

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE FOR SCOTLAND'S SCHOOLS

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2021



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Cover photo: Pupils from Carmondean Primary School, West Lothian, are excited as they wait for their weekly VET lesson to begin.

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EDITORIAL

LISA HANNA
DEPUTE DIRECTOR, SCILT & CISS



29 November 2021

**Dear friends
and colleagues,**

I hope you are all keeping safe and well through all the challenges we continue to face.

December 2021 marks the first anniversary of my appointment as Depute Director of SCILT/CISS.

And what a year it has been! We have said farewell to colleagues, and welcomed new team members to the CISS family. We have continued to face challenges with remote working, but what has remained constant is the dedication of the CISS team to supporting and encouraging all those involved with the learning and teaching of Chinese language and culture. And so I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the CISS team for all the work they do every single day: they are an inspirational group of colleagues with an incredible set of skills who work tirelessly to make sure learners and teachers have the very best of support. My thanks to each and every one of them.

This term we have seen the **Climate Ready Classroom** project take place in schools across Scotland.

Celebrated at the COP26 Innovation Showcase, this unique project showed young people and their teachers working together to learn

about issues of climate change. They used research and language skills to discover potential solutions to climate issues in their own school and local area. They built friendships and learned to appreciate what they have in common, and how working together they can achieve more. Truly inspiring, and a project of which we are very proud.

Our online offer continues to grow, with our own CISS team of GTCS teachers working with schools to deliver National Qualification classes. Our **Virtual Exchange Teachers (VETs)** network is supporting schools across Scotland to learn about Chinese language and culture, with live classes being delivered online from China. In times where we cannot travel as freely as before, these opportunities become perhaps even more important for children and young people to broaden their horizons and increase their confidence.

I am endlessly impressed by the dedication of schools, teachers and young people within our network and beyond. No challenge is too difficult: the willingness to find solutions, the resilience and determination to connect with Chinese language and culture are awe-inspiring.

As we approach the holiday season, it is my sincere wish that you and your families can enjoy a well-deserved rest, and that you are able to spend time with your nearest and dearest.

Stay safe and healthy,

**Xie xie,
Lisa**

CLIMATE READY CLASSROOMS



INNOVATIVE PROJECT PRESENTED AT COP 26

CISS TAKES PART IN UK UNIVERSITIES NETWORK'S CLIMATE INNOVATION SHOWCASE

On the morning of 10 November, 2021, colleagues, organisers and participants from across the globe joined, 'Climate Ready Classrooms – Innovations in Transnational Education', an online webinar hosted by SCILT and CISS Depute Director, Lisa Hanna.

Over the course of two hours the organising team shared the background, successes and potential future application of the Climate Ready Classrooms pilot – which linked over 400 primary students across 12 schools in Scotland and Tianjin, China. This multi-disciplinary approach to climate education combined language learning, science, IT, and cross-cultural communication to tackle one of the most pressing issues of our time: climate change.

SCILT Director Fhiona MacKay and Ms Junyang Wang of the Tianjin Municipal Education Committee opened the event

and were followed by a series of short films which guided the audience through the evolution of the project: from the initial proposals back in 2018, the practicalities of training and operational planning, and the successful delivery of the project in September 2021.

During a lively panel discussion, participants from King's Park (Glasgow), Culross (Fife) and Fossoway (Perth and Kinross) primaries recounted the many ways in which the project expanded beyond their classrooms into the school and wider communities, and shared examples of the impact on student behaviour and climate knowledge, as well as describing the excitement amongst their students at discovering an outlet to use new language with classmates on the other side of the world.

Against the backdrop of COP 26, hearing young learners from two nations share the various ways we can all help

to make our environment and world better underlined the importance and broad potential of this format. All parties expressed a desire for the project to continue, and we look forward to seeing how the Climate Ready Classrooms concept develops and expands moving forwards.



[Click here to watch the mini documentary about the project!](#)



A TEACHER'S PERSPECTIVE ON THE PROJECT

MINRONG ZHANG

CISS Professional Development Assistant and GTCS registered teacher of Mandarin

I was lucky to be involved in the Climate Ready Classrooms project, which showcased the success of interdisciplinary learning in one class between two countries, China and Scotland. My main role in this project was to support the communication between Stornoway Primary School in the Western Isles and Tianjin Experimental Primary School and to teach children in Stornoway some Mandarin. In addition to the three link-up sessions, I met with children in Stornoway online on Fridays during September.

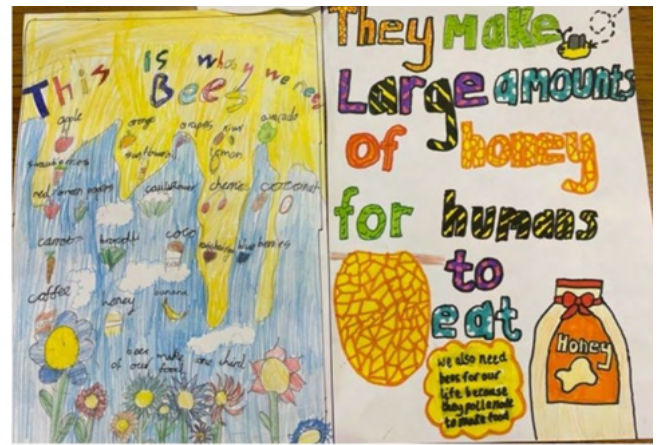
The three link-up sessions were held online with different global themes, 'School Grounds', 'Health and Wellbeing' and 'Transportation'. I was deeply impressed by the presentations

that pupils from each side showcased. In our first link-up session, children in Stornoway Primary School shared their learning about bees and how they are important to the environment. I found it especially informative and interesting. "It would cost farmers £1.5 billion to pollenate their crops, but bees do it for nothing!". How powerful those words are!



In return, pupils from Tianjin shared their inventions using the Internet of Things (IoT). You can use their inventions to detect the temperature, humidity and sunlight of plants and look after them through the App wherever you are. How smart that idea is! One pupil from Tianjin asked, "If you were funded to invent something to save the planet, what would you create?" A while later, a pupil from Stornoway replied, 'I would like to invent a machine that can remove the rubbish from the ocean'.

It was heart-warming to see our children working together to discuss the really big issues that are affecting our planet. The following link-up sessions strengthened their friendships and allowed deeper discussions, from the impact food miles has on the environment to green travel, and from traditional Chinese ways of keeping healthy to Scottish Highland Dancing. Each class combined language learning, cultural exchange, science, global issues and more, which helped inform them about sustainable life. The conversations were meaningful, and the learning experience was invaluable and beyond the textbook.



NEWS

DECEMBER 2021

Well, it has been quite the year hasn't it! We've all had to wrestle with revised visions of what is realistically possible this year, and the Alumni were no exception.

But we have made the most of what was available and been able to make some really good progress with some events and goals.

