



NORD
ANGLIA
EDUCATION

HELPING OTHERS
TO BE THE BEST
THEY CAN BE

20 May 2014

RE: YEAR 9 TRIP TO VIETNAM

Dear Parents /Guardians,

As you are no doubt aware there have been some recent concerns about the safety of Chinese citizens in some parts of Vietnam as a result of diplomatic differences between the two countries. This has resulted in the current Chinese Government travel advice for Chinese citizens that states Chinese and Taiwanese citizens should not travel to Vietnam. I am therefore writing to you directly as a Parent who is linked to China by Passport to update you on the current situation and advice related to the Year 9 trip.

The school is carefully monitoring the situation via the international Diplomatic advice to tourists from Britain, the USA and China and we are in regular contact with our Vietnamese travel partners. So far there has been no violence anywhere near the areas our trip is planning to travel to. There is also expected to be no more violence in Vietnam at all and the authorities in Vietnam are promising to keep an additional watching eye on tourists to ensure their safety. Our travel company has been in direct contact with the Vietnamese Tourist board for help to ensure the complete safety of the trip, and immigration authorities have assured the travel company there is no problem applying for visas or entering or exiting the country.

I believe that there should be no fear of your Child attending this trip. However as a result of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs issuing a travel warning to Chinese nationals to not travel to Vietnam "for the time being", you may have thought about withdrawing your child from the trip. "For the time being" indicates however that this advice could change and we are still 3 weeks away from departure. I would like to stress that if I felt there were any concerns for the safety of our children NONE of the students or staff would go. I do not believe that anyone would be in danger at this stage. At the moment it is a matter of waiting and watching to see if the situation calms down and the Chinese Government advice changes.

We will be travelling as the British School in an international party with no discernible direct links to China. At the moment there is no information to say the trip is at all likely to be targeted and travel advice could, by the time the trip departs, have returned to normal. If however as a Chinese related national you feel strongly that you would like to withdraw your child from the trip please feel free to contact me and we will discuss the implications of the decision further.

Kind regards,

Chris Share
Head of Secondary