



Mayfield Grammar School Gravesend

A Specialist Science and Language College
Pelham Road, Gravesend, Kent, DA11 0JE
Telephone: 01474 352896 Fax: 01474 331195

Website: www.mgsg.kent.sch.uk Email: enquiries@mgsg.kent.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs E Wilson B.A. (Hons)

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1914 - 2014

4 October 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

MANDARIN EXCELLENCE PROGRAMME

I hope your daughter has settled in well at Mayfield Grammar School and is enjoying all of her subjects. As you know, students at Mayfield study two modern foreign languages from Year 7 to Year 9. Presently, all Year 7 students study any two out of French, German and Spanish.

We are delighted to be taking part in the Mandarin Excellence Programme (MEP), which will provide selected Year 7 students with an opportunity to study Mandarin Chinese instead of their two European modern foreign languages starting after the October half-term.

The programme is designed to increase the number of pupils in England on track towards fluency in Mandarin. Mandarin Chinese is the most widely spoken language in the world, and China is one of our most important trading partners. It is vital young people in the UK master other languages in order for the country to remain globally competitive in the future.

As a school with Languages Specialism we are committed to expanding the languages curriculum offered to our students. The MEP is funded by the Department for Education and further supported by the UCL Institute of Education and the British Council. Mayfield Grammar School is now in its fifth year of offering the MEP. We will also continue to deliver the programme under the tutelage of our regional hub school Dartford Grammar School for Boys.

The intensive nature of this programme will lead to students making accelerated progress and being on track to achieving top grades in a GCSE qualification in Mandarin at the end of Year 11. As part of the programme, students could possibly also take part in additional cultural activities through digital media, domestic trips, and a potential two-week study visit to China in Year 8. At the time of writing we are not in a position to confirm whether this will definitely take place due to Covid-19.

Through this new intensive language programme, a selected group of students will be offered the opportunity to study Mandarin for eight hours per week through a combination of taught lessons and homework – a significant increase on the time students currently spend on foreign language study.

Due to the intensive nature of this programme, students are expected to receive **four hours** of timetabled lessons **per week**. The taught Mandarin lessons will therefore replace the two European languages currently allocated to your daughter. In order to keep up with the demands of the course, students will also be required to complete four hours of

independent study and practice each week. The Mandarin Chinese teacher will guide students as to how this time should be spent.

All students will be able to apply for a place on this programme, but places must be limited to 50-60 students. All students have already received taster sessions in Mandarin Chinese over the past few weeks and this should allow them to decide if they are interested in taking part in the Mandarin Excellence Programme.

Students will be selected onto the programme based on their progress in modern foreign languages so far, expression of interest, and the results of an additional selection test. This additional selection test takes place in a language lesson. No revision or preparation is required for the test.

Given the popularity and success of the Mandarin Excellence Programme in recent years, this is an exciting time for the school, the Faculty of Modern Foreign Languages and our students, and we therefore look forward to receiving your application. To apply for a place on the Mandarin Excellence Programme for your daughter, please complete the reply slip below and return by Thursday 7th October 2021.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs M Carr
Subject Leader of Mandarin

Please return by Thursday 7th October to your daughter's Form Tutor FAO: MCR

Re: Mandarin Excellence Programme – Application for 2021/22

Student's name: _____ Form: _____

I would like my daughter to take part in the Mandarin Excellence Programme.

I confirm that I understand that my daughter would study Mandarin Chinese instead of their two European languages (French and German / French and Spanish / German and Spanish).

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Parent/Carer)

