St Catherine’s School
Waverley

2013
International Exchange Program
and General Information
St Catherine’s Exchange program 2013

As part of our commitment to bringing a ‘global dimension’ to the education we offer our girls, St Catherine’s is continuing its exchange program in 2013. Our cultural Exchange program assists girls to develop positive relationships with others, understand a broader range of perspectives, and develop the knowledge and skills needed to live as global citizens. We have established cultural exchange programs with schools in Argentina and England.

Outline of the program
We have formed agreements with the following international schools that have a similar approach to education and spirituality, yet are unique and different to St Catherine’s.

The St Catherine’s girls who are accepted to participate in the program will be away for approximately five weeks and the host country’s exchange girls will come here. The dates are determined and agreed by St Catherine’s and the participating schools.

The Exchange program is offered to Year 9 students only. We believe they are mature enough to travel to another country. Also, there is minimal disruption to their school work at St Catherine’s.

The schools on St Catherine’s Exchange program are the following:
• St Philip The Apostle College, Buenos Aires, Argentina.
• Royal High School, Bath, UK.

Exchange dates are as follows:

**St Philips the Apostle College, Buenos Aires, Argentina**
- Sunday 14 July to 18 August 2013 St Philips students travel to Sydney
- Sunday 25 August to 29 September 2013 St Catherine’s students travel to Argentina

**Royal High School, Bath, UK**
- Sunday 14 July to 18 August 2013 RHS students travel to Sydney
- Sunday 1 September to 6 October 2013 St Catherine’s students travel to Bath

Exchange outcomes
The outcomes are many and positive for the students who participate. Some are listed as follows:

**Educational**
- acceptance of multi-faceted approach to learning
- enhanced interest in global issues
- broader general knowledge of international affairs, specific to the country of exchange
- develop skills and awareness that will enhance future potential
- compliment students study at St Catherine’s.
Personal
• increased self confidence
• increased self esteem
• maturity
• improved communication skills, including ability to communicate with people of different backgrounds
• appreciate cultural uniqueness is to be celebrated
• become independent
• learn to make decisions on your own
• valuable international experience
• life experience.

The intention, therefore, is not to travel and sightsee extensively the host country, but to live in another place, attend school and learn more about the country. The students will meet lots of new people! They will have opportunities to explore the areas in which the exchange school is located and there may well be a number of outings.

Prior to exchange
• The students must liaise with their teachers before they leave to ascertain what work will be covered in their absence as it is their responsibility to catch up all work completed during their absence.
• We suggest that students work ahead as far as possible before they leave.
• Students will be able to take some of the work with them and they can arrange for work to be faxed or emailed to them, but all required work must be caught up by the time they return to St Catherine’s or shortly afterward.
• Exchange students must be well prepared before they leave Australia.
• Important details concerning the host school, as well as student’s personal expectations, must be fully discussed with the Exchange organiser, Mrs Victoria Rennie, Deputy Headmistress.

Students will also need to have a good academic record and be confident that they will be able to catch up on any school work missed.

Please note our fee policy states that “students may not attend tours or exchanges where fees are overdue and no alternative arrangement for payment exists.”

The policy can be found on the back of the Statement of Fees.

How to apply
Step 1: Parents and daughters should discuss the program in detail
Step 2: Complete the Exchange Student Application form (included in this booklet).
Step 3: Please write 250 words (minimum) answering the following questions:
  • Why do you want to do an exchange?
  • What are the positive contributions you could make to your host school and family?
  • What do you hope you would gain personally from the experience?
St Catherine’s School
Waverley

Exchange Student Application Form
Please return to Mrs Devendran by **Monday 18 March 2013**.

## Exchange Student Application Form

2013

St Catherine’s School

Please return this form to Mrs Devendran by Monday 18 March 2013.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Given name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mentor group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date of birth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boarder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### FAMILY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Father</th>
<th>Contact email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mother</td>
<td>Contact email</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Give names please and write how many in box

| Brother(s) |
| Sister(s) |
| Medical condition, if any |
| Allergies |
| Hobbies |
| Sport | Pets |

Do you play a musical instrument?

<p>| Subjects studied at school |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Food preferences</th>
<th>Are you a vegetarian or vegan?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Favourite books/films | |
|------------------------||
|                        | |

| General likes | |
|---------------||
|               | |

| General dislikes | |
|-----------------||
|                 | |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Are you happy sharing a bedroom with your host sister?</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>No preference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Would you prefer your own room?</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>No preference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Nominated exchange program (please tick one or both options)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>United Kingdom - Royal High School, Bath</th>
<th>Dates hosting exchange student</th>
<th>Dates visiting exchange student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14 July to 18 August 2013</td>
<td>1 September to 6 October 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18 August 2013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Argentina - St Philip The Apostle College</th>
<th>Dates hosting exchange student</th>
<th>Dates visiting exchange student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14 July to 18 August 2013</td>
<td>25 August 2013 29 September 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18 August 2013</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Permission to participate in the St Catherine’s exchange program**

**Parent/guardian consent**

I have read the information provided by St Catherine’s and discussed this with my daughter and support her application for the exchange program.

