



Bishop Wordsworth's School

Exeter Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP1 2ED

Telephone: 01722 333851

Fax: 01722 325899

E-mail: admin@bws.wilts.sch.uk

Website: www.bws-school.org.uk

Head Master: Dr S D Smallwood BSc (Hons) PhD NPQH

8 May 2018

Dear Year 7 Parents/Guardians

YEAR 8 CHINESE AT BWS – INVITATION TO TASTER SESSION

In the next academic year (2018-19) we plan to run a new Chinese class for Year 8 on Monday after school between 4pm – 5pm, starting in September 2018.

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*. 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 £250 to offset the costs of tuition and learning resources. In addition, a textbook and workbook are required at the start of the year which are likely to cost around £17. 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 and their payments refunded. 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 12 years, has organised a brief taster session for boys who wish to learn Chinese on Monday 21 May from 12:15pm – 12:40pm 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 18 May to confirm a place. A form is attached for you to complete and return if your son(s) would like to take up Chinese in Year 8.

Yours faithfully

S D Smallwood
Head Master

BISHOP WORDSWORTH'S SCHOOL

Form of acceptance for Mandarin Chinese

The following statements set out the commitment required from boys taking up Chinese and parents of those boys over the duration of the course. The contribution requested for Chinese for the academic year 2018-19 is £250.00.

Please sign the form and return it to Mrs B Singleton, Bishop Wordsworth's School, Exeter Street, Salisbury, SP1 2ED by Friday 8 June 2018. Places are limited to 32 and will be allocated on receipt of this completed acceptance form. You will be contacted with regards to payment once your place has been confirmed.

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FORM OF ACCEPTANCE FOR MANDARIN CHINESE

Boys

I agree to attend the Mandarin Chinese twilight sessions after school at BWS. I understand that I am committed to attending once a week for an hour. I also agree to do approximately one hour of homework each week.

I have read and understood the above statement.

Signed: Tutor Group:

Please print name: Date:

Parents

I agree to my son taking up Chinese lessons starting in September 2018. I will at all times use my best endeavours to ensure that my son attends all the classes. I will provide a letter to Mrs Tang in advance to cover any absence.

Parents are requested to contribute £250.00 annually towards teaching and learning costs.

I have read and understood the above statement.

Signed: Date:

Please print name: