



Ryecroft C.E. Middle School

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Ryecroft C.E. Middle School
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20th May 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

Inspire 2019 – The Ultimate Journey

I am writing to inform you that on **Wednesday 12th June 2019**, all Year 8 pupils will be going to Lichfield Cathedral to take part in this year's 'Inspire' event. The day will be based around activities to show how faith and science can be linked and at the same time instil a sense of awe about the world we live in. As a Church school, we feel this event will help our pupils to develop spiritually, emotionally and educationally. The coach will be leaving Ryecroft at 9:00am and will return by the end of the school day and is free of charge.

Pupils are expected to wear normal school uniform and will require a packed lunch and snack for the day; however nuts, glass bottles and fizzy drinks are not permitted. A packed lunch can be provided by the school at a cost of £2.30. If your child is eligible for free school meals, a packed lunch can be provided free of charge. All orders must be placed directly with catering staff, by Wednesday 5th 2019.

The theme for the day is 'Journeys – Space, Light and Time'. Pupils will attend four workshops that will help them to develop their curiosity through questioning and the exploration of spiritual and ethical issues; empowering them to discuss and develop their understanding of the natural world.

Over three weeks the Diocese will be working with 42 schools and a total of almost 1,800 pupils plus staff. On the day of our visit one other Middle School will be in attendance.

Workshop 1 – The Cathedral, a place of awe and wonder – Journey through time

This session will give the pupils an opportunity to explore this magnificent building – a place of worship and pilgrimage over thousands of years. It will also give the pupils a time to reflect and think about the important questions of life.

Workshop 2 – Explorer Dome, Portable Planetarium – A Journey through Space

This activity is a fantastic introduction to one of the most inspiring topics we can study with the opportunity to ask big questions, explore interests and learn how to spot the constellations in the night sky. It will encourage scientific enquiry and a sense of awe and wonder. Pupils will then expand on this in a separate workshop making links to the biblical teaching of God's creation and the wonder of the universe.

The planetarium would be highly beneficial to students in developing cross-curricular links between STEM topics and religious education. This is particularly in relation to physics, the meaning of creation and the place of humanity in the universe. The planetarium activity will also enable further discussion and work in subsequent Inspire workshops, which will facilitate deep learning in encountering questions about the meaning of life for those of faith and no faith.

Workshop 3 – Journey through sound (exploration of the science of music)

The workshops will utilise song and music to explore how music aids a journey of faith. We will also look at the science of sound and how this links to the physiology of the voice and that of the organ, the main instrument used in the cathedral.

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Workshop 4 – Climate Change and Us - Journey across the continents

This will be an interactive session where the pupils will be given the opportunity to step into the shoes of a family, driven out of their home due to flooding caused by climate change. The challenge will also be there for the pupils to think about how they fit into this scenario – how are the decisions we make in the West impacting those families on the other side of the world?

The visit is open to all Year 8 pupils, but the school reserves the right to refuse participation to any pupil whose behaviour is considered unacceptable, or poses a health and safety threat to themselves and/or to others.

We hope your child has a thoroughly enjoyable day and returns to school ready to take the ideas and concepts learned forward in lessons.

Yours sincerely



Miss R Baramuszcza
Headteacher

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