



All Hallows Catholic College

A Voluntary Academy

Aspire not to have more but to be more

Brooklands Avenue, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 8LB | Telephone: 01625 426138 | admin@allhallows.org.uk | www.allhallows.org.uk

Principal - Mr T Beesley

15 March '24

Dear Parent / Carer

Re: Mandarin Excellence Programme

Mandarin Chinese opens up a world of opportunity – connecting speakers with an exciting and dynamic culture as well as boosting future career opportunities.

As your child embarks on their secondary school experience, I am writing to share with you an exciting opportunity available to your child from September 2024. All Hallows Catholic College is one of a small group of schools in the country to be successful in bidding with the University College London to deliver the Department for Education's Mandarin Excellence Programme. This is an intensive immersion course in Mandarin Chinese and those students who will participate in the programme will be part of a group who will have access to the best teaching and enrichment opportunities over the next five years. This is an intensive and accelerated programme, consisting of a taught element, on-line learning, enrichment days, University immersion weeks and a potential visit to China.

Learning Chinese is an exciting, challenging and hugely rewarding experience. China is one of the world's oldest and richest cultures, with over 5000 years of history and the world's longest continuous writing system. China is also the most populous nation in the world and Chinese is spoken by one fifth of the world's population – Mandarin Chinese is spoken not only in the People's Republic of China and Taiwan, but also by Chinese communities in other Asian countries, such as Malaysia, Singapore, Mongolia, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Thailand. In today's global society, speaking Mandarin and having an understanding of Chinese culture is hugely important and with the thriving Chinese economy, its importance is only set to increase.

The Department for Education's Mandarin Excellence Programme (MEP) will be delivered by University College, London's Institute of Education Confucius Institute in partnership with the British Council.

Curriculum Offer:

At All Hallows students will learn Chinese as a single language option in Year 7. This means students will have sufficient time and focus to build the foundation they need to make real progress in the language and would also have the advantage that they can continue with the rest of their curriculum as normal. This group would have:

- Three 60 minutes' lesson
- Homework, including access to on-line resources
- 1 enrichment day



Honourable Purpose



Respect



Compassion



Co-operation



Stewardship



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Year 8/9:

Students will continue with 3 hours a week of taught Chinese. In addition, students will take part in a China immersion course in China in Year 9, and a UK-based Chinese immersion course in Year 10. Hanban (a public institution affiliated with the Chinese Ministry of Education, committed to providing Chinese language and cultural teaching resources and services worldwide) will part fund this linguistic and cultural summer course in China, which will include 4 hours of intensive language learning every day, plus immersive experiences to allow students to apply their learning.

Year 10/11:

Students will progress to GCSE in Mandarin Chinese and will also taking a Chinese HSK3 exam in Y10.

How to get involved...

Only 30 students can be selected to take part in this programme, the selection process will be completed in the summer term.

<https://youtu.be/IQlwAMhQ57M>

Expression of interest –

If you would like you're son / daughter to be considered for this programme, please email *Mrs Denby* a.denby@allhallows.org.uk by Friday 24th May explaining your reasons for wishing to be part of the programme, the programme offers a unique and exciting opportunity for our students, please watch the MEP taster lesson first and then complete the aptitude test which can be found on our college website within the transition folder and return the completed test to Mrs Denby, we look forward hearing from you.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me by email or via reception.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A Denby

Mandarin Teacher



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