

17 May 2011

Dear Philosophers

**Year 12 & 13 PRS Trip to Paris 13 – 15 February 2012**

For the first time ever the PGS Philosophy Department is running an exciting trip to the beautiful city of Paris in February 2012. Philosophy pupils from Years 12 and 13 are invited on an *Existential Quest into the Meaning of Life*.

Join us as we embark upon an exploration of the Parisian Existentialism of the 1940s. The popularity of Existentialism from the 40s until today is thanks to the movement which blossomed in the smoke filled Parisian cafes. Three mostly French philosophers (Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir and Albert Camus) interjected existentialism into the consciousness of Western civilization. They interjected it into art, literature, counterculture, and the fabric of society.

- Jean-Paul Sartre took the traditional existential themes and injected a renewed emphasis upon meaning and human freedom. *"The thing which was waiting was on alert, it pounced on me, it flows through me. I'm filled with it. It's nothing: I am the Thing. Existence, liberated, detached, floods over me. I exist."* - Sartre
- Simone de Beauvoir was involved in politics and any number of social issues. She argued that women are as capable as men of choosing their own paths to freedom and so must transcend the forces that are oppressing them. *'We regarded any situation as raw material for our joint efforts and not as a factor conditioning them: we imagined ourselves to be wholly independent agents. ... We had no external limitations, no overriding authority, no imposed pattern of existence. We created our own links with the world, and freedom was the very essence of our existence.'* de Beauvoir
- Albert Camus set out to find meaning in an apparently meaningless world. Much of his early work is concerned with the absurd – the feeling which arises when we hopelessly try to make sense out of our irrational world. *'At any street corner the feeling of absurdity can strike any man in the face.'* Camus.

Using this Existentialist Philosophy as our starting point we will explore the beautiful sights of Paris and learn more about this exciting city and its Existentialist history.

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To: Miss J Kirby, PRS Dept, The Portsmouth Grammar School, High Street, Portsmouth

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

I would like my son/daughter to attend the above visit and I enclose a deposit of £60. Cheques should be made payable to 'The Portsmouth Grammar School'.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

(Parent/Guardian)

The trip will take place during February half term 2012 on Monday the 13 of February for three nights. The cost to each pupil is £450 which includes:

- Coach travel to St Pancras International
- Eurostar to Paris
- Full board accommodation: 3 nights Bed, breakfast, packed lunch and evening meal in a restaurant
- Trips to the Eiffel Tower, Louvre, a river boat cruise, Notre Dame, Sacre Coeur and much more
- An English speaking guide to accompany us at all times
- Metro tickets

Pupils will need to bring extra money for spending money.

If you would like your son/daughter to join us please enclose a £60 cheque (made payable to PGS) to secure a place. Places are secured by a first come first served basis. The remaining cost of £390 can be paid by cheque **by 10 November 2011** or straight away if you prefer.

If you require any further information please email Miss Kirby at [j.kirby@pgs.org.uk](mailto:j.kirby@pgs.org.uk).

Bon voyage!

Miss J L Kirby  
PRS Department