



THE  
SWANAGE  
SCHOOL

# CHALLENGE WEEK

JULY 2025



Challenge yourself:  
it's the only path which leads to growth.

Morgan Freeman



# CHALLENGE WEEK

## What's it all about?

As most of you will know, during the last week of the Summer Term we dispense with the timetable so that all students can benefit from a week of trips and experiences. During Challenge Week, we offer a range of options, some involving residential stays and others based from home, across a range of interests and at various price points.

Each Challenge has activities spread over four days (Monday to Thursday) and we come back together in school on the Friday for a whole-school assembly and presentations, before breaking up for summer at 1.30pm on 18th July 2025.



### How to choose:

Trips are open to all year groups and your choice will probably boil down to the best fit between your interests, new things you'd like to experience, things you know you'll enjoy and cost. Discuss the options with your family and chat to your friends. Whilst you might prefer to be together with your friends, please remember that if your friends aren't keen on the same Challenge as you or you don't all get your first choice, you can still have a great time when you are busy with activities and getting to know other people. This is part of the Challenge!

Rather than choosing something you're already familiar with, why not opt for something slightly out of your comfort zone and challenge yourself to learn or experience something new?

Parents/carers: Please see the inside back cover for a note on costs and affordability, along with details of the sign-up process.

# London: Film

Maximum 40 students, led by Mr Kirkham



## Itinerary

- Mon** Arriving at school at the usual time of 8:30, we travel by coach to Bournemouth, where we'll watch a film at the BH2 Odeon before having lunch. Return time tbc.
- Tue** We meet early at Wareham Station for our train to London Waterloo. We'll make our way by tube to the Royal National Hotel, where we'll check in before heading out for a spot of shopping in Oxford Street. Dinner will be at The Hard Rock Cafe before we go to the theatre to see 'The Lion King'.
- Wed** A day in London, including a Paddington walking tour, dinner at Pizza Express and a movie in the West End.
- Thur** We check out of our hotel and spend the morning at The Tower of London, before heading home on the train.
- Fri** At school for a whole school assembly / presentations. Term ends at 1.30pm.

Due to demand last year, we have extended the capacity of our film and media trip to take 40 students! The week includes a TWO-NIGHT RESIDENTIAL stay in London (Tues, Weds), with a theatre trip to see the musical version of 'Lion King', a Paddington themed walking tour and two cinema visits.

## Price includes

- 2 nights accommodation at the Royal National Hotel: [www.imperialhotels.co.uk/hotels/royal-national-hotel](http://www.imperialhotels.co.uk/hotels/royal-national-hotel)
- 2 breakfasts, 2 packed lunches, 1 lunch, 2 dinners.
- Tickets to The Lion King, Lyceum Theatre: [www.thelionking.co.uk/](http://www.thelionking.co.uk/)
- Walking Tour (Paddington themed).
- Tower of London entry and education session.
- Two cinema trips: Bournemouth and West End.
- All travel: return train from Wareham to London, tubes, coach to Bournemouth.



## You will need

- Spending money, and money for refreshments.
- Packed lunch for Tuesday.
- To pack really light in a backpack!

NOTE! Exact itinerary details and days may change as final arrangements are made, as may the staff accompanying the trip.

**COST** £535

Cost for students eligible for FSM £428

**Deposit** £100

# 2 London: Theatre

Maximum 40 students, led by Mr Peake

Each year, this is a popular choice in our Challenge Week offering. This year it again includes not just one, but two musical theatre shows: 'Mamma Mia' and 'Wicked The Musical', and a 'Wicked' musical theatre workshop. This Challenge is a TWO NIGHT RESIDENTIAL, staying at a Central London hotel. When back in Swanage, it will be time to rehearse and perform a flash-mob!



