



HITCHIN BOYS' SCHOOL
An Academy Trust

DW/ajp

20 May 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian

Trip to China in Easter 2018 – Current Years 7, 8 and 10

Whilst in China in 2012 and 2014 the Geography department was struck by how much opportunity exists within a tour of the country for many curriculum areas to be involved in to limit the cost and expectation on parents of each department offering various trips. Following on from several successful individual overseas trips in recent years the Music, Art, Geography and Business & Economics departments have come together to offer students who are currently in Years 7, 8 and 10 the opportunity to travel to China in Easter 2018 and experience a range of cultural, social and learning opportunities.

The trip has two main aims. Firstly, to provide students with a shared opportunity to visit some major tourist attractions that include The Great Wall of China, the Longmen Caves of Luoyang, Tiananmen Square, Beijing Olympic Stadium, Xian City Walls, The Terracotta Army, downtown Shanghai and many more.

The second aim is to provide students the opportunity to experience a whole range of cultural, social and curriculum opportunities across a range of subjects. As a result the trip will hopefully *complement* the classroom studies of A-Level and GCSE students in Music, Art & Photography, Geography and Business & Economics. However, students do not have to be studying these subjects to apply for a place on the trip. A sample of just some areas where the trip will complement classroom studies includes:

1. The rise of Shanghai as a World City (GCSE & A-level Geography and Business & Economics).
2. Visit a local school in Xian for a few hours to learn and share music and art (GCSE & A-level Art, Photography and Music plus enhancing cultural & social learning).
3. Tourism in China for the Changing Economic World & Global Systems modules of the GCSE & A-level specifications respectively.
4. An extra opportunity to visit the Peking Opera and if enough musicians attend to sing on both the Great Wall of China and the Xian City Walls for example.
5. Any artists or photographers looking to attend the trip will be able to work with Miss Edgson prior to the trip to work out how to get a portfolio of work that they might develop for GCSE or A-level.
6. Visiting a VW car plant and/or a steel factory for any Business & Economics students.
7. Visiting the financial district of Shanghai for Business & Economics students.
8. We aim to a photography competition similar to the one run by the Geography Department on their tour of Iceland last month.

The trip will last around 9 days on the ground in China plus additional flying time (about an additional day and half). We aim to leave school no more than two days before the Easter holidays begin. The trip will begin in Beijing move, onto the Longmen Caves at Louyang, then onto the ancient capital of Xian, home to the Terracotta Army, before heading into Shanghai and flying back to the UK.

Head Teacher: Mr M Brown



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We are using a UK ATOL & ABTA approved company that books flights for schools and also the same Chinese tour company as we used in 2012 & 2014. Due to the fact will not be travelling for 23 months the cost of the trip is based on the various companies current prices for 2017 adjusted for likely inflation. The cost of the trip is as all inclusive as we can make it but does include flights, full school trips insurance cover, all meals bar any at airports, accommodation, evening entertainment (to include Acrobats show & Tang Dynasty Show), fully seat belted coaches with qualified drivers, the services of an experienced multi-lingual tour guide who will stay with the group for the duration of the trip plus the services of local guides in all four cities we will visit and finally transfers to and from a UK airport. The total cost of this tour is expected to be between £1,750 and £1,800 depending on exact flight costs.

What is not included is the cost of a visa (currently £175) and some spending money. There will also be the option to purchase a tour top for around £25 and add on the Peking Opera for those interested (about £15).

I hope you will be keen for your son to participate on this rare opportunity to not only enhance his studies by learning about the emergence of a new global super-power but also to hopefully take away some wonderful experiences. If you would like your son to participate in the trip I would be grateful if you would complete the reply slip below and return it to the School Office by Friday 24th June, 2016.

Please note if we confirm your son's name on the list of those travelling an immediate deposit of £100 will become payable immediately. **The deposit is non-refundable if he subsequently withdraws and there may be other monies due to the School depending on the payment schedule to the Tour Operator or Hitchin Boys' School.** If the deposit is not received by the date specified in the confirmation letter the place will be re-allocated. Please be aware that if the trip is oversubscribed, we will hold a draw for places. Once places are confirmed I will write again with further information regarding the payment schedule. Although the trip needs a minimum of 30 places to be viable the maximum number is significantly higher (the Geography department took 62 students to China in both 2012 & 2014). The school reserves the right to withdraw a student from the trip if their behaviour in school is deemed unacceptable.

If you require financial assistance please write to the Head Teacher in confidence.

Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs A. Phillips, the schools trips coordinator, on aphillips@hitchinboys.co.uk if you have any queries regarding the above.

Yours sincerely



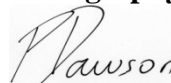
Mrs A. Hetherington
Head of Music & Creative Arts



Mrs S. Heinonen
Head of Business, Economics & IT



Miss M. Edgson
Photography & Art Department



Mr P. Dawson
Geography Department

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PLEASE RETURN THIS SLIP TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE LETTERBOX – BY FRIDAY 24 JUNE 2016 IN AN ENVELOPE MARKED WITH YOUR SON’S NAME AND ‘CHINA 2018’

I would like my son to go on the 2018 China trip and understand that returning this reply slip is a commitment to pay.

I understand that the deposit will be non-refundable if he subsequently withdraws from the trip and that there may be other monies due to the School depending on the payment schedule to the Tour Operator or Hitchin Boys’ School.

Student’s name: _____ Tutor Group: _____

Signed: _____ (parent/guardian) Date: _____