

Astronaut Crew Visit to the UK Space Shuttle STS 124 5th to 13th September 2008



The International Space School Educational Trust (ISSET, www.isset.org) is hosting a **visit to Britain by the astronaut crew of NASA Space Shuttle STS 124**. The astronauts are touring the UK to visit schools, colleges, and communities to **inspire young people to work hard on their education and particularly to take up study and careers in science, technology, engineering, or maths**. The astronauts will also motivate young people to fulfil ambitions and dreams through inculcating the NASA 'you can do it' spirit.

The **six astronaut crew** completed their mission **to the International Space Station (ISS) in June 2008**. NASA has described their space flight as 'the nearest to a perfect mission'. The crew delivered 'Kibo' the Japanese Experimental module and robotic arm to the ISS, and the mission involved three space walks. The mission also **took a 'Buzz Lightyear' toy into space** for the first time, as part of a programme to help get students excited about science and technology.

Mission Commander Mark Kelly is a veteran of three space missions. Mark's twin brother Scott is also a space shuttle mission commander and they are the only blood relatives that have flown in space. The other members of the crew are Karen Nyberg, Mike Fossum, Ken Ham, Ron Garran, and Akihiko Hoshide of the Japanese Space Agency.

One of the highlights of the crew visit will be a presentation to over 5,000 school students at the Bradford Bulls' Grattan Stadium, making it **Britain's biggest ever space education event**.

The astronauts will also visit **London, Aldershot, Norwich, Cardiff, Port Talbot, Belfast and schools and colleges in Bradford**. They will give presentations and **meet around 10,000 students** and community representatives.

Chris Barber, Director of ISSET said "We are privileged to have the visit from an entire space shuttle crew. It is absolutely great to give girls and boys throughout the country **first hand experience of meeting astronauts who are at the heart of the world's biggest scientific project**; the human space programme. They are living role-models of how education, particularly in science and technology, can lead to out-of-this-world careers and lives."

For further details contact:

Chris Barber: 07725942513

cbarber@isset.org

Julie Woodcock: 02920710295

jwoodcock@isset.org