Proposed International Student Exchange Programme to St Cuthbert's College, Auckland, New Zealand

The main objective of the International Study Programme is to provide two students in Year 11 with the opportunity to experience a culture and an education system that are quite different from CLSG. The experience will broaden their perspective on education, increase their awareness of international issues and build on the foundations laid through the delivery of the Global Perspective Course that the students undertake in Year 10.

It is also an opportunity to expand global connections, develop life-long friendships and to become a member of another community. Participation in the Programme will enable students to build their self-esteem, adapt to new situations and to challenge their way of thinking.

Background on St Cuthbert's College

We were approached by Justine Mahon, the headteacher of St Cuthbert's at the start of 2019. She is currently trying to expand the international exchange programme for her school and had heard excellent things about CLSG, from other members of our international network.

Justine came to CLSG for a meeting with Ms Harrop and Mr Aldridge on 9th July, where we discussed the similarities between our schools. We all agreed that the schools would be an excellent match for an international exchange.

As an independent school, St Cuthbert's is the highest achieving school in New Zealand. Teachers and students value the all-girls environment and the impact that this has on learning and achievement. Just like at CLSG, STEM subjects are hugely popular and the girls who attend St Cuthbert's are six times more likely to take a STEM subject at university than girls who attend a co-ed school.

St Cuthbert's has a 'Global Citizenship' programme that mirrors our own Global Perspectives course. This equips students to be critical and enterprising thinkers and to have the self-belief and strategies to solve global problems. Students are set up with a deep understanding of issues to do with human rights, diversity, wealth distribution and social inclusiveness. When they leave school they go on to facilitate lasting changes amongst their communities

In addition, just as at CLSG, girls participate in a range of activities that ensure lifebalance including artistic, dramatic, musical, debating and community service pursuits.

St Cuthbert's also has a unique month long programme, called Kahunui. During year 10 students live 'off the e-grid' for a month – disconnecting themselves from their phones, social media and the internet. This is a hugely formative experience for all students involved, where they learn to develop more meaningful connections with others, be more inclusive and open and open themselves to the living in the natural world.

We are confident that this school and the host family will provide an excellent environment from which our students can experience another culture.

Further information about the school is available on the school website https://www.stcuthberts.school.nz/

Other schools in the St Cuthbert's International Student Exchange programme

Lauriston Girl's School – Melbourne, Two schools in Paris and One school in Canada

Proposed Dates for the Exchange:

CLSG to St Cuthbert's College: July 2020 – August 2020

St Cuthbert's to CLSG: Jan 2021 - Feb 2021

Selection Process

All Year 11 students will be eligible to apply for up to four places on the Programme. Not all applicants may be accepted, and the school reserves the right to refuse a student's participation.

We will be looking for positive, independent, flexible and confident students who will act as school Ambassadors and who will contribute to and participate in all aspects of the Programme. The ideal candidate will have a sound academic background, strong organisational skills, and will have already made a positive contribution to a wide range of activities at CLSG.

Candidates will be asked to write a letter explaining why a place on the Programme would be a valuable experience and what they can offer the host school and family. A panel of staff members will assess each application, taking into consideration previous knowledge of the student and information provided in the letter of application.

What is involved in the exchange?

In addition to the students accessing the prevailing Year 11 curriculum and cocurricular programmes at the exchange school, part of the exchange programme is offering hospitality to those students who come to CLSG/go to St Cuthbert's. The hosting family in each School will need to agree to:

- bear the costs involved in hosting a foreign student
- communicate with foreign family and the visiting student before her arrival
- provide exchange student with the transfer from and to the airport on the day of their arrival and their return
- provide suitable accommodation for the visiting exchange student
- host parents are in loco parentis and as such follow all normal school procedures and protocols of CLSG/St Cuthbert's
- provide transfers to and from school during the stay of visiting students
- take visiting student sightseeing in and around London/Auckland

Once a student has been on exchange, she will be asked to write a report on her experiences and she is expected to continue to demonstrate her interest in the exchange program; this includes meeting and greeting any exchange student who comes to CLSG. Such students will also be in a position to offer their experience to subsequent students who are selected to go on the programme.

Cost Implications

CLSG parents will continue to pay their daughter's school fees and the host school will not charge any fees. Parents will be responsible for arranging transport (passports, visas and insurance), paying for flights, and pocket money and travel money for any extensive excursions. Whilst no fees will be exchanges between the two schools there may be extras. The host school will alert parents to this.