

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE
FOR SCOTLAND'S SCHOOLS
NEWSLETTER
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Please send any submissions to

ciss-info@strath.ac.uk



EDITORIAL

Wendy Green

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am pleased to introduce myself to you as the new General Manager of CISS. I would firstly like to thank all my colleagues in SCILT and CISS who have been extremely helpful and supportive in helping me settle into my new job smoothly.

I am proud to be part of this dedicated team supporting schools to expand their language offer to our youngsters and inspire them to learn Mandarin and Chinese culture. I have met with some of the hub contacts virtually to discuss our work going forward and how we can best support you all. I hope to meet with more of you soon in the coming months.

CISS got off to a good start in 2021. At our Board Meeting in January on Zoom, CISS was praised for developing innovative and adaptable online programmes to help maintain Mandarin teaching in schools during these challenging times. I know that Discovering China and the Virtual Exchange Teacher Project introduced in 2020 have been well received and we are developing further modules in 2021 so that more schools can benefit from these projects.

We also partnered with East China Normal University to launch a 10 week programme of 'Chinese Bridge Masterclasses' delivering a mixture of pre-recorded culture and language classes for our hub schools to use for home-learning during the current lockdown. We have already seen some excellent homework submitted by our pupils. Keep up the great work!



Usually around Chinese New Year, CISS would be extremely busy running all sorts of cultural activities. I am pleased to say that lockdown didn't stop us celebrating; we just simply moved online! To make our Chinese Exchange Teachers feel more connected, we also organised a fun virtual party to celebrate Burns Night and Chinese New Year. There was bagpipes, poems, a quiz, erhu, steak pie, Chinese tea, singing and lots of laughter!



There remains uncertainty in 2021, but we have learnt to adapt and have obtained many new skills quickly to keep going. We are more resilient than we realise. No matter what challenges we face, the team at SCILT/CISS will always be here and will work closely with you to get through them.

We will meet again and I hope soon! Until then, please take care, look after yourself and your family and keep active.

All the best,

Wendy

UPDATES FROM CISS

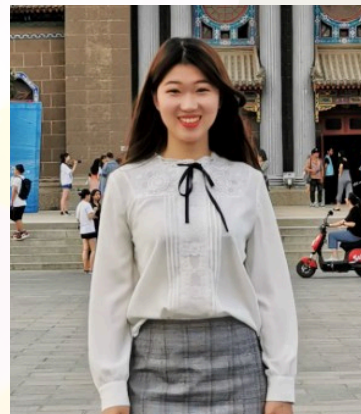
The Virtual Exchange Teacher Project

Our virtual exchange teacher programme launched at the end of September 2020. The programme is run in conjunction with South West Jiao Tong University, Chengdu, China. The pilot programme consisted of a 10 week upper Primary and Secondary BGE course.

We had 10 Confucius Hubs taking part and amidst the technical glitches that inevitably come with a live online class it was great to see Scottish pupils able to connect with a native Mandarin speaking teacher on the other side of the world. The next course will launch in March of 2021.

One of our Virtual Exchange Teachers, Hannah Zhao, wrote about her experience taking part in the programme:

How time flies, my first Chinese class seems like only yesterday. I was so nervous about the first class and worried about making a good impression on the pupils that I prepared the first class three times with different partners. Gradually however, my teaching became more and more proficient and my communication with pupils got better and better.



In class, I tried to give students simple, clear instructions and inspire them to think by asking questions. For example, after a few lessons, I felt that the children's understanding was very strong, so I wanted to ask some more difficult questions. In the food themed lesson I explained the difference between "eating" and "drinking", by dividing eight kinds of food into two categories and asking them to guess why. The students discussed and didn't know, and then I told them, "these foods, we eat; these foods, we drink." Next, I said, "we can put '吃' and a kind of food together to form a new phrase. Can you try it?" This time, a lot of students raised their hands and said phrases like "吃鸡蛋", "吃米饭".

Students corrected each other's pronunciation which helped keep class participation relatively high, and their attention focused. I also found other ways to catch students' attention, such as grasping the rhythm of the class, using different ways to practice expressions, and speaking with an exaggerated tone!

When I introduced Chinese culture, in addition to introducing the beautiful scenery, I tried to convey the "essence" of these beautiful landscapes as they are a vehicle for culture. Terracotta warriors and horses are more than just lifelike statues. There are deep historical reasons behind the construction of the terracotta warriors and horses. The Dayan Pagoda is not only a beautiful tower, but also a symbol of Xuanzang's spirit of never giving up and persisting in faith. The Spring Festival, the most important festival in China, is a festival for reunion. Hundreds of millions of Chinese people just want to do one thing before the Spring Festival - go home. No matter how difficult it is or how hard the journey is, Chinese people will try their best to return home and reunite with their relatives.

