

31 January 2012

Our Ref: 2011/057/EAC

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Visit to China 10-21 October 2012

Landau Forte College Derby has taken two previous visits to China, in 2007 and 2010, both of which were hugely successful for all participants. We have now finalised plans for a third visit to China in October 2012, open to students of all Academies within the Landau Forte Trust. The purpose of the visit is to work on a joint sports leadership project with our partner school in Shanghai. The intention is that our students would coach the Chinese students in typically British sports such as cricket, netball and rounders, and receive coaching from the Chinese students in Tai Chi, and other typically Chinese activities. With the 2008 Olympic Games having been held in Beijing, and the next Games in London this year, sport is an ideal curriculum focus for the visit. Our students will also support the Chinese students' learning in English.

Participation in the visit is a large undertaking which will require commitment to preparation time before the visit, both learning Mandarin and preparing coaching sessions, and follow up activities after the visit. Our students will also have the opportunity to put into practice and learn more of the Mandarin language, as well as experiencing the Chinese way of life and culture.

The itinerary of the visit is to fly from Birmingham to Shanghai on Wednesday 10 October and stay in the boarding facilities of our partner school for seven nights. We will then travel by train to Beijing for the final part of the visit, where the group will stay in a hotel for two nights and visit the principal tourist sites, including the Forbidden City, the Olympic Park and the Great Wall of China. We will arrive back in the UK on Sunday 21 October.

The cost of the visit is £1395, which includes all travel costs, visa, insurance, full board accommodation, and all entry fees. This also includes a contingency for currency exchange fluctuations. Not included are the cost of obtaining a passport (if students are not already in possession of one), personal spending money and extra refreshments. We have tried to keep the cost of the visit as low as possible, but clearly there is a high financial cost associated with any extended, long-haul visits such as this. Previous visits have attracted sponsorship from a range of sources, some of which may be available for this visit, although this cannot be relied upon. We would make best endeavours to obtain as much sponsorship as possible for the visit, however this would not be guaranteed, and **at the time of booking the visit you would have to agree to pay the full cost**, with any subsequently obtained funding lowering the cost to you.

Because of the nature of this visit and to ensure its success, there are certain criteria which students must be able to meet. It is essential that students who travel to China:

- have previous experience of staying away from home
- are in good health and have good attendance
- are able and willing to begin learning or continue learning Mandarin Chinese
- are prepared to eat a wide range of food (ideally not vegetarians)
- are open-minded, flexible and adaptable and able to use their initiative
- can participate in the sports leadership aspect of the visit
- are keen to meet this very exciting challenge and would like to be amongst the third group of Landau Forte students to travel to China

Mr Calow, Curriculum Leader for German at Landau Forte College Derby, led the visit to China in October 2010, and will lead this visit. He will accompany the students, together with other colleagues. The visit is also being offered to students at the Trust's Academies in Tamworth. This will allow our students to work collaboratively with their peers there and increase the likelihood that we reach the minimum number necessary for the visit to go ahead.

An information evening will be held on Thursday 2 February at 6pm in the Conference Suite, in order for you to find out more about the visit, including meeting some students who took part in the last visit in 2010.

In order to secure a place on the visit, please return the attached consent form, together with a deposit of £250, by 10 February. Alternatively, this can be paid online using ParentPay.

Yours sincerely



Mrs E A Coffey
Principal

LANDAU FORTE - CHINA VISIT 2012

PARENTAL CONSENT FORM

Visit to China 10-21 October 2012

I agree to my child
(Full name **as it appears on passport**)

Personal tutor and year group

taking part in this visit. I agree to my child's participation in the activities described and acknowledge the need for responsible behaviour on his/her part if he/she is successful in obtaining a place.

I enclose a deposit of £250 and agree to pay the full amount of £1395. I understand that returning this slip does not guarantee a place for my child. I confirm that my child has a valid passport.

Signed Parent/Carer Date