



THE JOHN OF GAUNT SCHOOL

A Community Academy

Year 8 Activities Week Booklet



Thursday 18th July 2024

Friday 19th July 2024

Monday 22nd July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are very excited to be offering three July activity days to all students in Years 7-9. Our activity days will be Thursday 18th July, Friday 19th July and Monday 22nd July.

Each year group will have one day for a dedicated whole year group activity that will take place in or around school with no cost to the student. You can find details of this in the booklet.

For the remaining two days, students will need to select activities from the range of activities outlined in this booklet. We are delighted to offer you a variety of exciting activities that include both trips as well as in-school activities.

Along with this email there is a link to an online options form, which you should complete and submit **by Friday 15th March**. If your form is submitted/handed in after the deadline, please be aware that you may not get your preferred choices.

Please nominate your preferences for the two days indicated on the online form. **Please select 3 different choices for each day.**

Following 15th March, we will let you know the activities students have been allocated, and distribute information on how and when to pay etc. **Please note that some activities may not run if there is insufficient demand or unforeseen circumstances.**

In the event that the activity is oversubscribed, all names will be randomly selected by a computer software program.

We are really looking forward to these days and the enrichment opportunities. It will be a lovely end to the academic year.

Yours faithfully



Linda Baines

Assistant Head

Year 8

Friday 19th July is the Whole Year 8 Group Activity

Teachers: Mrs Bodman & allocated staff

Activity: Race for Life event!

Calling all year 8! On our activities day we are focusing on healthy lifestyles and positive thinking. We will be taking part in a Race for Life event to raise money for Cancer Research UK. The day will include some activities to raise awareness of the charity. We will also take part in some warm up activities to get us ready for the Race for Life.

We will be learning about what a healthy lifestyle is and getting ourselves moving! There will be a motivational/informative session before the Race for Life and a mindfulness session at the end of the day after lunch.

The Race for Life event will take place around the school site. After the event we will take part in some cool down activities as well as celebrating our achievement!

More details will follow soon, including a link to our fundraising page!

Please note that the whole day will take place on our school site.

You have a further 2 days of activities. Please read each activity and choose your 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice for each day. These will need to be completed on your online options form and this form should be submitted no later than **Friday 15th March**. You can put your choices in the boxes below and keep this to remind you nearer the time of what you chose.

Thursday 18th July		Monday 22nd July	
Alpaca Walking		Art & Photography	
Card & Board Games		Cinema	
CO2 Dragsters		Creative Writing	
Cray Fishing		Film Making**	
Cryptography, puzzles & Brain teasers		Mr Little's Day of Games	
El Dia de los Muertos		Hiking	
Film making**		Musical Theatre School	
Hiking		Ninja Warriors	
JoG Racing School		Patisserie Day	
Patisserie Day		Steel Drum Workshop	
Paulton's Park			
Sports Festival			
Steel Drum Workshop			

** Film Making – This is a 2 day activity so you must choose BOTH days.

In the event that the activity is oversubscribed all names will be randomly selected by a computer software program. **Please note that some activities may not run if there is insufficient demand or due to unforeseen circumstances.**

Activity: Alpacas Experience	
Trip Leader: Mrs Kerr	
Max No: 15	Cost: approx. £14

Come and spend the day at Lane House Alpaca Centre for a hands-on experience of meeting these lovely animals. You will have the chance to meet the Alpacas and a number of other animals and pet and feed them. Learn about where alpacas come from and what they are like as animals. There is a herd of approximately 100 alpacas and babies are born throughout the year and will be part of the experience.

We will be able to have our packed lunch at Lane House surrounded by the beautiful countryside.

This trip is unsuitable for students who are not comfortable around animals.

Activity: Art & Photography	
Teachers: Mrs Knee, Mrs Snowden, Mrs Langley-Jones, Mrs O’Nains	
Max No: 20	Cost: Free

Lino printing and photography workshop.

