



# The Crossley Heath School

Head Teacher: Lynnette Cassidy, MBA

The Crossley Heath School, Savile Park, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX3 0HG  
Tel: 01422 360272 • Fax: 01422 349099 • e-mail: [admin@crossleyheath.org.uk](mailto:admin@crossleyheath.org.uk)

## Mandarin Excellence Programme - Update

29<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Dear Parent / Carer

Having completed their second term of Mandarin Chinese, I thought I would write to update you on 7C's progress on the Mandarin Excellence Programme and to give you advance notice of some upcoming events.

This term students have been working through Jinbu Book 1 Unit 3 and Unit 4, enhancing their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills and have covered a number of topics such as hobbies, sports, days of the week, school subjects, telling the time and school timetables. Feedback on the group's progress is extremely positive and students have performed well in their end of unit tests.

As you may be aware, the Mandarin Excellence Programme is a national scheme to increase the number of students in the UK reaching a high level of fluency in Chinese. As such, participating schools receive additional support from the British Council and the Institute of Education at UCL. As part of this arrangement students on the MEP are expected to undertake 'Hurdle Tests' – these are end of year assessments which are set nationally for all students in the MEP cohort. The results of these tests are collated to help inform the MEP and measure progress across all schools in the programme.

These Hurdle Tests will form the End of Year Exam for 7C but given that they are set nationally, fall at different times to the Crossley Heath exams.

### Hurdle Test Dates

The hurdle tests have been set for the following weeks:

Year 7	Test week
Speaking	30 <sup>th</sup> April
Writing	14 <sup>th</sup> May
Listening	4 <sup>th</sup> June
Reading	4 <sup>th</sup> June

The tests will be conducted by Mrs Kneebone during lesson times in the weeks indicated above. In order to prepare for the Hurdle Tests, students should revise all of the topics covered so far, including those from the start of the year. Students have been given a 'preparation for the Hurdle tests-- speaking and writing' booklet this morning, which includes the hurdle test vocabulary list, samples of speaking and writing papers, and mark schemes for speaking and writing.

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As part of the MEP we have been invited by **Leeds University** to attend a workshop day on **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April**. During this day, students will meet an author, write Chinese songs alongside Leeds University students and undertake workshops which will help in their preparation for the Hurdle Tests. The day will finish with a performance from a band (Transitions) who will perform in Chinese. On the day, students will need to bring a packed lunch and whilst we will start school as normal, our return to Halifax will be after the end of the school day at approximately 5p.m. There will only be a small charge (around £5) to cover the cost of transportation as the other activities are being provided by the university.

We will write to you after Easter with further details about the trip. In the meantime, please encourage your son/daughter to start looking through their work from this year and to plan their revision for the Hurdle Tests.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Brownlie, Deputy Head

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