

Plan for G & T day at Dover Castle
Alison Cook & Sue Parsons

16x Y5 pupils, 4 adults – 4 pupils each from 4 schools:

- Joy Lane CP
- Reculver CEP
- Briary CP
- Herne Bay Junior

Aim to arrive by 10.30 & leave by 3.00

Theme for the day: cross-curricular Geography & History
National Security Past & Present.



Children will be taking on the role as security agents, charged with advising the government re. necessary arrangements for an 'International Summit' to be held at Dover Castle's keep in the near future. (The keep is currently closed for any access)

The activities are deliberately planned to *avoid* the need for worksheets & clipboards, instead relying on thinking skills, the application of knowledge, problem solving, collaborative working & fun!.

- On arrival at Constable's Gate, stay as whole group & tour battlements (anti-clockwise) to gain general overview of site & get a 'feel' for its defences. AC/SP to give brief history of its development – defence strategies employed, methods of attack in the past and locational features ("Key to England")

Materials for each group – reference pictures of defence features, timeline pictures of development of castle site, coloured oblique view of castle with key showing named locations.

- Group tour of the Medieval Tunnels

LUNCH (& shop) – near to keep area

Play Dictaphone tape of message from HQ explaining 'mission' for the day (Mission Impossible music in background) Children instructed to put sunglasses on at this point!
Whole group to split into 4, with 1 adult per group

- 4 secret messages have been intercepted by English Heritage which seem to threaten the safety of the VIP delegates to the forthcoming Summit

As security agents, they will be given the task of solving/decoding the messages & working out which part of the site the possible attack is going to be made at. They then will need to go to this site & note protective features found there (+ points) and any possible weaknesses that will allow easy access/attack (- points). Each group will need to make suggestions of possible security modifications needed.

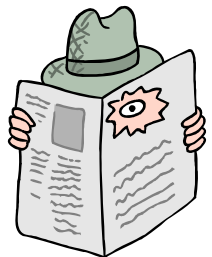
- On returning to keep area, each group is to report back on their findings & recommendations & decide on best security strategy to suggest to HQ:

What needs to be in place before the day of the summit?

How will the VIP's gain access to the keep safely?

What route should they escape through in an emergency?

Where should the security agents be posted on the day? (limit the number, to encourage debate)



Practicalities

- If possible, on entry to castle grounds, one adult needs to break away from group & give package of messages to member of English Heritage staff, so that they can play along with the role & deliver to us at lunchtime.
- **Equipment needed: each group to have package with... oblique line drawing of site, satellite photo of site, road map of locality, compass, 4 notepads & pencils, badges denoting group names. Plus each group to get own gizmo to help with fact-finding or reporting back, and intercepted message:**
- Group 1 – ‘Roman Raiders’ badges, camera, cryptic message = SIEGE SITE ie spur casements (possibility of underground attack?)
- Group 2 – ‘Medieval Marauders’ badges, Walkie-talkies, cryptic clue = RAMSEY’S CROWSNEST ie Admiralty Lookout (attack from the sea?)
- Group 3 – ‘Tudor Tormentors’ badges, video camera, clue = map co-ordinates for Avranches Tower = (096,300) (land-based attack?)
- Group 4 – ‘WWII Warriors’ badges, binoculars, anagram clue = SHAPOR, ie Pharos (susceptible to air attack?)

What happened on the day.



Getting ready for our mission and studying the map of the castle.

Investigating the defences at Admiralty Lookout



A plenary session to discuss our findings



Mission accomplished!

Some quotes from the children

"Awesome"

"It was the best day of the year, I really enjoyed it!"

"It was a memorable experience and I loved the spying."

"The day at Dover Castle was fun and I especially enjoyed being a secret agent."

"It was very enjoyable and a good learning experience"

The day, *National Security Past & Present*, was very successful in enabling these Gifted and Talented children to develop their historical and geographical skills in a problem solving task. Everything went according to plan and the other adults accompanying the children were extremely impressed with the project and its outcomes.