



ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

12 October 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 7: Mandarin Excellence Programme (MEP) –Starting from Monday 6 November 2017

We would like to share with you an exciting opportunity available to your child from November 2017. St. Joseph's College is one of a small minority of schools in the country to be successful in bidding, with University College London, to deliver the Department for Education's Mandarin Excellence Programme (MEP). This is an intensive immersion course in Mandarin Chinese and those students selected to participate in the programme will be part of a privileged minority who will have access to the best teaching and enrichment opportunities over the next five years.

Learning Chinese is an exciting, challenging and hugely rewarding experience. China is one of the world's oldest and richest cultures, with over 5000 years of history and the world's longest continuous writing system. China is also the most populous nation in the world and Chinese is spoken by one fifth of the world's population – Mandarin Chinese is spoken not only in the People's Republic of China and Taiwan, but also by Chinese communities in other Asian countries, such as Malaysia, Singapore, Mongolia, the Philippines, Indonesia, and Thailand. In today's global society, speaking Mandarin and having an understanding of Chinese culture is hugely important and with the thriving Chinese economy, its importance is only set to increase.

The delivery of the Department for Education's Mandarin Excellence Programme will be overseen by University College London's Institute Of Education Confucius Institute, in partnership with the British Council. The purpose of the programme is to deliver a minimum of 5,000 speakers of Mandarin on their way to a high level of fluency by the year 2020.

The aims:

- Students will learn Chinese for four hours a week in school. This is an intensive and accelerated programme, consisting of a taught element, on-line learning, enrichment days, University immersion weeks and visits to China.
- To produce highly motivated, highly skilled global citizens who will be ahead of their peers in terms of communication skills and employability.
- To establish Mandarin Chinese as part of the core language offer at St Joseph's College and develop a new curriculum model and innovative blended learning opportunities for linguists.

Curriculum offer:

Students who are successful in the selection process would need to attend the following lessons starting from Monday 6 November 2017:

- 1 Chinese Mandarin lesson per week which will be on their timetable.
- 2 extra MEP lessons every week starting at 8.00am and running through the morning registration periods.
- 1 lesson after school every week.
- 1 Mandarin enrichment day every half-term.

Please find below for the arrangements for the weekly morning and after school Mandarin extra lessons for MEP students.

Day	Time	Room
Tuesday	8:00am – 8:40am	S22
Wednesday	8:00am – 8.40am	S22
Wednesday	2:40pm – 3:40pm	S02

How to get involved...

Students who are interested in this programme must be passionate about Mandarin learning, highly self-motivated. Students will be expected to continue their Mandarin learning until the end of Year 11 and up to GCSE level. If your son is interested in this programme, he will also have to take an aptitude test for language learning. We may also contact your son’s primary school to seek a reference on your son’s ability to cope with the level of independent study required and the intensity of the immersion courses.

Only limited numbers of students can be selected to take part in this programme. If you would like your son to be considered for this, please complete the initial expression of interest reply slip below and return to Mr Zhang or Mrs Smith by **Friday 20 October 2017**.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



Mr J Zhang
Head of Mandarin

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Expression of Interest = Year 7: Mandarin Excellence Programme (MEP) –Starting from 06/11/17

Please complete and return to Mr Zhang or Mrs Smith by Friday 20 October 2017.

- I confirm that my son and I are interested in the Mandarin Excellence Programme (MEP) at St Joseph’s College and would like my son to be considered to join MEP lessons.
- If selected for this programme, I understand the commitment required by my son to attend the lessons before and after school.
- If selected for this programme, I understand my son must continue to study Mandarin for the next five years (i.e. until the end of Year 11) and this will include him taking GCSE Chinese.

Name of Student _____ Form _____

Name (Parent / Carer) _____

Signed (Parent / Carer) _____ Date _____