

jep/ajdma

13 May 2010

To all Senior School and Junior School Parents

Dear Parents

Visit from Space Shuttle Mission Crew

I am excited to let you know that following the space mission to the International Space Station this month, Astronaut Mission Commander Kenneth Ham and the entire crew of Space Shuttle Mission STS-132 will be visiting Portsmouth on 27 and 28 June 2010.

The Space Shuttle Atlantis is set to launch tomorrow (Friday 14 May) for what will be a final scheduled mission to the world's largest floating laboratory. As you may have seen in recent media reports, a piece of Isaac Newton's apple tree is being carried on board to test the laws of gravity!

The school is being assisted in arranging the visit by a number of partners within the city as well as the International Space School Education Trust. We are in the process of finalising a programme of activities which will provide a unique opportunity for pupils – and indeed parents – to meet the veteran crew, which includes Briton Piers Sellars.

The Atlantis crew like to think of themselves as ordinary people doing extraordinary things and while their visit is, in part, designed to promote science education, their message is also a motivational one for all young people to have ambition and to fulfil their dreams.

I look forward to being in touch with further details of this exciting opportunity as soon as the programme is finalised. In the meantime, families can follow the scheduled lift-off into orbit live on the NASA website on Friday at 19:20 (BST).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam King'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'S'.