

‘The Aspiring Mandarin Linguist.’ KS4/5



CHELTENHAM
BOURNSIDE
SCHOOL

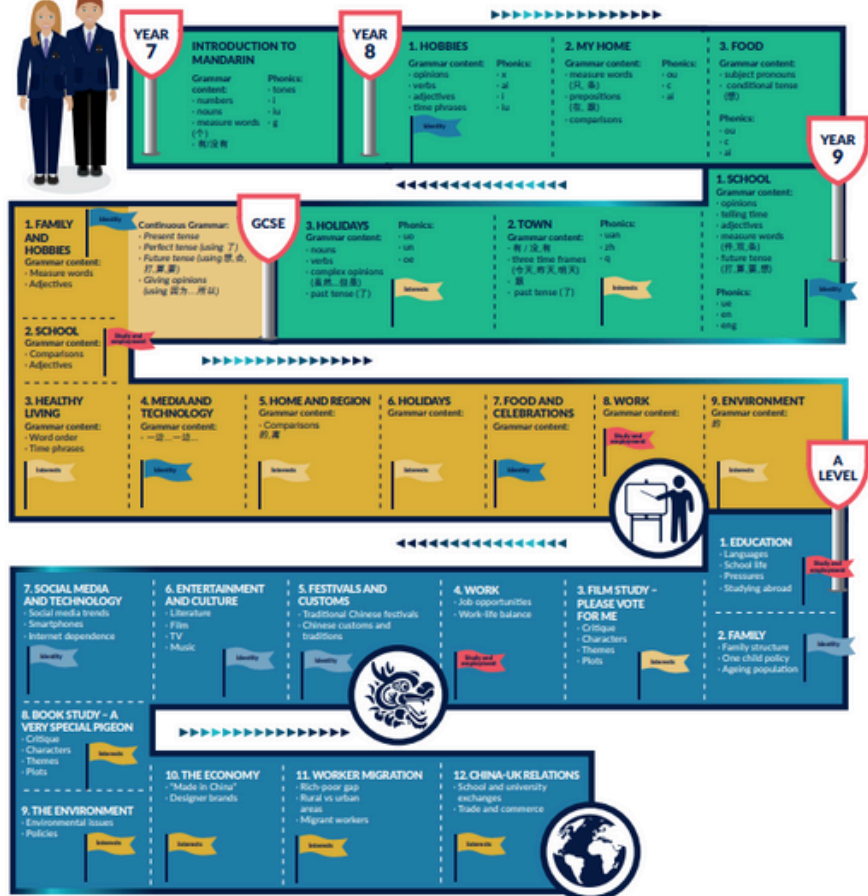


Inspiring lives through learning

'The Aspiring Mandarin Linguist'



MANDARIN



'The Aspiring Mandarin Linguist'



大家好!

You have such an exciting opportunity to study Mandarin at Bournside and this booklet will take your studies beyond the classroom. Spoken by over 1 billion people, Mandarin is the most spoken language in the world and offers a different challenge to European languages. China is a major global power and speaking Mandarin can give you a massive advantage in business and trade. China also has an incredibly rich history and culture. English is not widely spoken in China, so knowing even a little Mandarin can greatly enhance your experience both travelling and working there. Learning Mandarin can also open doors to learning other Asian languages such as Korean and Japanese.

To improve your Mandarin you can:

- Immerse yourself in Mandarin through films, TV series and films.
- Participate in language competitions or cultural events
- Read graded books in Mandarin
- Complete an EPQ related to Chinese language or culture

加油!

Mrs R McKinlay | Head of Mandarin

Reading list



Ask your Mandarin teacher about graded readers in Mandarin.

Competitions



Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators | University of Oxford

Annual translation competition of fiction and non-fiction texts. Speak with your Mandarin teacher to take part.



Stephen Spender Poetry Prize

Annual poetry translation competition. The rules are simple: translate into English any poem from any language, and produce an accompanying creative response for your chance to join the Stephen Spender Prize hall of eternal fame! Speak with your Mandarin teacher to take part.

Listen and Watch



Podcasts



ChinesePod

Makes learning Mandarin fun and easy introducing tones and grammar topics through stories. Newbie-Advanced level.



ChillChat

Chinese listening practice through chats about interesting topics. Comes with transcripts including English and pinyin.

Coffee Break Chinese

Podcast "lessons" in four levels of difficulty. Each breaks down a grammar point or specific vocabulary.



TeaTime Chinese

Covers a wide range of topics, many related to the A Level specification. Comes with interactive transcripts. Intermediate-Advanced level.



