

29th February 2016

Dear Parent/ Carer

TRIP TO CHINA, Including Beijing and Shanghai: APRIL 2017

In order to support and enhance our Year 10 and 12 wider curriculum, we are planning a once in a lifetime amazing 10 days, 9 nights residential trip to Beijing and Shanghai in China. Whilst in China we will be staying in 3* and 4* Hotels on a full board basis.

The trip will be split into 2 sections, 5 days in Beijing and 4 days in Shanghai. The transfer between Beijing and Shanghai will take place by the revolutionary Bullet Train. We will be undertaking a very wide range of trips and visits which will include, The Great Wall of China, The Forbidden City, Jade Temple and the iconic Pearl Tower, to name just a few. **See full itinerary overleaf for more information.**

Students will also have the opportunity to take part in a Tai-chi workshop, a Chinese cookery class and to see a traditional Chinese acrobatic show and Kung Fu Demonstration.

The dates for this trip are during the school Easter holiday and are planned to be from Wednesday 5th April until Friday the 14th of April 2017.

The cost of this trip includes:

Return scheduled air flights between London Heathrow and Beijing China with British Airways or similar.

All airport transfers.

3* minimum hotel accommodation in shared rooms.

A fully trained guide for the full trip.

Cost of Bullet train between Beijing and Shanghai on day 6.

All meals whilst away.

All trips and visits, entrance fees to attractions, classes and shows.

Full insurance cover.

The estimated cost for this trip is £1550 per student. **Flights for this trip have not yet been released by the airlines. If the cost increases above the stated amount parents will be given the opportunity to withdraw from the trip and all monies paid will be returned including the deposit. However deposits will be non-returnable under any other circumstance.**

Tour arrangements have been organized through Studytrips, a leading educational tour operator fully bonded by ABTA (Association of British Travel Agents) and ATOL (Air Travel Organizer's License). Studytrips are a fully assured member of STF (School Travel Forum), a group leading school tour operators that promote good practice and safety in school travel. All Full Members of the DTF adhere to a rigorous Code of Practice and Safety Management Standards that are externally verified each year by Overcoat, the UK's leading Health and Safety Consultancy specializing in Travel.

Places are currently limited to just 30 students. We are expecting this fantastic trip to be a very popular and places will be allocated on a first come – first served basis.



inspiring excellence

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If you would like your son or daughter to take part in this fantastic opportunity a deposit of £150 will be required by Monday the 21st of March 2016. All cheques are to be made payable to **Vandyke Upper School**.

If your son or daughter is successful in gaining a place on this trip you will be sent a monthly payment schedule for the remaining balance, this will be 10 payments of £130 and 1 payment of £100. Please note that the next payment of £130 will be due on the Friday the 29th of April 2016. Once the place has been confirmed, post-dated cheques or bank payments will be required for further instalments. Support may be available for those in difficult financial circumstances (from the Vandyke Opportunities Fund). For more information contact me directly.

All students need their own passport valid for at least six months after the departure date. A visa will be required for all students and staff travelling to China and we will give advice as to the best way of obtaining this closer to the visit. At the time of writing the visa cost was £80 but is subject to change.

If you require any further information regarding any of the above please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

J. Hargreaves
 Trip Leader

China Trip returns slip

Student's Name-----Tutor Group-----

I wish my son/daughter to take part in trip to China departing on 5th April 2017 and enclose a cash/cheque deposit of £150.00. Cheques to be made payable to **Vandyke Upper School**.

I understand that the deposit is non-returnable unless the costs of the trip increases above the amount stated above or in the case of a student not returning to Vandyke in September 2016. (Please tick)

I wish to make payments through the on line banking system. Please contact me with details.

Signed----- Parent/Carer. Date-----

Parent's Name, and email address -----

Parent's Contact Details -----