Firstly, we have a new committee! After constitutional elections in August, our new committee is as follows:

COMMITTEE



ERIN DUFFY

Chair



ALISTAIR PATON

Secretary



MARGARET DRISCOLL

Alumni Liaison Officer



LEAH DUNCAN-KARRIM

Edinburgh Projects Coordinator



CLARE O'TOOLE

Glasgow Events Convener



ANA SCOUGALL

Ordinary Member



AILSA BROWN

Ordinary Member



NATHAN EPEMOLU

Ordinary Member

UPDATES FROM THE ALUMNI

- This committee, alongside the Alumni, have been working hard to put events together, such as our **Linkedin 101 workshop** hosted by Clare and Alistair to great uptake in November as part of our ongoing "**Employability Event Series**".
- Incredible effort was also made across the alumni to create and publish our 1st **CISS Alumni Newsletter** recently, where you can see more of what we've been up to in detail. This will be a bi-monthly newsletter so watch this space to see when the next newsletter is available!
- Erin, our chair, also spoke via video-link at a Youth Summit organised by the Scotland China Education Network (SCEN).
- We have plenty of future plans in the pipeline, including the continuation of the Employability Events Series and a language exchange event we are looking to host in Spring 2022, as well a couple of socials to boot, so watch this space!

VIRTUAL EXCHANGE TEACHERS (VETS)

As the pandemic and lockdowns limited access to classrooms and the ability of teachers to travel internationally, CISS sought out alternative solutions to help students continue accessing Chinese language learning.



Above and top right: learners from Callander Primary School, Stirling, take part in the VET programme



The VET programme links teachers from Southwest Jiaotong University in Chengdu, China with classrooms throughout Scotland. Delivering lessons devised by CISS staff, teachers in Chengdu connect each week with their partnered classroom to provide an interactive and fun language experience across two levels.

Following the 1st edition in 2020/21, the second edition got underway in October 2021.

There is a clear demand for Chinese provision, with an uptake of over sixty percent within hubs, and more than 100 classes signed up for the first term of the 2021/22 session.

While technology can present some difficulties in linking across the world and across time zones, the opportunity and value offered by the VET programme provides much needed access to Chinese language learning for schools across Scotland.



Pupils from Carmondean Primary School, West Lothian, are excited as they wait for their weekly VET lesson to begin.

NEW CHINESE EXCHANGE TEACHERS REFLECT



TEACHING IN SCOTLAND, GOING TOGETHER TO THE FUTURE ZHANG XINLEI, GLASGOW

"I leave no trace of wings in the air, but I am glad I have had my flight." – Tagore

When the plane landed, I looked up at the Glasgow sky, I knew this was the place where the dream began.

On August 20, 2021, I successfully arrived in Glasgow. As soon as I left the airport, I met Dean Zhao Yanyan and Ellie. I still remembered their bright smiles and warm greetings. They helped us carry our luggage, check in the hotel, and prepared pandemic prevention materials and necessities for life. We were very grateful to the Confucius Institute for its thoughtful preparation and welcome.





During the ten-day hotel isolation, we participated in wonderful training courses from Karen, Wendy and Susan - new colleagues at the Confucius Institute – which gave us a new understanding of Scotland's education system, teaching methods, classroom activities and teachers' skills, thus laying a good foundation for our school teaching.



After isolation, with the help of Karen and Dean Zhao, we met our tutor for the first time and visited school. My mentor Terry McCann is a gentleman and the headteacher of King's Park Primary School. He took me visit school, discussed the teaching plan and successfully helped me apply for the current apartment. I was very grateful.



The first time I entered the classroom was on September 7, which was the online class for the 'Climate Ready Classrooms' project, related to COP26. I was happy to see the children's warm greeting and bright smiles, full of excitement to learn Chinese. I cooperated with my fellow teacher Tricia Courtney to complete 3 online courses related to "School grounds", "health and well-being" and "transportation", which the children really enjoyed.



The classes I teach range from P1 to P7, and need to be designed according to the characteristics of the children's different ages. At present, the whole school has completed greetings and numbers. I really enjoy the teaching experience here. I will spare no effort to devote my professional knowledge and practical experience to the classroom, so that the children can experience Chinese culture and enjoy learning Chinese.

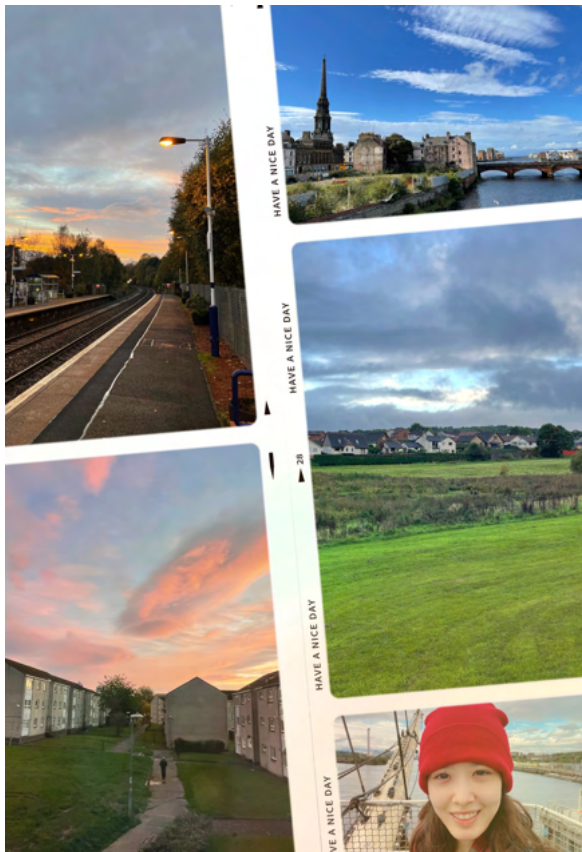


Teaching Chinese in Scotland, we are working together, we are improving, and we are on a positive path!

To be continued...

LIFE IN GLASGOW

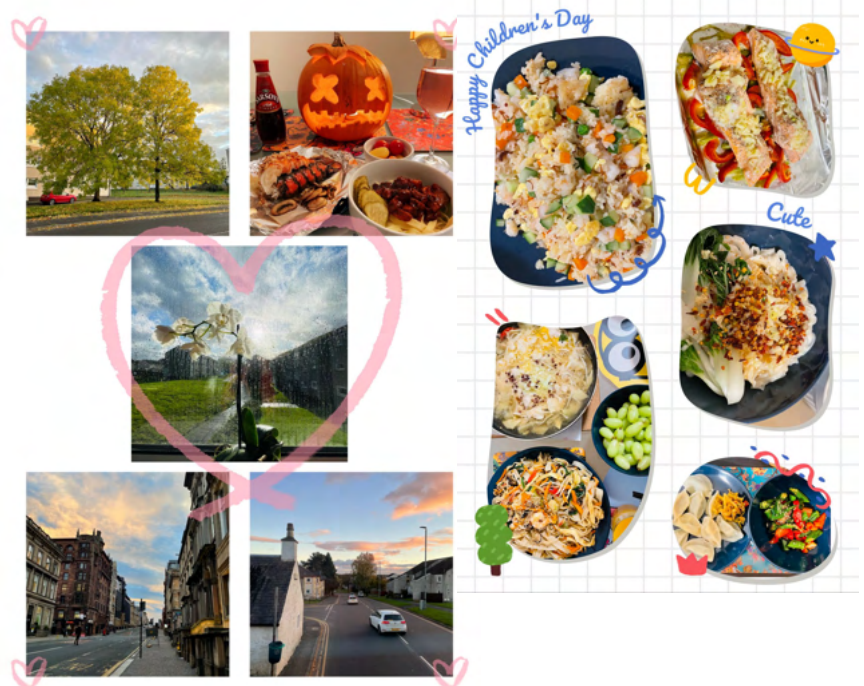
DONG HANSHU, GLASGOW



Amazingly, I have been in Glasgow for three months, and it has been full of freshness and challenges. I have experienced many "firsts": finding and renting a house on my own for the first time, and teaching in English for the first time in the classroom.

