

07 July 2010

Dear Parent

Visit to NASA's Johnson Space Flight Centre, Houston, Texas and Kennedy Space Flight Centre, Cape Canaveral, Florida - Easter 2012

Following the success of the visit by PGS pupils to Kennedy SFC last Easter and the subsequent visit of the Space Shuttle crew to Portsmouth at the end of June, I would like to offer more pupils the opportunity to experience a NASA visit.

The *provisional* plan is for this to take place at **Easter in 2012**, for approximately ten days around the end of the Spring Term, which is scheduled to finish on Friday 30 March. Firm dates and travel plans cannot be finalised at this early stage.

PGS NASA 2012 will incorporate visits to both Johnson SFC in Houston, home of 'Mission Control' and NASA's Astronaut Training Facility, as well as Kennedy SFC and the Cape Canaveral Historic Launch Pads in Florida. The trip will consist of many hands-on activities and exclusive tours at both locations. There will also be a visit to see wild alligators and other animals at the Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge around the Kennedy launch pads and a day in Orlando at SeaWorld.

I will be holding a full Parents' Information Evening for this trip next term on **Tuesday 28 September at 7:30pm** in the new **Science Centre**. However, as the cost of the trip is quite high, being £2,200 at 2010 prices, I wanted to advertise as early as possible in order for anyone interested to begin budgeting for it. The trips are organised by an educational charity, The International Space Schools Educational Trust (ISSET), who can set up a monthly payment schedule to spread the costs. Being a charity they can also offer a discount if you are able to Gift Aid the payment, saving 20% of the full cost. There are also schemes for higher rate taxpayers of which ISSET can provide details, although qualifying individuals must apply to the Inland Revenue directly.

If you are interested in your child taking part in this trip then I would be very pleased to hear from you. It would be very useful if I could have an e-mail contact address so that I can add you to a distribution list for further information. This also proved to be a useful discussion forum for parents involved in the last trip. I will send out a reminder about the Information Evening at the start of the new school year, but in the meantime please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Yours sincerely

Jeremy P Thomas
Deputy Head of Physics
j.thomas@pgs.org.uk