



ABINGDON

Dear parent of current 5th year boys

17 May 2019

re: School Exchange Shanghai 22 – 30 May, 2020

Abingdon School has recently signed a partnership with Shanghai High School and now has the amazing opportunity to go to China as part of an exchange programme, supported by the Headmaster. This is a non-Mandarin speaking exchange where students will be able to experience the sights, amazing cuisine and culture of this exciting global city, as well as participate in the school's special science week. Students from Abingdon, current fifth year, will visit Shanghai in May 2020 with the opposite exchange taking place during Michaelmas term 2020. If your son would like to be part of this initiative there would be a requirement for them to host the exchange students in October 2020 for 6 - 8 days.

Shanghai has been described as the "showpiece" of the booming economy of mainland China, renowned for its Lujiazui skyline museums and historic buildings: the Bund, as well as the City God Temple and the Yu Garden. The exchange to China will enable the students from Abingdon to interact with the 4200 students on campus and partake in some of the many on-site activities/clubs. SHS (www.shs.sh.cn/shsEN.action) is very much at the forefront of STEM subjects and is currently placed 3rd in the world for their achievements in supplying students to Harvard. The itinerary for the week includes city visits as well as soaking up the culture by joining in with local carnivals and arts centres. Internally there are sports clubs organised, STEM subject participation along with cultural speeches and "hands-on" involvement in the day-to-day campus activities. Boys will be accommodated in the school during the week and at homestays at the weekend.

The cost of the trip is expected to be approx. £1750.00 which will include return flights from London, the required visa (£215.83 subject to exchange rate), entry fees to attractions, meals, travel insurance and airport transfers. Further costs will be incurred for additional drinks/snacks and souvenirs which are to be funded by your son. Mrs Gao Zhang, Head of Mandarin, and myself will accompany the pupils on the trip. The first deposit will be a £550.00 **non-refundable** payment to secure your son's place on the trip, payable by **(end of summer term)** the balance will then be added, in two equal portions, to the Michaelmas term (£600.00) and Lent term (£600.00) 2019/2020 school bills.

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

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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. If dates change I will email them to you. As far as the return exchange is concerned, the boarding houses are not able to host your exchange partner, so you will need to make alternative arrangements for the duration of the stay if you would like to participate.

Due to government's update on Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSiE) statutory guidance, the School is obliged to obtain a criminal records 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. 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 in the second half of the Summer Term 2020. The normal working hours of the HR team are 8.30am - 5.30pm Monday-Friday. This is to allow enough time for the check to be completed, as the completed DBS check must be received before the arrival of the Chinese party for you to be allowed to host.

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) whereas questions about the exchange should be addressed to me at lee.edwards@abingdon.org.uk

If you are interested, please return the consent slips to me with your agreement to pay the non-refundable payment for £550. There is a minimum requirement of 15 students for this trip to proceed. In the unlikely event that we receive less interest than this, the price of the trip may increase and I will write to inform you of the new price. Please also check your son's passport will be valid until after **Jun 2020** and if not, apply for a new passport as soon as possible.

If your son does participate in this trip, he is to be reminded that normal school rules apply and good behaviour is a necessity.

I hope this outlines the visit's itinerary and our expectations. I attach a parental consent form for completion and return, due back to me by 31 Jul 2019. Also attached is the safeguarding requirements for families hosting exchange students on the reverse part of the agreed exchange.

Yours sincerely



Lee Edwards
Trips Co-ordinator

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