• Do you want to broaden your horizons to include one of the most important languages of the 21st Century?

• Would you like to travel to China as part of your learning experience?

“This exciting new initiative has been designed with our pupils in mind and offers a much-needed opportunity for them to gain a GCSE in this important language. The trip to China offers an unforgettable, immersive language and cultural experience for all participants, practising Mandarin skills and enriching their understanding of the wider world”.

✓ an exciting opportunity for Key Stage 3 pupils
✓ learn with first class, certified Chinese teachers
✓ well-structured preparation for the new Mandarin Chinese GCSE
✓ includes a study trip to Beijing
✓ clear, engaging hard copy and online teaching materials
✓ affordable tuition, paid for by the school or parents (or both)

Dragons
Chinese Teaching Specialists

Tel: 020 7228 8501
Email: info@dragonsteaching.com
Online: www.dragonsteaching.com
**Is the language difficult to speak?**
No, but Mandarin Chinese is tonal: the meaning of each word depends on the pitch of your voice. The tonal nature of Mandarin will be new to most Western students, but with good instruction and exposure to modern, interactive resources, you will learn to speak with confidence.

**What is pinyin?**
For learning Mandarin Chinese there is a standard romanised transliteration system called pinyin. Although it is used minimally in China, pinyin helps Western students access the spoken language faster and removes the need to know lots of Chinese characters from the outset. Our GCSE Mandarin Chinese course uses pinyin to get students speaking from the first class.

**Will I learn to write Chinese characters?**
Yes. Just looking at a page of Chinese characters can be quite daunting. However, the logic and history behind the characters make them easy to remember and fun to study. As you learn more about the characters, you will also gain insight into Chinese culture.

Take a look at these three:

女 (woman) + 子 (child) = 好 (good)
木 (tree) + 木 (tree) + 木 (tree) = 森 (forest)
田 (field) + 力 (strength) = 男 (male)

**What about the grammar?**
Many aspects of Mandarin Chinese are easier than European languages:
- There are **no** genders for nouns
- There is **no** verb conjugation when using tenses
- There are **no** plural forms

Chinese grammar is easy to grasp, so you can be creative with the language earlier on in your studies.

“Chinese is an interesting and challenging addition to my other modern languages. The grammar is surprisingly easy and the stories behind the characters make them fascinating to learn.” Ella, Year 11 student.
About the GCSE Mandarin Chinese course

Study details
The course will be run by Dragons Teaching, specialists in providing engaging Mandarin Chinese teachers and teaching resources to UK schools; we will provide both the teacher and the teaching materials. The aim is to take 3rd form pupils - either as complete beginners or with previous experience - all the way from basic foundation to high level achievement in GCSE.

Teaching will take place at your school. Classes will take place after school throughout the academic year. Group size will be 10-15 pupils and you will be required to commit to a minimum of 200 teaching hours over the course of a 3 year programme.

In addition to the taught classes, there will be regular homework assignments, just like when studying for other GCSEs. See below for the course structure.

Course structure – GCSE Mandarin Chinese over 3 years

Year 1 (2018-2019):
- One weekly 2 hour class throughout the school year (minimum 60 hours study)

Year 2 (2019-2020):
- One weekly 2 hour class throughout the school year (minimum 60 hours study)
- 6-day study trip to Beijing during Spring break (includes 20 hours of study)

Year 3 (2020-2021):
- One weekly 2 hour class throughout the school year (minimum 60 hours study)

GCSE Exam - May/June 2021

Study trip to China
Our non-compulsory trip to Beijing has three main aims:

- safe travel
- inspiring & memorable learning opportunities
- fun!

We firmly believe that learning Chinese should not be an experience confined to a classroom in the UK. Therefore, the study trip included in the GCSE course is integral to the programme.
The Exam

GCSE Mandarin Chinese is no different to other GCSEs in Modern Languages – you will be examined on your skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing. You will be working towards an official certification based on the national curriculum guidelines.

You will have a chance to practise mock exams and the teacher will give you plenty of support during your preparation. However, it’s not all about the exam! We want you to become confident using your Chinese and to enjoy learning about China and its fascinating culture. Hopefully you will be inspired to spend more time in China or to continue your Mandarin studies past the GCSE!

Costs

If paid for by the school:
£85/ht+VAT per teaching hour (2 hours per week)
Maximum 15 students per class

If paid for by the parents:
£15/ht+VAT / per student/ per teaching hour (2 hours per week)
Maximum 15 students per class

Total cost for Year 2 trip to China, paid for by the parents: approx £1900 (subject to change)
6-day study trip costs include:
- return flights, visa, insurance and all local transport
- accommodation

Resources

Textbooks
Dragons Teaching have written their own textbooks which are fun, appropriately structured and packed full of interesting facts. The books, Secondary School Chinese, focus on teaching practical language from the beginning, so that you can communicate in Chinese even after the first class. Chinese characters are gradually introduced alongside the spoken language. Thereafter, you will study the GSCE content (in Years 2 and 3).

Online
In addition to the textbooks, you will also be given access to our extensive, online learning portal which you can find at www.secondaryschoolchinese.com. Here you can use games and exercises to help you practise and reinforce what you have covered during class.

High quality teaching team

Dragons Teaching has a team of around 50 teachers many of whom are currently working in the some of the UK’s foremost secondary and preparatory schools.

With full DBS checks and a complete set of commendable references, our teachers are all hugely experienced at teaching in a western environment. Teachers have been selected both based on their availability (over 2 or 3 years) and their experience in teaching Years 8-11 at GCSE level. Please note that a Dragons teacher will fly out to Beijing with pupils to continue the course during the study trip abroad.

Next steps and registering interest

To register your interest in starting the GCSE Mandarin Chinese course in September 2018, please either speak to your school or alternatively you can ring the Dragons in Europe course coordinator on 020 7228 8501. You can also email us at info@dragonsineurope.com. We will also be running an information evening in June 2018 where you and your parents can come and ask questions, see the resources and meet some of the teachers. We look forward to hearing from you!