Between the early challenge of finding somewhere to live to my present stability, I have encountered many difficulties, but they have been overcome one by one. Now, looking at the home I have arranged on my own, my heart is full of satisfaction.

In Clober primary school, I discovered a Chinese hub full of wonderful elements. The kind teachers and lovely students made me feel welcome, and their enthusiasm made me more confident in class. When preparing lessons, the question of how to make students fully experience Chinese culture was a big challenge. In addition to learning Chinese, we also kick shuttlecocks, play drums, make Chinese opera face masks and paper cut. The children and I enjoy it. Everything is so interesting. My work and life in the past few months have made me grow up. I cherish the present time very much and look forward to the future.



EAST AYRSHIRE

GRANGE ACADEMY MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL

Mandarin pupils at Grange Academy are showing consistent passion about Chinese language and culture. Here is some of their work from different year groups.

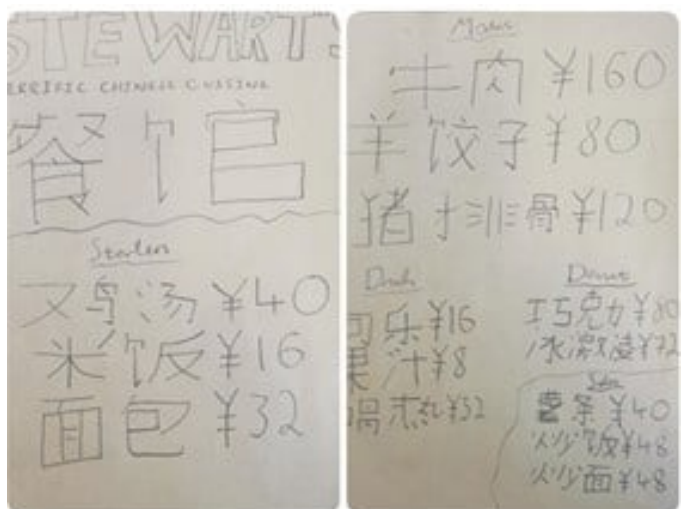


Senior Mandarin learners recite the Chinese poem "Quiet night thoughts" and write it out in Chinese calligraphy to celebrate Mid-Autumn Festival.

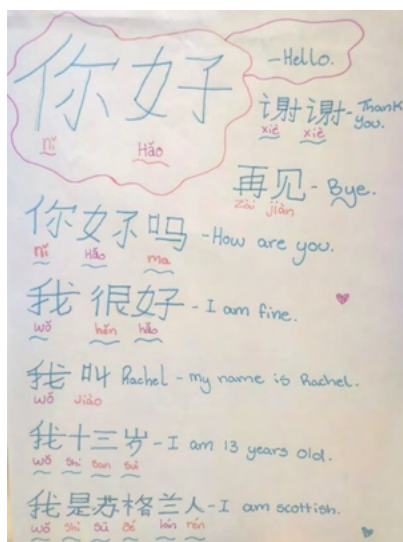
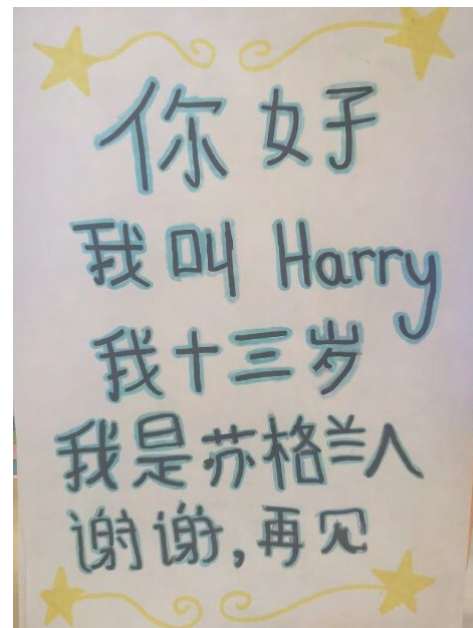
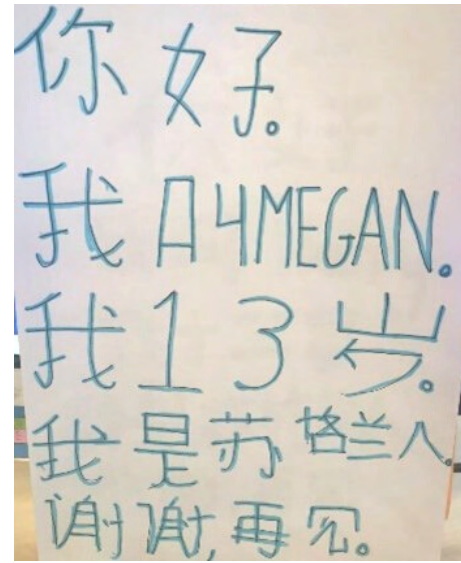
S2 pupils learned about the legend of the Moon Festival and coloured in 嫦娥 (Cháng'è), Lady Chang E, to show off their understanding of Chinese culture and creative art skills.

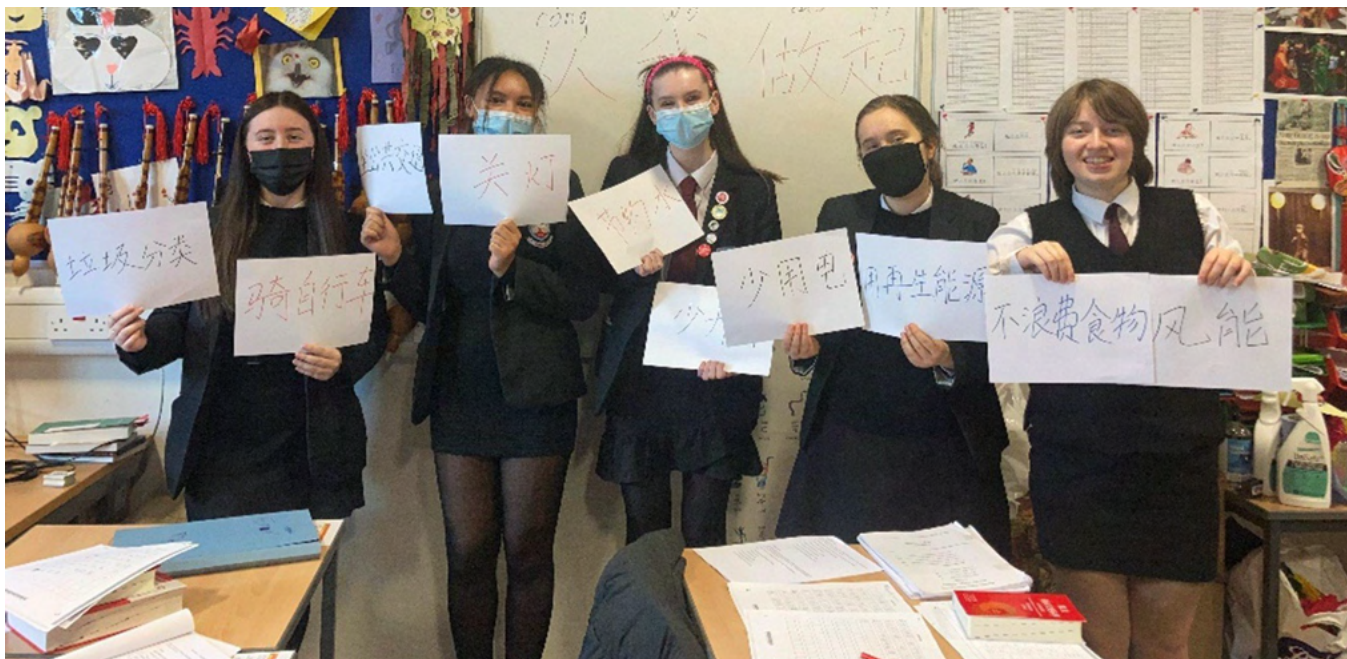


S3 Mandarin learners enjoyed learning about the topic of Food and Drink and created amazing Chinese menus. Do you want to try the food on their menu?



