

SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER



Issue 003

Dec / Jan 2024/25

2024 has been another year of difficult geopolitical tension. Despite that, Engage with China (EwC) has been privileged to work with visionary headteachers keen to build global mindset, access cultural experiences and foster tolerance and empathy in their school communities. We have enjoyed teaching over 1,000 more young people from KS2 to 6th form and to open eyes and minds to China's history, geographical diversity, language, culture and impact. One of our patrons, Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint, Former Minister of State for Trade & Industry and previously Chair of HSBC, said recently to us, "China is a great country with a longstanding history. It has produced some of the best inventions & works of art. It is a huge power on the world stage. The Engage with China scholarship programme is a unique & tremendous opportunity that will be life-transforming for those young people." Our Ambassador to China, Dame Caroline Wilson recently spoke of a "lack of China literate people" in the UK. We are proud to be delivering key outcomes for the leaders of tomorrow by equipping them to understand China better today.

A-level Scholarships in China transform lives

Our scholarship programme has almost tripled in size since its foundation in August 2023. 35 lucky British Engage with China scholars are now studying in three cities in China, thanks to our collaboration with Wycombe Abbey International Schools in Changzhou, Hangzhou and Nanjing. Some of the scholars have taken on responsibility on School Council or as Deputy House Captains. Others are volunteering by reading and supporting English language learning to students in the Kindergarten. Activity weekends, sporting events and drama productions fill the time beyond the curriculum as well as mandarin lessons, cultural trips and singing to the elderly in a local care home. Academic achievements are very good and we wait to hear results from those who have recently interviewed for Oxbridge and other Russell Group and US universities. We wish them all every success and enjoyment of their continued life in China.

What our scholars say...

"We are all doing so well, we have certainly made friends for life already. Crazy to think that we have already finished 1/4 of our time in China! We all really miss home but everyone is coping well. I will be seeing Ed Sheeran in Hangzhou with one of my best friends who is Chinese - so that will be both a cultural experience and a great time!" Zoe, Y12

"I loved our trips out exploring different cities, trying new foods, and learning about other traditions; the immersion was amazing. I've enjoyed the freedom of being able to explore nearby cities & I have made many Chinese friends along my journey," - Charlie (Y13)



SAVE THE DATE: Cultural fun for people of all ages on Sunday 28 February 2025 Chinese New Year, Worcester.
[More details](#)

Last remaining places for Model UN

22 schools have already committed to participate in our annual Good Cop Bad Cop Conference on 28 February 2025. We are very excited that Sir Jim Skea, Chair of the International Panel on Climate Change will be our keynote speaker. Awarded an OBE for services to global leadership in climate science, Sir Jim will certainly set an aspirational tone. [Register today](#).

Former Vice President of Good Cop, Theo, now an undergraduate, says, "a unique & rewarding experience and provides a superb opportunity to build China literate people in the west." [Listen more](#)



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Engage with China “allow[ed] our children to travel in spirit”

EwC had the delight to deliver two China Challenge Days in Kidderminster this year. Quoting the CEO of Barnardo's, Lynn Perry, Amanda Cope, Head at St Catharine's CofE Primary School said, “Living in poverty means children miss out on opportunities and activities that make childhood fun and support their development. As Headteacher, it's my mission to bridge this gap. Our Christian vision emphasises the importance of nurturing knowledge, wisdom, and understanding of the world beyond our doorstep. It is vital that our pupils are exposed to new ideas, places, and cultures, especially since they often miss out on these things. Engage with China was so meaningful. Through their Shang Dynasty Day and Flavours of China Day, delivered to two different year groups, our pupils were able to step outside their everyday world and immerse themselves in another culture. The lessons were vibrant and hands-on.” She continued, “These experiences allow our children to travel in spirit when they cannot do so in reality. By learning about other cultures, they're building empathy, understanding, and respect for lives and traditions beyond their own. They begin to see that while we may live in different places with different histories, we share common dreams of happiness and success. This kind of understanding is vital in our increasingly interconnected world. Please come back in 2025!” We can't wait to do so!



Exploring the link between China & china

Two of our charity Ambassadors entertained and inspired 100 guests at a fundraising dinner entitled “The Power of Porcelain” in Worcester's medieval College Hall in November. Artist and collector, Jian Jun Xi and ceramics and antiques expert as seen on BBC's Bargain Hunt, Ben Cooper, highlighted the exquisite links between porcelain (which originated in Jingdezhen) in China and how cultural ideas, interpretations, innovations and design boosted maritime trade and economic growth. Event sponsor, Alan Cope from Charles Fellows Supplies, said, “We have many business partners in China and consider that any initiative that builds relationships with China at every level can only be a positive move.” We agree!



Building China literate people



Our vision is to build literacy and understanding about China that will create a pipeline for industry, trade, diplomacy and the 3rd sector in the future. If you are a teacher, Headteacher, governor, parent or grandparent, please let's have a chat about how we could work with pupils in your school. Complete the form via the QR code of email us.

Wishing all our partners, teachers, schools, scholars and friends a very Joyful Christmas and a healthy and fun New Year!

EwC is an independent, UK-registered educational charity and receive no government funding. To enable wider educational equity and build more unique learning opportunities, we need financial support. Please make a donation and, if you are a UK taxpayer, please Gift Aid your donation so that, at no extra cost to you, EwC can receive more. Thank you. [Donate today via the code!](#)



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