



South Dartmoor Community College

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Empowering everyone to be the best they can be.

7 May 2024

Dear Parent / Carer

Year 8 Enrichment Days

We would like to inform you of our upcoming Enrichment Days which will take place on 17 – 19 July 2024. 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 and students on last year's offer and we have made changes to this year's programme accordingly. We have also taken into consideration that costs have risen significantly even in these last 12 months, particularly regarding transport. To that end, we have worked hard to create a programme that represents value for money and continues to provide an enriching experience for all students. We will be asking parents to make a voluntary contribution to the cost and many parents we have spoken to have said they felt this was acceptable. However, we are aware that some families may 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 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 17 July: Exeter Trip: Phoenix theatre and Ten pin bowling.

In the morning, students will be taken to the Phoenix Art Centre, Exeter to enjoy a film (to be decided). This opportunity will allow students to enjoy a film in a cinematic setting. In the afternoon, things get competitive. Students will be enjoying a game of Ten Pin Bowling at the Haven Banks bowling alley.

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 18 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 walking on the moor in the weather expected for that day. Eg. Comfortable clothing and sturdy, comfortable supportive footwear (anything slip-on and loose fitting is not appropriate). Depending on the weather, waterproof clothing or alternatively hat and sun cream.

Packed lunch and plenty of drinking water. It is best to bring drinks bottle to keep hydrated throughout the day remembering no shops are found on the moor to buy more. Those students who are in receipt of Free School Meals will be able to collect a packed lunch from school.

Friday the 19 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.

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. We are asking for a voluntary contribution of £40 to cover all three activities. To make this payment please go to Parent Pay; instalments are available if preferable. If you need assistance with making a voluntary 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 may be able to provide some financial support, we cannot take any children whose parental consent has not been authorised. The forms are on Parent Pay, ready for you to complete.

The deadline for completion of ParentPay information (consent and payment) is 3 June 2024.

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 us if you have any questions, or concerns, via jdistin@southdartmoor.devon.sch.uk.

Best wishes

Emma Gallagher

Deputy Headteacher

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