

3 July 2025

Dear parents and carers

I wrote to you in April about our exciting Culture & Challenge Days which are coming up soon, on **Wednesday 9 and Thursday 10 July**. I am now pleased to be able to provide the specific details for your young person for these events.

Wednesday 9 July

Mercers Lake

The students will take part in water-based activities including Stand Up Paddle Boarding, raft building and kayaking. We will be walking from school to Merstham.

Meet time: 08:00 outside Altair Building

Clothing: Students should wear own clothes to travel in but will need to wear swimwear including a non-baggy t-shirt to wear under their buoyancy aid. They will need a towel and shower gel for after the session. **Shoes must be worn in the water.** This can be old trainers or water shoes but not flip flops or crocs.

Extras: Packed lunch is essential (if you are in receipt of Free School Meals, a packed lunch will be provided for you), snacks, water, cash/debit card for snacks, personal medication to be kept with the student across the day (asthma pumps & auto injectors), sun cream

Return time: 16:30

Thursday 10 July

Community Day

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 and Tom's Talking Reptiles and talks from the Terrence Higgins Trust and Tony Kelly Red Card Gambling.

Meet time: 08:30 outside Altair building

Clothing: Full PE kit including weatherproof jacket should the weather be inclement.

Extras: Packed lunch optional or food available as a normal school day from The Observatory, water, personal medication to be kept with the student across the day (asthma pumps & auto injectors), sun cream. **No mobile phones allowed.**

Finish time: 15:00

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.

If you have any further questions, please do contact the Year 9 Hub.

Best wishes

Mr I Miles

Community Partnership Coordinator

