

Long Stratton High School

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Headteacher

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Achievement For All

Monday 24th April 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Cultural Visit to Beijing 2018

I am writing to inform you about a thrilling new trip which the school has authorised and organised to visit the magnificent 3000 year old history and culture of one of the most vibrant civilisations in the world: China. This six day trip will take place from October 20th to October 25th 2018, during the half term holiday. Therefore if you currently have a child in Year 7, they will be in Year 9 when the trip departs; if in Year 8, they will be in Year 10 and if in Year 9, they will be in Year 11.

The trip includes the breath-taking sights and highlights of Beijing and an immersion into Chinese culture. All activities, travel, health and safety aspects have been stringently checked and authorised by our tour operator 'NST' who are well known to us and trusted by our school. We will be accompanied 24/7 by a local English speaking guide who will unveil for us the rich history and culture of some of the most iconic landmarks and traditions in Beijing. These will include:

- A guided tour through one of Beijing's ancient hutong areas
- A walk along a secluded and incredibly beautiful section of the Great Wall of China
- A stunning Chinese acrobatics evening show
- A tour of Tiananmen Square, including flag-raising at dawn
- A visit to the Forbidden City
- A visit to Jingshan Park, including a Kung Fu lesson from a Master
- A lesson in the beautiful art of calligraphy
- A visit to the Temple of Heaven
- A traditional Chinese tea ceremony and tasting in the park
- A visit to the Pearl Market to shop for local souvenirs
- An introductory lesson in speaking Mandarin
- A visit to the Summer Palace, walking through the grounds and boating across the lake
- A visit to the Panjiayuan Flea Market

Further information will be provided at a parents' evening for this event, once interest for this trip has been ascertained.

The cost for this all-inclusive trip will be in the region of **£1295**. However, as a school we are planning several fundraising activities so that each child can aim to fundraise **£300** individually over the forthcoming year, leaving a balance of **£995** for parents. Naturally, we are committed to fundraising as much as possible to reduce this balance even further. However, in the spirit of openness, we must ask that if you are interested in purchasing a place for your child on this trip, you are prepared to pay the full cost in the unlikely event that we are unable to help your child reach their individual fundraising target of £300. It would be lovely to see you at our fundraising events and we would welcome wholeheartedly any support you could offer with these.

There are only **thirty places** available for this trip. Should there be more than this number interested, places will be allocated by drawing names out of a hat, as we believe this to be the fairest method possible. If you would like your child to take part in this exceptional opportunity, please register your interest by completing the slip below and returning it with a **deposit of £100 by Monday 8th May 2017** (cash or cheque made payable to Long Stratton High School in a named envelope marked 'China Trip' for the attention of Mrs Gardham). Once allocated a place, further instalments of £100 per month will then be required to pay the remaining balance by **Friday 6th July 2018**. These further payments can be made by cash, cheque or via your +pay account. Should the trip be oversubscribed, your child will go onto the reserve list and your £100 deposit will be immediately returned.

Please note that by submitting your deposit, you are committing your child to the Cultural Trip to China and if you subsequently change your mind, we will be unable to refund any monies paid unless an alternative student can be found to take your child's place.

I am truly delighted to be able to offer your child this unique opportunity and I'm certain they will find their visit to Beijing an immensely enriching, fun, and memorable experience.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. F. Pauley
Visit Leader

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Please return in an envelope marked: China Trip, Mrs Hayley Gardham, Finance Dept. Please also write your child's name and Form on the envelope.

Cultural Trip to Beijing

I would like my child/ward Form.....

to take part in the cultural trip to Beijing and I enclose a deposit of £100.00.

Parent/Carer signature Date.....