



ST HELEN &
ST KATHARINE

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Headmistress: Mrs Rebecca Dougall BA MA

8 June 2018

Dear Parents

Vancouver Exchange

I am writing to launch this year's exchange with York House School, Vancouver that will take place during the academic year 2018–19 for Year 10 students.

The exchange is now in its second year. We are hoping that the two 'legs' will take place approximately October/November 2018 (UK to Canada leg) and approximately May/June 2019 (Canada to UK leg). The aim is that both visits will be a mix of term time and holiday time.

Further information about York House School can be found [here](#).

Having visited the school, got to know members of the Senior Management Team and met students, I am confident that St Helen and St Katharine students will find the ethos and atmosphere familiar and stimulating. The two students who spent time at York House during the Michaelmas Term 2017 had a wonderful time.

Like our school, York House is an aspirational and high-achieving independent girls' school. It is located in a pleasant residential neighbourhood in the glorious city of Vancouver, a dynamic city which reflects the trends of this century and its location on the Pacific Rim.

The intention of the exchange is to allow the students to experience the curriculum on offer in each other's countries and also to have an opportunity to enjoy recreational and cultural activities that reflect the location of the host families.

The cost of participation in this exchange will include the direct cost of air fares and transfers and, in addition, the associated costs of hosting/sending a teenager abroad for three weeks and facilitating her participation in a range of activities. Current return airfares to Vancouver are approximately £600. We would want the flights organised so that the three exchange students travel together. There is also a modest cost of \$7 associated with visa requirements for entry to Canada.

The schools would like to work together with the host families to suggest appropriate activities – both to manage costs but also to ensure that there is a genuine educational focus at the heart of this partnership. Note that no money is exchanged between St Helen's and York House.

Time is relatively tight and so we are asking for expressions of interest to be logged with my Executive Assistant eprior@shsk.org.uk / 01235 546502 by **Friday 22 June**. Note that there is also a form for interested students to complete **by the same date**. This form is available from Emilie and this comes with further information about the exchange.

Places on the exchange this year are limited to three. The allocation of places will be based on the quality of a student's application and, if necessary, the applicants will be called for an interview with me and with Mrs Nash. We would want to book flights at the end of term to get the best value.

Please note that in applying for this you are agreeing to undergo all of the necessary safeguarding checks to host an overseas student.

This is a very exciting global opportunity and we do hope that three students and their families will take it up. Please get in touch to find out more.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Dougall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'D'.

Rebecca Dougall
Headmistress