

# CHALLENGE WEEK

JULY 2026



THE  
SWANAGE  
SCHOOL

# CHALLENGE WEEK

## What's it all about?

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 17th July 2026.



## 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. Challenge Week is a great way to get to know other students, from your year group and others, and mucking in together is all part of it!

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?

# 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. The school doesn't make any money from Challenge Week – all trips are carefully costed and are run at cost. We have made sure there are options for a range of budgets and discounts are available for families who qualify for Free School Meals or the Pupil Premium (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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## SIGN-UP PROCESS! PLEASE READ

The sign-up process is 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 4pm on Wednesday 4th March 2026 and midnight on Tuesday 10th March 2026.  
  
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 from 4pm on 4th March. 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** We aim to make allocations known to parents by Friday 20th March.
- 5** If happy with the allocation, **the deposit should be paid, via Parentpay, by midnight on Sunday 22nd March** to secure the place.
- 6 TRANSFERS:** Should your son or daughter wish to change their choice once places are allocated, please contact our office without delay. Please note that rearrangements will be a 'best fit' approach as swaps or moves are only possible where spaces are available. We aim to complete all transfer decisions before the Easter Holidays.
- 7 The final balance for all Challenges are to be paid (via ParentPay) by no later than 1st July 2026.** The balance can be paid in full or over 4 instalments (1st April, 1st May, 1st June, 1st July).

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

Unknown



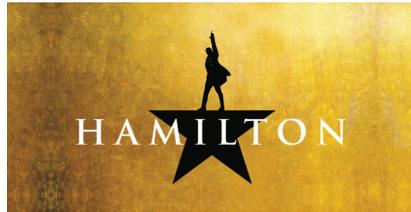
# 1

## London: Theatre

Maximum 40 students, led by Mr Peake

Explore our capital city, build your sense of responsibility, resilience and confidence through new experiences, finishing with a 'flashmob' performance in the local community.

In London, we will be seeing two musical theatre shows: the supernaturally hilarious hit 'Beetlejuice' and West End blockbuster 'Hamilton', as well as visiting one of London's scariest attractions - the London Dungeons - and one of its newest - the Paradox Museum, where we leave reality behind! This Challenge is a TWO NIGHT RESIDENTIAL, staying at a Central London hotel. Back in Swanage, we'll perform a flashmob on the seafront.



### Itinerary

**Mon** Travel to London by train from Wareham, and on by tube to check into the hotel. We have time for a spot of sightseeing before dinner and our first show ('Beetlejuice' at the Prince Edward Theatre).

**Tue** After breakfast at the hotel, we spend the day sightseeing and visiting the Paradox Museum. After dinner, we head to the Victoria Palace Theatre to see 'Hamilton'.

**Wed** We check out of our hotel after breakfast and visit the London Dungeons before travelling back to Swanage. Parents/carers 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 hotel accommodation (single-sex rooms)
- Ticket for 'Beetlejuice' and 'Hamilton'
- Entry to Paradox Museum: [www.paradoxmuseum.com/london/](http://www.paradoxmuseum.com/london/)
- Entry to London Dungeons: [www.thedungeons.com/london/](http://www.thedungeons.com/london/)
- 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 and to pack very lightly!

Exact itinerary may change.



Note: Whilst younger students are welcome on this trip, parents/carers should be aware that Beetlejuice has a PG-13 rating, so suggested for ages 13 and older.

**COST** £568

Cost for students eligible for FSM £454

**Deposit** £100

# 2

## The Swanage Surfers 2026

Maximum 30 students, led by Mr Butler

Learn to surf and take part in other watersports in this popular Challenge which returns for another fun THREE-NIGHT RESIDENTIAL in Pembrokeshire, Wales. No experience necessary, **however to take this Challenge, students must be confident in the water and be able to swim.** 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** An early start for our minibus trip to St Davids in Wales, where we will settle into our bunkhouse accommodation. Afternoon surf activities with the Real Adventure Co and a relaxing evening.
- Tue** A whole day of sessions with The Real Adventure Co, which include surfing, coasteering and coastal kayaking. After dinner, we'll go bowling and have snacks in the bowling alley and a McDonalds after.
- Wed** Progression surf sessions and watersports activities during the day. In the evening, we'll have team games and a quiz.
- 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.

Exact itinerary may change.

### Price includes

- 3 nights' 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 & 3 dinners at St Davids Bunk Barns, plus a McDonalds. Some snacks included.
- Surf Camp t-shirt.
- Equipment, including surfboards and wetsuits.

### You will need

- Swimwear, 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 (FSM lunch provided).