S2 pupils presented their self-introduction posters and demonstrated their beautiful writing and knowledge of Chinese culture.





ST. NINIAN'S HIGH SCHOOL COP26 AND MANDARIN LEARNING

Written by Emer Gallagher, S6

As climate change has become an increasingly visible threat more and more people are wondering, "what can we do?" This all came together when during COP26 world leaders met in Glasgow to discuss what can be done. However, they weren't the only ones. Throughout the world ordinary people were also raising awareness and doing their part.

One such group was my Mandarin class. In class we had open discussions about what our daily life looked like and the impact of this on our climate. We began to discuss what little things we could change in our lives that could have a huge impact on resetting the clock for climate change.

We learned things such as, turning off a fluorescent light for more than 5 seconds saves more energy than is used to turn it back on and that by switching to a reusable water bottle you could save up to 150 plastic ones.

We also began to learn relevant vocabulary as we thought it was important for young people to be able to have important discussions with people all over the world.

We learned many relevant phrases, for example:

- 少开车 (shǎo kāichē) drive less
- 关灯 (guāndēng) turn off the lights
- 保护环境，从我做起 (bǎohù huánjìng, cóng wǒ zuò qǐ) in order to protect the environment, everyone should do their own part.

Since our talk the whole class has bought reusable water bottles and has tried doing little things every day to reduce their carbon footprint. The world has a long way to go but we hope that by starting small and raising awareness we can make a big change.

LEITH ACADEMY MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL

Mid-Autumn Festival, also known as Moon Festival or Mooncake Festival, is one of the most important traditional festivals in China. It is over 3000 years old.

In September 2021, this festival was widely celebrated in Leith Academy, the Confucius Hub in the City of Edinburgh Council. A variety of activities were planned to enable pupils and staff to celebrate this festival during the current challenging circumstances. Celebrations included mooncakes and Chinese tea tasting sessions, lantern-making, sharing the traditional story behind this festival and a moon theme drawing competition. The pupils were fascinated by this traditional festival and many of them shared their learning experiences with their families.



These activities allowed pupils to experience Chinese culture up close, while encouraging them to learn Mandarin. Pupils were motivated and engaged as they learned about Chinese stories, developed their understanding of China and learned about the friendship between Scotland and China.

As a result of the success of these events, celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival will become an annual event in our school. We are looking forward to planning next year's celebrations!



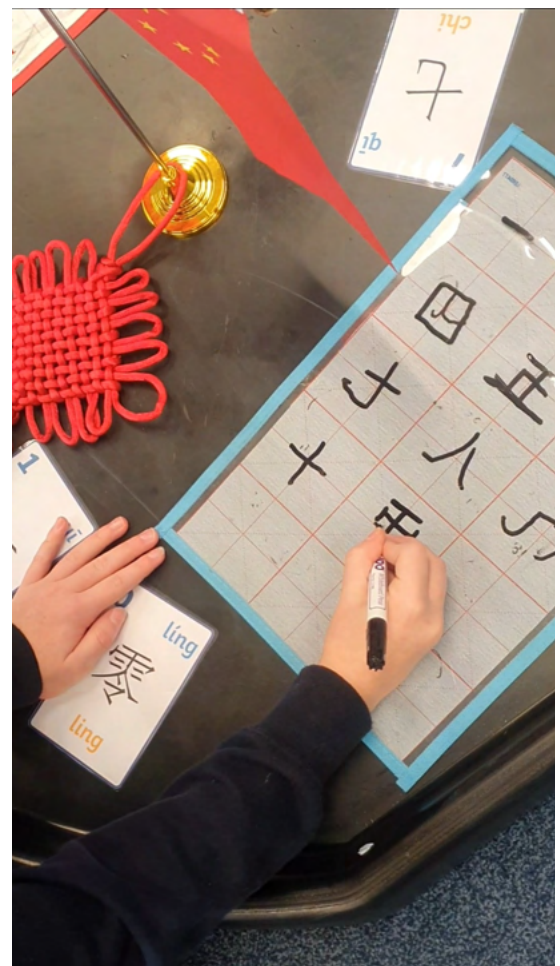


CROSS ARTHURLIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

WORKING COLLABORATIVELY TO PROVIDE A CHALLENGE IN THE UPPER PRIMARY

East Renfrewshire have recently set up a Chinese Learning and Teaching Group where we share good practice from primary and secondary schools across all clusters. This group aims to create meaningful progression pathways and provide a challenge for our pupils, allowing them to make a more informed choice when selecting Mandarin as a subject in secondary. During the second lockdown, Cross Arthurlie Primary had worked closely with their feeder school, Barrhead High, and our CET to develop some online videos about writing Chinese characters for the vocabulary they were learning.

Writing was an area that we all felt could be developed and the videos (available on East Renfrewshire's new Lingualab website) would give both class teachers and children the confidence to give Chinese character writing a go! They could be used to consolidate learning from previous Mandarin lessons or as a revision of vocabulary before their session starts.



Students were very keen to try writing in characters and the hope is that this enthusiasm carries on with them to high school. One P6 pupil said, "It's really fun to learn about the characters because they are just like little pictures." Their classmate commented, "I find writing in Mandarin quite relaxing because you just follow the steps. It looks complicated but it's actually okay."

P5 and P6 pupils in Cross Arthurlie have experienced writing the characters for numbers 0 – 10 using a variety of methods. After following step-by-step lessons from our CET, we tried writing on grid paper, writing in the air with our finger as well as creating colourful pictures which incorporated Chinese characters and their meaning!



The cluster continues to collaborate on creating meaningful experiences for the pupils. In November, Barrhead High hosted a taster day where the Languages and Home Economics departments teamed up to allow the children to experience some Chinese cooking! We made a stir fry by reading the recipe in both Mandarin and English, picking up some cooking tips along the way! We explored the culture surrounding food in China, particularly soy sauce. After a demonstration, the children were keen to try to use chopsticks to taste their delicious stir fry.



ST. NINIAN'S HIGH SCHOOL

51 HAVING FUN AT THE MANDARIN LUNCH CLUB AND TASTER LESSONS

In August, 51 started their Mandarin taster lessons and they were also given the opportunity to attend the Mandarin lunch-time club hosted by Mrs Zhou on Thursdays, in which students can get a taste of Chinese culture and learn more Mandarin. Some activities in the lunch-time club include playing Chinese chess, dancing the Chinese 小苹果 (xiǎo píngguǒ dance), and playing learning games, such as matching characters together with their meanings. Students take this opportunity to relax and spend their lunch time learning more about China and talking to other people who are enthusiastic about Mandarin.

Each week, the students get 3 periods of Mandarin taster lessons in which they cover topics such as greetings, numbers, family, nationality and colours. It is an introduction to all the basic Mandarin phrases that are used in day-to-day speech. They have also done a project based on their favourite Chinese city.