## Itinerary

- Mon Meet at Wareham station for the train to London Waterloo and then on by tube to check into our hotel. We'll have lunch and a bit of free time, before heading to dinner and the first of our musical theatre shows: 'Mamma Mia'.
- Tue After breakfast at the hotel, we have the morning to explore or shop. In the afternoon we have a 'Wicked' themed musical theatre workshop led by Danceworks. After dinner, we then see 'Wicked The Musical'.
- Wed We check out of our hotel after breakfast and head to the Thames for a river cruise, after which we start making our way home, where parents/carers will meet us at Wareham station.
- Thur In school, we rehearse a flashmob, which we will perform in Swanage followed by a fish & chip lunch.
- Fri At school for a whole school assembly / presentations. Term ends at 1.30pm.

## Price includes

- 2 nights at The Royal National Hotel (single-sex rooms). [www.imperialhotels.co.uk/hotels/royal-national-hotel/gallery](http://www.imperialhotels.co.uk/hotels/royal-national-hotel/gallery)
- Ticket for 'Mamma Mia' at The Novello Theatre [www.mamma-mia.com](http://www.mamma-mia.com)
- Ticket for 'Wicked the Musical' at The Apollo Victoria Theatre: [www.wickedthemusical.co.uk](http://www.wickedthemusical.co.uk)
- Musical theatre workshop with Danceworks
- Return train travel from Wareham to London and tube travel.
- 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 2 dinners, fish & chips.

## You will need

- Packed lunch for Monday.
- Money for spending and refreshments.
- Comfortable shoes for walking and to pack very lightly!

NOTE! Exact itinerary details and days may change as final arrangements are made, as may the staff accompanying the trip.

**COST** £535

Cost for students eligible for FSM £428

Deposit £100

# 3 The Swanage Surfers

Maximum 30 students, led by Mr Butler

Our popular surf camp Challenge returns for another fun THREE-NIGHT RESIDENTIAL in Pembrokeshire, Wales, where you can learn to surf from scratch. Our accommodation will be the St Davids Bunk Barns, with stunning sea views, direct access to the Coast Path and within easy walking distance of the beach and the centre of St Davids. Surf tuition and other activities, including coasteering and coastal kayaking, will be provided by The Real Adventure Company. To take this Challenge, students must be confident in the water and be able to swim.



## Itinerary

- Mon Travel by minibus to St Davids in Wales and settle into our accommodation. Meet The Real Adventure Co for 'intro to surfing' sessions.
- Tue Our sessions with The Real Adventure Co instructors include 'Basic Surf Skills', coasteering and coastal kayaking. After dinner, we'll go bowling and either have snacks in the bowling alley or grab a McDonalds if we're still hungry!
- Wed Progression surf sessions and beach activities during the day. We'll have a last night party with outdoor games, quiz and chill time for the last evening.
- Thur After breakfast and packing, we travel back to Swanage, having lunch on the way and arriving early evening.
- Fri At school for a whole school assembly / presentations. Term ends at 1.30pm.

## Price includes

- 3 nights' accommodation at St David's Bunk Barns (single sex rooms). [www.stdavidsbunkbarns.co.uk/accommodation](http://www.stdavidsbunkbarns.co.uk/accommodation)
- 5 sessions with The Real Adventure Company, including surfing tuition, coasteering and coastal kayaking. [www.therealadventurecompany.com](http://www.therealadventurecompany.com)
- Bowling. [www.phoenixbowl.co.uk](http://www.phoenixbowl.co.uk)
- 3 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 3 dinners at St Davids Bunk Barns, plus a McDonalds. Some snacks included.
- Equipment, including surfboards and wetsuits.
- Surf team t-shirt.

## You will need

- Swimwear and towels.
- Warm layer/s.
- Old trainers you can get wet (beach shoes aren't robust enough) AND a change of shoes.
- Spending money for refreshments.
- Packed lunch\* for Monday.

NOTE! Exact itinerary details and days may change as final arrangements are made, as may the staff accompanying the trip.

\*Students who receive free school meals will be provided with a packed lunch.

**COST** £440

Cost for students eligible for FSM £352

**Deposit** £80

# 4 Adventure Activities

Maximum 30 students, led by Dr Tratt

A combination of land and water based activities based locally and in conjunction with Cumulus Outdoors. Running over 4 full days, the activities will give you an opportunity to try new things and get the adrenaline flowing so it's a great Challenge if you love being active and trying new things! It includes a day at the Dorset Water Park to tackle the inflatables and the mud trail!



