

**Proposed International Student Exchange Programme to Laurel School,
Cleveland, Ohio**

Purpose and Rationale

The main objective of the International Study Programme is to provide two students in Year 10 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 the Laurel School

Laurel School, founded in 1896, is a nationally recognized, college preparatory, independent day school for girls, Kindergarten through Grade 12, with a coeducational Pre-Primary program. The school shares a number of key values and characteristics with CLSG: academic excellence, core values, diversity and a focus on research, with the Laurel School's Center for Research on Girls Laurel has two campuses. The Lyman Campus is situated on 11 acres in suburban Shaker Heights, Ohio, and is home to classrooms, two gymnasiums, visual arts studios, a Chapel Theatre and a dance studio for the Pre-Primary, Primary, Middle and Upper Schools. Opened in 2002, the 140-acre Butler Campus in Russell Township, Ohio, features outdoor education, experiential learning, athletic fields, a 16-element Project Adventure Course, and a 16,000-square-foot fitness and wellness centre.

Girls at laurel are encouraged to take risks and to welcome intellectual and physical challenges. At the heart of the school are values such as courage, creativity and compassion. The school places an emphasis on leadership development.

Proposed Dates for the Exchange:

March/April 2018 – CLSG girls to Laurel	2 weeks
June 2018 –Laurel girls to CLSG	2 weeks

Selection Process

All Year 10 students will be eligible to apply for one of the two 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 9 curriculum and co-curricular programmes at the exchange school, part of the exchange programme is offering hospitality to those students who come to CLSG/go to the Laurel. 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/Laurel
- provide exchange student with a CLSG/Laurel school uniform
- provide transfers to and from school during the stay of visiting students
- take visiting student sightseeing in and around London/Ohio
- in the case of CLSG parents, apply for a DBS certificate

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 exchanged between the two schools there may be extras. The host school will alert parents to this.