



9th January 2012

Dear Parents,

On Thursday 9th February I am planning to take all year 9 pupils to Birmingham for an urban planning day.

I hope to provide pupils with an excellent insight into the various land use zones of a typical British city. In addition we shall be looking at how Birmingham City Council is attempting to regenerate both the inner city and the CBD in order to create a more environmentally, economically and socially sustainable urban environment.

As well as observing places from the coach we will also be stopping off at various locations. We shall be visiting the urban–rural fringe (Blythe Valley business park, a retail park and a modern housing estate), the vast swathes of 1930's residential inner suburbs- Shirley/ Hall Green, various parts of the inner city-Sparkbrook/Highgate/Park Central, as well as the Central Business District -Bullring/ Brindley Place.

The day will reinforce important concepts of urban morphology and planning. Pupils will need an appreciation of these concepts in order to succeed at GCSE level.

Once back at school pupils will use their fieldtrip notes and photos to help them complete their own write up.

We shall travel by coach leaving school after assembly, and will return to school by 4pm. Pupils will be accompanied by myself and one other member of staff. They should bring a packed lunch, a warm/waterproof jacket, and a small amount of change for the 'compulsory' purchase of a 'Krispy Kreme donut' in Selfridges while we are in the city centre! A camera would enable them to record images of the day.

Pupils do not need to wear school uniform but are expected to look smart as they will be representing Arnold Lodge in the public arena. They are also expected to be on their best behaviour at all times.

If you do not want your child to take part in this Geography trip please contact me directly at school. If I do not hear from you I will assume that you are happy for your child to be involved. The cost of the trip is £11.50 per pupil and you will be invoiced in the summer term.

Kind regards,

Helen Maynard