



# The Crossley Heath School

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## Mandarin Excellence Programme - Study Visit to China 2024

Dear Parent / Carer

I am writing to you as your son/daughter participates in the Mandarin Excellence Programme (MEP) and we have been informed of an exciting opportunity that has arisen for Year 9 MEP students to travel to China in July 2024.

This fantastic opportunity will enable students to put their skills into practice in 'real life' contexts as well as experiencing Chinese culture for themselves. Students will spend time at a Chinese university, having immersive Chinese lessons each day as well as spending time on cultural activities and visits.

### Brief Introduction

The trip is organised by the British Council who liaise with their Chinese counterparts (CLEC) to ensure that over seventy English schools on the MEP can participate. This is a very complex process involving the coordination across multiple airlines and different host institutions of places for over 1800 students and their teachers. Therefore, the exact dates and location of the visit are yet to be confirmed but the British Council have stated that:

- **When** – Between July 1st and July 19th (likely to be up to 12-13 days away from home including travel days with 9 whole days in China).
- **Arrival** - Students and teachers would need to arrive between 1st July and 4th July. Therefore, leaving the UK between 30th June and 3rd July, depending on flight times and availability.
- **Duration** – students will have at least seven full learning days (morning classes and afternoon/evening activities on weekdays) plus one weekend.
- **Departure from China** - Students and teachers depart between 13th and 17th July, depending on their arrival date.

\*Please note: The information above is an example and there may need to be some flexibility of +/-2 days with travel dates depending on flight availability.

### Costs of the Trip

Given the prestigious status of the MEP the cost of the visit is being heavily subsidised. The Chinese government will be covering the costs of food, accommodation, tuition and any excursions and activities in China. In addition, there will be a UK subsidy to help towards the cost of flights and visas. Taking all of this into account the remaining cost of £815 represents a contribution which we are asking parents for. This contribution is voluntary but should the school not receive enough contributions we may not be able to run the trip.

We are required to give the names of participating students to the MEP on 15<sup>th</sup> December. Therefore, to secure your child's place on the trip the China Study Visit has been set up on ParentPay and we are requesting **an initial deposit of £50 by 14<sup>th</sup> December**.

The payment schedule below has been added to ParentPay:



Payment Amount	Deadline
£50 deposit	14 <sup>th</sup> December
£100	31 <sup>st</sup> January
£200	31 <sup>st</sup> March
£200	31 <sup>st</sup> May
£265 balance	30 <sup>th</sup> June

Financial support may be available for children who are eligible for free school meals (FSM) or who are not eligible for FSM but are experiencing financial difficulty. All such requests will be treated in strict confidence. Please contact Finance Office at [payments@crossleyheath.org.uk](mailto:payments@crossleyheath.org.uk)

### Validity of Passport

Every student going on the study visit will require a passport **that is valid for 6 months after their return date from China (19<sup>th</sup> July 2024)**. At this early stage, may I suggest that you check your child's passport or apply for a passport if your child does not already have one. Further information relating to passports can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/china/entry-requirements>

We will of course write to you again once we have further details about the trip and we will be organising a parent meeting in due course. If, however you have any questions in the meantime, please get in touch with me at the school.

**Please would you confirm that your son/daughter will take part in this trip. Please return it to Mrs Kneebone at school before Friday 15 December. Once we have these return slips, we will submit this information to UCL.**

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Brownlie, Deputy Head

Teng Hua Kneebone, Department Leader for Chinese

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I would like my child to join the Crossley Heath School Mandarin Excellence Programme visit to China in July 2024.

STUDENT'S FULL NAME:

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Given Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent / Carer signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_