

Pippa's Post

July 2022

Welcome from Ben

Dear Host Families,
Can I start by warmly welcoming our new host families to the Pippa's Guardians community. It is wonderful to have you 'on board' with us and we look forward to introducing you to our students in due course. Looking through our records I would also like to recognise some of our host families have now been hosting for over 20 years since the time when my mother was in charge. This is a phenomenal achievement and we're incredibly grateful to you for your longevity as are our overseas families of course.

When I was 11 years old my family used to host a student

from Thailand who came to my boarding school. It was a wonderful experience for me as the student became a very close friend of mine and our families got to know each other really very well. In fact you could argue that this was the catalyst for Pippa's Guardians. I am still in touch with him now and I'm pleased to say he is thriving back in Bangkok having enjoyed a first class education here. I sincerely hope you enjoy looking after your students as much as we did back in the early 90's!

Talking to Mum (Pippa) recently she is very proud of the progress Pippa's

Guardians has made as she can see the ethos and values have remained constant even during the difficult Covid years. Mum was, quite simply, a 'Mum' to her students and these values are very important as we continue to grow. I am pleased to say that we're proving to be very popular again this September so without doubt we'll be asking for your availability to host our students.

Host families have always been, and always will be, the lifeblood for Pippa's Guardians. Please don't ever underestimate the support and reassurance you are

providing to our overseas families. A warm welcome and a home away from home is so critical for our students so a sincere thank you to you all for your hosting. If any of you would like to contact me directly it would be my pleasure to hear from you;

ben@pippasguardians.co.uk

Ben Hughes

Managing Director



Happy retirement!

On Friday 8th July, we wished our lovely East Midlands Area Manager Ann, a fond farewell and happy retirement from her role as a Pippa's Area Manager after 4 fabulous years doing an amazing job for her students, parents and host families. Ann came to Pippa's with so much knowledge from her previous roles in education and she has been the most incredible team player who is always the first to step up and help others. She was a regular holder of the Duty

Phone for years and has supported her colleagues in more ways than she will ever know in their hour of need! She will be greatly missed but fortunately for us, she will still be available to help us with emergency hosting and as an escort for Pippa's students when they need chaperoning to appointments or events.

If you are also interested in being a chaperone for Pippa's, please speak to your Area Manager or email;

hostfamilies@pippasguardians.co.uk



Race the Sun

Last month, Caroline, one of our Area Managers for Cheltenham, recently completed the Race the Sun – Dawn to Dusk triathlon style challenge on the Brecon Beacons to raise money for Action Medical Research, the UK's leading charity changing and saving children's lives through medical research. Their research has helped beat Polio in the UK, fight

meningitis and prevent stillbirths. The challenge involved a walk up Pen-y-fan in howling wind, a 55 mile cycle up steep hills and finally a few miles of canoeing along the canal to Brecon County Showground for a well earned pig roast and beer. It took them 9 exhausting hours and they raised an amazing £1,355 for the charity.



Safeguarding Training for Host Families

We are so pleased to be able to offer our host families the opportunity to complete our AEGIS online Safeguarding course which has been written specifically for Guardians and Host Families by the chair of AEGIS, Adam Lubbock. As you already know, AEGIS is our Governing body and we are very proud to hold their highest tier Gold membership status.

This course is being rolled out by geographical location and you will receive an email from our Head of Safeguarding,

Imogen with a course link and full instructions when we reach your specific area. Please do make time to complete this very important and helpful online course.

The training course cost has already been met in full by Pippa's Guardians and you will be sent a certificate shortly after completion of the course which is for your records.

We will offer you the opportunity to renew this safeguarding training every three years in line with AEGIS best practice.

Summer hosting

Summer 2022 is finally upon us, and we wanted to say a huge thank you to our host families for not only all your support for our children in term time, but in the holidays too.

The last few years have seen the majority of our students grounded in the UK due to Covid, with those that did travel facing challenging travel plans and quarantine rules in their home countries, as well as a myriad of other issues as comes with the territory of trying to get nearly 700 students back home to their families each holiday.

This summer we have only 45 students remaining here in the UK requiring a host family over the holidays, which may be disappointing for those who have so kindly volunteered to host, but it is wonderful for so many of our students and their families to be able to be back home together this year.

We had many families offering to host this summer and we would like to say thank you to everyone who offered, your help and support is always much appreciated.

Our company is growing!

We continue to receive registrations for new students coming to the UK this September. In order to offer the highest standards of care, we frequently have positions become available across the country. If you are interested

in working for Pippa's Guardians please send across your CV so we can contact you should any relevant positions become available.

CVs should be sent to;
jodie@pippasguardians.co.uk

Refer & Earn

As we help students with their end of year and summer holiday plans, we are also busy preparing for September. We are currently looking for supportive and caring hosts for new students who are joining us in September.

