

Tapton SCHOOL

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Our Ref: VM/ tpo
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Dear Parents/Carers,

Mandarin Chinese Classes for Y7 Students

Starting from September 2020, Year 7 students at Tapton will have the exciting opportunity to study Mandarin Chinese as part of the formal curriculum. For the last three years, Mandarin has been part of Tapton's after school enrichment programme, but due to growth of interest and popularity of the subject, we are now delighted to be able to offer it as part of our curriculum from next year. Tapton is one of the few schools across the country which offers Mandarin as part of its core curriculum, which makes this opportunity unique for our students.

Students will be able to choose one of the following three pathways as their Modern Foreign Language study:

- **Mandarin Pathway A:** Students will study Mandarin for three hours per week up to Year 9, and we hope that students would continue their study at GCSE.
- **Mandarin Pathway B:** Students will study Spanish for two hours per week and Mandarin for one hour per week during core curriculum time. Additionally, a two hour after school session and two 30-minute breakfast club sessions of Mandarin will be compulsory. This option would enable students to continue to study two languages at GCSE.
- **Traditional MFL Pathway:** Students will study either French, German or Spanish for three hours per week up to Year 9 and will then make a guided decision about continuing this language to GCSE.

If pursuing one of the Mandarin pathways, students will have a good grounding in Chinese culture as well as a solid foundation in the language by the end of Year 7. Students will not only learn to speak and understand Chinese but will also learn how to read and write Chinese characters. A range of topics will be covered which include greetings, hobbies, interests, and food and drink. Through these topics, students will gain an understanding of the basics of Chinese which will position them well for further years of study. We also aim to run school trips during the year such as visits to Chinese restaurants to reinforce their learning and connect with Chinese culture in our area.

Our aim is to encourage a new generation by opening up China to all students with this unique opportunity to study a fascinating language and culture. We hope to raise aspirations and inspire our students to take up a new challenge.

If your child would like to study Mandarin from September, we would require an expression of interest by **1st July**. To express your interest or if you have any questions, please contact: hmorris@taptonschool.co.uk

Yours sincerely,

Victoria McArthur
Transition Leader for Mandarin



Valuing everyone, Caring for each other, Achieving excellence