

7 July 2022

Dear parents and carers

I wrote to you on 20 June about our exciting Culture & Challenge Days which are coming up soon, on Thursday 14 and Friday 15 July. I am now pleased to be able to provide the specific details for these events.

Thanks to those of you who have already made the £15 payment towards the costs. If you have not yet done so, please do this as soon as possible. If you expect a difficulty please contact your Year Hub Coordinator to see how we may be able to support.

Thursday 14 July

Animal Encounters

Here in the school grounds, the students will have a practical hands on (for those brave enough!) and interactive day with displays from Huxley's Birds of Prey Centre, Tom's Talking Reptiles and the Police will also be on site with their working dogs.

Meet time: 08:45 outside Astra building

Clothing: Full PE kit

Lunch: Packed lunch or food available as a normal school day from The Observatory, water

Extras: Personal medication (asthma pumps & auto injectors), sun cream.

Finish time: 15:00

Friday 15 July

Go APE: High Ropes Tree Top Challenge

The students will be challenged with three different activities over the course of the day, to include their infamous tree top challenge and some crazy ground-based team building challenges. The year group will be travelling by train to either Crawley or Chessington Go APE centres.

Meet time: 08:15 outside Vega building

Clothing: Full PE kit - please consider long sleeve PE top and PE joggers/sports leggings to minimise discomfort from the full-body harness. Students may wish to bring gloves for added protection

Extras: Packed lunch, snacks, water, cash/debit card for souvenirs, personal medication (asthma



pumps & auto injectors), sun cream.

Return time: 17:00

Our vision is that, through these two days off-timetable where we are offering an array of activities both in-school and out, students will have the opportunity to get beyond the academic curriculum, have some fun with peers and staff members, share cultural experiences and some personal challenges that will build their skills and open their minds to possibilities for the future.

Opportunity and inclusivity are key principles to us as a school, and recognising that finances can be a barrier to some families, we have been able to subsidise this event from our newly-created [ACE Foundation](#). For every student in the school, regardless of age or activity, the ACE Foundation has contributed well over half of the costs, so that we were able to set the **parental contribution to £15 per student** to cover the two days activities.

If you have any questions at all, please contact the Year 9 hub.

Best wishes

Mr I Miles

Community Partnership Coordinator

