



The Crossley Heath School

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Mandarin Excellence Programme - Update

May 2025

Dear Parent / Carer

Please find below an update on the Mandarin Excellence Programme.

Mandarin Curriculum

This year students have finished Jinbu Book 1 and have completed Units 1 and 2 from Jinbu 2 and are currently working through Unit 3. 8C have covered a number of topics such as food and drink, holidays, weather, transport, countries/nationalities and languages. Feedback on the group's progress is positive and students have completed a number of end of unit tests.

Hurdle 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 8C but given that they are set nationally, some of them fall at different times to the Crossley Heath exams.

Hurdle Test Dates

The hurdle tests have been set for the following dates:

Summer 2025	W/C 2 June	W/C 9 June	W/C 16 June
Listening & Reading	Monday 2 June Period 4		
Writing	Wednesday 4 June Writing		
speaking			Thursday 19 June Speaking

The listening, reading and writing tests will be conducted by Mrs Kneebone during lesson time on the dates indicated above. The speaking tests will be conducted according to a schedule which Mrs

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Kneebone will share with students. This will involve students leaving their normal lesson for approximately 20 minutes to attend their appointment.

In order to prepare for the Hurdle Tests, students should revise all of the topics covered so far, including those from last year. Students have been given a 'preparation for the Hurdle tests-- speaking and writing' booklet and a separate vocabulary list, which will help them prepare for these important tests. There have been a number of guided revision lessons for the tests, in which students have familiarised themselves with the layout of the tests, practised the key vocabulary and grammar and consolidated the topics they have learned.

If you have further questions about the hurdle tests, please contact Mrs Kneebone.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Brownlie, Associate Head Teacher

Mrs Kneebone, Department Leader for Chinese