Maomi Chinese

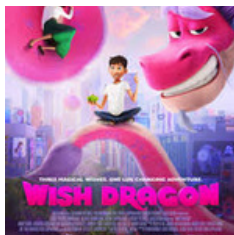
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Listen and Watch



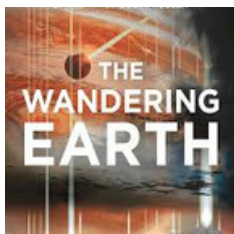
Films/YouTube/TV



Watch series and films in Mandarin, you can start with English subtitles and switch to Mandarin subtitles later.

Films:

- Wish Dragon (12)
- The Wandering Earth (15)
- New Gods: Nezha Reborn (12)
- Love 020 (PG)
- The Last Wish (12)



Series (on Netflix):

- Meteor Garden
- Take My Brother Away
- The King's Avatar
- Well Intended Love



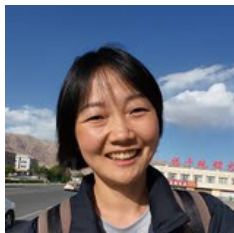
YouTube (for listening practice):

- Everyday Chinese
- Mandarin Click



YouTube (for insights into Chinese culture and lifestyles):

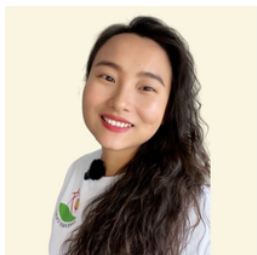
- Chinese Cooking Demystified
- Rafa Goes Around
- Mandarin Corner
- Little Chinese Everywhere



Listen and Watch



Social media



Language learning:

[@takeaway_chinese](#)

Learn Chinese in an easy way

[@thatsmandarin](#)

Learn Chinese. Think Chinese.



[@linglongmandarin](#)

👋 Hi! I'm Linglong, your Chinese teacher

🇨🇳 Making Chinese learning SIMPLE & FUN!

[@learnchinesewithvicky](#)

5-time award-winning literary translator.

Learn Chinese with me!



Culture:

[@marissainchina](#)

7 years in China 🇺🇸 💍 🇨🇳 Just sharing my personal life, y'all 🙌

[@chinesewithmia](#)

Lifestyle | Brand Stories | Travel



[@alysawonderland](#)

#GuangzhouGirlie 🇨🇳

Growing up in China stories on YouTube 🍷

Work Experience and Events



Work experience in Mandarin allows you to use the language in authentic settings and explore Chinese culture beyond the classroom. Whether you're learning the basics online, gaining customer service experience in a local business, or travelling abroad, these opportunities show how valuable language skills can be in the real world.

Mandarin-related experiences can include:

- Language schools, such as Inlingua Cheltenham, where Bournside students often secure placements
- Cultural immersion programmes, like Mandarin House Summer Camps (costs apply)
- Online learning, including Getting Started with Chinese 3
- International opportunities, such as paid teaching placements in China after A-Levels
- Local workplace experience, for example Lucky Ume supermarkets or Umi Pan Asian Kitchen restaurants in Cheltenham

These experiences help build confidence, communication and cultural understanding, while supporting future study, travel and employment opportunities.

Work Experience and Events



Inlingua Cheltenham

Each year a number of Bournside students are successful in securing a work placement at Inlingua.



Summer Camps | Mandarin House

Providing an unforgettable adventure in a Chinese environment, our experienced teachers share Chinese life through Mandarin lessons, cultural workshops, activities and excursions. (Please note there is a considerable cost for this experience)



Getting Started with Chinese 3 | OpenLearn

You will practice speaking, listening, writing and reading through a variety of online activities immersing into the Chinese language and culture.



Paid teaching in China - Placement Year International

Well paid while living and experiencing life in one of the world's fastest growing economies then look no further than paid teaching in China! (for Year 13 students for after A-Levels)



Lucky Ume 幸运屋

Work experience in a Chinese supermarket. There are a number in Cheltenham and so best to go in and ask to speak to the manager.



Umi Pan Asian Kitchen

Work experience in a Chinese restaurant? There are a number in Cheltenham, why not go in and ask if you could do a few days of work experience with them?



The Careers Team at Bournside deliver regular Inspire Breakfast Lectures. Open to students in Year 10 - 13, these business-focused breakfasts invite speakers from all corners of industry to share their professional experiences and valuable insights with Bournside students over breakfast; opening our eyes to the opportunities available across many industry sectors.

Take a look at upcoming speakers and reserve your space here.