As the course progressed I felt more and more comfortable teaching and liked my students more and more. Every week I was so happy to see my students appear on the screen and say "hello". Just before Christmas some students wore Christmas hats in class. The whole class was full of happiness.

I am very grateful to the teachers in charge of the class in Scotland. They were very conscientious and responsible. They helped us manage the class, maintain the order of the class, helped us point out students to answer questions, and learn Chinese with them. I felt very lucky to be teaching with them.

Thanks for the help and support of Confucius Institute, I believe the new online teaching mode will be better and better! This experience was very unforgettable!

Thank you to pupils and staff from West Lothian who sent in photos and thoughts on their time learning Mandarin on the VET Project:

Bridgend Primary School - P5/6/7

Emily - It is really good and it's great that we've had the experience of learning Mandarin.

Stephen - It has been fantastic learning Mandarin and we feel really glad that we've had this opportunity.

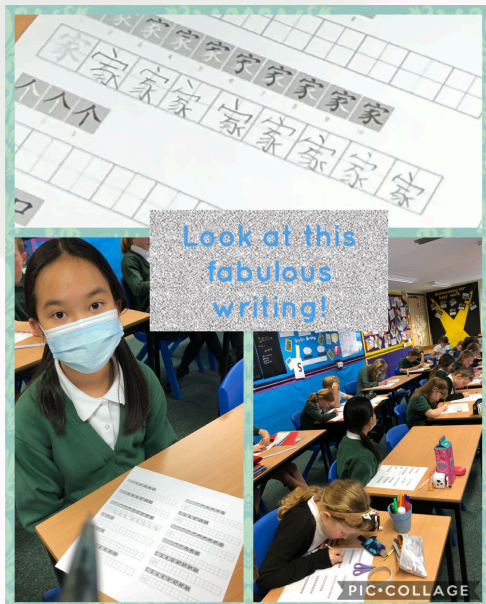
Sonny - It has been a great opportunity to learn a new language, especially as the VETs are in China and it has still been possible.

Mr McKechnie - I am amazed at the progress my class have made in such a short period of time. Their enthusiasm and effort has been incredible and I hope they remember the experience for a long time.

Springfield Primary School - P6

Alistair - I thought it was really enjoyable because we learnt about their country. Whenever we got something a little bit wrong, they always understood. It's been fun.

Miss Devonshire - The Mandarin teachers made the lessons engaging for the children by including fun games and videos. The use of materials and worksheets ensured all learning styles were included. The children's progress has been incredible.

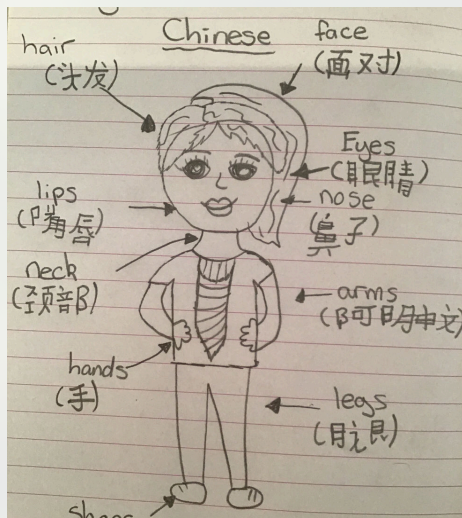


Chinese Bridge Masterclasses



In collaboration with East China Normal University in Shanghai, CISS has run a 10 week programme for beginners covering a range of topics. The course was intended to be live classes but with the lockdown each lesson was reworked into a pre-recorded video for pupils to access anytime, anywhere.

Pupils from Grange Academy in East Ayrshire and their teacher Mrs Jiang shared their work with us from the masterclass lessons:



"S2 and S3 pupils in Grange Academy are very luckily registered with Mandarin masterclasses organized by CISS at the University of Strathclyde and Huadong Normal University. They have engaged very well with the videos and enjoyed presenting their learning in different ways. The masterclasses are very helpful during remote learning."

Christina Jiang, Mandarin Teacher at Grange Academy, East Ayrshire.