They share their knowledge of Mandarin and Chinese culture with other people and develop their awareness of cultures around the world. They have thoroughly enjoyed each session and the learning experience that comes with it.

Both the taster lessons and the Chinese activities allow the pupils to fully involve themselves in Mandarin and language learning, which will encourage them to pursue the learning of Mandarin and give them the option of choosing it next year.





JORDANHILL SCHOOL

PEKING/BEIJING OPERA MASKS

Written by Jessica, Carter, Matthew, Emma and Molly, on behalf of all P6 pupils of Jordanhill Primary School

Recently, Primary 6 pupils of Jordanhill School have been studying colours. To round off the topic, the pupils had the opportunity to delve a little into the world of Peking Opera. And thanks to CISS funding, everybody created their very own Peking Opera mask! Below is their story:

Peking Opera

The Peking Opera is a traditional Chinese Opera that wear painted masks. They go to a strict school from an early age and train all day to learn all the arts of the Peking Opera which include acting and singing. You have to be committed to be a member. Some people don't even wear a mask; they just paint their face. Amazingly, the Peking Opera began in 1644. It can also be called the Beijing Opera.

Colours in the Peking Opera

Colours in the Peking Opera represent different roles in the opera, and here are what some of the colours represent. Red symbolises loyalty, bravery and is more for the positive roles. Black represents power, upright mighty, and neutral. White tells you that the character is evil, sinister and crafty. Yellow represents fierce and irritable. Finally, blue symbolises strength, sinister, cunning, sharp-wittedness and trust.

Peking Opera Masks

The first Peking Opera mask was made in Beijing in the 12th Century. There are lots and lots of colours you can put on Peking Opera masks, and you will have learned about them in the last paragraph, but they all have lots of different designs. Peking Opera masks were generally ceramic, but some are made from paper and tissue. There are four main roles in the Peking Opera, and these are:

- 生 (shēng) This is the common name of the Opera's main male character.

- 旦 (dàn) This is the common name for a female character.
- 净 (jìng) the face usually pertains to the who have unique personality.
- 丑 (chǒu) is a villainous character, or a righteous person.

So, the Peking Opera masks are very interesting, and we had lots of fun making them.

Mask classwork for Peking Opera

We really enjoyed making the masks in Mandarin, because we could let our imaginations go wild and we felt like we were in China performing live. The masks looked extraordinary in the end! Some people chose bold and bright colours and others chose dim and mysterious colours. Everyone had a fun time designing special masks. It was messy, but it was worth it.

Ending

And when the lesson came to an end, we realised that each colour and each mask had its own story! They all stood out. They will make generation after generation realise that anything can look different because it is. This made us realise that life was difficult but amazing in 1644.



Mandarin has been at the forefront of much of our best and most exciting work since our new school year began in August!

Firstly, Primaries 5-7 really enjoyed participating in the Climate Ready Classrooms project! Our pupils loved having the opportunity to link-up virtually with other learners in China and share their work around Climate Change. Furthermore, they were fascinated to see how Chinese teachers deliver learning, and were amazed at the level of English spoken by their Chinese peers! We were especially impressed to see the Chinese pupils read English statements to play their games on the interactive smartboard. Overall, we are delighted that we had the opportunity to participate in this project because it expanded our pupils' worldview and highlighted to them that Climate Change is a worldwide issue that we will all have to work together to combat.

In addition, our pupils have been benefitting greatly from the re-start of in-person Mandarin lessons from our Chinese teacher, Peifeng. She has been delivering some fantastic lessons and re-igniting our pupils' enthusiasm for Mandarin learning.

Finally, work is underway on our Mandarin garden. The aim of the project is to provide pupils with a safe, calming space to relax and learn in. We hope to develop our pupils' understanding of the elements of a Mandarin garden and their significance in Chinese culture, as well as to place Mandarin language learning in a relevant, real-life context. We will have traditional Chinese games available within to create an authentic experience.



In planning this project, pupils were involved in researching the elements of a Chinese garden and consulted on what ours should include. They then worked with a designer to create a mood board and draw a plan of the project.



Following this, our Primary 6 class, now P7, measured the area and mapped out the areas using string and lolly sticks, giving them a fantastic cross-curricular experience. A team of dedicated community volunteers have begun construction according to this plan, and we hope to have it completed very soon. Our pupils are eagerly awaiting completion of this project and will utilise it in a variety of creative ways for many years to come.



NEWS FROM THE HUB

MORAY CONFUCIUS CLASSROOM HUB

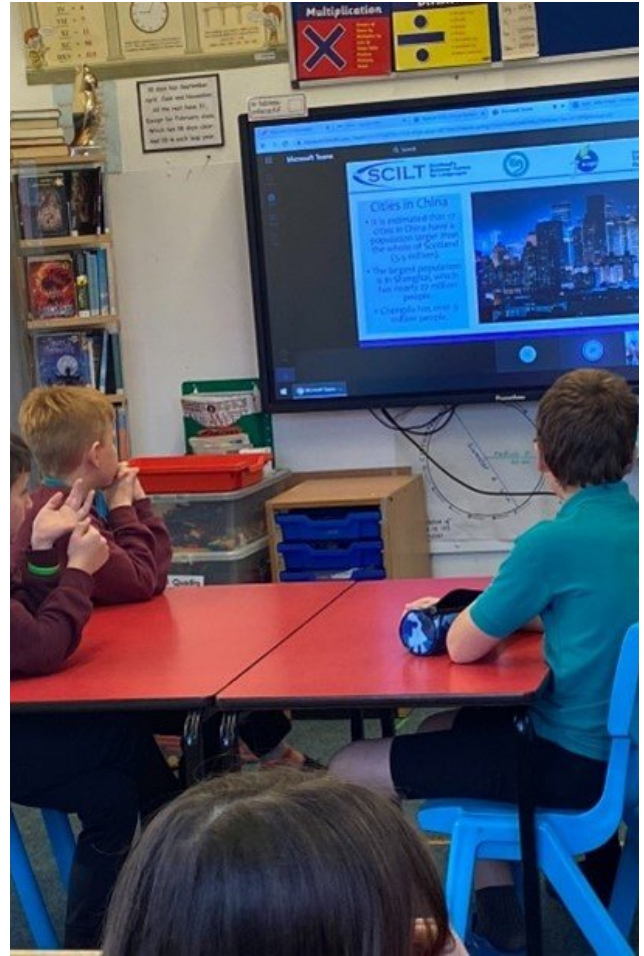
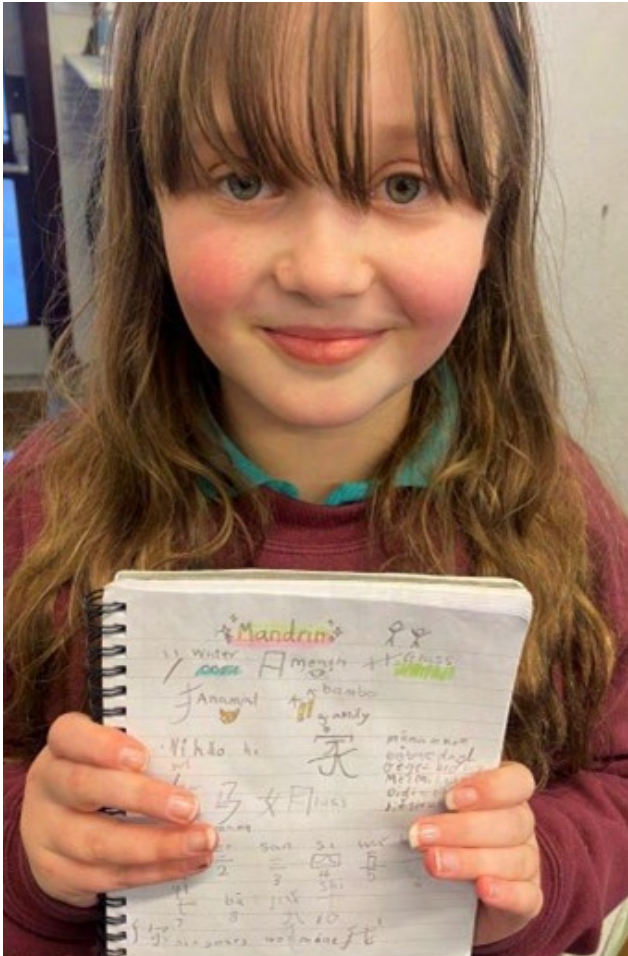
S1 and S2 pupils at **Forres Academy** have been enjoying a new lunchtime Chinese club. We have been learning about Chinese culture and language. Some highlights have been doing a virtual walk along the Great Wall of China then trying to build our own version with Jenga blocks and a chopsticks challenge. More recently we have been learning about pandas, made our own pandas for a wall display and learned some new Chinese words and characters for animals and parts of the body using the great Beyond the Panda resources.



