



Bishop Wordsworth's School

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7 May 2019

Dear Year 7 Parents/Guardians

RE: YEAR 8 CHINESE AT BWS – INVITATION TO TASTER SESSION

In the next academic year (2019-20) we plan to run a new Chinese class for Year 8 on Wednesday after school 4 – 5pm, starting from 11 September 2019.

We have been running extra-curricular Chinese (Mandarin) classes very successfully at Bishop's since 2006. Lessons lead eventually to a GCSE in Chinese, taken when students are ready in Year 13, and all students have achieved A – A* in GCSE exams. For students in Years 12 to 13 Chinese lessons are accommodated within the school day in timetabled sessions.

Chinese is not a difficult language, but mastery of the written form requires effort and perseverance. Once a student is registered, he will be expected to attend regularly and work hard, with high commitment and motivation. Homework is set weekly and student reports are done alongside other subjects.

The only way we can preserve the teaching of Chinese as an extra-curricular subject is for it to be funded by an annual parental contribution of **£280** to partially offset the costs of tuition and learning resources. A minimum of 20 students is necessary for the course to be viable and the school reserves the right to withdraw the course if insufficient boys sign up. Places will be limited to one class per year up to a maximum of 32 students.

In the event of over-subscription we will take account of boys' academic performance in allocating places in the first instance, as we need to be confident that boys will be able to cope with the additional workload and challenge that learning Mandarin represents. Those pupils who are unsuccessful will be placed on a reserve list. If the course does not run all money paid will be refunded; conversely, once the course starts we regret that we will be unable to make any refunds.

Mrs Tang, who has been teaching at Bishop's for 13 years, has organised a brief taster session for boys who wish to learn Chinese on **Monday 20 May from 12:15 – 12:40 in Classroom W6**. If your son would like to attend the taster session please could you email Mrs Singleton bjs@bws.wilts.sch.uk by Friday 17 May to confirm your son's attendance.

Yours sincerely

Dr S D Smallwood
Head Master