



The Crossley Heath School

Head Teacher: Lynnette Cassidy, MBA

The Crossley Heath School, Savile Park, Halifax, West Yorkshire HX3 0HG

Tel: 01422 360272 • e-mail: admin@crossleyheath.org.uk

Mandarin Excellence Programme – Virtual Study Visit

13th June 2022

Dear parent/carer

A core part of the Mandarin Excellence Programme are the additional intensive learning activities which students participate in to develop and enrich their knowledge of Chinese language and culture. Due to the impact of the pandemic and the ongoing restrictions in China it is not possible to undertake the two-week Y9 study visit to China as originally envisaged. However, our partners at the British Council have worked alongside institutions in China design an enjoyable, memorable and educational virtual visit for students. The programme takes advantage of the benefits that a virtual event can provide, with all students being able to visit various locations and cities rather than one, prioritising live events and activities with real Chinese people and activities that help students feel part of a large national activity along with other UK schools.

The virtual study visit will take place in school each morning during the weeks 4th to 8th July, and 11th to 15th July 2022. Activities are coordinated with partner institutions in China and will commence at 8:30 and will run until 12:35, with students following a separate timetable to the rest of the school. In the afternoon, students will follow their normal school timetable.

Aim

The event is being organised in collaboration with our colleagues at UCL and our partners the British Council, both in the UK and in China, and with CLEC (Centre for Language Exchange and Cooperation). The aim is for students to have a virtual tour of China and gain an insight into contemporary and traditional Chinese culture, while at the same time improving their language skills in live situations with Chinese people, tackling a range of KS3 and GCSE Mandarin topics.

Content

The event will consist of a thematic virtual tour of China providing:

- ‘Behind the scenes’ virtual visits to important cultural and tourist sights and locations
- Opportunities to virtually meet and talk to Chinese people
- Relevant language revision and new learning relevant to the themes to help students prepare and get the most out of the visit
- A Chinese “buddy” group/language partners to help with language practice.

Over the two weeks, students will follow four learning cycles. Each learning cycle will last for two days and will be made up of four parts: two live lessons and two live workshops. These sessions will be delivered online with a carefully selected host from one of fourteen prestigious Chinese universities. In addition to the learning cycles, students will also participate in other sessions; such as opening and closing ceremonies and live chats with Chinese peers. A copy of the programme of activities is attached for your information.

An “Outstanding” School – Ofsted

Crossley Heath School Academy Trust Limited • Registered company number: 8225755

Filming days

As part of the intensive study, the Crossley Heath school has been selected to participate in a filming production during two of their learning days. The British Council will be producing a short film to demonstrate the enjoyable and educational moments of the event, while the students are learning with their Chinese teachers in China and communicating with their Chinese peers.

Y9 Blackpool trip – 14th July

We value the effort and dedication that students have made during this school year and would not want them to miss out on the rewards trip which this year clashes with the virtual China tour. We have informed our partners that Crossley Heath students will be unable to participate on that day and students will join the rest of the cohort on the trip.

Consent forms

As part of our virtual intensive learning event we would ask you to complete two essential forms:

- a parent consent form for participation
- an audio/video consent form

Consent forms will be handed out in lessons to students. We would ask that you kindly complete these and ask your child to pass them on to Mrs Kneebone by Thursday (23rd June).

Expectations

Given the range of partner institutions involved in this event, it is important that students understand that they are representing not only the school, but also the whole country. As such, we expect all students to demonstrate responsible and mature behaviour when taking part in virtual lessons during the two-week event. To reinforce our expectations Y9 MEP students will be asked to sign a Code of Conduct in their Chinese lesson prior to the start of activities, and any behaviour which does not meet our expectations will be dealt with in accordance with school behaviour policies.

We very much hope that your child enjoys the virtual event and is able to make the most of this unique learning opportunity. If you have any questions or queries about the programme, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

Kind regards

Mr J Brownlie – Deputy Head

Mrs T Kneebone – Department Leader for Chinese