As you may know we offer a £75 voucher as a thank you for any referrals you make who successfully become Pippa's host families. In addition to this, we run an annual prize draw for our host families. This year's prize

draw is for £150 shopping vouchers for any referral you make between June and 31st July 2022 (whether they sign up or not).

If you have any family, friends or neighbours who would like to speak to someone at Pippa's about becoming a host family, please email their contact information to hostfamilies@pippasguardians.co.uk and your name will automatically be entered into the prize draw (multiple referrals count as multiple entries).

Sharing is caring

Whether you are new to hosting Pippa's students, or a host who has been with us for years, you no doubt have lots of stories and advice to share about what makes students happy. Many of you have hosted for longer periods of time in the last 2 years, due to lockdowns and school closures, and may have found yourself at times, short

of new ideas, especially when it comes to what to cook for tea. We would therefore like to give you all a platform to share ideas and recipes with each other.

If you have any recipes, tips or experiences to share among the Pippa's hosting community, please email; jodie@pippasguardians.co.uk

Chinese Greens

After a request from a student to have lettuce with each meal for his digestion (at his mothers behest), I now cook separate chinese greens. Subsequent students have shown me how they cook them.

You can use any greens, such as wagamamas, pak choi and long stem broccoli, but my students are happy with romaine lettuce.

I rip or cut the greens and place them in a microwave steamer with minced garlic, sesame oil and salt and pepper. I shake them so the greens are coated. Alternatively, I use a wok with a lid to steam.

I steam them for a few minutes then serve in a dish in the middle of the table for all to share.

This top tip comes from host family Jenny McGrath.

Chinese people like warm hospitality, refusing is only a 'Politeness'

In China, refusing something, whether it is being accompanied to the bus stop, a seat, or another dish of food, is merely considered politeness — a sign of not being greedy or not wanting to put the host into any trouble. Whether what is being offered is wanted or not the guest would still be expected to refuse once or twice at least. Whatever is being offered will usually be made available at least two or three times before a refusal is considered serious.

There is a funny story that happened in my family

between my Chinese Mum and my English Husband. When my Mum came to the UK to visit my family, they walked passed a coffee shop, my Husband asked my Mum "do you want a drink?" my Mum said, "no-no, thank you" so my Husband ordered a coffee for himself. When they returned home, I felt my Mother was unhappy, so I asked her why. She complained "I can't believe this, I said I didn't want a tea and he really didn't get me a tea! He didn't even ask me a second time." I laughed and explained to her that this is

a culture difference. In the UK, if you refuse someone who offers you a drink or food, they assume you don't want it. They don't know that you refused the first time to be polite. I told my husband, next time, when you offer a drink or food to Chinese people, offer 2 or 3 times, don't take the first refusal seriously, because they refuse it just showing politeness. So my advice is, if you offer food or drink to Chinese parents when

they visit your home, offer more than once, naturally, they will refuse at first, just to show they are polite, but if you offer 2 or 3 times, they will accept it and they will feel that they are the most welcomed.



Eden Yang

Chinese Liaison

Student stories

'The grandparents I never had'

In 2016 Tadd and Ron, brothers from Hong Kong, travelled to the UK with their parents and were introduced to Gill and Nigel who would become their host family.

Tadd and Ron were studying at Repton School and for the last 6 years have spent all their half terms and exeat weekends with Gill and Nigel who even hosted the boys through the covid lockdowns and Christmases when their school was closed. It is safe to say that the household easily became their second home. They have been a tremendous support and comfort to Tadd and Ron as they adjusted to being away from home, living

in another country, studying their GCSEs and A Levels.

Ron described his host family as 'the grandparents I never had' and Tadd vowed to return for Christmas lunch.

The boys are now off to University, so earlier this term, we visited the boys at Gill and Nigel's and tried to recreate the original photo taken at their first meeting in 2016.

Thanks to Gill and Nigel for their wonderful hosting, love, support and kindness they have shown to these students. We hope you will stay in touch for a very long time.



Winchester Scholarship Success

Area Manager for Hampshire, Amanda Clough, recently attended the new pupils' day at Winchester College with Oliver, who has gained an extremely hard-won and prestigious academic scholarship. Founded in 1382 to provide an education for 70 scholars, Winchester College has the longest continuous history of any English school. Each year 14 scholars are admitted to College House, in a tradition dating back over 600 years. Amanda says: "to win a scholarship to Winchester is a huge academic achievement but Oliver should be particularly proud of this as he has achieved this award in

his second language". Here is a photo of Oliver trying on his scholar's gown, which he will wear throughout his time at Winchester.

Previously at Windlesham House and under the care of Pippa's Guardians Area Manager Paula Piazza, Oliver has enjoyed weekends and holidays with his host families and on Pippa's Camps. This summer he is having a short stay with Julia and Neil in Midhurst, prior to travelling home to China for the first time in quite a while. Well done, Oliver, we hope you have a wonderful summer with your family!

