



China Exchange
Depart Friday 5th October 2018
Return Sunday 14th October 2018

Information Sheet

I had the privilege of taking our first Queen Anne Exchange trip to China in October 2016 and linking with our partner school in Tianjin. It was a highly successful and hugely enjoyed trip – for both pupils and staff. In 2017 our colleagues and friends in Tianjin will visit Queen Anne and we will return again to China in October 2018.

I have been quoted prices for 2 teachers travelling with 15 pupils and the best deal is with NST – a school travel company who I have used before and know to be reliable.

The trip will be in two parts – the first 3 days in Beijing and then transferring to Tianjin where our partner high school (Tianjin High School Number 2) is situated. Our visit to the school this year was pretty amazing.

The cost of the trip will include –

- Return flights from Scotland to Beijing
- Full board hotel accommodation in Beijing
- Entry fees to the Great Wall, Tiananmen Square, Summer Palace, Forbidden City
- A guide throughout our time in Beijing
- Coach transport for Beijing part of trip
- High speed train to transfer to Tianjin (an incredible experience)
- Accommodation in school dorms and meals in Tianjin
- Transfers back to airport for flight home
- Travel insurance
- Visa (this is currently £151 each but subject to change)

In Tianjin we would be the guests of the school so they would organise a programme of activities in their school and visits around Tianjin. These visits would include going to pupils' homes for an evening meal. All families would be police vetted and pupils would be in pairs or threes (and would not actually be staying overnight at any point). This was part of our trip in October and one of the highlights of the experience of being in China for the pupils.

The educational aims of the trip include pupils being able to immerse themselves in the language and culture of China. Pupils may already be studying Mandarin or may have an interest in China (and could do a taster course of Mandarin before we go).

I have been learning Mandarin for the past year and a half and will continue to do so right up to the date we leave – so while I may not be fluent I will have a passable amount of language skills and in both cities we will have English speaking guides (the tour guide in Beijing and teachers in Tianjin).

Cost of the trip – I have been in touch with a few companies but because it is a foreign trip I feel the best value for money and peace of mind lies with the NST quote – it's a well-established company and we would be protected were there any hitches with air-lines etc. So – **the all in cost is £2500** – this will include all entry fees, food and accommodation. Pupils would need to bring spending money on the actual trip. (The price of things in China was unbelievably cheap – at the zoo for example I bought a bottle of coke and an ice-cream and it was 70p for both!)

I am available to answer any questions you may have so please contact me via the school office or please note any queries on the attached permission slip.

There is a permission sheet attached – if you wish your son/daughter to participate in the trip please complete and they should return the form to me.

We would need an initial deposit of **£100 by the end of January** to secure a place and NST require the full payment by the last week of our summer term 2018 (this is in line with most travel companies requiring payment a certain number of weeks before travel).

The payment schedule would be

End of each month –

Jan 2017 –	Deposit 1-£100
Feb 2017 –	Deposit 2-£150
March 2017 -	Deposit 3- £150
April 2017 –	Instalment 1-£100
May 2017 –	Instalment 2-£150
June 2017 -	Instalment 3-£150
August 2017 -	Instalment 4-£150
Sept 2017 -	Instalment 5-£150
Oct 2017 -	Instalment 6-£150
Nov 2017 -	Instalment 7-£150
Dec 2017 -	Instalment 8-£100
Jan 2018 -	Instalment 9-£100
Feb 2018 -	Instalment 10-£100
March 2018 -	Instalment 11-£150
April 2018 -	Instalment 12-£150
May 2018 -	Instalment 14-£200
June 2018 -	Instalment 15-£300 (by Mon of last week of term)

The first £400 paid is the deposit and would be non-refundable if there was reason to drop out of the trip (not covered by insurance). Thereafter money will only be refundable if a replacement pupil is found to take the place on the trip.

Golden Ticket

All schools have a policy of inclusion and a national priority is the anti-poverty agenda so with this in mind there will be one fully-funded place on the trip. This will be paid for by fund-raising activities over the next year and all pupils (in the appropriate year groups) can pass their name to me if they are interested in participating in the Golden Ticket opportunity and winning a funded place – this will take the form of a ticket bought for £1. Pupils can see me for further information or to give me their name.



A Malcolm (PT English)

China Exchange Trip

Pupil Name _____ Class _____

I give permission for my son / daughter to go on the China Exchange trip in October 2018. I understand the initial deposit of £100 should be paid to the school office by end of January 2017 and have taken a note of the payment schedule.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Email address: _____ (I will set up a parent email group for those going on the trip)

Questions: _____

