



18 June 2018

## MANDARIN EXCELLENCE PROGRAMME

Dear Parent/Carer

We hope the SATS exams have gone well and that your child is now getting excited about starting at Finham Park 2. It has also been wonderful to meet some of your children on our transition visits- we clearly have a wonderful group of students joining us in September!

At Finham Park 2 we believe that the study of a foreign language not only provides our students with useful skills which are fast becoming essential in a modern and highly competitive world, but it also gives them a liberating and life-enhancing experience, which adds breadth to their cultural, social and linguistic knowledge and skills. Students study French, Spanish or Mandarin and are expected to continue studying a foreign language until GCSE. We consider experiencing real life in France, Spain and China to be an important part of language learning and offer residential visits to these countries. Further to the information on Modern Foreign Languages included in your letter, *I would like to share more information about our exciting Mandarin Excellence Programme.*

### **Regarding the Mandarin Excellence Programme (MEP):**

- We are lucky enough to be one of a small number of school that offer the MEP
- Students have 8 hours learning per week and so progress is rapid- our current students can already write and say simple sentences in Mandarin and even have a simple conversation!
- There are added benefits to taking the course which include a subsidised trip to China in year 8, University trips in year 9 and much more.
- The benefits are easy to see: a GCSE (and hopefully further study) in Chinese is impressive and will no doubt open doors in higher education and future careers.
- However, it is not easy, and students need to be committed, resilient and have an excellent attitude to learning and additional study e.g. homework
- Unfortunately we can only offer 30 students on this course

For this reason and expected oversubscription for this course, there will be an introduction for students to the MEP as well as a brief test on **Monday 25 June 6-7pm in the Library**. If you are interested in your child attending, please reply to Leigh Thomson, PA to the Headteacher at [l.thomson@finhampark2.co.uk](mailto:l.thomson@finhampark2.co.uk) by 22 June. If you have already applied, we would still like you to let us know you will be attending.

Yours sincerely

**MARK BAILE**  
Executive Headteacher

**RUSSELL PLESTER**  
Headteacher