

# **CHS-LHRS Student Exchange**

## **Frequently-Asked Questions (FAQs) by Exchange Students about CHS**

### **Cheadle Hulme School**

#### **What kind of School is CHS?**

It is an independent (fee-paying) school serving a large area of South Manchester and Cheshire, including the towns of Wilmslow and Alderley Edge. The School is nine miles south of the centre of the City of Manchester, which likes to think of itself as the UK's second city.

There are 1400 pupils at the school, with 300 in the Junior School (ages 4 to 11) and 1100 in the Senior School (ages 11-18). There are about 150 students in each year group (grade) and they attend 40-minute lessons (40 each week) in a large number of subjects, including English, Mathematics, Science, Modern Languages, Geography, History, Art, Music and Drama. There is a strong Physical Education programme and there are sports teams that compete against other similar schools in games such as soccer, rugby, netball and field hockey.

You will have a choice of four academic subjects at grade 11 or 12 level, together with compulsory physical education and "General Studies". These subjects are studied for the entire year.

Details of them can be found on our website: [www.chschool.co.uk](http://www.chschool.co.uk)

#### **What will my Status be in the School?**

You will be a full member of the "Sixth Form", the most senior two years at the School. Our students leave for University after the year in which they become 18 years old, having spent two years in the Sixth Form. All students wear a school uniform. Sixthformers have a navy jacket and dark trousers or navy skirt.

You will be expected to attend from 8.40am until 3.45pm, and during that time you will be a full member of the School, with all the privileges of a sixth form student, but also the responsibilities. Our school rules will apply to you in every way. There are more of them and they are a little stricter than at LSHS!

We will provide a certificate of attendance and a record of courses taken. Career guidance will not be part of your entitlement as we expect you to return to LSHS at the end of your time with us.

#### **What are my obligations as an Exchange Student?**

It is expected that you will take part in as many extracurricular activities as possible, such as sport, music and drama, Model United Nations, Young Enterprise etc. to meet as many students as possible and make the most of the experience. You may be asked to give short presentations from time to time about your country to interested groups.

#### **How much does it cost to attend CHS?**

£7000 a year

#### **How much do I and the Exchange Committees have to contribute to that cost?**

Nothing. The Governors of CHS have agreed to waive the fees for one pupil at any one time to attend the School as an international exchange student. They have done so because they believe that international understanding is important and they wish to offer a life-changing experience to successive students.

**What will my status be in the English family?**

Your host family will look forward to welcoming you as far as possible as a member of their family for the time of the exchange, with the same privileges and responsibilities as other members of the family. You may be a different age to the student whose place you have taken, and may stay for less time than they spend in the USA. However, the time you spend will normally mirror time spent by your exchange partner in your family.

**What contribution to the maintenance of the household might I be expected to make?**

Most teenagers would be expected to look after their own personal needs, to keep their room tidy and perhaps do their own laundry, to help in clearing up the kitchen, washing utensils, and in the garden e.g. cutting the lawn. You may not be used to doing these things and so should find out from your host family exactly what they normally expect from you.

**Are host families paid to house and feed me?**

No. Not at all.

**General Information****What is Cheadle Hulme like?**

Cheadle Hulme is a residential area on the edge of the large Greater Manchester conurbation. It has some shops but there are out-of-town shopping malls nearby and larger towns such as Stockport and Wilmslow within 3-4 miles. Manchester City Centre is about half an hour away by train or bus.

**Is there public transport?**

There are plenty of buses to main towns and several train stations locally. There are special buses for transport to and from school from a wide area. Parents have to pay for this service. Pupils live over a wide area, some up to 20 miles from school.

**Will I be allowed to drive?**

No. The possession of an International driver's licence would be required but insurance risks are regarded as too high for this to be a practical arrangement.

**Do British students have jobs?**

Some sixth form students work at weekends and in the school holidays in shopping malls, restaurants, sports centres etc. They do this for extra money towards social activities, cars etc.

**Will I be allowed to work?**

Yes, but only in activities that do not contravene the terms of your student visa e.g. baby-sitting, household or garden chores, perhaps small jobs at school.

**What are my personal expenses likely to be?**

The UK is generally more expensive for many things e.g. clothes, food, partly because the dollar exchange rate is poor at present. £100 - £150 a month may cover basic needs such as socialising, haircuts, phone bills etc., but student spending habits vary widely.

**Will I be allowed to drink?**

Students in the UK are allowed to drink alcohol legally from the age of 18, though this is widely abused. It would be expected that a visitor from the US would not break the law of the land while in the UK. It may also be that his or her parents may prefer to decide beforehand that they should not drink in any circumstances, even if over 18. This may however produce awkward situations in normal socialising with other sixth form students out of school, many of whom “go to the pub”.

**Are exchange students expected to travel widely whilst on the exchange?**

No, your experience is intended to be family-based. Students sometimes travel with their families at weekends and in school holidays. You may also be able to take part in school trips.

**What are the most important factors in a successful exchange experience?**

- Enthusiasm for the experience
- Willingness to try new things e.g. food, activities
- Ability to cope with differences e.g. in family expectations
- Acceptance of different school expectations
- Readiness to discuss worries with your host family
- Perseverance, especially at first, when it is natural to feel a little homesick

The exchange committees at both schools offer help at any stage if it proves difficult to talk about or resolve issues, especially within the family situation. Almost any problem can be solved if it is identified early enough and discussed openly.