**COST £465**

Cost for students eligible for FSM £372

**Deposit £80**

# 3

## Adventure Activities

Maximum 30 students, led by Mr Foster

Get your adrenaline going through a combination of land and water based activities in conjunction with Cumulus Outdoors. Running over 4 full days, this outdoor Challenge will give you an opportunity to try new things and make new friends as you get competitive, work together and support each other for success. You'll try your hand at climbing,, coasteering, raft-building, kayaking, paddleboarding, target sports, high ropes, tunnelling and team games!



### Itinerary - days may switch

Each day the group will depart by minibus from school and return for 3.15pm.

- Mon Raft-building, kayaking and stand-up paddleboarding at the Rempstone Estate.
- Tue Coasteering and climbing at Dancing Ledge.
- Wed Target sports (tag archery, air rifles and axe throwing) and tunnelling at the Cumulus Outdoor Centre:
- Thur High ropes and team games at the Cumulus Outdoor Centre.
- Fri At school for a whole school assembly / presentations. Term ends at 1.30pm.

Exact itinerary may change.

### 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.

### You will need

- Packed lunch each day (will be provided for those eligible for Free School Meals).
- Swimwear, towel and water shoes for water based activities.
- Comfortable clothes and shoes you don't mind getting dirty.
- Change of clothes on watersports days.



**COST £213**

Cost for students eligible for FSM £170

**Deposit £50**

# 4

## Triathlon Challenge

Maximum 40 students, led by Mrs Corben

Calling all adrenaline junkies! Complete swim, climb and combat challenges and then face your fears at Thorpe Park with a fun challenge for the final day! Heading out from school each day, we will be taking on the Ultimate Aqua Challenge and Mud Trail at Dorset Adventure Park, filling our boots with heart-stopping activity at RockReef Ultimate Adventure and the PierZip in Bournemouth, as well as heading into combat at Nationwide Paintball in Bere Regis.



### Itinerary

- Mon Swim Challenge: tackle the Water Park and Mud Trail at Dorset Adventure Park.
- Tue Climb Challenge: take on climbing walls, the Vertical Slide, the Highline Aerial Course and the Leap of Faith with the RockReef Ultimate Adventure, and then fly into Bournemouth on PierZip – the world's first pier to shore zip wire!
- Wed Combat Challenge: engage in some fun, competitive paintball combat at Nationwide Paintball in Bere Regis.
- Thur Face your Fears Challenge at Thorpe Park!
- Fri At school for a whole school assembly / presentations. Term ends at 1.30pm.

Exact itinerary may change.



### Price includes

- Entry to Dorset Adventure Park, RockReef, PierZip, Nationwide Paintball and Thorpe Park:  
[www.dorsetadventurepark.com/](http://www.dorsetadventurepark.com/)  
[www.rockreef.co.uk/](http://www.rockreef.co.uk/)  
[www.rockreef.co.uk/pierzip/](http://www.rockreef.co.uk/pierzip/)  
[www.nationwidepaintball.co.uk/venue/bere-regis/paintball/](http://www.nationwidepaintball.co.uk/venue/bere-regis/paintball/)
- Coach travel each day.

### You will need

- Spending money for refreshments.
- Packed lunch each day (students eligible for FSM will be provided with a lunch).
- To wear comfortable clothes and shoes.
- Swimwear, towel and change of clothes for the Dorset Adventure Park, as well as old clothes and trainers you don't mind getting dirty.

Note there will be an early start and late return on Wednesday and Thursday.

**COST £167**

Cost for students eligible for FSM £133

**Deposit £45**

# 5

## Media Without Walls

Maximum 40 students, led by Mr Kirkham

See a film at the BH2 cinema, beat the clock in an Escape Room, immerse yourself into a creative day at Legoland, including a “LEGO, Camera Action! workshop, and go on a story and immersion day safari at Longleat Wildlife Park.



### Itinerary

Each day we travel by coach from the school.

- Mon Arriving at school at the usual time of 8:30, we travel by coach to Bournemouth, where we'll watch a newly released film at the BH2 Odeon.
- Tue Back to Bournemouth to the Escape Hunt (or Marvo Mysteries) Escape Room for an adventure where we have to search for clues and solve the mystery before time runs out.
- Wed Today we have an early start and head to Legoland Windsor and spend the day getting immersed in the creative opportunities. Our day will include a 45-minute LEGO, Camera, Action! workshop where you can create your own lego movie through a process of photography and animation using Stop Motion software. We will arrive back late.
- Thur We travel to Longleat Safari and Adventure Park in Wiltshire where we will tour the park with a private tour guide for a story and immersion day. It's likely to be another late return to school.
- Fri At school for a whole school assembly / presentations. Term ends at 1.30pm.

Exact itinerary may change.

### Price includes

- Cinema trip: Bournemouth
- Escape Room experience
- Entry to Legoland Windsor and educational workshop: [www.legoland.co.uk](http://www.legoland.co.uk)
- Entry to Longleat, with tour guide: [www.longleat.co.uk](http://www.longleat.co.uk)



### You will need

- Spending money, and money for refreshments.
- Packed lunch each day (provided for students eligible for Free School Meals).
- Comfortable shoes.

**COST** £136

Cost for students eligible for FSM £109

Deposit £40

# 6

## Skatepark Grand Tour

Maximum 15 students, led by Mr Hamilton

The Skatepark Grand Tour once again returns to our Challenge Week, challenging you to build your confidence in tackling obstacles and ramps.

The Grand Tour takes in four different skateparks in the local area, enabling you to 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 Skatehouse if you wish. Sorry, no BMXs as they won't fit in the minibus!



### Price includes

Sessions at:

- The Front Skate Park, Weymouth, incl. coaching. [www.weymouthskatepark.co.uk](http://www.weymouthskatepark.co.uk)
- Prevail Skatehouse, Poole. [www.prevailskatehouse.co.uk](http://www.prevailskatehouse.co.uk)
- Minibus transport.

### You will need

- Skateboard, scooter or skates, or be able to borrow them for the week.
- Helmet (essential), pads (optional but strongly recommended).
- Packed lunch each day (provided for students eligible for Free School Meals)
- Money for refreshments.

### Parents/carers will need to

- Complete consent forms for The Front and Prevail skateparks. 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.

### 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	We head to Swanage Skatepark to try out their new ramps.
Tue	Our destination today will be Blandford Skatepark.
Wed	The Front Skatepark, Weymouth
Thur	To round off our week we head to the South's leading indoor skatepark: Prevail Skatehouse in Poole.
Fri	At school for a whole school assembly / presentations. Term ends at 1.30pm.

Exact itinerary may change.

**COST £50**

Cost for students eligible for FSM £40

**Deposit £10**

# 7 Reading Retreat

Led by Miss Woodward

One for booklovers! From Swanage to Lyme Regis, explore local destinations made famous by authors and visit a bookshop at each to get inspired for some creative writing or quiet reading or book-related chat.



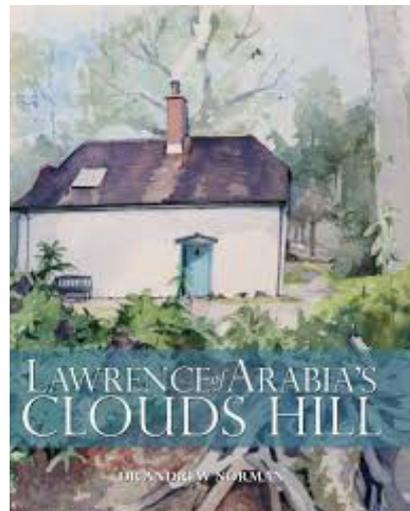
## Itinerary

- Mon** Inspired by Enid Blyton, we're in Swanage today where we'll have afternoon tea at the Grand Hotel, and visit Swanage Bookshop, Station Road and Oxfam, before heading back to school for creative writing or reading.
- Tue** Our destination today is Lyme Regis, where we'll have a browse in the two lovely Lyme Regis Bookshops and have a picnic and ice creams on the beach or in the gardens.
- Wed** We visit Dorchester, birthplace of Thomas Hardy, where we'll stop by the Hardy's Birthplace Visitor Centre and visit Hardy's Cottage. There will be time for a browse in the Antique Map and Bookshop and/or Waterstones before heading back to school.
- Thur** Today, we'll visit Clouds Hill, the rural retreat of T. E. Lawrence and visit his grave and St Martin's Church. We'll head back to Swanage beach in time to see the "London: Theatre" group's flashmob and have fish & chips.
- Fri** At school for a whole school assembly / presentations. Term ends at 1.30pm.

Exact itinerary may change.

## Price includes

- Minibus transport and parking costs.
- Fish & chips.
- Afternoon tea at The Grand Hotel.
- Ice cream / drink in Lyme Regis.



## You will need

- Comfortable shoes.
- A book!
- Packed lunch Mon/Tues/Weds (provided for students eligible for Free School Meals).

**COST** £50

Cost for students eligible for FSM £40

**Deposit** £10

# 8

## Arty Safari

Maximum 14 students, led by Miss Lardner & Mrs Fawke

A week for art lovers, taking inspiration from our fantastic coastal location. We'll have three days out in the local area, photographing and sketching as we go – a visit to Studland Bay, a walk and lunch at Blue Pool and a drawing treasure hunt around Swanage – and one day in the Art Room and Green Space.



### Itinerary

- Mon We'll spend the day in the Art Room and down in the Green Space, where we'll make an individual sketchbook using lino-printing, needle felt animals and 'solar' printing.
- Tues A trip to Blue Pool, where we'll take an arty walk, sketching sculpture and wildlife. We'll stop for lunch in the cafe before heading back to school.
- Weds Today we'll head to Studland Bay, where we hope to spend the day taking part in ecological surveys or conservation activities with the National Trust or a local wildlife or conservation group.
- Thur A walk down to Swanage, for a drawing treasure hunt, taking in the mill pond, the pier and Prince Albert Gardens.
- Fri At school for a whole school assembly / presentations. Term ends at 1.30pm.

Exact itinerary details and days may change.



### Price includes

- Entry to Blue Pool, plus cafe lunch: <https://bluepooltearooms.co.uk/>
- Refreshments at Studland.
- Minibus transport.
- Art materials and other resources.



### You will need

- Packed lunch each day except on the day of the visit to Blue Pool (provided for students eligible for Free School Meals).
- Old, comfortable clothes and shoes.

**COST** £42

Cost for students eligible for FSM £34

**Deposit** £5

# 9

## Military History of Dorset

Maximum 15 students, led by Mr Wilson

Leaving each day from school, this Challenge will explore local areas connected to Dorset's rich military history, investigating the military activity that took place there. Over the course of the week, the group will take in The Signals Museum in Blandford, exploring D-Day preparations with a visit to Tyneham and Studland Bay, a visit to Nothe Forte in Weymouth and to Bovington's Tank Museum.



### Itinerary

- Mon Travelling by mini-bus, we'll head to Blandford and visit The Signals Museum, housed inside a working Army Camp, and learn the story of battlefield communications.
- Tues We'll explore the abandoned Tyneham village, where time stopped in 1943 as all residents were ordered to leave so the armed forces could use the area for training and D-Day preparations. We'll also head to Studland Bay, where we'll discover how it was used for military operations during the Second World War.
- Weds In Weymouth, we'll visit the award-winning Nothe Fort, where we can explore the maze of underground tunnels, visit the Victorian Gun Deck, see the impressive WW2 gun on the ramparts and discover the secret underground Nuclear Bunker.
- Thurs Today we head to the Tank Museum in Bovington, where we'll benefit from 3 workshops. This modern museum which brings the story of tanks and their crews to life in a huge setting which houses over 300 tanks.
- Fri At school for a whole school assembly / presentations. Term ends at 1.30pm.

Exact itinerary and days may change.

### Price includes

- Minibus transport.
- Entry to The Signals Museum <https://www.royalsignalsmuseum.co.uk/>
- Entry to Nothe Fort <https://nothefort.org.uk/>
- Tank Museum entry and workshops <https://tankmuseum.org/>

### You will need

- Comfortable clothes & shoes!
- Packed lunches each day (provided for students eligible for Free School Meals).
- Money for additional refreshments/snacks.



**COST** £35

Cost for students eligible for FSM £28

**Deposit** £5

# 10 Eco Challenge in School

Led by Mrs Humby

This is a low-cost Challenge based at school for three of the days and at the beach for the fourth. 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.

An eco theme will run throughout the week, with a focus on reusing, recycling and upcycling materials. Last year's popular fashion show will return and students will have the chance to create and pitch a product in our very own Dragon's Den.



## Itinerary

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

- Mon Going even bigger and better than last year, we'll stage an upcycled and recycled fashion show.
- Tues Using the Green Space, we'll channel our inner Eco Warrior and create outdoor artworks and sculptures.
- Weds Get ready to pitch in our crafty Dragon's Den!
- Thurs A litter pick and picnic on the beach, where we'll watch the "London: Theatre" group's flashmob.
- Fri At school for a whole school assembly / presentations. Term ends at 1.30pm.

## Price covers

- Prizes and resources, with any balance being used for refreshments at the beach.

## You will need

- Comfortable clothes.
- Packed lunch each day (provided for students eligible for Free School Meals).

**COST** £5

Cost for students eligible for FSM £5

**Deposit** £1



IF YOU DON'T CHALLENGE YOURSELF,  
YOU WILL NEVER REALISE WHAT YOU CAN BECOME.