Students will spend the first part of the day finding imagery of their choice to turn into a print.

You will be introduced to lino cutting and will use inks to print your designs onto bags (which are provided), you can also bring your own t-shirts if you wish.

The second part of the day will be an introduction to photography, using the DSLR cameras and using the school site to take a range of creative images, before heading back to C5 to edit them in Photoshop.

Activity: Card and Board games	
Teachers: Mr Lear	
Max No: 12	Cost: Free

Come and enjoy a variety of card and board games with other students and feel free to bring in your own and teach them to others!

Activity: Cinema	
Teachers: Mrs Perks, Mrs Gear, Mrs Hunter & Miss Clift	
Max No: 100	Cost: approx. £13.50

Are you into films? Do you fancy a trip to the Odeon to see a couple of the latest films? If so, this is the activity for you!

Price includes a small popcorn, drink and sweet snack.

Activity: CO2 Dragsters	
Teachers: Miss Farthing	
Max No: 16	Cost: Free

Unleash your creativity and engineering skills in our exciting CO₂ Dragster Challenge! Calling all students to embark on a thrilling journey where science, technology, engineering, and mathematics come together in a burst of speed and innovation. Design and build your very own CO₂ rocket-powered car! Experience the magic of STEM as you explore aerodynamics, propulsion and precision engineering to create a sleek and high-performance vehicle. Who will be the winners of this year's STEM challenge?

Activity: Cray Fishing	
Teachers: Mr Streatfeild-James	
Max No: 10	Cost: approx.: £4

The river Frome is full of crayfish (like lobsters but smaller). We'll spend half a day catching them, then either release them or – if we're feeling brave - cook them and make crayfish sandwiches. Last time we went we caught nearly 200!

We'll also toast some marshmallows over a fire and, almost certainly, get very wet!

Activity: Creative Writing	
Teachers: Miss Gilvin and Mrs Foster	
Max No: 30	Cost: Free

Spend some time nurturing your creativity. We will spend time during the day planning a creative writing project (individually or in groups), having some time to write and think, and then (for those who feel brave enough) sharing work and ideas at the end of the day.

We will explore a range of different creative writing prompts and styles, drawing our inspiration from sources like nature writing, film writing and travel writing.

Activity: Film Making – 2 Day Activity	
Teachers: Mrs Bray, Mrs Johnson, Mr Le Brocq	
Max No: 12	Cost: Free

This is a school-based activity in which you will plan, story-board, film and edit a 30 secs - 1 minute teaser trailer for a film genre which creates a series of narrative enigma codes (mysteries). The following is an example of what the days may look like:

DAY ONE

- Plan the overall plot of your film – what sub-genre of film do you want to make? Mainstream or Independent? What is roughly going to happen?
- Storyboard your trailer – consider a range of different camera angles and sounds. How are you going to show snippets of your film without giving away the whole plot?
- Film your trailer using props, make-up and lighting. You may bring in props from home.

DAY TWO

- Edit your footage and create a 30 second teaser trailer ready for showcasing at the end of the day.

Activity: Cryptography, puzzles & Brain Teasers	
Teachers: Miss A Taylor	
Max No: 30	Cost:Free

You don't always need specialist knowledge to break codes but you do need certain skills, many of which can be developed with practise and are also vitally important to navigating everyday life, learning and future employment. This activity is designed to test and develop your problem solving skills, imagination, logic skill, critical thinking, perseverance, language skills, mathematical skills, resilience, patience, patience and planning skills.