## Itinerary - days may switch

Each day Cumulus will collect the group from school and return to school for 3.15pm.

- Mon Coasteering and climbing.
- Tue Raft building and paddleboarding.
- Wed High ropes and orienteering.
- Thur Tackle the inflatables and mud trail at Dorset Water Park.
- Fri At school for a whole school assembly / presentations. Term ends at 1.30pm.

## Price includes

- 4 days of activities with Cumulus Outdoors. [www.cumulusoutdoors.com/schools-youth/adventure-activity-days/](http://www.cumulusoutdoors.com/schools-youth/adventure-activity-days/)
- Minibus transport.
- Safety and other specialist equipment including wetsuits if needed.
- Entry to Dorset Water Park and Mud Trail.

## You will need

- Packed lunch\* each day.
- Swimwear, towel and water shoes for water based activities. Old trainers or similar and old clothes for the mud trail.
- Comfortable clothes you don't mind getting dirty.
- Change of clothes every day.



NOTE! Exact itinerary details and days may change as final arrangements are made, as may the staff accompanying the trip.

\*Students who receive free school meals will be provided with a packed lunch.

**COST** £210

Cost for students eligible for FSM £168

**Deposit** £50

# 5 Rockley Sailing & Watersports Experience

Maximum 15 students, led by Mr Dallimore

Run by Rockley, our Watersports Challenge will give you a chance to try kayaking, paddleboarding, windsurfing, raft building and sailing. Whether you are a complete beginner or not, this trip is suitable for you if you can swim a bit and don't mind getting wet!

## Itinerary

Each day we travel by minibus to Rockley Park for a 9.30am arrival. The day ends at 4pm, so we should be back in Swanage by 4.30-5pm.

If there is a lack of wind on any day, we'll take a boat trip on a lugger up the Wareham channel and have fish & chips on Wareham Quay.

- Mon On our first day we'll try dinghy sailing, including tuition if needed or a race within Poole Harbour.
- Tues Appreciate Poole Harbour from a different angle, by kayak, either on your own or in a shared boat, and with challenges set by your instructors.
- Weds Try your hand at SUP – stand up paddleboarding – or improve your skills if you have prior experience. Then get ready for the MEGA-SUP!
- Thur Take on the challenge of staying afloat and navigating a course on a raft that you've built!
- Fri At school for a whole school assembly / presentations. Term ends at 1.30pm.



## Price includes

- Multiple water based activities over 4 days, see: [www.rockley.org/watersports](http://www.rockley.org/watersports)
- All safety and other equipment, including wetsuits.
- Minibus transport to and from Rockley Park (Poole) each day.



## You will need

- Packed lunch\* and snacks each day (the cafe at Rockley will be open – only takes cards).
- Wetsuit shoes/old trainers you don't mind getting wet, swimwear and towel. Rash vest and swim shorts might be useful.
- Change of clothes every day.

NOTE! Exact itinerary details and days may change as final arrangements are made, as may the staff accompanying the trip.

\*Students who receive free school meals will be provided with a packed lunch.

**COST** £215

Cost for students eligible for FSM £172

**Deposit** £45

# 6 Theme Parks

Maximum 56 students, led by Miss Barry

A fun-packed week for adrenaline junkies! Heading out from school each day by coach, we will be making the most of local theme parks and activity centres - including Splashdown, Go Ape, Flip Out and Paulton's Park.



## Itinerary

- Mon** A 3-hour session at Splashdown, making the most of the 13 flume rides! Are you up for the Screamer, the Zambezi Drop or Velocity?
- Tue** Go Ape at Moors Valley is our destination, where we'll have a go on the Treetop Adventure high ropes course as well as play Baboonzled, a game of physical and mental challenges against the clock. We'll also have time for some team building games.
- Wed** Today, we take on the trampolines, drop slides and inflatables at Flip-out in Southampton.
- Thur** For our final day out, we're off to Paulton's Adventure Park.
- Fri** At school for a whole school assembly / presentations. Term ends at 1.30pm.

