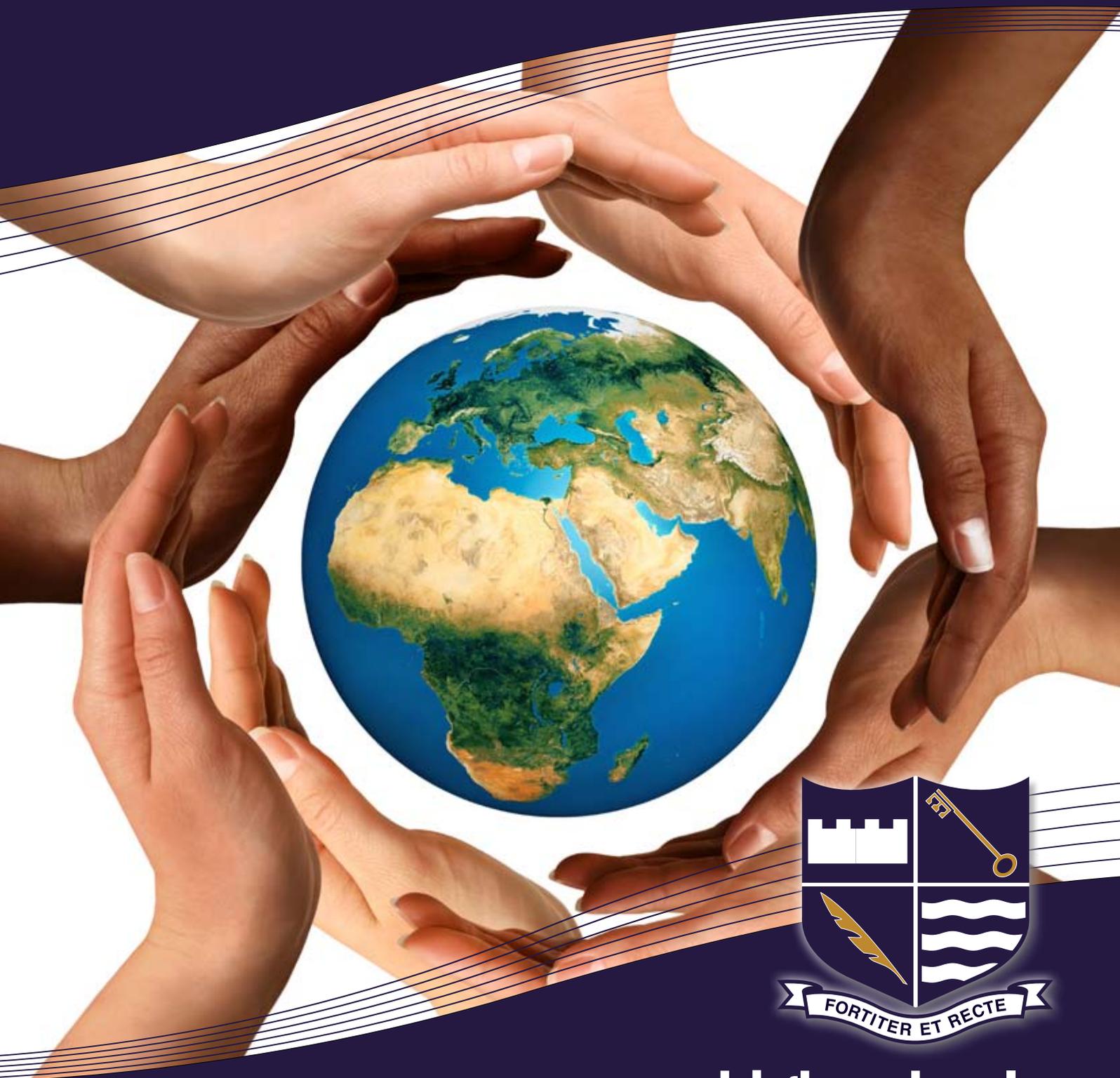


International Students **CULTURAL DIFFERENCES**



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European

In some countries in Europe, it is common to ride everywhere on bicycles and no bike helmets are worn.

Students are used to taking about 12 subjects so may tend to find the amount of work at our school easier.

Most of these students have travelled to several countries.

