

MANDARIN TALK

THE TERMLY NEWSLETTER OF THE SWIRE CHINESE LANGUAGE CENTRE

HELLO!



We are very excited to announce that the teaching of Mandarin Chinese began in The GORSE Academies Trust schools earlier this year. In December 2017 Sir John Townsley submitted an application to the Swire Chinese Language Foundation (SCLF) to become a Centre of Excellence for Mandarin teaching. The proposal was successful, and we have secured £1.3 million over 5 years to fund the introduction of Mandarin teaching across the Trust. A core aim of The GORSE Academies Trust is to remove barriers to education and raise aspirations for our children. Both GORSE and Swire are excited to work together to embed Chinese as a core subject in our schools, and to remove barriers to learning to ensure students from all backgrounds and learning abilities have the opportunity to learn Mandarin Chinese.

The Swire Chinese Language Foundation (SCLF) is a private initiative funded by John Swire and Sons, a highly diversified global group with headquarters in the UK. The Foundation was established to mark 150 years of the Swire Group's business in Greater China, where the majority of their business is now carried out. The SCLF aims to improve the quality, quantity and reach of Chinese language teaching in the UK and helps create centres of excellence for teaching children of all ages in schools and universities across the country. Relations between Britain and China are more important than ever, so this is an exciting time to engage with Chinese language and culture.

The GORSE Academies Trust is extremely proud to be a part of this initiative as the SCLF only selects schools which they believe will be the best to design and deliver an outstanding programme of Mandarin teaching. We see that learning Chinese as a language and embracing a keenness to understand all that China has to offer is truly rigorous and challenging and will go some way to ensuring our students become truly global citizens. It is our belief that combining high standards of teaching with high-quality modern technology will engage our students and encourage them to progress further with Mandarin learning. In the current economic climate, this will open doors for many of our students in the future.

In this first year of the initiative, we are focussing our teaching on Key Stage 1 and all our Year 1 classes across the four primary schools have been enjoying a 30 minute Mandarin lesson each week. The response has been phenomenal with all staff and pupils fully engaged and enjoying their lessons. Primary pupils at The Stephen Longfellow Academy have also recently taken part in their first Mandarin class, which was a huge success. Additionally post-16 students at Elliott Hudson College partake in an enrichment lesson each week and are making excellent progress.



In the second year of the programme, 2019/2020, the work across our primary schools will move for the first time into Year 2. In addition, we will then for the first time offer Mandarin Chinese as an A-Level choice at Elliott Hudson College, as well as an enrichment option. From 2019/2020 we will be offering places on our Teacher Training Programme at both secondary and primary level for teachers of Mandarin Chinese.

Perhaps our most significant year will be the third year of the initiative, 2020/2021, when we will see Mandarin teaching introduced across our five secondary academies. Pupils will start studying Mandarin Chinese in Year 7 and many will follow this through to Year 11 when they will complete a GCSE in Mandarin Chinese. This third year will also see Mandarin teaching in Year 3 classes, and our first Year 13 Mandarin cohort will sit their A-Level examinations.

As the development of teaching in the secondary phase continues, so too will it continue in the primary phase resulting in a position by Year 6 of the programme where all children across each of our primary schools enjoy at least one 30 minute period of teaching of Mandarin Chinese.

The funding we have received will also allow us to offer many extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities. Initial plans are already in place for an exciting summer event to celebrate the hard work and success of our Year 1 students. We hope to be able to offer students at Elliott Hudson College a trip to China and are already looking into making links with a 'twin city'. Additionally, there will be quizzes, competitions, visits to Chinese restaurants, and much more.

Furthermore, we are very excited to announce that we are the first Swire Chinese Language Centre to open a Centre for Excellence for Mandarin Teaching. A design has been submitted for a new extension to be built onto the existing school building at Morley Newlands Academy which will be the focal point for Mandarin Chinese teaching. We hope to officially open our centre in October 2019 which will then see us announcing a host of opportunities for the local community, including Mandarin Chinese classes.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new Mandarin Chinese teacher, Miss Miaoqing Zhou, who joins us from central China. Miss Miaoqing Zhou got her Master's degree in the Speciality of Teaching Chinese to Speakers of Other Languages from Peking University in China. She has been teaching Mandarin Chinese to primary and secondary school students, university students and adults in the UK since 2015.

CHINESE NEW YEAR

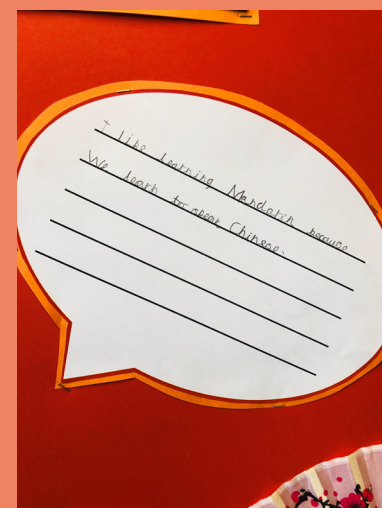
The Chinese Lunar Year 2019 started on the 12 February and celebrates the Year of Pig. The pig is the 12th animal in the 12 year cycle in the Chinese zodiac. Our Year 1 students have been learning all about the year of 'Peppa Pig'!

The night before New Year's Day is the most important time for families to get together and eat a special meal, but the Chinese New Year period, called 春节 (Chūnjié / Spring Festival) in Mandarin, lasts for just over three weeks in total. Preparations begin a week before Chinese New Year, and celebrations end on Lantern Festival – the fifteenth day of the first lunar month.

WHAT DID WE LEARN LAST TERM?

Our Year 1 students have been lucky enough to learn all about Chinese New Year celebrations and have been engaged in craft making activities on this topic. Additionally, they have learned how to greet people and introduce themselves as well as how to count to twelve and say the months in Mandarin.

A select group of Year 12 students have also been involved in Mandarin enrichment classes every Wednesday afternoon. They have looked at similar topics to the primary students but have focused on the pronunciation of words and how they can change depending on the 'tone' used. They have also had a taste of how to form Chinese characters.



KEY MANDARIN PHRASES

HELLO!
你好!
Nǐ Hǎo!

**HAPPY CHINESE
NEW YEAR!**
新年快樂
Xīnnián Kuàilè

I AM
我是
Wǒ shì...