

Horsforth School

Lee Lane East Horsforth

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Headteacher: Dr P C Bell

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you for your interest in the Mandarin Excellence Programme (MEP) run by University College London (UCL). This is an exciting opportunity for students with the interest to study Mandarin Chinese and we are proud to be chosen to deliver this highly prestigious programme.

There are many benefits to learning Mandarin Chinese. It is the most widely spoken language in the world and an official language of the United Nations. Furthermore, the importance of Mandarin as a business language has increased massively in recent years, with China's economy now the second largest in the world. We believe that students with a good knowledge of Mandarin will be able to set themselves apart from their peers and will have significantly improved employment and earning prospects across a range of careers. We also believe it will give students a truly global view that will broaden their horizons, give them an insight into a rich culture and open up a world of opportunities.

All students on the Mandarin Excellence Programme will receive three hours of teacher-taught lessons each week instead of their French or Spanish lessons as well as additional self-study and extra-curricular support. We also aim to provide a small group tutorial (5 students maximum) for 20 minutes a week to support their progress and understanding. The programme will be delivered by our fully qualified teacher of Mandarin and all other aspects of your Son/Daughter's curriculum will remain the same.

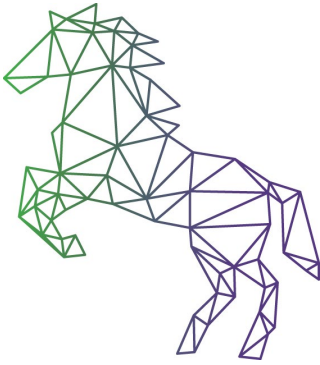
At the end of Year 9, students have the exciting opportunity to take part in a two-week study trip to China in July. During the visit, students will experience language immersion activities and take part in a range of cultural events. Over the past two years, our students have visited Shanghai and Hangzhou. This coming July, 30 Year 9 MEP students from Horsforth School will travel to Beijing, China. All accommodation, meals, and transfers during the trip will be fully covered, and the cost of flights will be subsidised. We are committed to ensuring that every student has the opportunity to participate. If finances are a concern, our hardship fund is available to support students so that they can still attend this valuable experience.

We would expect all students to continue their study of Mandarin Chinese through to GCSE level in Year 11 and reports from other schools who have taken part in the programme are that progress, due to the support provided, is better than in the more common languages. Our GCSE examination results have been exceptional over the past two years. Last year, students achieved a 100% pass rate, with 81% of grades at 7 or above and an impressive 34% achieving Grade 9.

A short video explaining the Mandarin Excellence Programme is available via the following link:
<https://ci.ioe.ac.uk/mandarin-excellence-programme/>

We are now asking parents for an expression of interest for their son/daughter to be placed on the programme. We have set aside 32 places on the MEP for this academic year. We expect this

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programme to be popular with parents and students but request that you consider the implications of such a commitment very carefully. It provides a wonderful opportunity but requires a high level of interest and motivation from Year 7 through to Year 11.

We would appreciate if you could indicate your interest using the link below by **the 27th of April**. This does not guarantee a place or that we would insist you take up the place if offered currently.

<https://forms.gle/xFcXKzsWdYJsb9TD9>

I hope you agree with me that this is an extremely exciting opportunity. I firmly believe that it is our duty to equip all students with the confidence, competence, knowledge and skills to fit easily into a rapidly changing society.

Languages are important preparation for the global market place, none more so than Chinese and I am proud to be offering the Mandarin Excellence Programme to our incoming Year 7 students.

Yours faithfully

Dr P C Bell

Further information about the Mandarin Excellence Programme

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/school-resources/languages/mandarin-excellence-programme>

Year 9 Study Trip to Shanghai China video:

<https://tinyurl.com/bddzyere>

Please confirm your interest here:

<https://forms.gle/xFcXKzsWdYJsb9TD9>

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