

18 July 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

**10 day trip to China in May half term 2018 – Years 9 and 10**

The MFL department is delighted to inform you that a trip to China will take place during the May half term holiday (**Friday 25 May-Sunday 3 June 2018**).

This trip will help your son/daughter to develop his/her skill in Mandarin, and enhance cultural awareness. We will be visiting three cities (Beijing, Shanghai and Hangzhou) over 10 days and 9 nights.

Spaces are limited so we will give priority to the current Year 9 students who have opted to take GCSE Mandarin. In order to secure a place for your son/daughter please bring in the following by **Friday 8 September**:

- A photocopy of your child's passport
- A deposit of £300 (cash or cheque only – made payable to 'The Castle School')
- The signed slip below

Please hand the above to the Finance Office in an envelope marked clearly with your son/daughter's name and the words '**Y9 and Y10 China Trip**'.

Please see attached itinerary for details of activities etc.

**Cost of the Trip**

Total cost of the trip will be around **£1655.00**, but could be slightly more/less depending on number of participants and the price of flight tickets. The Castle School seek to make no profit. Your child will be given a payment card by the Finance Office (after the initial deposit has been paid and the trip has been confirmed) so that you can pay in instalments over the next few months.

The above price includes:

- Return flight tickets from UK airport to Beijing and Shanghai, China (**including the return transfer from Taunton to the UK airport**).
- All transportation within China, including all inner-city transfer. City transportation will be in private and fully insured coaches.
- All meals during your stay (**you need money to pay for 1 or 2 meals on Friday 25 May and Sunday 3 June. But most of the meals will be provided on the flights**).

- All accommodation in China (1 night's stay on the overnight train). The price is based on accommodation in hostels in the city centre. All hostels have their own unique charm, have safe communal areas and are both clean and hygienic.
- All tickets to attractions, tips and charges.
- A combination of bilingual Western and Chinese Adventure Leaders.
- The cost of applying for a Chinese visa.

### Chinese Visas

Students who are non-Chinese citizens are requested to apply for a Chinese tourism visa 3 months before the departure date. Please make sure your son/daughter has a passport and it's valid for at least 14 months. (His/her passport should be valid for at least 6 months on the departure date).

We will hold an information evening in September, when we will be able to answer any questions that you have. In the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact me if you require any further information about this trip.

Kind regards

Y Li  
**Teacher of Mandarin**

S Floyd  
**Head of MFL**

**Please complete and return to the Finance Office by Friday 8 September**

**China trip – Beijing-Shanghai-Hangzhou – May 2018.**

Name of Student..... Year group they will be in when trip commences.....

I enclose a deposit of £300.00 for the 2018 China trip to Beijing, Shanghai and Hangzhou, I have paid:  
 by cash/cheque (cheques made payable to The Castle School).

Signed (Parent/Carer) ..... Date .....

Parent/Carer - Email Address .....

Parent/Carer - Mobile number ..... Home tel number .....







