



Languages at St Gregory's

Year 7 Language Choices

Through learning a language you gain a better understanding of how people in another country live, their customs and attitudes, how they do things. The more we understand and respect people in other countries, the greater the hope for world peace.

Studying a language also helps to develop your mental agility – it demands of you to listen carefully, to think exactly and to examine things in detail.

In Year 7 the majority of students have the opportunity to study two languages from French, German, Spanish and Mandarin Chinese. Additionally, students can apply to join the Mandarin Excellence Programme (MEP) providing accelerated learning opportunities in this global language.

Students would normally experience the range of languages during their taster day experience and then be asked to rank their language choices in order of preference, however, sadly, this is not possible this year and we are therefore having to carry this task out virtually. Further information on the languages on offer can be found on our website at <https://www.st-gregorys.org.uk/academic-life/subject-pages/>. You may also find it useful to sit with your child and explore and try the different language options online at <https://www.duolingo.com/>. **Please be aware that we try as far as possible to consider language preferences, but we cannot guarantee this.**

Year 7 Mandarin in Excellence Programme

Year 7 students also have the opportunity to apply for a place on our Mandarin in Excellence Programme. This is an accelerated learning programme available to 30 students per year group. Please read the additional information below from Mrs Hook our MEP Coordinator. If your child is interested, then please register your interest via the Google Forms link below and we will contact you with an application pack.

Your child can study Mandarin Chinese without joining the additional MEP programme if they wish.

Please follow the link below, enter your child's name, your email address, complete your language preferences and the expression of interest in the MEP programme.

<https://forms.gle/FwhG9KtMXqhkudDC9>

Please complete the form by Friday 26 June to ensure that your child's preferences are registered.

Ann Cusack
Head teacher



Mandarin Excellence Programme (MEP)

The MEP is a new nationwide intensive language programme funded by the Department for Education (DfE) with the support of the British Council and the UCL Institute of Education. Saint Gregory's is one of the MEP schools currently on this ground-breaking programme.

If your son/daughter is given an MEP place, he/she will study Mandarin Chinese for the equivalent of four hours a week for the next five years until the end of Year 11. Some of these lessons will be normal languages curriculum time, others will take place after school and during lunchtimes. He/she will sit a GCSE in Mandarin Chinese and may also obtain other internationally recognised qualifications such as HSK, China's language proficiency test. As part of the programme your son/daughter will normally have the opportunity to attend an immersion course in China (Year 8). All of these opportunities are heavily subsidised by the DfE and Hanban (a public institution affiliated with the Chinese Ministry of Education). It is our aim that by the end of the five years, your child will be on track towards a very high level of fluency in Mandarin Chinese.

The extra-curricular activities will include all sorts of interesting language learning opportunities such as cooking and sport in Mandarin, Chinese cultural activities, visits to museums and so on. The aim is for the students not only to master the language but to gain a deep insight into Chinese culture.

Mandarin Chinese is the most widely spoken language in the world and is therefore one of the most important languages for the UK's future. By taking part in the MEP your son/daughter will be getting a head start in life by mastering this vital skill at an early stage.

Consideration must be given to the five-year commitment required as well as the expectation that he/she will attend some lessons after school and during lunchtimes, intensive learning days and summer immersion courses and will also complete between two to four hours of Mandarin homework a week.

Here are the normal commitments for the Year 7 programme (prior to COVID-19):

- Three hours a fortnight in their regular language lessons
- Attend a lunchtime club of half an hour (day tbc)
- Attend an after-school lesson 3.10- 4.10 every week (day tbc)
- Attend two all-day intensive learning days in school time (dates/arrangements to be announced)

We look forward to working with you on this new and exciting venture.

If you would like to be considered for the MEP please record your interest on the Google Form and we will send you the application form.

Mrs Hook
MEP Coordinator