



# The Crossley Heath School

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## Mandarin Excellence Programme - Update

14<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

Having successfully completed their first term on the Mandarin Excellence Programme I thought I'd take this opportunity to update you on some of the achievements of 7C so far and also to give details about an upcoming event.

Students in 7C have been making good progress in their Chinese and have so far developed an understanding on how to use pinyin (using the Roman alphabet to pronounce Chinese words) as well as a number of Chinese characters. Topics covered so far include greetings, being able to introduce themselves, names, pets, numbers (1-99), hobbies, sports and classroom language. Students have also completed 2 Unit Tests in Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.

As you will be aware, participation on the MEP requires students to complete additional work outside of the timetabled 4 lessons a week. This is so that students can build towards a high level of proficiency. As such, Mrs Kneebone sets homework and other activities which will complement students' work in class – some of which uses new technology to encourage the students to use their language skills. For example, an Edmodo study group has been set up for the class to communicate with the teacher and students, receive links, videos and PowerPoints through this platform.

As part of their extended learning, students will be set projects designed by experts at UCL as part of the MEP. The first of which was called 'Learning Chinese Through Technology' which introduced students to the use of Chinese keyboards to input characters. They also received a Christmas-themed project to complete over the holidays.

Finally, we have recently received an invitation from **Leeds University** to attend a Y7 Intensive Learning Day on 31<sup>st</sup> January. During the day, students will participate in study sessions related to Chinese culture and language as well as a Kung Fu workshop. The costs of the course and travel will be covered via the Mandarin Excellence Programme so there is no charge for the trip.

A coach has been booked to take us to and from Leeds University. On the day, students should go straight to **L3 for 8:30** to be registered. Students are required to wear uniform and also will need to bring a pencil case with them, as well as a drink and a packed lunch and snacks. After the event we will return by coach to the school and our expected time of arrival is **17:00** (subject to traffic conditions).

I would kindly ask that you complete the attached V3 Form and the Leeds University Photography and Video Consent Form and get your son/daughter to return it to Mrs Kneebone by Monday 27/1/20.

If you have any queries regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Kind regards

Mr J. Brownlie – Deputy Head

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