Senior pupils in Forres Academy enjoy their weekly Mandarin for Life and Work classes. This year we have a majority of boys taking part in the course. Harris Laoshi is proud of how quickly they are picking up new language and they can all hold a short conversation about themselves and are starting to master Chinese Tones! We enjoyed learning about the Moon Festival, making lanterns and trying some moon cake. Sadly, this year we do not have a Chinese Exchange Teacher so recently we have signed up for the Modern China, Beautiful Tianjin programme and so far, we are loving the live sessions and learning about this amazing city and area.



Pupils in **Dallas Primary School** have also been connecting virtually to China by taking part in the Virtual Exchange Teachers (VET) project. The primary 6/7 class have been really enjoying the sessions so far.



"I like learning a new language that not too many children get to learn. It's been really interesting to learn it from native speakers - although we have had a few technical hitches!"

Rose, P6

"I can speak to my Papa now in a secret code because he knows Mandarin!"

Eva, P7

"I've liked learning how to write the characters and how the language is so different from English and French."

Dylan, P7

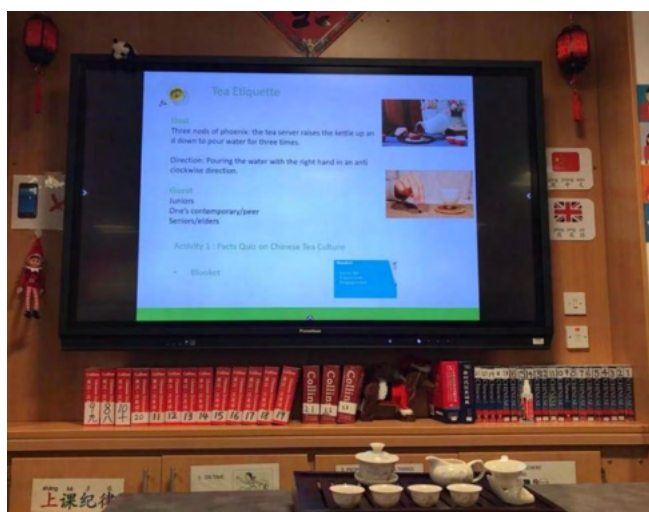
KINROSS HIGH SCHOOL

MOMENTS IN DAY TO DAY TEACHING AND LEARNING

Kinross High School modern languages department commits to fostering cultural awareness in young people in viewing themselves in a broader global context. To this end, our GTCS teacher tries to develop pupils' cultural understanding whenever appropriate and possible.

Tea Ceremony

Tea and tea-related activities have reached various aspects of social life and taken on unique cultural characteristics. A good cup of tea has always been a traditional sign of hospitality. Through the tea ceremony, pupils learn about Chinese tea history and talk about their drink preference, understand the importance of Chinese tea in daily life and its drinking and serving etiquette, as well as how to appreciate and brew Chinese tea.

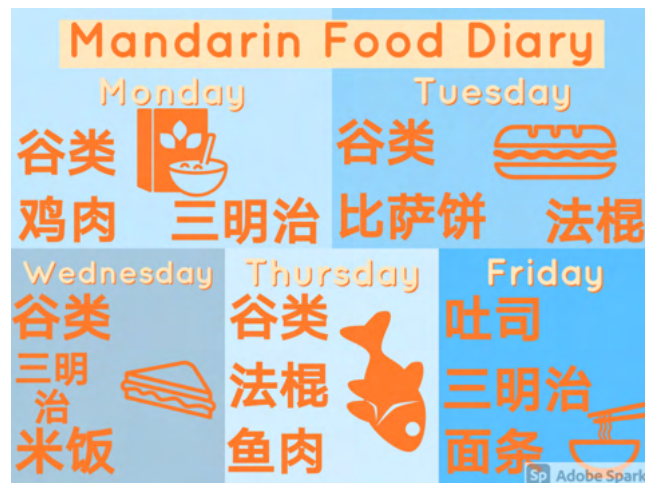


Chopsticks Challenge

Chopsticks are representative of Chinese culture. Pupils learned how to use the chopsticks, and they took the chopsticks challenge to pick up as many coffee beans as possible. Good fun. Along with that, they have also learnt quite a lot about Chinese dining etiquette.



Building pupils' ICT skills while learning how to type in Chinese, two birds with one stone.



Learning conversation

The pupils had an interesting conversation with their teacher about lucky Chinese numbers. In Chinese culture, six is considered a lucky number; its pronunciation sounds like another word meaning 'to flow', so it is associated with smooth progress in life. For the Chinese, a series of sixes '666' signifies excellence in something. This is in marked contrast to its meaning in western culture, where it is associated with the devil.

Pupils were truly amazed by the stark difference in meanings of a simple string of numbers between two cultures. Learning and understanding a different culture first are important prerequisites for dispelling premature judgments and assumptions as pupils discover a wider and more fascinating world beyond language.





STIRLING HIGH SCHOOL MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL

In October, pupils at Stirling High celebrated Mid-Autumn Festival which is one of the most popular Chinese traditional festivals. We did this by having a whole school after-school celebration. There were lots of different activities on offer including tea ceremony, shuttlecocks, calligraphy and other traditional games. Pupils were able to win vouchers by participating and with a voucher, they could get a mooncake made by Mr Li or the senior pupils. Our mooncakes this year were an interesting mix of western and Asian

culture. We used a traditional Chinese pastry skin but with a chocolate brownie filling. As you can imagine these went down very well with pupils and staff. Most pupils in attendance were 1st year pupils. Their favourite activities were the Chinese shuttlecocks and eating the mooncakes.



With 3rd years and all senior pupils we worked with the home economics department to have a cooking class where we make the chocolate brownie mooncakes. The pupils really enjoyed using the moulds to press the mooncakes into a variety of shapes before baking them. They were really proud of their achievements.