牛	牛	牛	牛	牛	niú	cow
马	马	马	马	马	mǎ	horse
羊	羊	羊	羊	羊	yáng	sheep
猪	猪	猪	猪	猪	zhū	pig
鸡	鸡	鸡	鸡	鸡	jī	chicken
鸭	鸭	鸭	鸭	鸭	yā	duck
鹅	鹅	鹅	鹅	鹅	é	swan
兔	兔	兔	兔	兔	tù	rabbit
猫	猫	猫	猫	猫	māo	cat
狗	狗	狗	狗	狗	gǒu	dog



Mandarin Class Resources

General resources

CISS has a number of resources and links on our website to help teachers, pupils and parents discover more about Chinese language and culture. You can find these resources by clicking [here](#).

Resources

We offer teachers the following free resources available to download and use straight away in the classroom:


Mandarin Ebooks - Our ebooks aim to support Chinese language learning at all levels.

L3 Resources - These resources will support non-specialist and specialist Chinese teachers with the implementation of Chinese as an L3. The resources favour a gentle progression and will help practitioners embed Chinese into their learning context.

National Museums Scotland - These resources have been designed to support L3 Mandarin and in particular to link to the Teaching Notes for the new animation film produced in partnership with National Museums of Scotland.

Home Learning - If you are looking for materials to support Mandarin learning for your child while the schools are closed, these materials are for children of different ages/stages and in different languages. These resources:

- are free to access
- children can do independently and
- can be enjoyed together as a family



We have added a new section on our website that contains information and resources on various Chinese festivals, including Chinese New Year. You can access this [here](#).

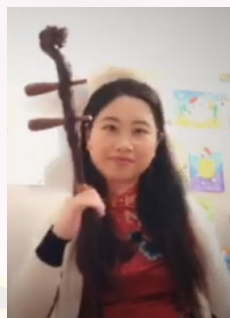
Chinese Festivals Resources

Chinese Exchange Teacher resources

The CISS Chinese Exchange Teachers put together some videos to explain the significance and traditions of Chinese New Year. You can view these [here](#) or by clicking on the thumbnails.



Dumplings



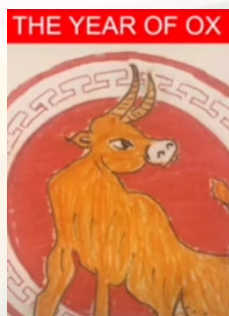
Erhu



CNY greetings



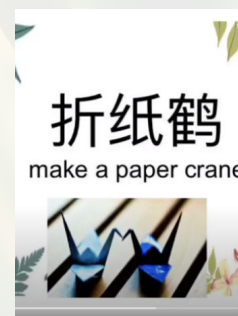
More greetings!



Red envelope



Paper cutting



Paper crane

CHINESE NEW YEAR 2021



With lockdown in place, Chinese New Year celebrations were slightly different this year. Here's a roundup of activities CISS organised for Chinese New Year.

Chinese New Year competition

CISS ran a poster competition for primary pupils and a social media post competition for secondary pupils to mark the festival. The winning primary entry became the design for our Chinese New Year card and the winning secondary entry was featured on our social media.

The winning primary entry came from **Lucy in P5/6 at Dalry Primary School, Edinburgh**. We thought Lucy's poster was a joyful and creative celebration of the New Year and featured Chinese characters, great imagery of the festival like Chinese lanterns and the red envelope - and of course a very cheeky ox!



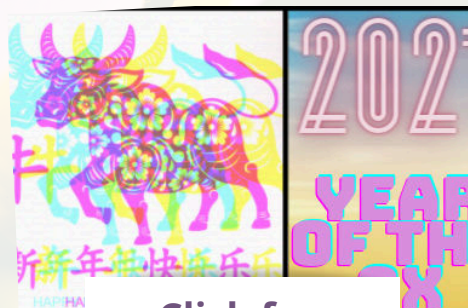
The winning secondary entry came from **Megan in S3 at Mackie Academy, Aberdeenshire**. We chose Megan's design as it was creative, colourful and thoughtfully designed for social media. It is a festive representation of the New Year celebrations and we were delighted to share it with the CISS community.



You can see the runners up for both primary and secondary plus other honourable mentions on our website.



[Click for Primary](#)



[Click for Secondary](#)



CET cultural evening

CISS hosted a virtual Chinese New Year Burns Night in February for the Chinese Exchange Teachers living here in Scotland. **Perth and Kinross CET LV Hongye writes about her experience of the night.**

It has been snowing frequently in Scotland since January, and it has been reported that this winter is the coldest in nearly a decade. In addition to the weather, Covid-19 has made this winter even harder. Being in lockdown and not being able to meet with friends make us, whose family members are far away, feel lonely. You miss your family on festive occasions more than ever and as Chinese New Year approaches, that homesickness becomes stronger.