## Price includes

- Entry to Splashdown, Go Ape, Flip-out and Paulton's Park:  
[www.splashdownwaterparks.co.uk/poole/](http://www.splashdownwaterparks.co.uk/poole/)  
[www.goape.co.uk/locations/moors-valley](http://www.goape.co.uk/locations/moors-valley)  
[www.flipout.co.uk/locations/southampton](http://www.flipout.co.uk/locations/southampton)  
[www.paultonspark.co.uk/](http://www.paultonspark.co.uk/)
- Coach travel each day



## You will need

- Spending money for refreshments.
- Packed lunch each day\*
- To wear comfortable clothes and shoes. Swimwear and towel for Splashdown.

NOTE! Exact itinerary details and days may change as final arrangements are made, as may the staff accompanying the trip.

**COST** £140

Cost for students eligible for FSM £112

**Deposit** £30



# 7 Skatepark Grand Tour

Maximum 15 students, led by Mr Hamilton

The Skatepark Grand Tour takes in four different skateparks in the local area, enabling you to build confidence, learn new tricks or perfect existing ones on skateboard, scooter or skates. Skateboard coaching is included at The Front Skate Park and you could arrange lessons at Prevail Skate Park if you wish. Sorry, no BMXs as they won't fit in the minibus!



## Itinerary

Each day you arrive at school at the usual time of 8:30 and we then travel by minibus to our skatepark destination for the day, returning by 3.20pm. Note, the order of the visits may differ:

Mon	Mystery skatepark, voted for by the group!
Tue	Streetlight, Wimborne
Wed	The Front Skatepark, Weymouth
Thur	Prevail Skate House, Poole. We'll stop for a McDonalds on the way home.
Fri	At school for a whole school assembly / presentations. Term ends at 1.30pm.

## Price includes

Sessions at:

- [Streetlight, Wimborne:](http://www.streetlightproject.org.uk/)  
[www.streetlightproject.org.uk/](http://www.streetlightproject.org.uk/)
- [The Front Skate Park, Weymouth, incl. coaching.](http://www.weymouthskatepark.co.uk)  
[www.weymouthskatepark.co.uk](http://www.weymouthskatepark.co.uk)
- [Prevail Skatehouse, Poole.](http://www.prevailskatehouse.co.uk)  
[www.prevailskatehouse.co.uk](http://www.prevailskatehouse.co.uk)
- Minibus transport.
- 1 McDonalds lunch.

## You will need

- Skateboard, scooter or skates, or be able to borrow them for the week.
- Helmet (essential), pads (optional but strongly recommended).
- Packed lunches\* Mon/Tues/Weds.
- Money for refreshments.



## Parents/carers will need to

- Complete consent forms for The Front, Streetlight and Prevail skate parks. Entry will not be permitted without. More information will be provided in due course and you can view the forms on the skate park websites, given above.

NOTE! Exact itinerary details and days may change as final arrangements are made, as may the staff accompanying the trip.

\*Students who receive free school meals will be provided with a packed lunch.

**COST £62**

Cost for students eligible for FSM £50

**Deposit £10**

# 8 Dorset Explorers

Maximum 14 students, led by Ms Everitt

Based from school, this Challenge will make use of our local area for days out and activities, and will involve a spot of geocaching, walks and a treasure hunt.



## Itinerary

- Mon We walk through Swanage and up to Durlston Country Park to go geocaching and enjoy a picnic lunch.
- Tues We walk to Corfe Castle along Nine Barrow Down, and journey back by the steam train.
- Weds We'll take the open top bus to Studland for a quick paddle and explore. Then with maps we find our way back to Swanage over Ballard Down.
- Thurs We'll enjoy a treasure hunt around Swanage before fish & chip lunch on the beach and a quick paddle if you fancy it. We'll watch the London Theatre group perform their flashmob.
- Fri At school for a whole school assembly / presentations. Term ends at 1.30pm.

## Price includes

- Steam train journey / bus.
- Fish & chips.

## You will need

- Comfortable clothes & shoes!
- Packed lunches\*.



