

THE ACCELERATED MANDARIN PROGRAMME AT
WHITBURN CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY



加速普通話節目

WHY STUDY MANDARIN?

Mandarin Chinese is the most widely spoken language in the world.

China is one of our most important trading partners.

China has a population of 1.4 billion and a fast growing economy.

China has become the world's second largest economy.



WHY STUDY MANDARIN?

- It is vital that young people in the UK master other languages in order to remain globally competitive in the future.
- We believe that by offering Mandarin we will give students a cutting edge advantage in this increasingly competitive world. As China is playing a more and more important role in every aspect of the world, the ability to communicate with Chinese people is becoming a significant advantage in employment.



WHICH PUPILS WILL MANDARIN APPEAL TO?

Mandarin should appeal to students who like learning languages.

Mandarin is a very logical language for those who enjoy STEM subjects.

Anyone who can keep an open mind and a persistent and diligent approach to their studies can learn Mandarin well.

Future Scientists, computing students and engineers will find the addition of Mandarin to skills such as STEM as a very attractive CV combination.

IS THE COURSE ACCESSIBLE TO PUPILS?

Many students have already had introductory lessons at primary school.

Many students find Mandarin easy to pronounce as they will be able to relate many of its sounds to English.

Unlike European languages, Mandarin does not have complicated grammar, such as tense, gender, or plural forms; so students can focus on learning the characters and matching these to sounds.

This course does involve an accelerated learning programme with 4 hours of Mandarin lesson per week. The course is a highly intensive, academic programme which requires a 5 year commitment from students and their parents/carers.



OUR PARTNERSHIP

The Swire Chinese Language Programme was founded in 2016 to improve the quality, quantity, and reach of the teaching of the Chinese language in the UK.

Swire Chinese Language Centre Newcastle was founded in 2017, with Newcastle High School for Girls as its Hub school.

Whitburn C of E Academy is one of the 18 schools working in partnership with SCLCN to promote the Mandarin teaching and learning in the North East Region.



WHAT DOES COMMITMENT TO THIS SUBJECT LOOK LIKE?

Whitburn Church of England Academy was the first state school in the area to offer our students the opportunity to learn Mandarin to GCSE level in 2023.

This course involves an accelerated learning programme with 4 hours of week Mandarin tuition.

The course is a highly intensive, academic programme which requires a 5 year commitment from students and their parents/carers.

Mandarin will be the automatic choice in one option block for Years 10 and 11, leaving students with two remaining choices.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

We advise parents and carers to discuss the commitment required with your child to ensure that they are fully aware of the implications.

In the event of the course being oversubscribed, we will use combined TA scores in Reading and Maths to place students in rank order to award places.

To apply for a place on the course, please complete the application form sent to you. A copy is available on our website. This then needs to be emailed to the Academy Main Office at office@whitburncofeacademy.org with the subject heading “Mandarin”. Applications must be received by **Friday 14th May 2021**

Places will be confirmed by the end of academic year in July.

