

18 May 2023

Dear Parent / Carer,

Year 9 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 jdustin@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: Year 9 Graduation Trip

Completing year 9 and moving into the GCSE years is a significant step on the journey through South Dartmoor, and we would like to mark this, with all students celebrating together. Therefore, we have chosen Woodlands as the destination for the Year 9 graduation trip because it offers a wide range of activities that cater to all interests. We are confident that all students will find something that they will enjoy.

This trip is a celebration of your child's achievements, and we believe that it is important to recognise their hard work and commitment. It is also an opportunity for all students to come together and enjoy a day filled with exciting activities and creating memories that will last.

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: Science Department: Theme – Flying

Students will be exploring the concept of flight through various activities and demonstrations, including:

Rocket Building, Hot Air Balloon construction, Analysis of Animal Flight and dissection of Owl Pellets. Additionally students will be treated to an amazing display of birds of prey from a guest speaker, who will showcase various bird species and their unique flying abilities.

Timings: 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: PE/ Dance activities – in school

The PE and Dance Department have organised a series of exciting school-based activities. They have partnered with the Plymouth Raiders basketball team, providing the chance to develop new skills from professional players. Representatives from the Army will be running fitness and team building skills that will challenge and develop your child's fitness levels. Continuing the theme of movement, Mrs. Slater has arranged for a West End choreographer to work with students on new dance techniques and routines. Finally, they will be running First Aid CPR training where students will gain a certificate, but more importantly learn a valuable life skill.

Timings:

Normal school hours.

Requirements:

No school uniform – PE kit needs to be worn. Depending on the weather waterproof clothing or alternatively hat and sun cream. The canteen will be open so students can choose to bring a packed lunch or buy food at school.

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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 £35 to cover all three activities. To make this payment please go to Parent Pay. If you need assistance with making a contribution, please contact jdistin@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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