



ABINGDON



ST HELEN &
ST KATHARINE

From Trips Exchange Coordinator: Lee Edwards

9 February 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian

**Shanghai High School Exchange Opportunity
Friday 29 March – Friday 5 April 2019**

Shanghai has been described as the "showpiece" of the booming economy of mainland China. It is a city renowned for its Lujiazui skyline, museums and historic buildings: the Bund, as well as the City God Temple and the Yu Garden. Abingdon School is collaborating with the School of St Helen & St Katharine (SHSK) to undertake a new opportunity to carry out an exchange with students from Shanghai High School (SHS). Students will be able to experience the sights, sounds, language cuisine and culture of this exciting global city. Students from Shanghai High School will first visit Abingdon from Monday 1 to Tuesday 9 October 2018 (exact dates to be confirmed). Abingdon and St Helen's students will then visit China from Friday 29 March to Friday 5 April 2019 (exact dates to be confirmed with the airline). If your son would like to be part of this exciting new exchange program there would be a requirement for them to be willing to host the SHS exchange students when they come here in October 2018. The trip is open to boys in the current 5th and L6th form.

The exchange to China will enable the students from both Abingdon and SHSK to interact with the students at SHS and partake in some of the many on-campus activities/clubs. SHS (www.shs.sh.cn/shsEN.action) is very much at the forefront of the STEM subjects and is currently placed 3rd in the world for their achievement in securing entrants to Harvard university. The itinerary for the week includes a visit to Shanghai city centre and trips to Zhujiajiao, an ancient water town also known as the "pearl stream", and Pujiang, a new town with an Italian architectural theme. Aside from soaking up the culture, students will be joining in with local carnivals and visiting arts centres. At the school there are sports clubs organised, STEM subject participation - with state of the art science labs along with cultural speeches and hands-on experience of the day-to-day campus life.

The cost of the trip is £1550.00 which will include return flights from London, Chinese entry visa (£215 at the current exchange rate), entry fees to attractions, meals, travel insurance and airport transfers. Boys may wish to bring additional spending money for drinks/snacks and souvenirs. Ms Gao Zhang, Head of Mandarin, Mrs Lisa Probert, Head of Modern Languages (SHSK), Mrs Yen-Min Anderson, Head of Mandarin (SHSK) and myself will be accompanying the pupils on the trip. The first deposit is a £550.00 non-refundable cheque made payable to "Abingdon School" by Tuesday 20 February. Places will be allocated on a "first-come, first-served" basis. The balance for the trip will then be added, in two equal portions, to the summer term (£500.00) and Michaelmas term 2018 (£500) bills.

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Please note that by completing and signing the consent form, you are committing to the total cost of the trip. The non-refundable deposit will secure your son's/daughter's place, but thereafter the School will proceed to make bookings and reservations to procure the best possible deals. The payment arrangements offered are a means of spreading the cost rather than a reflection of when liabilities are incurred.

Please note that our agent advises us that the airlines have not yet published the schedules for direct flights from London to Shanghai so there is a small chance that the trip might move forward or backwards by 24 hours.

There is a minimum requirement of 16 students (8 boys & 8 girls) for this trip to proceed. In the event that we receive less interest than this I will write to you again as the cost may increase. You will have the choice, at this stage, whether to continue with the trip or receive your £550 deposit cheque back in full.

Families hosting exchange students in the UK:

Due to the UK government's update on *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (KCSiE) statutory guidance, the School is obliged to obtain a criminal record check with the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) for all supervising adults (in most cases the parents or guardians) who are resident in the accommodation where the exchange student is to stay as part of a school organised trip. The school will bear the cost of this DBS check and we will do all we can to facilitate the administration of the DBS checks. In order to complete a DBS check, all supervising adults will need to make a 15-20 minute appointment to come into school to see the HR team by Friday 18 May 2018. (The normal working hours of the HR team are 8.30am - 5.30pm Monday-Friday). This will allow enough time for the DBS check to be completed. If you have any further questions about the DBS checks, please do not hesitate to contact either Mark Hindley (mark.hindley@abingdon.org.uk) or the HR Department (hr.team@abingdon.org.uk). Once you have agreed to this process, your signature on the consent form will be confirmation that you are happy for the school to proceed with the relevant checks and that you will come into school to facilitate this by the date noted above.

Questions about the exchange should please be addressed to me at lee.edwards@abingdon.org.uk . Please also check your son's passport is valid up until 6 months after the trip returns (i.e. November 2019) and if not, apply for a new passport in due course. Please kindly then scan and email me a copy of your son's up to date passport.

Yours sincerely

Lee Edwards
Exchange Trips Coordinating Officer & Head of Army CCF
lee.edwards@abingdon.org.uk

Shanghai High School Parental Consent Form 1

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM AND THE CHEQUE TO MR LEE EDWARDS

Friday 29 March 2019 – Friday 5 April 2019 (NB: dates may move by one day, either way, depending on flight schedules which are to be announced soon)

To: Mr Edwards

I would like to book a place for the 2018/19 Shanghai Exchange trip for my son/daughter and agree to all DBS checks required by the school and will complete them by 20 May as stated.

Name: Year:

Date of birth:

(Please PRINT BELOW your son's/daughter's first name and surname **EXACTLY** as on passport, needed for flight-booking).

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I enclose a cheque for a non-refundable deposit of £550 (made payable to "Abingdon School") (refundable should the trip not go ahead due to lack of numbers). I agree to the first instalment of £500 being included on the Summer 2018 bill and the balance of £500 to be added to the Michaelmas 2018 School term bills.

Please note that by completing the consent form you are committing to the total cost of this trip, the non-refundable deposit secures your son's/daughter's place, but thereafter the School will proceed to make bookings and reservations to procure the best possible deals. The payment arrangements offered are a means of spreading the cost rather than a reflection of when liabilities are incurred.

Signed (Parent/Guardian)

Name.....

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM AND THE CHEQUE TO MR LEE EDWARDS VIA MY PIGEON HOLE IN THE MCR OR TO THE CCF HQ