

11 January 2011

Dear Parents

Re: Year 12 Biology Visit to the Hunterian Museum and Guy's Hospital, London.

I am planning to take a group of our Lower Sixth Biologists to the Hunterian Museum at the Royal College of Surgeons and then on to Guys Hospital in London, on Wednesday 2 February 2011. The trip will be limited to 20 pupils and will be of particular interest to those pupils hoping to follow a career in medicine, dentistry or veterinary science, although any lower sixth Biologists are very welcome to join us.

The Hunterian Museum is inspired by the life and work of the surgeon John Hunter (1728-1793).

“Following his return to England in 1763 Hunter became engrossed in the scientific research that came to characterise his approach to surgery. In 1774 Hunter began to give lectures to students on the ‘Principles of Surgery’. In 1783 he moved to a large house in Leicester Square where he built a museum to house his ever-growing collection. At the time of his death in 1793 he was regarded as one of the leading medical figures of his generation, and the pioneer of a new style of scientific surgery. His museum was regarded as being of such importance that it was purchased by the government and presented to the Royal College of Surgeons of England”. (www.rcseng.ac.uk)

We shall also visit the Tissue Engineering laboratory (Kings College Dental Institute at Guy's Hospital) at the invitation of Dr Luciana di Silvio, Reader in Tissue Engineering. We hope to have a tour of the laboratories and listen to presentations by researchers and clinicians describing their “bench to bedside” research in regenerative medicine. The focus of the laboratory is on stem cells and cell-seeded scaffolds systems for soft and hard tissue regeneration, including the engineering of intervertebral discs and bone grafts for maxillo-facial and orthopaedic applications.

We will be leaving PGS at 08.00 to travel to London by train and intend to return to PGS by 18.00. Pupils will be required to travel as a group and will not be permitted to embark the train at any station other than Portsmouth Harbour on our outward journey. On the return trip, however, pupils may disembark at other stations ONLY if they provide written parental permission before the day. Pupils will be required to purchase their own rail tickets, allowing them to take advantage of individual railcards if appropriate. Previously, the cost of the train ticket has been around £20 per person and I expect it to be similar this year (although allowance may need to be made for any recent fare increases that have occurred).

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Although there is no charge for entry to the museum, pupils will need to bring enough money to cover the cost of their rail fare and their lunch (should they decide not to bring a packed lunch instead). The PGS Biology Department will be making the suggested donation to the museum.

If you would like your son/daughter to visit the Hunterian Museum and Guy's Hospital please complete the slip and return it to me by **Friday 21st January**. Due to the limited number of places available, returns will be dealt with on a "first come, first served" basis.

If you have any questions concerning this visit, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Karen Sparkes
Teacher of Biology



To: Mrs K Sparkes, Teacher of Biology, The Portsmouth Grammar School, High Street, Portsmouth

Re: Year 12 Biology Visit to the Hunterian Museum at the Royal College of Surgeons and Guy's Hospital

Pupil name _____ Tutor _____

I give my permission for my son/daughter to attend the Biology trip on 02 February 2011.
I confirm that I have read and agree to the travel arrangements detailed above.

Signed _____ Date _____
(Parent/Guardian)