

27 April 2010

Dear Parent

Classics Trip to Greece 15 – 22 July 2011

The Classics Department is organizing a trip to Greece at the beginning of the summer holidays next year from 15 July to 22 July 2011. This trip is open to any pupil in the Senior School, although priority will be given to those studying Classical Subjects (Greek, Latin or Classical Civilisation).

The party will first fly to Athens and will stay at Glyfada, a seaside resort nearby. A coach will take us into Athens to visit the Acropolis, the ancient religious centre of Athens. There will also be time to look round the attractive Plaka district with its winding streets and old market. After two nights at Glyfada, we will transfer by coach via the site of the Battle of Marathon (and the nearby museum complete with skeletons of battle victims) to the mountain sanctuary of Delphi.

In ancient times the area was famous as the site of the oracle of Apollo and people came from all over the Greek world to hear the prophecies of the priestesses in a cave in the mountainside. A huge complex developed, including temples, an athletics stadium and a theatre. After an overnight stop at Delphi we will then travel to Olympia the impressive site of the Ancient Olympic Games.

We will conclude our visit with three nights at the seaside resort of Tolon. Apart from being a quiet and attractive town, it is well-placed for visits to some of the main sites in the neck of the Peloponnese, the magnificent ancient theatre of Epidauros, the town of Nauplion with its medieval fort, as well the impressive mountain fortress of Mycenae. On our return to Athens for our flight home in the evening we will have a chance to visit the National Archaeological Museum at Athens where most of the major artefacts recovered from the sites we will have visited are on display and, finally, we will visit the temple of Poseidon at Cape Sounion with its spectacular views over the Aegean Sea. We intend to allow plenty of free time, particularly in the second half of the trip, for those taking part to relax and enjoy sea and sun but this will be an educational holiday and anyone wishing to joining the trip is expected to take an interest in the rich past of Ancient Greece.

We will be travelling under the auspices of Hellene Travel, a company with an excellent reputation, specializing in tours of this sort. Accommodation will be in 3* Hotels sharing, with no more than three to a room.

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To: Mr Lister, Classics Department, The Portsmouth Grammar School **(as soon as possible)**

Classics Trip to Greece 15 – 22 July 2011

Name of pupil _____ Year/Tutor _____

I would like my son/daughter to take part in the trip to Greece 15-22 July 2011. I give permission for £50 to be debited from my school account as a non-refundable deposit.

Signature _____ Date _____
(Parent/Guardian)

The cost of the trip on a half-board basis will be £730 including flights, accommodation, excursions and free entrance to all Classical sites. This price is based on a party of forty pupils.

If you are interested in your daughter or son taking part in this trip please complete the slip attached to this letter and return it to me or a member of the Classics Department as soon as possible. This has, in the past, been a very popular trip and those interested are encouraged to reply quickly.

If you have any questions about the trip, please do not hesitate to contact me (b.lister@pgs.org.uk)

Yours sincerely

Ben Lister
Head of Classics

Outline Itinerary

- Day 1 Friday 15 July** Depart Heathrow - Coach Transfer to Hotel London, Glyfada
- Day 2 Saturday 16 July** Athens – Free Day Athens with Coach. Akropolis, Theatre of Dionysus, Agora and New Akropolis Museum - Hotel London, Glyfada
- Day 3 Sunday 17 July** Coach Transfer to Delphi via Marathon Museum, Athenian Toumba and Plataean Toumba and working Byzantine Monastery of Ossos Loukas. - Delphi Hotel
- Day 4 Monday 18 July** a.m: Delphi Sites and Museum. Transfer to Hotel, Olympia H/B via heritage port of Galaxidi.
- Day 5 Tuesday 19 July** a.m: Olympia Site and Museums. Transfer to Hotel, Tolo
- Day 6 Wednesday 20 July** a.m: half day Coach excursion to Epidavros. Afternoon Free in Tolo.
- Day 7 Thursday 21 July** Coach excursion to Mycenae Sites and Museum, Nafplion Free in Tolo mid-afternoon onwards.
- Day 8 Friday 22 July** Transfer to Athens Airport via National Archaeological Museum, Athens and Cape Sounion