

SUNRAYSIA SCHOOLS CHINA EXCHANGE 2018



Dear Year 9, 10 and 11 students, parents and carers

Since 2010, Year 10 students from Sunraysia have participated in a cultural exchange program with schools in Dali in China's Yunnan Province. Through the combined efforts of Merbein P-10 College, Irymple Secondary College and Red Cliffs Secondary College, hundreds of Sunraysia students have now experienced life in China. And thanks to the generosity and hospitality of those students' families, hundreds of Chinese students have experienced our Australian way of life first-hand.

St Joseph's College now has the opportunity to join with Merbein P-10 College and Red Cliffs Secondary College to continue this inter-cultural experience in 2018.

As a Year 9, 10 or 11 student in 2018, we would like to invite you and your family to participate in this program. This guide outlines the opportunities and benefits the exchange offers for students and families, as well as some of the practical details of the program.



WHY CHINA?

China has a history of over 5000 years, and is home to extraordinary landscapes, diverse cultures and incredible food.

China is now Australia's largest trading partner, and will soon become the largest economy in the world. Students at school in 2018 will live and work in a world in which China is a major power. For young people entering the workforce, a working knowledge of Chinese history, culture and contemporary life will be a significant advantage. And besides all of this, you'll be blown away by the hospitality of your host family, you'll have experiences that no regular holiday can offer, and you'll have a lot of fun.

WHY ME?

Through the China exchange program, students develop skills that will prove invaluable in their lives outside school, in post-secondary studies and in their working lives. Hosting a visiting Chinese student requires students to develop their confidence, empathy and patience. Travelling with a group in China requires students to build their teamwork skills and tolerance. Spending a week in the home of a Chinese host family builds confidence, resilience and communication skills. The exchange program encourages students to challenge themselves, to step outside their comfort zone and to embrace new experiences and ways of looking at the world.

THE PROGRAM – AUSTRALIA

In early August 2018, St Joseph's College will host approximately 20 students and teachers from our sister school Xiaguan No 1 Middle School located in Xiaguan, Dali City, Yunnan Province, People's Republic of China. Exchange program participants will host a student for around one week. The role of host families is simply to offer a Chinese student the chance to experience everyday life in Sunraysia. Host students introduce their guests to school life at St Joseph's College, as well as touring around local attractions such as Perry Sandhills, the Murray River, Mildura Fruit Company and the City Heart.

THE PROGRAM - CHINA

From September 13-29, 2018, exchange program participants travel to China.

After arriving in Kunming, the group travels to the ancient city of Dali, where students spend a week with host families. During this week students attend school, tour the local region and spend time after school shopping, dining and sightseeing with host families and friends.

From Dali, the group spends a further six days visiting Xian (home of the Terracotta Warriors) and Beijing, before returning to Australia. A copy of this year's itinerary will be provided on request.

COSTS

In recent years, the cost of the visit to China has averaged around \$4000. This includes flights, accommodation, transport, activities and most meals. Other costs such as passport applications and spending money are additional.

INTERESTED?

If you think that the 2018 China Exchange is an experience that you and your family would like to be a part of, please complete the attached Expression of Interest form and return to Dr Tony Finn at the College by Friday April 20, 2018.