

International Links – Exchanges and Work Experience

We take great pride in our International Links and run many different kinds of exchange schemes, both groups and individual arrangements, facilitated by our excellent working relationships with partner schools and institutions. In recognition of our huge range of activity and diverse global links, Hills Road Sixth Form College has been awarded the British Council's International School Award.

Uddevalla, Sweden

A group exchange programme offers Business Studies and Economics students a full range of business visits and cultural activities with their Swedish partners from the Agnebergsgymnasiet, who in turn come to the UK on work experience placements.

Hamburg, Germany

This is a work experience exchange with two partner schools in Hamburg, the Hansa and Luisen Gymnasien. Students of German live with a German family and undertake a 7 day work experience in a variety of work placements. Their partners later return to work with local employers in Cambridge.

Paris, France

Students of French take part in an individual exchange with students from the Lycée Chaptal. They visit France and receive guests at a mutually convenient time, usually for a fortnight each way.



Montpellier, France

Students of French have the opportunity of taking part in a group exchange with students from the Lycée Jean Monnet, with a full programme of regional visits and activities. Students visit Montpellier, the medieval town of Aigues-Mortes and the museum of Contemporary Art in Nîmes.

Gijón, Spain

Students of Spanish do an individual exchange with the Réal Instituto de Jovellanos in Asturias, Northern Spain.

Mthatha, Eastern Cape, South Africa

Within our global citizenship focus as a college, we are very proud of our links with schools across Europe and since 2005, we have been linked to Ndamase Senior Secondary School in the Eastern Cape region of South Africa. Students from Hills Road Sixth Form College have been to visit our partner school. In December this year, we are hosting a return visit by the Ndamase school choir to our College where the students from Ndamase and Hills Road will work together on musical collaborations which will result in the production of a joint CD and will culminate with the Carol Service at Great St Mary's on 16th December. Students and staff have shown a tremendous effort in raising funds for this visit over the last year. The fundraising will not only finance the visit from the Choir, but money will also go towards the Solar Connect Project and we hope to secure a sustainable platform of solar-powered communications that will enable both schools to benefit from digital opportunities throughout the curriculum in future.

Going abroad on an exchange and hosting a foreign student is of enormous cultural value and greatly increases the confidence of most students. The intellectual, social and linguistic benefits of an exchange are incalculable and we believe that fostering international links between students in the 16 – 18 age group is a significant educational priority.

International Links – Trips and Visits

In addition to our wide range of annual work experience and exchange schemes with partner schools and institutions, many departments run other trips and visits abroad. Through these, students enrich the classroom experience they have of places connected with their subjects, expand their cultural horizons and enjoy the benefits of working together as a group in exciting new circumstances. These are some of the trips which took place during the last year, many of which are annual events.

New York, USA

Each March the Hills Road Robotics Team go out to New York and compete with 40 other teams. We are very proud to have won awards in each year and been finalists twice.

Boston, USA

Physical Education students travelled to Boston to meet Harvard University sport officials and attend a mixture of professional and amateur games, including basketball, American football and ice-hockey.

Washington D.C. USA

Politics students travelled to Washington to see at first hand the workings of democracy & the American Constitution, visiting the Senate & other important political sites & institutions.



New York, USA

Photography students travelled to New York to take photographs of this vibrant city. Their completed work will support students' A2 coursework. The visit also included trips to galleries and the Rockefeller Centre.

Belgium

The Music department embarked on an exciting Concert Tour of Belgium. The Chamber Choir and the Chamber Orchestra gave concerts in Brussels, Ghent and Bruges. The repertoire included Rutter's *Requiem* and Chilcott's *A little Jazz Mass*.

Amsterdam, Netherlands

History of Art students went on an exciting trip to the Netherlands, where they visited museums and art galleries in Amsterdam and The Hague and were inspired by the strong tradition of Dutch art.



Athens, Greece

28 Classics students visited places of interest in Athens and other locations. They gained first hand experience of classical places such as Delphi and expanded their understanding of artefacts and the culture by visiting various museums.

Beijing & Shanghai, China

The Geography department travelled to Beijing and Shanghai. The trip focussed on urban re-development but also included a visit to a rural area outside. Our students also had the opportunity to see some of the sites including The Great Wall and Tiananmen Square.

Berlin, Germany

Art students travelled to Berlin with a focus on Modern Art and Berlin's architecture. Their visit to a number of Berlin's finest galleries and museums included the 'Bauhaus Archiv' and the Haunch of Venison Gallery.

Geneva, Switzerland

In June, physics students went to CERN in Geneva where students had the unique opportunity to go underground to see important experiments carried out. Students also saw the Antimatter Factory and other sites.

Austria

The annual ski trip travelled to the Zillertal for an active week with plenty of time for leisure and cultural activities.

We believe strongly in the educational benefits of travelling to places linked to our courses and value the chance it gives students to develop as individuals and as members of a team. We have just as many exciting trips planned for next year!