



KV02.2AT

December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

### China 2024 – Visas and passports

**Thank you for the payments made so far for the China expedition. I would be grateful if a Scopay payment of £50 could be made to cover the second deposit which needs to be made before Friday 22 December.** For your information, all outstanding payments should be paid by the Wednesday 17 April 2024.

I am currently researching the possibility of using a group visa because the main visa has increased in price from £151 to £196. This is not easy, as it depends on the port of entry (in our case West Kowloon station in Hong Kong) as to whether a group visa can be used. We have used them in the past but have also found them to be cumbersome at times. I would be grateful if you **could check now that the passport to be used has at least 6 months on it from the date of returning from China (01.08.2024).** This will be non-negotiable as we deal with Chinese state bureaucracy.

The Air Passenger Duty charge (a UK tax) was mentioned in one of my previous emails. If you could email me a clear picture of the passport photo page in full (as a matter of urgency) then this will help me a great deal.

If we cannot get a group visa, we will put on a trip to Manchester to go to the Visa Service Centre. Both the Consulate and the visa centre fees have risen to a total of £196. Every participant would need to attend in person because both a facial scan and a scan of all fingerprints is taken by the officials there. Participants will need to pay for the visa using a payment card, having completed an online form, and provided photos. I will give full guidance on this form and the exacting demands re the photo after Christmas at the parents/participants meeting. I will also put together a guidance sheet on how to complete the form as any mistakes would mean an extra trip to Manchester. I will also arrange for your passports to be collected by a contact in Manchester or by myself to save a second visit to Manchester.

Please email me if your child is travelling on a non-UK passport as the procedures for the visa will be different. Also some countries cannot be included on a group visa. Most countries (except the US) have cheaper visa rates. The joys of international relations and bureaucracy.

Thank you,

*K Vane*

**Mr K Vane**  
**Head of Geography**

*The school has a blanket School Journey Insurance policy in place to provide appropriate cancellation, curtailment, medical and personal possessions cover. This policy also carries very limited personal accident insurance cover for pupils. As the school will not be liable for any injury arising from incidents beyond our direct control, parents/carers may wish to consider purchasing their own personal accident cover to enhance the limited protection of this policy.*