



Queen Mary's Grammar School

Headmaster: R J Langton, M A

November 2025

School trip Istanbul July 2026

Open to all students Years 10-13

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am pleased to announce details of a **unique 5 day trip to Istanbul in July 2026**. Istanbul is truly a world city where east meets west along the old silk road. Home to Byzantium, the Ottomans & the modern Turkish Republic. Istanbul is a cultural melting pot of Christian and Islamic traditions set in a vibrant, modern Turkey that is developing rapidly. We will fly from Birmingham to Istanbul and have an exciting schedule of visiting cultural, historic sites and developing students' independence skills. We will stay in the old city- in Sultanahmet and be very close to the major attractions.

The school have chosen Visions in Education to lead our trip and are financially protected by ABTA and ATOL. I have previously lived in Istanbul and know the city well. In 2024 we ran this same trip with the school. Our experienced team of staff means we are in a position to offer this extremely rare opportunity to visit a great city.

Dates: Thursday 9th July 2026- return Monday 13th July 2026

This includes the following:

- Flights and hotel accommodation in a well maintained, modern 4* hotel
- Breakfast and Dinner
- Entrance to all attractions
- Tour guide
- Comprehensive medical insurance provided by the school

Not included in the price:

- Lunch- this will be 'on the go' in the city from the numerous vendors. One lunch we shall visit a superb authentic Turkish restaurant overlooking The Golden Horn, famous for its picacho kebabs among other lovely dishes. Budget around £25.
- Turkish Visas and any passport requirements
- Any cost of inoculations or medication required for travel
- Personal spending money
- We will meet/ collect at Birmingham Airport

Flight Assumptions - Please know that air flights are not yet available for our time of travel as this is booked once the trip is confirmed and can change daily. The tour company have given us a fair assumption of applicable flight fees. If the air fees are increased above what has been included in the cost assumption, Visions has the right to increase the quote if necessary.

- **Financial Assistance**

At Queen Mary's Grammar School, we would like to enable students to take part in co-curricular activities such as this trip, and to ensure that there is no participation gap due to family circumstances. Firstly, students eligible for Pupil Premium (Bursary funding in 6th form) may receive funding of £100 per academic year. Also, The QM Foundation Bursary is another avenue of support which could part fund the trip. The school will consider other applications from families in need of financial support on a case-by-case basis. Our Avenues of Support form is available on our website and can be found [Here](#)

Below is the provisional itinerary.

Day 1: Arrival into Istanbul. Transfer to accommodation and free time to acclimatise and rest before dinner

Day 2: Tour of the old city; Sultanahmet: the Roman Hippodrome, Hagia Sophia, the Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace. Evening: Whirling Dervish performance.

Day 3: The Grand Bazaar, visit one of the oldest Turkish delight shops in the city, panoramic city views from the 14th Century Venetian Galata Tower, Basilica Cistern - setting of James Bond films!

Day 4: AM Boat cruise up the Bosphorus PM: choice- opportunity to pray in Blue Mosque or visits in Sultanahmet.

Day 5: Return to the UK

The cost of the trip £1,465 and the payment plan is below.

Deposit due now: £275

Second payment by 1st December: £275

Third payment by 1st March 2026: £275

Final Payment by 1st April: £640

Payments can be made in smaller amounts before the deadlines shown above i.e. payments can be made over 5 months as long as payment deadlines are met. On Parent Mail, simply type in the amount you want to pay. Note, to secure a place on the trip a full deposit is required.

Please see the last page below for some images and information on the sights. Any questions, please ask.

Yours sincerely

Mr Reynolds

Trip leader & Head of History

r.reynolds@qmgm.merciantrust.org.uk

Mr Richard Langton

Headmaster



Queen Mary's Grammar School

Headmaster: R J Langton, M A

Some of the sights we will visit:



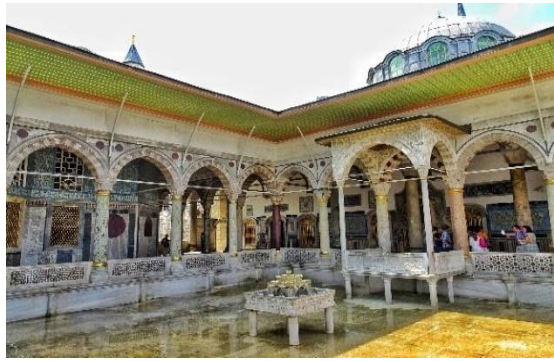
The Whirling Dervish



The 1,500 year old Byzantine Hagia Sophia



Delicious Turkish cuisine overlooking the Golden Horn. Topkapi Palace: Home to the Ottoman Sultans



Queen Mary's 2024 trip: Egyptian bazaar and looking across to Asia at The Bosphorus

Bosphorus Cruise Excursion by boat along the waterway separating Europe and Asia. The shore is lined with old wooden villas, Ottoman palaces of marble, fortresses, and small fishing villages. **RUMELI FORTRESS** Built by Mehmet the Conqueror in 1452 prior to the conquest of Constantinople.