



JWW/LRG

7 May 2010

Dear Parent,

Re: Hosting of Chinese students

Further to my letter of 30 April, I am writing to you with some additional information regarding the hosting of our Chinese students.

The Lower Sixth students will arrive in late August, and will study for their A levels at Bablake over a two-year period. Gateway Corporation, based in Northampton, will be acting as guardians for our students, and are accredited by AEGIS and the British Council. The school has now offered places to a small number of Chinese students, and Gateway is searching for some host families.

Whilst host families will be appropriately remunerated, they should above all be interested in welcoming a Chinese student into their home as a member of their family. Suitable accommodation will be an obvious requirement, in addition to the ability to provide meals (breakfast and dinner) during term-time and half-term holidays. Many students go away or return home during holiday periods, but, where a host family is unable to host due to personal holiday commitments, other families will be asked by Gateway to host on a temporary basis. There will therefore be a need for a greater number of local host families than students, and some host families will not necessarily be connected with the school community.

Because Gateway will act as guardians, the students' welfare is essentially Gateway's responsibility, and they will communicate directly with the school over any pastoral or academic issues. One of their representatives will also visit the school on a regular basis.

If you are interested in the possibility of becoming a host family, and in the international friendship which this could engender, please return the pro forma below. Gateway will then send you an information pack. Depending on the number of interested families, priority is likely to be given to those families who have children of a similar age and for whom transportation of the Chinese student would pose no problems; travel by school bus would be acceptable, although students will sometimes have after-school commitments. Gateway, and not the school, will recruit and assess the suitability of families, and the hosting agreement will then be between Gateway and the families concerned.

I hope that, where your circumstances permit, you might view this as an exciting opportunity, whilst also recognising that it represents a considerable commitment.

Yours sincerely,

J W Watson
Headmaster

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Please return this pro forma to Ms Lorraine Gibbens, Headmaster's PA, by **Friday 14 May**.

I/we am/are interested in hosting a Chinese student, and would like the school to pass on my/our contact details to Gateway Corporation.

Name.....

Signature.....

Name and Form of son / daughter: