

Challenge Week 2022

CHALLENGE WEEK 2022

MONDAY 27th JUNE - FRIDAY 1st JULY

Welcome to Challenge Week 2022!

Challenge Week will take place from Monday 27th June - Friday 1st July 2022. All students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will have the opportunity to take part in a range of activities that are not normally on offer as part of the standard curriculum.

Challenge Week is an integral part of students' education at Plympton Academy: it is a special week offering huge opportunities to extend and enrich their curriculum experience. Each student will be able to take part in 1 activity lasting over 5 days (Monday - Friday) or 2 different activities, split over 3 / 2 days (Monday - Wednesday and then a second activity for Thursday / Friday). Please be aware that you cannot choose the same activity on the Monday - Wednesday and Thursday - Friday split as although different, there are repeated elements within them.

Please take time to read through the booklet carefully. Some activities will require early departures from the academy and will return late in the evening. It is important that students can make their way safely to and from the academy at these times if they pick these activities. Others will enable students to gain a variety of qualifications. If a student is in receipt of free school meals, these will be ordered in advance for them.

Make sure you discuss your choices with both friends and family. There are almost 650 students in Years 7-9 and, whilst our aim is to allocate every student to their first choice, this cannot be guaranteed. It is therefore important that students select a second and third choice in case their first is oversubscribed. Students cannot opt for part of an activity and must accept the whole package where different daily activities are involved. As some activities will require a minimum number to run, please be aware that it may be necessary to cancel an activity should not enough interest be shown.

Students in Year 9 who are taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme should pick the expedition option and students who are involved in the production of Mary Poppins should select that (unless they are doing Duke of Edinburgh, in which case that takes priority)

Once students have made their selection, they need to complete the online booking form. Please note that forms will be returned to students if they have not selected at least two choices or if a parent / guardian's signature has not been obtained. In addition, we reserve the right to make changes to the schedule of an activity, should it be deemed appropriate to do so. Students who return their form after the deadline may find that they do not receive any of their choices.

Attendance

Attendance during this week is not optional as it is part of our academy term. In line with normal procedures, a reason for non-attendance would be required since we have to provide details of all unauthorised absences to the Education Welfare Officer.

Cost

The cost of each activity is shown, but please be aware that this is based on the maximum amount of students for the activity taking part and are correct as of February 2022. Therefore, they are subject to change (for example, due to increased transport costs per person if fewer students take part and an increase in fuel costs).

Behaviour

Naturally, we expect students to maintain a high standard of behaviour during the week. All students should be aware that taking part in Challenge Week is dependent on a good behavioural record.

We have already built up a good reputation with the activity providers that we will be using and the coach companies. If we feel that a student is behaving in an unacceptable and potentially dangerous manner, they will be withdrawn from the activity. If this is the case, a refund will be unlikely and parents/guardians may be required to collect them from where the activity is taking place.

Payment

Activity allocation letters and request for payments will be sent during the week beginning Monday 28th March. Payments should be made via the ParentPay facility used at Plympton Academy. Deposits can be paid as soon as you have received confirmation of your child's activity. The deadline for deposit payments is Friday 8th April.

For higher cost activities, we can accept payments by installment after the deposit has been received, or if you wish to pay the balance in full then you may do so. All payments must be made in full by Fri 10th June.

Please note, that we are unable to refund any deposits or payments if a student wishes to change activity as payments will have already been made to external providers. If an activity is missed due to illness, then a medical certificate would need to be seen in order to process a refund. The costings for these activities have been worked out as accurately as possible with the aim of the activity breaking even. In the unlikely event of a surplus less than £3 per student remaining, once all bills are settled, unless we hear from you to the contrary we will retain it for the general benefit of the students. For students in receipt of free school meals, then a 50% discount will be applied once the deposit has been paid. This will appear as a payment from the school on parent pay.

If a payment isn't received, then apart from exceptional circumstances, students will be moved to a different activity. If a student is unable to attend a paid for activity, then again unless it is due to exceptional circumstances, a refund will be unable to be made.

If you have any questions about an activity you are interested in, please get in touch with the activity leader in the first instance. If you have any questions about the week in general, please contact Annie House at housea@plympton.academy, or if you have a specific question about payment then please contact the finance team, finance@plympton.academy.

Activity leaders will be sending out detailed information about their activity during the week beginning Monday 6th June. For the residential activities, there will also be a parents meeting taking place in May / June.

For on-site activities, the Plympton Academy Diner will be open at break and lunchtime, offering a reduced service. For off-site activities, students will need to bring a packed lunch with them, or there will be opportunities to buy food. The trip leaders will confirm this with you nearer the time.

