

14 June 2010

To: All Parents of Year 8 pupils

**Year 8 PRS Trip to the London Central Mosque, Regent's Park -Tuesday 6 July 2010**

The PRS department is running an informative and educational school trip for 80 pupils in Year 8 to one of the UK's largest Mosques. The purpose of the trip is to inform pupils of what it is like to be a British Muslim worshipping in the UK today. I am sure you will agree with me that this is an important experience for all pupils and it will prove to be a very rewarding day. The Mosque receives school visits from over 10,000 pupils yearly. Many British Muslims view Regent's Park Mosque as the focus of Muslims in the UK.

The project to build Regent's Park Mosque is fascinating. Winston Churchill ordered in 1940 that £100,000 of government funding be allocating to securing a site in London as he was aware that there were more Muslims in London than any other European Capital. This is still the case. The site (with no Mosque as yet built) was officially opened in November 1940 by King George VI and the architecture of the building reflects traditional styles of Mosques that we see in the Lebanon, Kuwait, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. These countries funded the materials and erection of the Mosque and its neighbouring Islamic Centre at a total cost of 6.5 million in 1974. The building is designed to hold 4,000 worshippers, but attendance regularly holds 6,000 worshippers. Up to 50,000 visitors visit the Mosque during 2 festival periods and many have to pray in the large courtyard.

The cost of the trip is £14 which will be added to next term's fees. Pupils are required to bring a packed lunch with them. Pupils are not required to wear school uniform.

**IMPORTANT:** There is a strict code of dress for all pupils entering the Mosque. Arms must be covered (t-shirts are fine, not sleeveless), trousers must also be worn by all girls (none of the leg can be shown) and the midriff must also be fully covered. **Girls only** must cover their hair with a scarf, hat or hood. Any pupil not adhering to these requirements will be refused entry to the Mosque.

Pupils will be accepted onto the trip on a first come first serve basis. Please fill in the return slip at the bottom of this letter if you wish your son/daughter to be included on the trip. Consent forms must be completed by parents and these must be handed in to me by **Friday 25 June 2010**. Travel from PGS begins at **08.15** and we hope to return no later than **16.00**. I can be contacted during the trip on my mobile phone: the number is 07914 407781.

If you have any questions or queries regarding the trip please contact me at school on 02392 360036 Ext 240.

**Dr Ruth J I Richmond**  
**Head of Philosophy and Religious Studies**



To: Dr Richmond, Head of PRS, The Portsmouth Grammar School, High Street, Portsmouth

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Pupil Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tutor \_\_\_\_\_

I am happy for my son/daughter to attend the above visit and for the amount of £14 to be added to my school account.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent/Guardian)