



The Crossley Heath School

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Mandarin Excellence Programme - Update

May 2025

Dear Parent / Carer

Having completed their second term of Chinese in Year 9, I thought I would write to update you on the group's progress on the Mandarin Excellence Programme and to give you advance notice of some upcoming events.

This term, students have studied Jinbu Book 2 units 4 and 5 and are now working through the AQA GCSE themes, enhancing their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. We have covered a number of topics such as shopping, travel and tourism, me and my family and friends, free time activities and school life. 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 assessments for the Year 9 Chinese group.

Hurdle Test Dates

The hurdle tests have been set for the following dates:

Summer 2025	W/C 19 May	W/C 26 May	W/C 2 June	W/C 9 June
Listening	Tuesday 20 May listening P2	Half Term Holiday		
Reading			Tuesday 3 June reading P2	
Writing			Wednesday 4 June Writing 1	Wednesday 11 June Writing 2

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 vocabulary list, an introductory lesson and mock writing tests, 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.

Please encourage your son/daughter to start looking through their work from this year and to plan their revision for the Hurdle Tests.

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

Yours faithfully

J. Brownlie, Associate Head Teacher

T H Kneebone, Department leader for Chinese