



Bohunt School Worthing

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Bohunt Worthing Headteacher: Mr A Whitehead BSc (Hons)

October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you may be aware from our information in the Summer transition period, we would ordinarily run the Mandarin Excellence Programme with a cohort of 30 of our students. Because of COVID-19, Year 6 students have not completed SAT tests, which we would ordinarily use to make a judgement of the suitability of students for the programme. Therefore, we have been unable to launch the programme as we normally would. However, I am very pleased to be announcing that we will be launching the programme after half term. The below information replicates what you may have already seen. Please read it carefully, and then respond if interested using the reply slip below.

The programme not only gives students a fantastic range of opportunities in Mandarin as detailed below but also has shown itself to have positive impacts across their academic studies due to the unique challenges they overcome in learning intensively such a different subject.

The National Mandarin Excellence Programme is a £10 million initiative dedicated to increase the number of students studying and becoming fluent in Mandarin. Joining the programme is voluntary, however following three very successful years delivering the course we have three entire tutor groups on the programme, who are making exceptional progress in Mandarin and we are expecting numbers to grow for September 2020.

Mandarin is an important language to learn internationally and the ability to speak it fluently is a significant advantage in the job market of today and in the future. The aim of the programme is to support students in gaining recognised exam qualifications and more importantly, master a high level of fluency in Mandarin.

The programme is entering its fifth year now nationally and is aimed at hard working, determined, high ability students with a strong grasp of English. Selected students for the programme will have the opportunity to:

- Participate in a national programme where they will meet and work with similar students from across the UK
- Become proficient in a language which really matters to the future prosperity of the UK economy. (This will be an invaluable addition to their CV)
- Visit China. (The programme currently includes a subsidised trip to the Far East, where they will advance their language learning and taste first hand a remarkable culture and country.)

The commitment is similarly significant:

- They will be signing up for two years with the expectation they will enrol on the GCSE at this point. The programme runs from now until 2022
- There will be the equivalent of 8 hours of study of various sorts per week.

This will be broken down in Y7 as follows:

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- Two lessons ('hours') of Mandarin in the normal timetable
- Two hours of taught lessons outside the normal day. This might be in 'lessons' taught before school and into registration time; in a lunch-time lesson; or after school.
- An average of four hours of individual study a week. Your son/daughter will be able to access special resources prepared for the programme from home on their computer. Some of this work will be project based.
- We use 'Jin Bu' as our textbook and it is accompanied by online learning resources (Character booklet, Project booklet, Google classroom, Google site, Quizlet etc.) assisting their independent learning.
- Students will be assessed on vocabulary on a weekly basis. There will be a hurdle test designed by the Institute of Education, University College London at the end of each academic year.

This is an exciting possibility which needs careful thought. Students taking part will have four English lessons a week instead of five but as they are more able we are confident this will not impact their progress in this subject. It is important that those who opt into the scheme are serious about it and committed to meeting its challenges. Research shows that learning Mandarin for two years benefits all parts of the curriculum by increasing overall performance across all subjects.

"I never knew I could make so much progress in just one year of studying Mandarin. Ms Nai is so supportive and as well as learning the language, we have had lessons in martial arts, cooking and Chinese art. I would strongly recommend the programme to year 6" .

Becky Dadson Year 9

If you would like to apply please return the slip below by Tuesday, 20th October or send your expression of interest in by email to info@bohuntworthing.com with the subject Mandarin Excellence Programme Y7. After this date, if we have sufficient numbers to run the course we will be in touch with offers of a place. In the event that the programme is over-subscribed, participants will be selected on a case-by-case basis; school assessments, and staff judgement on their ability to cope with the extra demands will be the determining factors. Delivery will start shortly after October half term with final participation being confirmed in November.

[Mandarin Excellence - UCL](#)

[British Council - Mandarin Excellence Programme](#)

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

With very best wishes,



Mr A. Whitehead

Headteacher

REPLY SLIP - please return to Bohunt by **Tuesday, 20th October** or email your agreement to info@bohuntworthing.com.

Expression of interest in Mandarin Excellence Programme:

We are interested in our son/daughter being enrolled into the Mandarin Excellence programme.
We understand that the school will provide additional teaching, resources and support as part of the programme and we will support our child at home with this work.

Student's name _____

Student's signature _____

Parent's name _____

Parent's signature _____

Date _____