



Dale Avenue, Hassocks, West Sussex, BN6 8LP

Telephone: 01273 845892

Facsimile: 01273 846358

E-mails: office@downlands.w-sussex.sch.uk
head@downlands.w-sussex.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr M Wignall

November 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Trip to Hangzhou Sijiqing Middle School in China

I am excited to be able to offer your son/daughter a once in a lifetime experience to take part in an exchange programme with our partnership school, Hangzhou Sijiqing Middle School in China.

The purpose of this exchange is to share experiences and cultures between both the UK and China. Chinese students will visit the UK in July 2019 and stay with your family. Your son/daughter will travel to China in October 2019 to stay with their family. Families will be paid (£17 per night) for hosting Chinese students in July; this could be put towards the cost of our return trip to China.

In order to host a Chinese student and take part in the exchange, you will be expected to provide:

- breakfast
- a hot meal every evening
- a separate bed (not bedroom) for the student
- access to WiFi
- laundry facilities.

During our trip to China, students will spend a mixture of time in our partnership school and on some exciting trips. These include:

- visits to Fuzi temple & Sun Yat Sen Mausoleum in Nanjing (travelling via bullet train!)
- a visit to explore the Longjing Tea Gardens & Village
- a cruise through West Lake in Hangzhou
- a visit to Qianjiang & the G20 venue.

Throughout the trip, students will be accompanied by Downlands staff and a representative from Asia UK Schooling, who arrange the exchange. All host families in China will be fully police checked and also visited by an Asia UK Schooling representative prior to our trip.

The dates for our visit are Wednesday 23 October to Wednesday 30 October 2019 (please note that some of this is within October half term). We will fly from Heathrow Airport; it is expected that parents will drop and collect their students from Heathrow on the above dates.

The total cost of this trip is £1060, this includes:

- flights
- payment to our Chinese hosts
- all excursions
- insurance
- school lunches in China
- gifts to our partnership school
- all transport within China.

Not included within this cost is your son/daughter's visa to visit China. **You will need to apply for this independently.** A visa costs approximately £50. I appreciate that the cost of this trip is high, however I am sure you will agree that for the experiences gained, it is a fair price. As noted above, you could also use your payment for hosting in July towards the trip.

I have a limited number of places available on this trip, and if oversubscribed, I will give priority to older students as they may not have this opportunity again. Should the trip be a success, it will run bi-annually, so younger students will have another opportunity to take part.





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If you would like to apply for a place on this trip, please return the attached reply slip by Wednesday 5 December. I will select students on Thursday 6 December and write to you then asking for a first deposit. A first deposit of £120 will be due by Thursday 13 December. **Please do not send any monies until requested too.** A payment schedule will be put in place and notified to you upon successful application.

If you have any questions, please do contact me at msmith@downlands.org

Yours faithfully

Mr M Smith
International Schools Coordinator

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Please return to the Trips Box, FAO Mr M Smith by Wednesday 5 December 2018

CHINA EXCHANGE 2019

..... Tutor Group:.....

- I would like to apply for my son/daughter to take part in the 2019 China Exchange.
- I agree to hosting a Chinese in July 2019.
- If successful, I will send £120 deposit by Thursday 13 December for our trip to China in October 2019.

I agree that my child may participate in the above activity. The school has taken out a School Journey Insurance Policy underwritten by AIG for each pupil attending this activity, though claims arising from a pre-existing condition are exempt. The policy includes fixed levels of benefits in respect of Personal Accident and Personal Property. A copy of the policy schedule is available upon request. Any claim made under this policy does not affect your statutory rights. In respect of legal liability please note the school cannot be held responsible for any loss unless negligent.

Signed:.....(Parent/Carer)

