



Ripon Grammar School

1st February 2024

Dear Parent or Guardian

Religious Studies visit to London: June 2024

The Religious Studies department is thrilled to be proposing a school tour to London in June 2024. The purpose of the tour is to visit and compare Christian places of worship alongside Islamic places of worship. Both religions are studied in detail as part of the GCSE AQA course. To this effect, the tour would include a visit to St. Paul's Cathedral and Whispering Gallery alongside a visit to Regent's Park Mosque, the largest Islamic Mosque in Europe. Both visits would include a guided tour and opportunities to consider both the symbolic and spiritual aspects of the buildings. Alongside these visits, students would have the opportunity to visit The National Gallery and explore a number of examples of religious arts, looking in particular at the symbolism of good vs. evil and the concept of morality. Students would also have the opportunity to experience a West-End show (specific show to be confirmed) as well as a River Thames cruise taking in the sights of London.

The tour is scheduled to depart on **Sunday 9th June and return to RGS on Wednesday 12th June** (3 nights). I am not able to confirm the exact itinerary yet until I have final numbers, but we will be travelling to and from London by coach which will remain with us for our exclusive use throughout the duration of the tour. To facilitate the planning and logistics of this tour, I am working with NST travel company. NST have been organising school tours since 1967 and in 2021 were awarded the 'Feefo Platinum Service Award'. Further information about the travel company can be found here: www.nstgroup.co.uk

The price for this 4-day tour will be **£499**. The bulk of this is for accommodation which is very expensive in central London, especially during the summer months. Parents are requested to provide consent for their son/daughter to attend by paying a deposit of £100 using ParentPay no later than 9th February 2024. The schedule of future contributions will then be provided in a follow-up letter. Unfortunately, the tour will be cancelled if insufficient funds are collected. Financial assistance for those claiming certain benefits is available; please contact the school Finance Office for confidential advice.

Unfortunately places on this tour are limited to only 33; this is due to hotel availability. If more than 33 students pay the initial deposit by the deadline, names will be drawn randomly on 9th February; parents will have their deposits returned immediately if their child is unsuccessful in the draw. The drawing out of names will be witnessed independently to ensure fairness, should a draw be required.

Founded in Saxon Times, re-founded in 1555

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Once I have the names of the 33 students, I will then communicate further with a more detailed itinerary and schedule of payment dates provided by NST.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via email:
cornishh@ripongrammar.com

Yours sincerely

Mr H J Cornish
Head of Religious Studies

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