



## **LOCAL NOTTINGHAM PUPILS VISIT PARTNER SCHOOL IN NINGBO, CHINA FOR EXCITING CULTURAL EXPERIENCE**

*Students at Sycamore Academy, in St Anns, Nottingham, have just returned from an exciting, week-long half term adventure to Shanghai and Ningbo in China. As part of their relationship with Jiaochuan Central Primary School in Ningbo, Year 6 students and their teachers travelled to experience school life and Chinese culture.*

The week-long trip took place over October half term and gave students the chance to experience all that Chinese culture has to offer. The pupils flew from the UK to Shanghai where they had the chance to spend time seeing the sights of the amazing city. The group then travelled to Ningbo, in the Zhejiang province of North West China.

Sycamore Academy were met with a warm welcome from the school in China, which even included a personalised message at the airport and a visit from the school mascots. The trip was a life-changing experience for all children and staff. During their visit the students attended lessons to immerse themselves into life at a Chinese school and provide an unforgettable experience of Chinese culture. This included lessons in Calligraphy, Chinese martial arts Kung Fu, Chinese language, science and music. Sycamore Academy Headteacher, Paul Worley, commented that the favourite activity for the children was learning Chinese opera and playing traditional Chinese musical instruments.

Year 6 student, Marcus said; "I really enjoyed attending lessons and learning new subjects such as Calligraphy and Kung Fu. I learned to use chopsticks all week and tried lots of different Chinese foods. The journey on the plane was a real adventure which I really enjoyed. It was tiring but worth it to visit China."

As well as attending lessons at the school, students had the opportunity to go on day trips to the local sights including Zhaobao Mount where the group saw the gardens and Buddhist shines, pergolas and temples and had the opportunity to see Buddhist monks worshipping. They also visited Ningnobang Museum in Ningbo where the group learned about the growth of the city due to its maritime location. The group went on two visits to Shanghai; Nangtang Old street where they visited traditional gardens and had the opportunity to browse a range of Chinese food, gifts, clothing and memorabilia and a trip to the Bund in Shanghai to witness the skyscrapers and learn about the history of the city from locals.

Over the week the group spent time with their exchange partners and experienced the Chinese way of life. This included the opportunity to try traditional and local foods, view local architecture and sample a taste of local customs. Teachers who attended the trip said it was "a real education - learning how another school in very a different country operates. The whole visit was an exciting adventure for all from beginning to end."

The partnership with Jiaochuan Central Primary School aims to help promote international relations within the school, personal development and to provide students both in Nottingham and China with the chance to experience different cultures first hand. It is part of an ongoing partnership with Sycamore Academy, which is part of the L.E.A.D. Academy Trust. It also follows the campaign for



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Nottingham to be the UK's most China-friendly city, building on the relationship established between the University of Nottingham and Ningbo more than a decade ago.

Headteacher, Mr Worley, said "We definitely want to continue our partnership and ensure it stays active. We are already planning for Jiaochuan pupils to visit us at our school in Nottingham again next year and for Sycamore students to visit China again in the near future. All the children have grown in knowledge and confidence. The experience is one we will never forget!"

**PHOTOGRAPHS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST  
PLEASE CONTACT ROSS BENNETT FOR FURTHER DETAILS  
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## **ABOUT L.E.A.D. ACADEMY TRUST:**

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