

FINHAM PARK 2

A Mathematics & Computing College



14 January 2016

Dear Parent / Carer

As I am sure you will already know, as part of our International School initiatives we have been fortunate in forming a link with another school in the city of Shanghai in China. The Wei Yu Junior Middle School is situated at the heart of central Shanghai in the Xuhui District – famed for its educational expertise and university.

This link has been established with Finham Park School to allow students at Finham Park 2 to develop their understanding of what it is to live in a world where globalisation ideology will be key to their own success and that of their country in the future. In addition to this we know that developing close links with a Chinese school allows our students to share curriculum projects in a diverse range of subject areas and communicate with their peers – ultimately in Mandarin Chinese! Our visit allows students to access and understand aspects of life in modern China that would not normally be accessible to tourists from the UK.

This programme links closely to Finham Park School's 'Confucius Classroom' status.

I have managed to secure permission to take a group of students from Finham Park 2 to Shanghai during October 2016 (provisional dates are **Saturday 15th October-Tuesday 25th October 2016**). Our group will join the visit from Finham Park School students being coordinated by Mr Bailie (Executive Headteacher) and so it is likely that older students will also be part of the group, acting as role models and obviously working together to support each other during what, for many in the past has been the experience of a lifetime! During the visit we will work with Wei Yu Junior Middle School to deliver a joint project involving our students leading activities for their Chinese peers – culminating in a festival or exhibition of their work. During the visit students will have opportunities to take part in a range of visits. Past destinations have included Yu Yuan Garden; The Shanghai World Financial Centre (world's tallest viewing platform at over 100 floors!); traditional market shopping; Jade Buddha Temple; People's Square; Shanghai Museum; Pearl TV Tower to name but a few!

Clearly this is an outstanding opportunity for your child to travel to China as part of Finham Park 2's first visit to our partner school.

To proceed with our plans, I will need an indication of interest. I am currently trying to secure additional sponsorship to support the trip. Clearly any funding we are able to raise before October 2016 will go toward the total cost of the trip and will reduce the cost for each individual student. Students will be selected according to their leadership potential and suitability to support project delivery.

At this stage I would ask for a commitment of £1800 per student.

This cost will cover the following:

- **Travel visas for China**
- **Travel insurance**
- **Flights between Birmingham International and Shanghai Pudong airports (Emirates Airline) – this will involve transferring to a connecting flight at Dubai Airport**

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Headteacher: Russell Plester
Chair of Governors: Catherine Colby-Johnson



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- **Hotel accommodation in central Shanghai – students will share twin room accommodation**
- **All meals during the visit**
- **Entry to Shanghai attractions such as the Shanghai World Financial Centre Building; Yuyuan Garden in the Old Town; Shanghai Museum etc.**

Our proposed itinerary will include:

Saturday 15th October – Flight from Birmingham International Airport to Shanghai Pudong Airport (Transfer at Dubai Airport) with Emirates Airline

Sunday 16th October – Arrive in Shanghai. Transfer to Tian Ping Hotel for the duration of our stay. Students will share twin bedded rooms. Check in and rest. Students and staff will walk to local shopping centres, parks and restaurant for dinner.

Monday 17th October – Wei Yu Junior Middle School - Tour of the school and introductions “Getting to know you” activities for Student Leaders / Lesson observations. Welcome Dinner hosted by our Chinese school in the evening

Tuesday 18th October - Wei Yu Junior Middle School - Student Leaders share ideas / sessions with Chinese students / visit to Wei Yu Experimental School & High School

Wednesday 19th October - Wei Yu Junior Middle School - Festival delivered by Student Leaders using the skills they have developed and Grand Finale

Thursday 20th October – Shanghai site-seeing activity for Finham Park students

Friday 21st October – Shanghai - Cultural activity for Finham Park students. This will involve visits to both ancient and modern areas of the city

Saturday 22nd October – Visit to traditional Chinese water town: Site-seeing activity for Finham Park students

Sunday 23rd October – 21st Century Shanghai - Site seeing activity for Finham Park students

Monday 24th October – Activities & visits organised by Wei Yu Junior Middle School

Tuesday 25th October – students travel to Shanghai Pudong Airport. Depart on flight to Birmingham International Airport

Please would you register interest for your son/daughter on the Finham Park visit to Shanghai by completing the form at the bottom of this letter. Please return it to Mr R Plester by Friday 29th January 2016. Once we have these return slips, we will start a selection process if the visit is oversubscribed. Details of this will be communicated at a later date but will relate to Student Leadership – current activity and future potential.

Final payment in full will be expected by Friday 16th September 2016. The final group for Shanghai 2016 will be announced by Friday 12th February and a deposit of £400 for those successful should be made payable to ‘Finham

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Park School' and received by Monday 22nd February 2016. If you have further questions, or would like to hear more about the programme, then please do not hesitate to contact Mr R Plester via the school office or my PA, Mrs Lesley Rose on 02477 710720.

It is also very important that you note the following new visa requirements:

For any child under 18 going to China, ALL the following documentation is now required:

Parent who signs the Chinese Visa application form must provide a copy of their own passport to support this, along with a copy of their child's birth certificate;

Yours sincerely

Russell Plester
Headteacher

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For the attention of Mr Plester - Headteacher
Finham Park 2

- ✓ I would like _____ (name) to join the Finham Park 2 visit to Shanghai and
- ✓ commit to paying £400 toward the total cost when their place is confirmed and the full balance by Friday 16th September 2016.
- ✓ I confirm that my son/daughter holds/will hold a full and current UK passport valid until October 2018 & I can comply with the visa requirements detailed above.

NAME _____ **SIGNATURE** _____ **DATE** _____