Activity: Hiking	
Teachers: Mrs Brooks, Mr Wigmore and others	
Max No: 25 per day	Cost: £2 voluntary donation

Students will undertake a walk of approximately 10 miles in the local area over the course of the entire school-day. This will be using footpaths, tracks, towpaths and some smaller roads and then having a long lunch break in a scenic spot. We will visit local rivers, canals and woodland and explore paths around Bradford-on-Avon, Tellisford, Avoncliff and Rode. Students will need to ensure they have suitable footwear for walking in mud and over a long distance. They should also be prepared for extremely hot, wet or cold weather. A good packed-lunch and snacks for the walk will be required and at least 1 litre of water, 2 if the weather is hot

Activity: Celebration of El Dia de los Muertos	
Teachers: Mrs Borrego-Real, plus 1	
Max No: 15	Cost: Free

A celebration of El Dia de Los Muertos.

An in-depth examination of the Mexican festival Day of the Dead which will involve a study of the film The Book of Life or Coco, a discussion about the history and meaning of the festival and various crafts relating to “las ofrendas”, culminating in a presentation of what we have produced.

We will also study other South American traditions through some clips from the film “Encanto”.

Activity: JOG Racing School	
Teachers: Mr Roberts	
Max No: 15	Cost: £38

Fancy yourself as the next Lewis Hamilton??? All the gear but no idea? Why not come and learn how to be a racing driver. Come and experience full training on: Racing lines(the fastest route), how to set up a race car, defensive driving, overtaking, health and safety then put all that into practice with 3 timed 10 minute sessions at M4 Karting with a certificate for completion of JOG Racing School and trophy for fastest time of the day.

Activity: Mr Little's Day of Games	
Teachers: Mr Little	
Max No: 20	Cost: Free

Join Mr Little for some friendly competition and team games and quizzes at different locations around the school site.

Think Taskmaster meets Crystal Maze meets House of Games.

You will need to be in P.E. kit and bring water/suitable jackets or hats for the weather.

Activity: Musical Theatre School	
Teachers: Miss Reagan	
Max No: 30	Cost: approx. £3.00

Calling all Musical Theatre Fanatics. We have an exciting opportunity for you. Alongside a specialist company, Fun-tastic Performers, and a specialist teacher you will be singing, dancing and acting all the best Musical Theatre bops you can think of. Come along to have an excellent day.

Activity: Ninja Warriors	
Teachers: Mrs Clark	
Max No: 48	Cost: approx. £28.00

Do you have what it takes to be a Ninja Warrior? Tackle our fun-packed courses and inflatables inspired by the hit ITV show and find out.

Ninja Warrior UK Bristol is also home to the brand new Mount Sasuke climbing tower and slide.

Price includes a 2-hour session and ninja socks.

Activity: Paulton's Park	
Teachers: Mr Lee plus 3 others	
Max No: 24	Cost: approx: £31.50

Paulton's Park will give the students a chance to enjoy roller coasters, thrill rides, family rides, indoor and outdoor play areas, water splash parks, entertainments and an astonishing collection of birds and animals at their amusement park.

Activity: Patisserie Day	
Teachers: Mrs Beatie, Mr Lacelles	
Max No: 11 for each day	Cost: £3

We will have the opportunity to design and make a range of petite patisserie products.

We will spend all morning designing and making a range of sweet patisserie products from mille-feuille to raspberry religieuse. You will then spend the remainder of the day designing and making decorative packaging to take your patisserie home in.

Please ensure for this activity that long hair is tied back; appropriate clothing and footwear is worn and along with an apron.

We will be using dairy and wheat within all products made.

Activity: Sports Festival	
Teachers: Mr Smith, Mr Walker, Mrs Bodman, Ms Acheson, Miss Lewis, Mr Merriman, Mr Dunbar	
Max No: 80	Cost: Free

A day of sports competition, in teams you will compete in a rotation of sports activities throughout the day:

1. Benchball
2. Rounders/softball
3. Football
4. Capture of the Flag
5. Inflatable fun

Activity: Steel Drum Workshop	
Teachers: Mrs Maguire plus one other	
Max No: 12 each day	Cost: Free

Come and be transported to the Caribbean for the day and learn to play in a steel drum band! No experience is required. You will learn how to play the different steel drum instruments and put together well-known songs as part of a steel drum band.