



# KING EDWARD VI SCHOOL

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LICHFIELD

26 February 2016

Dear Parent / Carer

## Visit to China – Wednesday 23 to Thursday 31 March 2016

Visas, vaccinations, currency / spending money

Parent & student meeting – Thursday 10 March

With the departure date of the China trip getting ever closer, below are details of some of the arrangements that still need to be finalised to ensure the trip goes ahead successfully.

- **Visas**

I am currently arranging a group visa application for the trip to China that will cover all students and to do this **all students will be required to have their photo taken in school by Friday 4 March** (I will be arranging this with the students during the school day). Whilst the cost of arranging individual visas with the Chinese embassy in the UK is currently £175 per person (£85 visa fee plus £90 administration cost) I've been able to agree a greatly reduced price for the group visa and am pleased to say that I can cover the total cost of the group visa within the original price of the trip and so there will be no additional charge for this service.

- **Vaccinations**

If your son / daughter has not already done so then they need to visit their GP to identify which vaccinations they may need for safe travel in China. As we are only visiting well established tourist destinations in Shanghai, Xi'an and Beijing (and will not be visiting remote parts of China) this should limit the number of vaccinations required, however **it is fundamental that all students have checked with their GP as to their personal requirements**. If you would like further information on vaccinations required for China you may wish to visit either of the following websites: [www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk](http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk); [www.masta-travel-health.com](http://www.masta-travel-health.com). Additionally, where students will be looking to take prescribed medication with them to China (including epipens and inhalers) it is advisable to check with your doctor as to whether a medical note would be required for carrying this onto an aeroplane (you may also wish to check guidance on BA's website).

- **Currency / Spending money**

You may be looking to order foreign currency for your son / daughter for the 9 day trip to pay for lunches, snacks and any gifts and souvenirs they wish to buy whilst they are away.

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Whilst I am not able to give a definitive spending figure, history of running trips to China has shown that students will need approximately £10-£15 per day and hence I recommend that approximately £100-£150 for spending money should be sufficient. As changing currency is not always easy / convenient during the trip and it is now possible to buy Chinese Yuan at most foreign currency exchange centres, I recommend that the majority of spending money is exchanged into Yuan in the UK and this can then be supplemented with additional sterling as required.

- **Parent and student meeting – Thursday 10 March**

A **meeting for parents and students** will be held on **Thursday 10 March at 7.00pm** in the Q-block dining area. The aim of this meeting is to confirm the final details of the trip (eg. flights, transport, rooming etc.) and give the opportunity for any questions to be raised. Given this is the final meeting before we depart, it is important that all students and parents attend this meeting.

If you have any issues or queries please do not hesitate to contact me, otherwise I look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 10 March.

With kind regards

Yours faithfully



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