

4 March 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to you regarding the possibility of an exciting trip to China for students currently in year 9 (to take place when they are in year 11) who intend to study Mandarin Chinese at GCSE level. The trip may be offered to other students at a later date once initial spaces have been allocated to all Mandarin learners at Carisbrooke who wish to attend.

As part of their GCSE Mandarin course students are expected to have an understanding of life in China along with an awareness of the customs and festivals there. A period of time spent in China will also provide students with an unrivalled opportunity to use and further develop the language skills they develop at Carisbrooke.

To enrich students' learning we are offering them the chance to visit the cities of Beijing, Xi'an and Shanghai. The duration of the trip will be around ten/eleven days. We are aiming to carry out the trip in **October 2025**. At the moment we are looking at the cost of the trip being approximately **£2,225** although until names are confirmed this is subject to change slightly depending on uptake and flights etc.

Students will stay in hotels with shared rooms and full board - all transport costs and VISAs are included. Students will have the opportunity to purchase their own food from local eateries if they wish. While in China students will visit a variety of places including the Great Wall of China, the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, the Terracotta Warriors and the Bund in Shanghai.

In order to see as much of the country as possible, students will travel between cities on overnight sleeper trains and a range of other exciting excursions and attractions in all three cities will be confirmed nearer the time.

If your child wishes to be included on the trip, please log into the Arbor app and express your interest by **Friday 15 March 2024**. There will be a maximum number of students allowed on the trip and if the trip is oversubscribed, places will be drawn at random. If sufficient numbers are not met the trip may not be able to go ahead.

If the uptake for the trip is successful I will write to you again in due course with a more detailed itinerary, consent forms and details of a deposit.

I'm sure you will agree this is an incredibly exciting opportunity for students studying Chinese at Carisbrooke. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me on joe.briscoe@iwef.org.uk

Yours faithfully



Joe Briscoe
Teacher of Mandarin