



Founded 1125

5th September 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Chinese Students – Request for Host Families
Wednesday 3rd October – Tuesday 16th October 2018**

We are delighted to announce that in July 2018 Reading School formally signed a Co-operative Agreement with Lunhua Education Group in Suzhou, China. This is a very exciting opportunity which will help Reading School advance significantly through sharing teaching techniques, will open our students to new cultural experience and provide practical and financial benefits to both Reading School and the Lunhua Education Group. We are committed to International Partnerships and to extending your son's learning beyond the classroom.



In October, we will be welcoming 31 students and 3 staff from the Lunhua Education Group of Schools in Suzhou, China (<http://www.szlunhua.com>)

We are very pleased to offer you the opportunity to host a student or students from our link schools in China.

Whilst this is not a school exchange and we are at this stage only hosting our Chinese counterparts this can bring immeasurable benefits to our pupils giving them the opportunity to gain insight into the lives of our Chinese contemporaries, improve communication and social skills and increase confidence. Hosting a student from another country can be the most rewarding experience in the world creating many memories.

One in five of the world's population is Chinese, this will provide your son and you as a family the chance to gain in-depth knowledge about Chinese culture. Welcoming a student from China can increase understanding between cultures in a unique and deeply life-changing way.

It is also part of our strategy to ensure that Reading School students benefit from having a more global outlook. The introduction of the Mandarin Excellence programme for selected students in year 7 this year is a further aspect of our drive to increase knowledge and understanding of other cultures and languages. Students who host Chinese visitors, and show interest in such cultural opportunities will get preference for this prestigious programme in the event of oversubscription.

We appreciate that having a Chinese student will incur costs, for instance, meals and transport. We have therefore allocated a budget of £300 for each family that hosts a student. This payment is not taxable income, but rather to recompense for expenses of hosting.

We have created an online link for any parent who is interested in this opportunity. If you are interested in hosting one or more Chinese student, or finding out more, please complete the link here [Hosting Chinese Student\(s\)](#) by **3pm on Monday 10 September**.

READING SCHOOL, Erleigh Road, Reading RG1 5LW

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F: 0118 9353505

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W: www.reading-school.co.uk

Reading School is an Exempt Charity under Schedule 2 of the Charities Act 1993, and is recognised as charitable by HM Customs and Excise, ref. no. XT35863.
Registered address as above, a company limited by guarantee, registered in England no. 7475515.



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Purpose of visit

The Chinese pupils are visiting us to immerse themselves in English culture, to learn more about life in England and to improve their spoken English. They will be in School or on trips every School day.

About the students

The students from our link schools, part of the Lunhua Educational Group, are aged between 12 and 14. Almost all of the children are weekly boarders and live in school during the week. Therefore, your visitor will be used to being away from home. They are used to sharing bedrooms, and we are happy for families to host more than one student, in which case multiples of the £300 allowance would be payable. Our link schools in China are private schools which have a strong international ethos.

All of the Chinese students are learning English and they are coming to Reading School because they are keen to practice and improve. They may be a little shy about using their English at first as it always takes a while to adjust to a different language being spoken so you will need to be patient and encourage speaking in English.

Mandarin Chinese (the national language) is spoken by more than 70% of the population and is also used in Singapore and Malaysia. China has 55 different ethnic groups, each with its own language or dialect.

Your visitor will almost certainly have an English name in addition to his or her Chinese name.

Cultural differences and settling in

Our programme is a great way for British and Chinese students to gain a greater understanding of each other's culture and ways of living. Reading School and the Chinese teachers will do all they can to help your visitor to settle in and answer any queries you may have.

The Chinese have a strong sense of family, and they respect hierarchy and interpersonal obligations. Because parents tend to take a keen interest in their children's education and expect them to study hard, they will typically set limits on going out or on recreational activities that might interfere with schoolwork. They will expect their children to be exceptionally respectful whilst they are staying with you, and to work very hard on their English. Families generally include one child, and it is not uncommon for a grandparent to live with the family.

Chinese students spend a great deal of their day in school engaged in studying. As described above, much of a Chinese teenager's life revolves around his or her school. When not at school or engaged in school activities, teenagers get together at friends' homes, go to movies, watch television or play sports. Soccer, ping-pong, handball, volleyball, basketball, Chinese traditional martial arts, and dance are all popular pastimes.

Lunhua Education Group have a wonderful ethos. Their aim can be translated as "Enlightened wisdom for fulfilled lives" and their motto in the classroom is "Fortune favours those who work hard. Great love knows no bounds."

Boarding only

Please note this opportunity is also open to Boarders whereby a Chinese student could be hosted in your son's boarding house, and you would only need to entertain and host the Chinese student at the weekends. Therefore, the cost of meals at School would be deducted from the £300 allowance.

Further details regarding hosting will follow once we have an indication of interest. If you have any further queries in relation to hosting a Chinese pupil please contact Emily Turner via eturner@reading-school.co.uk

I hope your son will join us in this adventure and might even make a lifelong friend from China. Please do complete the link for [Hosting Chinese Student\(s\)](#) by **3pm on Monday 10 September**.

Yours sincerely,

Mr AM Robson
Headmaster

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