiene and period poverty.

Body Image

The learning objectives for this lesson are:

- To make informed choices with regards to sleep, diet, exercise, work, revision and balancing time spent online. To recognise and manage choices about physical activity.
- Know the causes and triggers for unhealthy coping strategies, such as self-harm and eating disorders, and the need to seek help for themselves or others as soon as possible.
- Know how to recognise when they or others need help with their mental health and wellbeing; to explore and analyse ethical issues when peers need help; learn strategies and skills to provide basic support and identify and access the most appropriate sources of help

Careers

Lead teacher: Mrs P Hunt

Using Careerpivot to research skills for different jobs

Students will find out more about jobs and careers and the types of skills that are needed for these. By the end of the session students will be able to use skills information to think about the skills they have and how they can develop these skills for a future career.

'Achieve Your Ambition'

Students will attend an assembly presentation delivered by external speakers, all with a different and interesting story/career path. The speakers will talk about how they achieved their goals, developed strategies to build resilience and dealt with bumps in the road along the way.