



SIMON LANGTON

## Grammar School for Boys

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3 September 2019

Dear Parents and Students,

### **YEAR 9 AND 10 Chinese exchange trip to Tianjin in May 2020**

I am writing to invite your son to take part in next year's Chinese exchange trip to Tianjin from 8 to 18 May 2020. The dates for the return visit to Canterbury have not yet been confirmed.

This is the first year the Langton is proud to offer a Chinese exchange trip to Tianjin and the surrounding area, the third largest city in the north of China, very close to Beijing. There is so much historical and cultural interest in the city, and combined with the fascinating experience of living with a local family, this is an excellent opportunity to practise the skills and language learnt in the classroom. It is always a delight to see how much students enjoy participating in foreign exchanges and to observe the progress they make with their Chinese. The GCSE specification requires students to develop their ability to respond to questions in an ad hoc fashion; our students will find staying in Chinese host families very helpful in terms of developing their ability to speak spontaneously and to learn first hand about the country's culture and customs. I hope our students will be able to form long-term friendships and maybe be invited to stay for a second or third time with their host families.

Possible destinations for excursions include the Great Wall, Forbidden City in Beijing and the ancient culture street in Tianjin as well as a day in school with exchange partners at the Tianjin Donglihu secondary school, where students fully immerse themselves into school life and learn about Chinese art, music and culture.

Since the Tianjing Donglihu secondary school is a co-ed school, it is likely their group of exchange partners will include a mixture of boys and girls. I will endeavour to match the sexes as far as possible; please indicate on the matching form, if you are willing to host a student of the opposite sex from your child.

At this stage the estimated cost of the trip is £1200 to £1500 which will include all travel, excursions and insurance as well the cost of a trip to London to comply with the visa regulations. Once I have a

better idea of the number of students wanting to take part, I will be able to give a definitive assessment of the trip's cost.

The school has funds available to help any families who are in financial difficulties regarding school trips. Please contact the school Finance Officer who will make the appropriate arrangements confidentially. You may wish to contact the Finance Officer in any case, if your family receives Income Support or Family Credit, where special rules apply.

I hope you will see this exchange trip as a valuable experience and that your son will be able to participate. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [gzhao@thelangton.kent.sch.uk](mailto:gzhao@thelangton.kent.sch.uk), should you have any questions about the exchange.

I would be very grateful if you could show initial interest by either returning the completed cut off slip or by replying to me via email by **Thursday 19 September**. A first deposit of £150 on WisePay will be due on 28 September 2020.

Yours faithfully,  
Mr George Zhao

Subject Leader for Chinese  
Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys



**Year 9/10 Chinese Exchange 2020**

I would like my son/daughter to participate in the Chinese exchange.

Son's name ..... Form: .....

Name of Parent/Guardian: .....

Signed (parent/guardian) .....

Please return this slip by 13 September 2019 or express your interest via email to [gzhao@thelangton.kent.sch.uk](mailto:gzhao@thelangton.kent.sch.uk)