



## COMBE PAFFORD SCHOOL

Visit to China

Diary Entry 1

30<sup>th</sup> October 2019

### DAY 1 Beijing calling...

We had a really good journey up to the airport, unloaded the minibuses outside of Terminal 2 and the two drivers met us to drive away and store them until we return.

Checking in, baggage drop and passing through departures all went smoothly and we had time to get some sandwiches and a drink before boarding the aircraft which left on time. The flight was really smooth, landing an hour early and everyone enjoyed the on board hospitality of food, drink and films/games on their own console. This was really good news as Mr Lock was able to pass the time away by having a decent amount of sleep, but being alert enough to wake up for meals!

We were met at Beijing airport by Jessica our teacher guide from BEES School who was a part of the group we hosted last June. The coach took us to the accommodation block on the campus which we have exclusive use of. The rooms are really well appointed and have everything we need.....

We unloaded the cases and spent 10 mins taking them to our rooms before getting the Metro to Tiananmen Square where we arrived at dusk at about 5.30. The lights on the magnificent buildings make it a spectacular first glimpse of Beijing and we walked the length of the Square which is the largest in the world. We then had our evening meal in a traditional Chinese restaurant and the food was really tasty and appreciated by everyone.....chop stick practice back in England paid off as everyone used them and most people had a real filling meal. We then left to walk through to some stalls selling less popular snacks where Mr James and Mrs Macintyre both decided that they had room to try a scorpion! Mr James decided fairly early on in the chewing process that he had made a really big error in doing this and wasn't able to actually swallow any!! Everyone then relaxed in Starbucks with either a coffee or hot chocolate before getting the metro back to our accommodation.....a lovely if tiring first day!

Tomorrow, we have the official welcoming ceremony, a drumming display similar to the type used at the rugby world cup, will take part in a welding lesson and then after lunch visit the Forbidden City and in the evening go to the acrobatics show!

Weather has been sunny, not too hot and the same is forecast for the next few days!!

Mr Lock