A BIG WELCOME TO ZHAO LAOSHI

This year, we were very lucky to have a new Chinese Exchange Teacher, Mrs Zhao, come over from Tianjin No.54 Middle School. The number of exchange teachers this year was significantly reduced because of the pandemic restrictions, so we feel very lucky to have her here with us in the Stirling hub. Not only has she been a great help at Stirling High School but she has also been supporting a number of other schools in Stirling remotely which has enabled us to widen our provision this year.

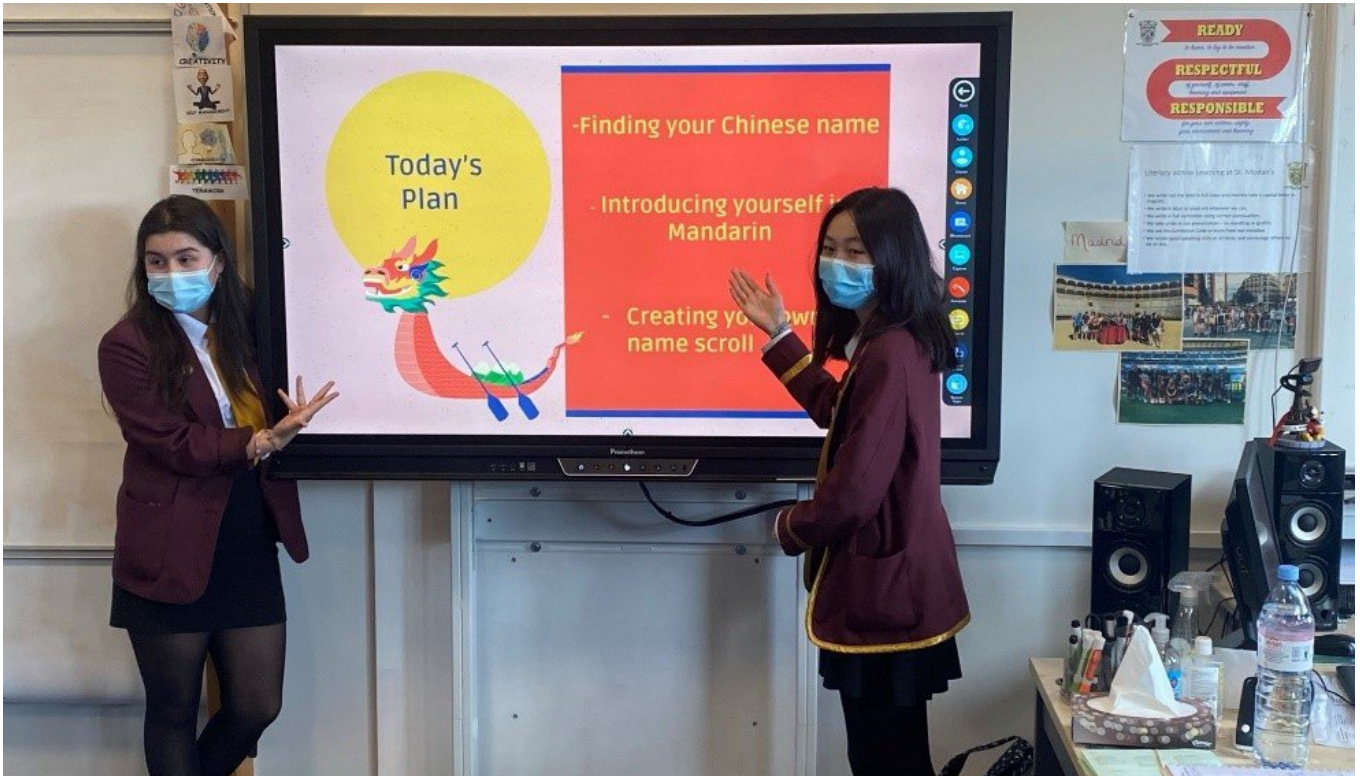


LOOKING AHEAD TO THE WINTER OLYMPICS IN CHINA

To celebrate China hosting the upcoming Winter Olympics, pupils took part in a 'Centre for Language Education and Cooperation (CLEC)' competition. Pupils from S1 and S4 took part in an EU wide competition and were all prize winners in the UK category. This was a great opportunity for pupils to learn about Beijing and the Olympic games. Our Headteacher Mr Cassidy presented all the pupils with an official certificate from CLEC.

Along the same theme, our lunchtime China Club pupils were inspired by the Chinese Olympic pictograms, so we started a project to carve our own seals. The pupils have really enjoyed this creative task.

"Learning about different cultures is an amazing experience and eye-opener. I loved participating in the mid-autumn festival and carving different seals for the 2022 Beijing Olympics", Japjeet



THE STIRLING CONFUCIUS FAMILY

This year, we have been able to expand our offering of Mandarin across the authority. We have welcomed 9 pupils from 3 different schools, Balfour, Dunblane and St Modan's to join our senior Mandarin class at Stirling High School. As well as learning online, they are able to come to the school up to three times a week to study crash National 5 or Higher. Two of the pupils from St Modan's took the initiative to start their own lunch time Mandarin club for all year groups at their school. It has become very popular and great for their leadership skills.



Saint Modan's ML
@StModansML

We are so lucky to have Jessie & Stephanie from S6 leading our first ever Chinese Club. There were lots of keen participants this week and can't wait to see what's next. Tuesday lunchtime in Mr McGrandles' room (LS 205). 🇨🇳





WEST LOTHIAN LOVES MANDARIN

West Lothian were delighted to take part in our 3rd block of Mandarin lessons with the VETs (Virtual Exchange Teachers). Almost half of our Primary Schools have benefitted from the incredible opportunity to learn all about Mandarin and China from the fabulously enthusiastic and knowledgeable VET teachers in China.

Some of our classes have shared photos and feedback on the experience so far. Here are some of the pupil quotes:

"I like Mandarin because I get to learn new words and get to meet people from a different country." -MB

"I think Mandarin is good, I like it because of all of the games and the interesting ways of learning"

'Mandarin is really fun, I like the way they teach us it. We play games to help us learn'

"I have learned about symbols and lots of new words in Mandarin. The teachers are very nice people and I love to learn Mandarin - it is fantastic!" - FM

"I have enjoyed listening to all of the new words and the pronunciation. I have learned how to say numbers and how to say "Hello", "Thank you" and "Good bye"." -EW

"I like that Mandarin is a very different language from the other languages we have learned" -ZH

"I like how they have 'radicals' in many characters to help you to 'figure out' what the word might mean" -KG

"We enjoy the Mandarin lessons even though sometimes we are not good at remembering things. The Mandarin words are easy to say once you have practised them a couple of times. The numbers are also easy because when you know the numbers 1-10, then you know all the numbers. The tutors make the lessons fun with lots of pictures to help us remember the words too."

"We have enjoyed learning about Chinese culture, as well as the structure of the writing system for Mandarin. It has taken us a while to get to grips with the different tones, but we are definitely getting there and are able to apply these to the pronunciation of our regular greetings and numbers to 10. The children have particularly enjoyed having the opportunity to draw different characters in Mandarin and are beginning to understand how these are often composed of different "radicals" that are linked to the meaning of each one."

ROYAL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND (RZSS)

BEYOND THE PANDA ALWAYS EVOLVING

Sandie Robb, RZSS Project Coordinator for Languages

Contact: srobb@rzss.org.uk

 @Sandie_Robb



Beyond the Panda has been delivering outreach for some years now and combining Mandarin language learning with science. The programme has always evolved each year taking into consideration teacher and pupil feedback. Since its transition to live virtual sessions, there has been some amazing feedback for the P4-P7 course.

