



# The Crossley Heath School

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## Mandarin Excellence Programme - Update

7<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

Having completed their second term of GCSE Mandarin Chinese, I thought I would write to update you on Y9 Chinese group's progress on the Mandarin Excellence Programme and to give you advance notice of some upcoming events.

This term, students have studied Jinbu Book 2 units 4 and 5 and are now working through the AQA GCSE themes, enhancing their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. We have covered a number of topics such as shopping, travel and tourism, me and my family and friends, free time activities and school life. Feedback on the group's progress is extremely positive and students have performed well in their end of unit tests.

As you may be aware, the Mandarin Excellence Programme is a national scheme to increase the number of students in the UK reaching a high level of fluency in Chinese. As such, participating schools receive additional support from the British Council and the Institute of Education at UCL. As part of this arrangement students on the MEP are expected to undertake 'Hurdle Tests' – these are end of year assessments which are set nationally for all students in the MEP cohort. The results of these tests are collated to help inform the MEP and measure progress across all schools in the programme.

These Hurdle Tests will form the end of year assessments for the Year 9 Chinese group.

### Hurdle Test Dates

The hurdle tests have been set for the following weeks:

Year 9	Test week
Writing	6 <sup>th</sup> June
Listening	23 <sup>rd</sup> May
Reading	23 <sup>rd</sup> May

The tests will be conducted by Mrs Kneebone during lesson times in the weeks indicated above. In order to prepare for the Hurdle Tests, students should revise all of the topics covered so far, including those from the start of the year. Students have been given a 'preparation for the Hurdle tests-- speaking and writing' booklet in lessons, which includes the hurdle test vocabulary list, samples of writing papers, and mark schemes for writing and translation.

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Please encourage your son/daughter to start looking through their work from this year and to plan their revision for the Hurdle Tests.

In addition, as part of the MEP programme Y9 students are able to participate two-week virtual trip to China this year. We have been given provisional dates from UCL indicating that the event will take place:

- WC 4<sup>th</sup> July
- and
- WC 11<sup>th</sup> July.

We will of course write to you with further details about the event once we have them, but if you have any questions in the meantime, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully

J. Brownlie, Deputy Head

T H Kneebone, Department leader for Chinese