Yours sincerely,

The Challenge Week Coordination Team
(Mr Ian Hartley; Ms Annie Houser; Finance Team and Activity Leaders)

FIVE DAY ACTIVITY OPTIONS

Adrenaline Week (Residential)		ADW
Lead Staff: Mr Jones	Cost: £480 (Deposit £100)	Maximum Number: 30
<p>This activity is designed for the thrillseekers who love rollercoasters and being thrown upside down at speed. During the week we will visit some of the UK's biggest theme parks including Alton Towers, West Midlands Safari Park, Chessington World of Adventures and Thorpe Park enabling you to try out some of the biggest rides in the UK including Wicker Man and Swarm.</p> <p>We will depart from Plympton Academy on the Monday morning and will return on Friday evening. This is a residential activity and we will be staying in Premier Inns with ensuite accommodation with breakfast and evening meals provided. Students will need to provide their own lunch each day.</p>		

Mary Poppins		POP
Lead Staff: Ms Crook	Cost: Free	Maximum Number: 50
<p>This workshop is for all students in years 7-9 who are involved with the production of Mary Poppins. Alongside production workshops you will also get learn insider secrets from theatre professionals, go backstage at a theatre and learn a variety of stagecraft techniques.</p>		

The Great Plympton Bake Off		GPB
Lead Staff: Ms Kneebone	Cost: £40 (Deposit £10)	Maximum Number: 24
<p>Could you be the next star baker? Could you take on Paul Hollywood and Prue Leith?</p> <p>Learn how to bake one of Ms Worth's famous drip cakes along with blondies that will give Mila's a run for their money. You will also learn how to bake a variety of biscuits and smorgesboard of sweet treats.</p> <p>Each day will follow the style of the Great British Bake Off with a technical challenge, a recipe bake and an eye catching showstopper bake. Each day we will present the star baker with a certificate and the baker of the week will receive an extra special surprise!</p> <p>This activity will appeal to those of you who want to improve your basic culinary skills or for those who already know the basics, a chance to improve on your decorating and presentation techniques.</p> <p>You will be able to take home your creations to your family - if you can make them last that long! At the end of the week you will be preparing an afternoon tea for your families - a real opportunity to show off!</p> <p>All of the ingredients and equipment will be provided for you.</p>		

Devon Explorer		DEE
Lead Staff: Ms Littlejohn	Cost: £105 (Deposit £40)	Maximum Number: 96
<p>This week is all about exploring the best of what Devon has to offer with the added advantage of no ridiculously early starts and sleeping in your own bed each night!</p> <p>We will visit a different attraction each day including Splashdown QuayWest, Paignton Zoo, Crealy and Woodlands. A day will also be spent at the ski slope in Plymouth where we will make full use of the facilities including the dry ski slope, snow tubing and tobogganing. For this day students will need to make their own way to the ski slope for 9:30am and depart from there at 2:30pm.</p>		

Horrible Histories Deluxe		HHD
Lead Staff: Ms Roberts	Cost: £90 (Deposit £20)	Maximum Number: 42 (total)
<p>A week full of historical facts and fun. Three days will spent out and about exploring a variety of historical places of interest including the gruesome London Dungeon and the Imperial War Musuem; SS Great Britain in Bristol and slightly closer to home, the Box in Plymouth. For the day out to London, it would be an early start and late finish.</p> <p>The remaining two days (Thursday and Friday) will be spent on site completing a variety of historical based tasks and challenges devised by the devious history team.</p>		

Arts Week Deluxe		AWD
Lead Staff: Ms Hawksahw	Cost: £35 (Deposit)	Maximum Number: 25
<p>If you think your Art lessons are not long enough, then this is the week for you. For those opting for the 5 day deluxe version, you will spend the week working in the art department where you will take part in a variety of different art activities using a range of materials including clay work, painting, printing, photography, felt work and mosaics.</p> <p>This activity is also available as two / three day option.</p>		

Mindfulness Retreat		MFR
Lead Staff: Ms Heard	Cost: FREE	Maximum Number: 50
<p>Need to take some time out? Want to learn about how to take care of yourself emotionally, mentally and physically?</p> <p>We will spend the week looking at different types of breathing exercises and meditation, take discovery walks, complete colouring and art projects, mindfulness cooking, yoga, breathing through running (or fast walking) and decompression sessions. A week focusing on you and your emotional and mental wellbeing.</p>		

Fishing		FSH
Lead Staff: Mr Brown	Cost: £85 (Deposit £20)	Maximum Number: 16
<p>If your happy place is sat outside, watching your line and waiting for a catch then this is the activity for you. We will be fishing from the hot spots in Plymouth and Plymouth Sound. At least one day (tide depending) will be spent fishing from a boat, whilst others will be from Eddystone car park and various locations around the Hoe.</p> <p>If you have your own tackle and bait, then you can bring this with you, otherwise it can be hired via Bait Bunker in the Eddystone car park (Mr Brown will help to manage this with you). All equipment is provided for the boat fishing experience apart from bait.</p>		

Splashing Around		SPL
Lead Staff: Mr Strachan	Cost: £195 (Deposit £50)	Maximum Number: 12
<p>Three days will be spent with Horizons Sailing Club working towards your Royal Yachting Association Level 1 certificate. The other two days will be spent on site completing a variety of water and land based challenges.</p> <p>For this activity, students should be able to independently swim 25m and on the sailing days (Monday, Wednesday, Friday) we will return to the academy at approximately 4pm.</p>		