## What is geocaching?

If you've never been geocaching, check out [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com)! Described as 'the world's largest treasure hunt', geocaching involves finding hidden 'geocaches' - some tiny, some not - hidden in locations found by using GPS co-ordinates. Inside the cache are likely to be silly trinkets - only take one if you bring something of your own to leave...

NOTE! Exact itinerary details and days may change as final arrangements are made, as may the staff accompanying the trip.

\*Students who receive free school meals will be provided with a packed lunch.

**COST** £32

Cost for students eligible for FSM £26

**Deposit** £5

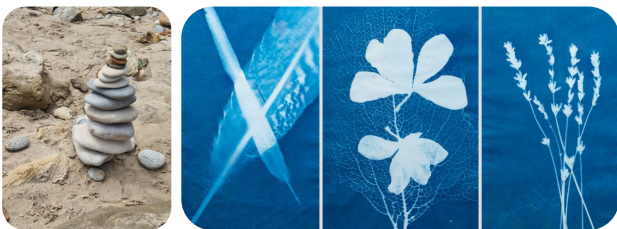
# 9 Crafty Purbeck

Maximum 14 students, led by Mrs Fawke

A week for art lovers, taking inspiration from our fantastic coastal location. We'll have two days out – a visit to the beach and a trip to Blue Pool – where we'll gather natural materials, and two days in the art room creating artwork and crafts from our finds, trying our hand at new techniques.

## Itinerary

- Mon** We'll be in the art room, where we'll make an individual sketchbook using lino-printing. We'll also needle felt some birds and start a community project (to be revealed).
- Tue** In school again today, but down in the Green Space – using pebbles, driftwood, leaves and flowers collected from the surroundings. We'll cook pizzas in the clay oven and take an afternoon walk.
- Wed** A trip to Blue Pool, where we'll walk, sketch sculptures and collect foliage for a spot of outdoor printmaking and solar printing. We'll stop for lunch in the cafe before heading back to school.
- Thur** A walk down to Swanage Beach, for a spot of beach combing, pebble stacking, photography and mindfulness. We'll have a picnic lunch and an ice cream.
- Fri** At school for a whole school assembly / presentations. Term ends at 1.30pm.



## Price includes

- Minibus and entry to Blue Pool, plus cafe lunch
- Art materials.



## You will need

- Packed lunch\* each day except Wednesday
- Old, comfortable clothes.

NOTE! Exact itinerary details and days may change as final arrangements are made, as may the staff accompanying the trip.

\*Students who receive free school meals will be provided with a packed lunch.

**COST** £27

Cost for students eligible for FSM £22

**Deposit** £5

# 10 TSS Retreat

Led by Miss Woodward

Back for a third year is our peaceful TSS Retreat week, where there is no sign of adrenaline activities, crowds or the frenetic pace of a residential trip. The programme is decided in conjunction with the group but expect relaxing mini-projects and activities throughout the day, along with some stress-busting breathing and meditation exercises.

## Sample itinerary

Within usual school hours (8:30-3:20), the itinerary is likely to be along the following lines:

Mon-Weds: In school

8.40-9.00: Breathing exercises to get the day off to a relaxing start.

9.00-10.30: Mini-project 1.

11.00-12.30: Mini-project 2.

1.20-3.20: Mini-project 3 / film.

Thurs: After some morning activities in school, we walk down to the beach for a fish & chip lunch and watch the London Theatre group perform their flashmob.

Fri At school for a whole-school assembly / presentations. Term ends at 1.30pm.

## Price includes

The cost of this Challenge is to allow for a budget to cover the cost of any ingredients, materials or activities that may be decided upon, as well as a fish & chip lunch. If the full budget is not needed, we'll get some ice creams or similar.



## Sample activities

The programme of activities will evolve between now and Challenge Week in discussion with the group, but could include things like:

- Origami
- Yoga
- Virtual museum tour
- The puzzle
- Reading
- Family recipe book
- Rock painting
- Crossword puzzles
- Designing/creating clothes
- Friendship bracelets
- Creative writing competition
- Drawing competition
- Cooking competition
- Speech competition
- Art/craft activities

## You will need

- Comfortable clothes.
- Packed lunch\* each day.

