

18 May 2023

Dear Parent / Carer,

Year 7 - Enrichment days

We would like to inform you of our upcoming Enrichment Days which will take place on 19th -21st July 2023.

These activities are designed to enhance and broaden student's learning experiences beyond the classroom, using a range of enjoyable and stimulating formats. They are also aimed at providing a level of fun at the end of the academic year, some time to mix and socialise with others outside of teaching groups and to experience things they might not otherwise get the chance to do. It is also really important to us that all activities are inclusive; that every child gets the opportunity to participate regardless of background, socio-economic status, gender etc.

We have listened to feedback from parents on last year's offer and we have made changes to this year's programme accordingly, to enhance the provision for the students. We have also taken into consideration that costs have risen significantly even in these last 12 months, particularly regarding transport. As a result, we have had to approach the offer slightly differently this year and, regrettably, we will need to ask for voluntary contributions. Many parents we spoke to said they felt this was acceptable. However, we are aware that some families will find this a challenge. Staying true to our values, no student will be declined a place due to a financial barrier and we ask that if payment is difficult, you kindly contact jdistin@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk. Unfortunately, if not enough voluntary contributions are made, the trip elements of the programme will not be able to go ahead for the whole cohort and we will need to change plans.

This year's curriculum enrichment programme currently looks like this:

Wednesday 19th July: St Michael's Mount

We will visit Marazion beach and the dramatic St Michael's Mount in Cornwall. We will explore the island, steeped in fascinating history and legends dating back to the ancient Celtic kingdom of Dumnonia, which once incorporated both present day Cornwall and Devon. The Geography is spectacular, including geology uniquely untouched by mining. We will split the day between visiting the Mount and playing beach games and activities.

Timings:

Leave school at around 8:30am and return by 6pm

St Michael's Mount is around two hours away by coach, so the trip will necessitate an earlier start and a later return than the usual school day. We are aiming for a 6pm return to school, but the with summer traffic this may not be exact. We would ask parents /carers to drop students off by 8.00am; we may be able to help with lifts if necessary.

Requirements:

No school uniform – own clothes must be suitable for the occasion.

Packed lunch, drinks, and snacks. Bottled drinks are best as they do not have to be drunk all in one go. Those students who are in receipt of Free School Meals will be able to collect a packed lunch from school.

Comfortable clothing for the trip is recommended. Depending on the weather, waterproof clothing or alternatively hat and sun cream will be required. We will NOT be swimming so no swimming costume will be required. However, students may wish to bring a towel to sit on.

Thursday 20th July: Creative Arts at Paignton Zoo

Students will visit Paignton Zoo and take part in an immersive art workshop; using observations of animal dynamics and habitats to create artistic representations. This will not only allow them to develop their creative abilities but also deepen their understanding of zoological and ecological aspects. The music department will also highlight the rhythmic tones of nature.

Timings:

Leaving school at 9:00am and planning to return by 3.00pm. The bus will depart and return to school within the normal school hours.

Requirements:

No school uniform – own clothes must be suitable for the occasion.

Packed lunch and drinks. It is best to bring bottled drinks to keep hydrated throughout the day. Those students who are in receipt of Free School Meals will be able to collect a packed lunch from school.

Comfortable clothing required for the trip. Depending on the weather waterproof clothing or alternatively hat and sun cream.

Friday the 21st July: MFL immersion day

During this school-based day, students will immerse themselves in foreign languages, with the aim of improving communication skills and developing cultural awareness. This will be a fun and interactive experience, incorporating activities such as cooking, games, and other fun based learning.

Timings:

Normal school hours.

Requirements:

No school uniform – own clothes must be suitable for the occasion.

The canteen will be open so students can choose to bring a packed lunch or buy food at school.

What you need to do next:

1. The College, assisted by FOSDA (our PTA group), are partially financing the days to subsidise costs, but with transport, and other cost increases, we are asking for a voluntary contribution of £25 to cover all three activities. To make this payment please go to Parent Pay. If you need assistance with making a contribution, please contact jdustin@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk.
2. All parents / carers must complete a trip consent form to enable your child to go. While we can provide some financial support, we cannot take any children whose parental consent has not been assured. The forms are on ParentPay, ready for you to complete.

The deadline for completion of ParentPay information (consent and payment) is 12th June 2023.

We are confident that these days will form a stimulating end of term, and be an enjoyable conclusion to a very successful first year at South Dartmoor. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, or concerns, via gdaemi-rashidi@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely,

G Daemi-Rashidi

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