Mandarin Excellence rogramme

### About

The Mandarin Excellence programme is a unique yet intensive language programme, started in 2016. There are now around 8,000 students enrolled on the programme and on track to fluency in the language. It is funded by the Department for Education and delivered by the UCL Institute of Education in partnership with the British Council.

## Why Mandarin?

Mandarin Chinese opens up a world of opportunity – as the most spoken language in the world, it can connect speakers with an exciting and dynamic culture as well as boost career opportunities. Mandarin has been identified as one of the most important languages for the UK's future prosperity, so now marks the perfect time to help students in our school be on track for fluency.

## **MEP at De Lisle**

The Mandarin Excellence Programme has been run at De Lisle since September 2019. We have now have students in Years 7, 8, 9, and a large group of Sixth Formers who are studying to complete HSK Level 1. A GCSE Mandarin class will begin in September 2022.

### FIND OUT MORE

Contact Mrs Aird in the Modern Foreign Languages Department at De Lisle, or visit: https://ci.ioe.ac.uk/mandarin-excellence-programme







# **Y9 Birmingham Visit January**

The Year 9 Mandarin class enjoyed a food-themed trip to Birmingham, organised by our MEP partner school, Beauchamp College. They visited the Wing Yip Chinese supermarket, where they had the chance to choose some traditional Chinese foods to try. They then wandered around China Town, and were excited to be able to understand a number of Chinese characters on signs and in windows. They rounded the day off with a delicious meal at Ming Moon restaurant.

### **Chinese New Year February**

De Lisle's Mandarin students enjoyed a trip to Beauchamp College on Monday afternoon, to take part in Chinese New Year activities to celebrate the start of the Year of the Tiger. Students tried their hands at the ancient arts of calligraphy and paper cutting, and also practised fan dancing and a popular Chinese game, kick the shuttle-cock. Students particularly enjoyed the latter, although they discovered that it was much more difficult than it looked!

# **MEP Evening October**

The Year 7 students stunned the audience with their rendition in Chinese of Li Bai's poem, 'Thoughts on a quiet night', Leo and Matthew gave presentations in Chinese about their family and food they like eating, and Year 8 and 9 students demonstrated how they learn to read and write Chinese characters in lessons. Mrs Aird tested parents on their knowledge about China and also gave them some tips about how to support our wonderful Mandarin students, as they study hard to master one of the world's most difficult languages.

### **Y8 Immersion Week November**

Year 8 Mandarin students enjoyed five days of online Chinese cultural immersion, delivered by the company True Partnerships. They delved into the history of Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan Province, had a virtual tour of the world-famous panda sanctuary in the city, learnt the rudiments of Chinese calligraphy and had an opportunity to try out China's most well-known martial art, kungfu. They concluded their week with a day learning about Chinese food and festivals, and enjoyed a delicious Chinese meal.