I am prepared to be a host parent to the exchange student.

Signed__________________________________________________________________________ (parent/guardian)

Name__________________________________________________________________________

Date__________________________________________________________________________
Please write 250 words (minimum) answering the following questions:

• Why do you want to do an exchange?
• What are the positive contributions you could make to your host school and family?
• What do you hope you would gain personally from the experience?
Step 4: Send your Application form and written submission to Mrs Suzette Devendran by Monday 18 March 2013.

Step 5: Short listed candidates will be invited to interview by Mrs Rennie and Ms Toula Mitropoulos.

Step 6: Written confirmation of outcome of application.

Note: This process is for St Catherine’s only. The nominated school may have a different process and further forms and requirements to complete.

Fees

• No fees are exchanged between schools.
• A St Catherine’s girl remains enrolled at St Catherine’s and her parents are responsible for the fees, and for the cost of the exchange.
• Any school outings or excursions with the host school may incur additional expense.
• The host school will provide some text books and a uniform.

Our arrangement with host schools is for up to four girls to participate in the Exchange, but we prefer equal numbers from each school. Girls should probably travel in pairs. This is to provide companionship, but also to assist with the general management of travel.

Upon return from the Exchange program

• The students are required to prepare a report about the experience and present this report to Mrs Rennie.

St Catherine’s parents

Parents have a twofold commitment:
1. They cover all costs of the exchange such as travel costs and pocket money. St Catherine’s fees continue to be paid.
2. They must agree to act as the host family for the exchange sister. This involves meeting her at the airport, providing a support system and accommodation.

St Catherine’s parents are also encouraged to organise at least one sightseeing trip for the visiting student. The host parents make a similar commitment at the other end.

The selection process

Students will display the following qualities:
• positive
• independent
• flexible
• self-assured
• willingness to contribute and participate in the school community.
Students must have a good academic record and be confident that they will be capable of catching up all work missed on their return. (This is not your teacher’s responsibility; it is yours.)

Preference will be given to girls who have made positive contributions to a wide range of St Catherine’s activities.

**Other information**
Once the exchange students are selected.

**Airline tickets and visas**
Any student who intends applying for the exchange program should obtain a valid passport immediately as this procedure can take up to two months. Passports must be valid for a period of at least 3 months after the planned return date of the student.

Carefully select airline and airfares. The cheapest fare may be via difficult routes and airports, or may mean being locked into inflexible travel dates. Please check with the exchange country embassy if your daughter may require a visa and commence the process if needed.

As visa requirements change fairly regularly, it is the responsibility of the exchange student and her parents to ascertain exactly what is required and then to obtain the necessary visas.

**Suggestions**
Carry your travel documents in a small flip file – it is easy to find them and saves a panic when you think something is lost! It is advisable to hand in your travel documents and money for safe keeping at the host school.

**Health and travel insurance**
This is essential as health services are very expensive overseas. Credit card companies offer a limited package free of charge with the purchase of an airline ticket.

Please ensure the insurance you purchase for your daughter has extensive cover included.

**School uniform**
It is not necessary to take the St Catherine’s uniform to the exchange school. A uniform list will be provided and certain essential items may have to be purchased prior to departure.

**Clothes**
Do not purchase a whole new wardrobe, as the students in all the countries wear casual, comfortable clothes.

- Sneakers for both casual wear and sports are essential.
Do not take
• electrical appliances (unless you also take a converter)
• your pencil case – it weighs a ton!
• too many clothes
• sports equipment.

How much money should I take?
This is something that must be established between daughter and parent. However tempting, the exchange should not be seen as a shopping expedition! We suggest the girls take some traveller's cheques and a credit card.

Some schools charge for more incidentals (eg books) than others and some require a deposit on arrival.

Gifts
It is recommended that you take something suitable for your host family or families and a couple of smaller presents for friends. A small set of gifts for the exchange school needs to be collected from Mrs Rennie's office one week before departure from school.

Information on Australia
St Catherine's girls are often asked to give talks about life in Australia and you should be well prepared. We, therefore, encourage you to read up on current affairs and take with you some information on Australia and photographs of your home, family, school and friends.

Expectations of student behaviour
Exchange students are expected to behave as model students. You must adhere to the rules of the host school and the family values of your host family must be respected. Make your bed, keep your room clean and tidy, be careful with the use of their telephone and computer and help with the activities in the home. It is forbidden to drive a motor car, or any other vehicle, on a public road. Smoking or drinking alcohol is also forbidden. Your conduct must be exemplary at all times and in all situations. If a student does not comply with the rules and expectations of her host school, the Headmistress reserves the right to cancel the exchange and the girl will be sent home at her parents’ expense.

General information for parents/guardians
Exchange school website details:
St Philip The Apostle College, Buenos Aires, Argentina
www.colegiosanfelipe.edu.ar

Royal High School, Bath, UK
royalhigh@bat.gdst.net