NOTE! Exact itinerary details and days may change as final arrangements are made, as may the staff accompanying the trip.

\*Students who receive free school meals will be provided with a packed lunch.

**COST** £15

Cost for students eligible for FSM £12

**Deposit** £2

# Challenge in School

Led by Mrs Humby

This is a completely free Challenge based at school and activities may vary based on the number in the group. As well as those who choose it, this option will be allocated to students who do not make a choice at all.

## Itinerary

Activities may change depending on numbers, but as a guide, the week will be along the following lines:

- Mon Complete challenges and apply for a Blue Peter badge.
- Tues Day camp: pitching tents, campfires, s'mores, pizzas, home at 3:20pm!
- Weds Movie morning. Planning and recording for The Film Review.
- Thurs Stranded! Ministry of Defence (MoD) survival and leadership training.
- Fri At school for a whole school assembly / presentations. Term ends at 1.30pm.



## You will need

- Comfortable clothes.
- Packed lunch\* each day.

NOTE! Exact itinerary details and days may change as final arrangements are made, as may the staff accompanying the trip.

\*Students who receive free school meals will be provided with a packed lunch.

**COST** £FREE

Cost for students eligible for FSM £FREE

Deposit £0

**NEVER BE AFRAID TO  
TRY SOMETHING NEW,  
BECAUSE LIFE GETS BORING  
WHEN YOU STAY WITHIN THE LIMITS  
OF WHAT YOU ALREADY KNOW.**

Unknown

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

## For parents/carers

Some Challenges are residential, some are non-residential and the cost of each is given in the information in this booklet. We have made sure there are options for a range of budgets and several Challenges are £25 or less. Discounts are available for families who qualify for Free School Meals or the Pupil Premium and the reduced prices are indicated in the trip details. All options can be paid in instalments. If you are experiencing particular financial difficulty, please speak to Mrs Heath in confidence during the sign-up process.

There are limits on the number of students who can participate in each Challenge (due to factors relating to transport, accommodation and activity capacity). Therefore, we unfortunately can't guarantee that all students will get a place on their first choice, however the majority of students will, with most of the others getting their second choice.

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## NEW SIGN-UP PROCESS! PLEASE READ

**We have changed the sign-up process this year to a 'ballot' system, rather than first-come, first-served.**

**1** Consider the Challenge Week alternatives carefully with your son/daughter. They might also like to discuss with their friends. **DECIDE ON A FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD PREFERENCE.**

**2** Complete the electronic sign-up form at any point between 5th March 2025 and 11th March 2025. **NOTE, it is NOT a first come, first served sign-up process this year.**

The form is a very simple online form that can be completed on PC or smartphone. A link to the form will be emailed to parents and it will be available on the school's website. If you have genuine difficulty completing an online form, please let Mrs Heath (Office Manager) know.

The website page can be found at: [www.theswanageschool.co.uk/challenge-days](http://www.theswanageschool.co.uk/challenge-days) or navigate the website menu: [School Life > Challenge Days/Challenge Week](#)

**3** Allocation of places will be determined by the leadership team based on a random **ballot system** (allowing for any restrictions created by single-sex sharing on residential trips). Trip lists are checked before confirming places and we reserve the right to make changes where we feel they are justified. We will contact you if we have any concerns about the way the allocation pans out that affects your child.

**4** **TRANSFERS:** Should your son or daughter wish to change their choice once places are allocated, please contact us without delay. Please note that rearrangements will be a 'best fit' approach as swaps or moves are only possible where spaces are available.

**5** **Once confirmed, the Challenge will be allocated on your ParentPay account and you will be notified by email** – our aim is to do this by the end of the day on Friday 14th March.

**6** **DEPOSITS will be due by Tuesday 18th March** and must be paid to secure the place.

**7** **The balance for all Challenges are to be paid (via ParentPay) by no later than 1st July 2025.** The balance can be paid in full or over 4 instalments (1st April, 1st May, 1st June, 1st July).



The Swanage School, 2025