

18 May 2023

Dear Parent / Carer,

Year 8 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 us at 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: Dartmoor Adventure

Students will take part in a guided walk to discover the geography of this unique and beautiful landscape.

Taking time to explore the history of Dartmoor and how humans have interacted with the landscape over time, stretching back to Neolithic inhabitants. They will have a chance to see some of the local flora and fauna and learn about the conservation efforts to protect the area.

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.

Thursday 20th July: Exeter Trip

Students will visit Exeter, where the religious studies department will give the students a religious pilgrimage around the sites of this historical city. This will help broaden and develop our school values of: truth, respects and equality. They will have the opportunity to visit Exeter Cathedral, Synagogue, museum, Buddhist centre, local mosque and Exeter FC.

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: Aquarium Visit

The National Marine Aquarium in Plymouth is the UK's largest aquarium and is home to a vast array of marine life, from colourful fish to sharks and turtles. Students will have the opportunity to learn about marine biology, ocean conservation, and the impact of humans on the world's oceans. They will participate in interactive exhibits and learn about the science behind the aquarium's displays. The day will include a mathematical input, involving measuring and calculating water volumes and dimensions, understanding ratios and proportions, and other mathematical concepts related to marine biology.

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.

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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.

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 £30 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 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,

Gizela Daemi-Rashidi

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