Evening meals are similar to New Zealand. Fresh bread cut from a loaf with cheese or jam is a common breakfast food, as is muesli and yoghurt. European bread is often more substantial than NZ bread typically is, and as such whole meal bread such as Vogel's should appeal to your student.

European students are usually very tidy and appreciate order in their surroundings.

European students tend to be independent. Many students enjoy talking with homestay families about a variety of issues. Young students often have a broader understanding of the world compared to students from some other countries, and are confident to participate in discussions on a range of topics with older people. If a European student is shy, some games or looking through some photo albums are great icebreakers.



Chinese

Food is very important in Chinese culture. The preparation of food can be an art form and a major leisure activity. Different foods have significance attached and combinations of food are sometimes important. Also nutrition has a distinct place in Chinese healthcare.

Chinese people believe that, to keep healthy, one should have something nutritious for breakfast, eat until full for lunch and have a light supper. That's why lunch is regarded as dinner all around the country.

The main courses for most Chinese are still rice or wheat flour products like steamed buns or noodles. Potato is only taken as a kind of vegetable and bread as a snack. Most Chinese generally do not like mutton or lamb.

If a Chinese person doesn't like to have a New Zealand style breakfast, it is a good idea to give him or her instant noodles or toast and fried eggs for a change, or left overs from the Chinese meal the night before.

Hot chilli sauce is a favourite to have available as a condiment. Also most Chinese drink tea compared to coffee. They are not used to having milk in their tea. Green tea is readily available in supermarkets, if this is their preferred beverage.

Some Chinese people enjoy making a noise when they eat their food as it is a way of showing their appreciation for what they are eating.

Chopsticks are difficult for Westerners to master and knives and forks may be difficult for Chinese students. It may be appropriate to have spoons or chopsticks available, and at times to attempt to use chopsticks yourselves.

It is common to eat out in China. Mixing with friends is always done at a restaurant and not in the family home.

Most Chinese tend to be reserved. If a Chinese person has difficulty expressing their ideas, then they will perhaps keep silent. Chinese are often good listeners but not good speakers.

Losing face is an important concept. Chinese people do not enjoy being made to look foolish, or to be placed in uncompromising situations.

Chinese often react to embarrassment by laughing and a smile or "Yes" may be the reply to a question or remark that has not been understood.

A Chinese High School graduate has learned English for at least six years. After this period of time they will study for another two years at college. For many students their oral ability is not as good as their reading and writing.



Chinese are taught to be modest, hence, in most cases; they will play down their personal abilities. So do not always expect to hear “Thank you” when you say something complimentary to them. Correspondingly, they will also be quick to praise you for trivial achievements.

Students may bring their own medicines and prefer to go to Chinese doctors, if available.

In China, a bathroom is small and will have a central drain hole with the shower in one corner of the room, so its fine for water to be all over the floor as it can just drain away. In New Zealand bathrooms it’s not so convenient with water everywhere, and this might need to be explained.

Chinese people like to have towels of their own for showers or baths.

Spitting is acceptable in China so students need to be told that it is not appropriate behaviour in New Zealand.



Korean

Korean students can find New Zealand homes very cold in winter and they may need an extra blanket, heater or hot water bottle in cold weather.

Please show them how to clean the bathroom after a shower. The bathrooms look very different in their country and often they do not realise they need to clean up after they use the shower. Please explain that there are no clothes to be washed in the bathroom as is often done in their country. Let them know there should be no hanging of wet clothes in their bedroom.

Korean students are often not good at saying "No, I don't understand", so if there is any sign that your student hasn't fully understood, please re-explain or write it down for them. They are usually not used to the way we wash dishes, so show them how we do things in the New Zealand kitchen.

Many Korean students are very academically focused, so if they want to stay in their room for self study, don't be offended. Although computer games are one of the biggest pastimes for Korean boys', please remind them to not spend hours on the computer especially at night.

Many Koreans like their food really spicy or hot, so they may struggle with New Zealand foods as they have a mild taste. Therefore, please ensure that you sometimes you have spicy food for them, for example, curry rice.

Many Koreans tend to eat a big breakfast. Having cereal or toast may be unusual for some students.

In Korea, Korean people don't really mind about making noises when they eat dinner. You may need to remind them not to make noises if you are offended by it.