This time last year, CISS hosted a big event to celebrate Chinese New Year and Burns Supper for us Chinese Exchange Teachers. We celebrated together in Glasgow and were very happy. Unfortunately, it was impossible this year because of Covid but we had a virtual Chinese New Year celebration instead on the 5th of February.

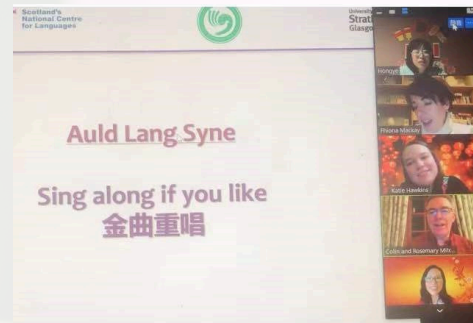


Before the virtual event, we received an email with recipes of three Scottish dishes (Cullen Skink, steak pie and Cranachan) and a link to a cooking video from the CISS team. I followed the video and recipes to make these three dishes in advance to enjoyed on this evening.

During the event, we opened up a gift from Katie which included lots of things that symbolised Scotland and China. I felt it was very sweet.



We then enjoyed a performance of the traditional Chinese Erhu and a Chinese tea ceremony, as well as Burns' poems and traditional Scottish bagpipe playing. I think the most interesting part was the quiz, from which I learned a lot about Scottish culture and knowledge. The last part was singing Auld Lang Syne; one of my favourite songs.



This is precious cultural heritage left to us by Burns, and it is an eternal classic.

The virtual celebration brought us a happy night, allowed us to taste the flavour of Scotland and learn more about the country and culture we are living in. Thank you CISS for giving us such a wonderful experience.

We have put together a video of highlights from the night. Click the image below to watch it now!



Ricefield Chinese New Year event

We partnered with Ricefield Arts & Cultural Centre on their Chinese New Year showcase on 26th February. The event included performers of Chinese music, martial arts, dance and more. **Click [here](#) to watch highlights from the evening.**



Our Chinese Exchange Teacher in the East Renfrewshire Confucius Classroom Hub, QIU Shengnan performed at the event. She wrote about taking part below.

Last month, I received an invitation from Ricefield Arts to represent CISS and participate in their Chinese New Year Celebration.

Because of Covid-19, it could only be done online through a Zoom meeting. I still felt honoured. This is the second Chinese New Year I have spent in Scotland. Although my family is not around and I cannot feel the happiness of reunion, I was very happy to be able to celebrate Chinese New Year with friends from various countries through this opportunity.





We performed successfully on the Lantern Festival on February 26. This evening party attracted more than 300 audience members from all over the world. On the evening, the UK-based performers showcased Chinese culture in a variety of forms, with performances of traditional musical instruments, martial arts, dance, song and poetry.

Many friends learnt more about the long history of China's most important annual festival, and the unique traditions which accompany it.

I used the traditional Chinese instrument Erhu (二胡) to perform a song "Onwards and Upwards" (步步高) for everyone. This is a famous song from Guangdong with a lively rhythm, expressing the joy of looking forward to a new spring.

CHINESE WELLBEING

Kungfu and shuttlecock

WANG Jinxiu, Chinese Exchange Teacher based in the Highland Confucius Classroom Hub, shares some wellbeing practices that have helped her through the lockdown period.

To keep healthy and positive during lockdown, I start off with some martial arts in the morning. Martial arts, known as Kungfu, has won great popularity among youngsters and keeps my spirits up for the rest of the day.



To practice Kungfu, people tend to use bare hands or feet, and involve acrobatic elements such as flips, jumps, and high kicks. Nowadays Kungfu is seen as a fun workout, with an emphasis on relaxation and visualisation techniques.

“Wu bu quan” (five steps punch) is an easy set of martial arts and involves five steps.

During my practice of “wu bu quan”, I build self-confidence and self-esteem in the gradual step-by-step process.

In addition to Kungfu, I usually kick a shuttlecock (called ti jian zi in Chinese) to keep fit. Ti jian zi is a traditional game to keep a feather shuttlecock in the air using the inside of the ankle while keeping the other foot on the ground. The shuttlecock is primarily balanced and propelled upwards using parts of the leg, particularly the feet. With practice, I can now kick the shuttlecock 63 times a minute with the shuttlecock never falling down to the ground.



**Confucius Institute
for Scotland's Schools, 2021**

www.strath.ac.uk/ciss

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