



Dear Parent/Carer

## **MANDARIN EXCELLENCE PROGRAMME (MEP)**

We hope the SATS exams have gone well and that your child is now starting to get excited about joining us at Finham Park 2 in September.

Further to the paragraph on Modern Foreign Languages included in your welcome letter, we are holding a languages presentation event for all prospective Year 7 parents (current year 6) including a celebration of the progress our current Year 7's have made on the MEP Programme. In this presentation, we will be sharing the expectations and opportunities of languages at Finham Park 2.

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 we will be hopefully be able to offer residential visits to these countries during the forthcoming years.

Students who are accepted for the Mandarin Excellence Programme study Mandarin intensively, receiving 3 – 4 hours of tuition per week as part of their normal curriculum and completing 4 hours of Mandarin Homework weekly. In order to fulfill the curriculum hours requirement, every term we arrange an off-curriculum day during which students come away from their timetabled subjects for intensive language learning, including cultural activities such as Tai Ji Quan, Dance or Calligraphy. From time to time students are asked to be involved in welcoming visitors to the school, giving them opportunities to develop their social and presentational skills.

In order to explore the opportunities available to your child further, we would like to invite you to attend our Languages Information Evening on Thursday 20 June 2019, 4:30-6:00pm, in our school Refectory.

Yours sincerely

**MARK BAILIE**  
Executive Headteacher

**RUSSELL PLESTER**  
Headteacher