Japanese

Some Japanese students are shy and too modest to ask you for your help, so please speak to them frequently and try to include them in general activities. Also, they may not complain or express their discomfort. If you feel something is wrong, please call the school so we can ask the student to identify any problem or discomfort the student may be feeling. Japanese students tend to apologise and say "Sorry" a great deal. They may hesitate to say "Pardon, could you say that again?"

Japanese students are can be afraid to make mistakes. Most Japanese want to speak perfectly from the beginning, which is why they are often hesitant to speak.

Japanese students tend to go to bed much later than New Zealand students. TV is a big part of the Japanese evening life and students often watch it until late. Young students often find it 'boring' in New Zealand when their homestay families go to bed early. We do not expect you to allow the student to stay up late alone, but you may like to explain this difference to your student.

Japanese people take their shoes off when they enter the house, inside the house.

Young Japanese people consider that dinner is very important for communication time. All family members are supposed to be at the table at dinner time. Again, this is at your discretion. They are used to having a main dish, like cooked fish, vegetable dishes or cooked meat with boiled rice. Japanese typically like to eat a substantial breakfast which will sometimes include eggs.



Thai

Thai values are different from New Zealand values. Thai students often have a high level of apprehension in meeting others and in public. Thai children seldom take part in family discussions or express their opinions to their parents. Most Thai students are generally not assertive and are shy and quiet in class. They are used to keeping silent and listening to what their teachers say or they are used to passive study rather than active study.

Most Thai students are indirect and easy going. They are easy to approach and get to know if you are nice to them. They can be quite shy and don't speak up – do not misunderstand this; they will speak more when they get to know you. Thai students may speak more after you spend time with them doing activities together.

Sometimes Thai students find New Zealand food a bit bland. Having a bottle of sweet chilli sauce on the table, so that they can spice up their food, is a great idea. Thai students appreciate access to fruit every day.

Thai students tend to like to shower. Please make sure you explain to them that power and water are very expensive. You could mention that in New Zealand people usually only shower once per day.

Encourage your Thai student to keep their room tidy. Remember, some of these students have maids in Thailand.

When you first meet your student, they may not be used to touching and hugging.

If your student does something wrong, please don't yell at them. Calmly explain to them and contact the counsellor at the school for that person to talk to your student if you feel this is necessary.



Brazilian/Chilean

Brazilian students are used to having maids who clean the house and make the beds.

Most students in large cities like Sao Paulo live in apartments rather than a house with a garden as it is safer for them. In smaller cities it is common to live in houses.

Most students in Brazil and Chile need to attend a private school in order to get a good education. Usually, private schools offer activities in the afternoon.

Latin American culture revolves around music, dance and family. They are very social and friendly. They love to go out and come home later than other nationalities. It helps to be very communicative and have them become a part of the family, as they love to chat.

Latin Americans are accustomed to eating a lot of pasta and meat, so BBQ's will be warmly welcomed. They are not at all used to Asian style food.

Kissing on the cheek is normal in South America, so don't be surprised if they don't adopt a formal handshake.



Vietnamese

Vietnamese students enjoy a large breakfast usually consisting of noodles, meat and vegetables. This dish is called Pho and is very popular in Vietnam. Sticky rice is also very common. For lunch and dinner in Vietnam, it is common to eat pork and rice with iced tea. Spring rolls which can be fresh or deep fried are also a common meal. Each spring roll will have noodles, vegetables and meat inside them. Another popular dish is called “hotpot” which is a combination of meat and vegetables cooked in a hot dish. This is similar to a casserole.

Most students in Vietnam ride bicycles but they do not need to wear a helmet in Vietnam. As a rule in New Zealand is to wear a helmet, this will need to be explained to any students that you host from Vietnam.

Schools in Vietnam start at a different time of the day according to the age of the student. Students aged from Year 12 and Year 13 start school at 7.30 am – 12.15 pm

Year 10 and Year 11 students attend school from 12.30 – 5.15 pm

Most students in Vietnam attend night school, or tutorials, which start at about 5.30pm and finish at 9pm. Students attend school Monday through to Saturday and students are expected to take school very seriously and to work hard.

Most schools are very overcrowded and the classrooms may have over 40 students in each room. Students sit in rows and each lesson is dominated by the teacher talking.

Vietnamese parents have firm control of their children. They make decisions on their children’s behalf and sometimes without any consultation with their own children.

Vietnamese parents send their children overseas so that they can get a better education.