Surfs Up		SUP
Lead Staff: Mr Taylor	Cost: £120 (Deposit £40)	Maximum Number: 16
<p>This week is either the ideal introduction to surfing or the chance to spend a week developing and practicing your skills. Three days will be spent on the south coast, based at Bigbury before the last two days on the north Cornish coast.</p> <p>For this activity students should be able to independently swim 25m. Wetsuits can be provided if required.</p>		

Sporting Pick N Mix		SPM5
Lead Staff: Mr Moore	Cost: FREE	Maximum Number: 100
<p>Each morning the PE team will introduce you to a variety of sports including ones you might have never heard of before! In the afternoon you will have the opportunity to pick between a selection of sports including dodgeball, football and netball.</p> <p>This can be picked as a two, three or five day activity as different sports will be offered each morning.</p>		

Duke of Edinburgh Expedition		DOE
Lead Staff: Ms Stark	Cost: £10 (approx)	Maximum Number: 40
<p>This activity is for those who are taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.</p> <p>On Monday and Tuesday you will be taking part in practice walks around the local area and practising your camp craft on the academy site. Wednesday and Thursday will be spent completing your Bronze expedition. On Friday we will write up your expedition and work on your e-assessment portfolio.</p>		

THREE / TWO DAY ACTIVITIES

Flight Club		FCL3 / FLC2
Lead Staff: Mr Glanville	Cost: FREE	Maximum Number: 40
<p>Launch your aeronautical career here by harnessing and mastering the power of flight. Develop the knowledge of the aerodynamics lift and thrust, needed to create gliders and ultimately rocket power!!</p> <p>Day 1 will see you creatively develop paper gliders from the traditional to more imaginative, finishing with light winged gliders using wood and foam.</p> <p>Day 2 you will construct chinenese fighting kites with the use of lightweight materials such as bamboo and tracing paper following the same process that has been used for the past 2000 years.</p> <p>Day 3 we bring together the use and understanding of aerodynamics, flight, air resistance and crafting skills to develop compressed air water rockets, with the potential to launch the rocket up to 100m into the skies above Plympton.</p> <p>If you enjoy building, making and getting stuff to fly. Join us in the T4 hangar for your activities week.</p> <p>The 2 day version will be a shortened version of this activity.</p>		

Horrible Histories Trip Package (Mon - Wed)		HHT
Lead Staff: Ms Roberts	Cost: £85 (Deposit £20)	Maximum Number: 42 (total)
<p>Three days jam packed of full of historical facts and fun. We will be out and about exploring a variety of historical places of interest including the gruesome London Dungeon and the Imperial War Musuem; SS Great Britain in Bristol and slightly closer to home, the Box in Plymouth. For the day out to London, it would be an early start and late finish.</p>		

Horrible Histories On Site Package (Thurs - Fri)		HHS
Lead Staff: Ms Roberts	Cost: £5	Maximum Number: 42
<p>Two days of historical challenges, quizzes and tasks devised by the devious History department. Would you be able to survive as a Rotten Roman or Terrible Tudor? A love of history is all you need to find out.</p>		

Art 3 day / 2 day		AR3 / AR2
Lead Staff: Ms Hawkshaw	Cost: £15 (3) / £10 (2)	Maximum Number: 25
<p>A mini version of the Art Deluxe activity. You will spend either 3 or 2 days working in the art department where you will take part in a variety of different art activities using a range of materials including clay work, painting, printing, photography, felt work and mosaics.</p> <p>There is a £15 charge for the 3 day activity and £10 for the 2 days.</p>		

Going Green		GGR
Lead Staff: Mr Edmonds	Cost: FREE	Maximum Number: 30
<p>Spend either 3 or 2 days under the tutorage of Mr Edmonds planting seeds, growing flowers, maintaining the allotment and a variety of other green fingered tasks. You will also take part in a variety of environmental based activities helping Plympton Academy gain the Eco Schools Green Flag status. Help to make a positive contribution to the environment.</p>		

Sporting Pick N Mix		SPM
Lead Staff: Mr Moore	Cost: FREE	Maximum Number: 100
<p>Each morning the PE team will introduce you to a variety of sports including ones you might have never heard of before! In the afternoon you will have the opportunity to pick between a selection of sports including dodgeball, football and netball.</p> <p>This can be picked as a two, three or five day activity as different sports will be offered each morning.</p>		

Crafting Corner		CCO
Lead Staff: Ms Knoble	Cost: £30 / 20 (Deposit)	Maximum Number: 20
<p>This workshop is perfect for those who want to develop their crafting skills. We will be carrying out a range of crafting activities including scrapbooking, card making, wax crayon melting and scrabble art. Come and join us to create your own trinkets, memories and gifts for friends and family. There will be a different activity to master each day where you will make something beautiful to take home. You do not need any crafting skills and all resources will be provided.</p>		

Big Bang Live		CCO
Lead Staff: Ms Taylor	Cost: FREE	Maximum Number: 30
<p>If you would like more 'bangs' in your science lessons, this three day / two day workshop is for you. Full days of scientific experiments, explorations and investigations under the expert tutorial of the science team.</p>		