

Greenford High School Year 12 pupils to embark on once-in-a-lifetime international exchange to China

On 17 October 2019, Year 12 pupils from will embark on an international exchange to Beijing, China as part of a new £2.5 million Department for Education programme in partnership with the British Council.

The group of 11 pupils will spend six days in China, linking up with a partner school, Dongzhimen High School in Beijing. This school visited Greenford in July and took staff and students with them on a visit to Kew Gardens. Our pupils will learn about China's culture, its language and history through a variety of activities including working with pupils in the partner school and in visiting Tiananmen Square and the Great Wall. This will then be shared with all staff and pupils.

[British Council research](#) has found that just 39% of British secondary schools run traditional international exchanges, in comparison with more than three quarters (77%) of independent schools. A separate survey of university language students found that nearly two thirds (62%) had been inspired to study a language degree as the result of an international exchange.

The international school exchange programme offers grants to secondary schools in England with above-average numbers of pupil premium students. It will give thousands of pupils a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience new cultures, improve language skills, and build independence and resilience.

Vicky Gough, schools adviser at the British Council, said: "This school exchange to China will immerse Greenford High School pupils in a very different way of life, and the memories they'll make will no doubt stay with them for years to come. International experience can have a positive and long-lasting effect on people's lives, which is why it's particularly important that we support pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds who might not otherwise get such an opportunity to learn about new cultures in this way."

Education Secretary Damian Hinds said: "School exchanges are so valuable, bringing subjects such as modern languages and international history to life as well as helping pupils develop into confident, independent and well-rounded young people. This programme will help schools who may not have much experience organising trips abroad to ensure their pupils don't miss out on all the fantastic benefits these experiences can bring, encouraging children to broaden their horizons and aim high throughout their education and beyond."

Watch out for more news after the half term!