"Sandie was fantastic with the children – the sessions were held virtually so capturing their attention can prove quite tricky but children loved them – they were interactive so children were fully involved. The programme was also responsive – so Sandie was able to tweak activities if required to suit our needs." St. Luke's Primary, P6.

It is great to hear wonderful comments about the delivery but it also great to discuss how Beyond the Panda can continue to improve. Therefore, even in the last 18 months, the course has yet again evolved. Regarding the Mandarin input, it was necessary to link more closely with everyday language and although Beyond the Panda still introduces the wildlife related vocabulary, the sentence structures are then used, over the 7 week course, to learn a simple introduction.

Another development was to introduce more activities within the sessions and hardcopy resources are provided free of charge. This is in addition to the hardcopy panda packs and the extensive extensive online resources

for follow on work. A handy planning map is available on the website which details the games and activities associated with language topics – [Planning and Learning Map](#)

Beyond the Panda will continue to evolve. Once I can travel around Scotland and visit the schools again, the idea is to continue to offer the virtual course for 2022-23 school year but reduce to 5 weeks: 4 will be virtual sessions and one in-person visit. The course will continue to cover the same key objectives in both science and language but will consolidate the programme and highlight the areas which have most enhanced the learning according to the feedback and evaluation received.

Find out more at beyondthepanda.org.uk

Match the habitats

你好。 Nǐ hǎo. 我叫Susan。 Wǒ jiào Susan.

我住在苏格兰。 Wǒ zhù zài Sūgélán.

我是苏格兰人。 Wǒ shì Sūgélán rén.

我是学生。 Wǒ shì xuésheng.

THE GIANT PANDA'S HAND

Count the fingers on the giant panda's skeleton hand

一 二 三 四 五 六

It looks like there are 6 fingers on the giant panda's skeleton hand!

SCEN AT GROVE ACADEMY, 11 NOVEMBER 2021

COLIN MITCHELL

SCEN volunteer / CISS Associate

Grove Academy hosted the first face-to-face SCEN event since the pandemic. Education staff from Dundee City Council, Dundee University, teachers from Dollar Academy, Kinross High School joined staff and students from Grove Academy to celebrate the achievement of the school's first Mandarin SQA presentations in 2021.



It was great to hear students sharing their experiences and everyone was impressed by their confidence speaking Mandarin.

The programme consisted of a mixture of video and "live" presentations. Contributions from SCEN, CISS, FIDA, Barnhill Primary, CISS Alumni and China Futures Society from the University of Edinburgh, along with the staff and students from Grove provided an afternoon of entertaining and inspiring talks.

Thanks go in particular to, The Consul General of the People's Republic of China, Fhiona Mackay (Director of CISS), Erin Duffy (Chair of the CISS Alumni) and SCEN Trustee James Brodie for taking the time to prepare video presentations for the event.



Further summits are planned for the spring and summer terms. If you are interested in hosting a SCEN Youth Summit get in touch with YouthVoice@SCEN.info





THE SCHOOL PERSPECTIVE

ANDREW CREAMER

Depute Head Teacher

Prior to October 2019 Grove Academy had almost no Mandarin provision, nor any real focus on China other than a solitary unit on China in S2 Modern Studies. This all changed following the establishment of partnership links with two Chinese High Schools, one based in the city of Tangshan, a few hours outside Beijing, and the other based in Shanghai. We then explored options to maximise the potential from these partnerships but faced a number of practical barriers, for example we had no Mandarin provision within our Local Authority and were about to face the disruption of the national lockdowns.

Starting in September 2020, through support from CISS we were able to offer N4 Mandarin to a group of senior pupils. This was delivered online by a GTCS registered Mandarin teacher and proved to be hugely successful. We were also able to make use of Virtual Exchange Teachers provided by CISS to offer taster sessions to S3 pupils, as well as supporting an innovative interdisciplinary Senior Elective, which resulted in the pupils producing a video introducing our

school to our Chinese partners which was entirely in Mandarin. We have also built on the links with our partners through collaboration between pupils in the three schools who are involved in an engineering programme. This resulted in our first live Teams call between participants a few weeks ago. Through further support from CISS we have been able to recruit a Mandarin NQT for the start of this term and consequently we now have a Mandarin input for all S1 and S3 pupils as well as delivery of N4 and N5 Mandarin in the Senior Phase.

A key feature of the expansion of Mandarin as a part of our curriculum offer have been the support, advice and networks we have been able to access through the Scotland China Education Network (SCEN) and the ongoing support provided by CISS. This partnership model has been extended further through our links with Dollar Academy and their innovative FIDA program. Through this we are now piloting an S2 IDL course encompassing Mandarin and economic development.

AN NQT PERSPECTIVE

MATTHEW WORLOCK

My name is Matthew Worlock and I am currently an NQT teacher in Mandarin at Grove Academy, which is almost perfect timing in a way as Mandarin has only just begun to have a real presence at Grove, thanks to Grove's participation in a virtually-taught course delivered by CISS since 2020, and the links and partnerships made between Grove and two Chinese schools, Tangshan No. 2 High School and Nanhui High School. A very exciting time indeed!

As a result of the growing presence of Mandarin at Grove in the past year, I have become responsible for delivering various courses that either focus on working to achieve National Qualifications in Mandarin or provide 'tasters' in Mandarin language and Chinese culture.

I am responsible for teaching Mandarin at both National 4 and National 5 level, with National 4 being split into two classes: one which is both virtually taught by an online teacher from SCILT with additional input from me, and another that is directly taught by me.

As well as this, I teach 'taster' lessons to S1, introducing them to the basic foundations of the language like Chinese characters, their stroke order and pinyin, as well as simple phrases. I teach an S3 Masterclass with a much more even split between language and culture. I also facilitate and support an exciting IDL course for S2 that is taught by a Mandarin teacher at Dollar Academy, with a mixture of virtual teaching, in-person teaching, and teaching through media produced by Dollar. Finally I deliver an S6 Elective Course which aims to provide an angle of China from a visitor's perspective.



Considering the vastly different language they have had to master, and the steady pace of the content delivered, I am delighted to say that all of my classes have fully embraced the lessons and have been a joy to teach.

It has been an incredible honour for me to train in teaching the language that I have loved since I spotted Mandarin in the 8th column of the course choice booklet all those years ago when I was at school. Although it has been very challenging at many moments of the training journey, it has nevertheless been a rewarding process for me, and I cannot wait to continue enriching my love for the language by learning to help my students fall in love with it too.

谢谢大家来听一听!

A STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

HANNAH HAGGARTY

Dàjiā hǎo, wǒ de míngzì jiào Hannah Haggarty. nǐ yě yǐjīng zhīdào wǒ xuéguò NAT4. Jīntiān wǒ xiǎng fēnxiǎng wǒ [de] Zhōngwén jīngyàn.

Until September of last year I didn't know any Mandarin whatsoever and it wasn't until then that I first heard of the opportunity to learn Mandarin at Grove Academy. The opportunity felt scary in a way as there had never been the chance to learn a non-European language in my school so choosing whether or not to learn Mandarin was a bit daunting as unfortunately all I'd ever heard was that 'it was the hardest language in the world' and that 'it would take years to learn'. But looking back, I can say with confidence that those assumptions are all wrong. If anything, statements like these lead me to say yes, lead me take this rare opportunity and challenge myself to try something new. However, I was still apprehensive about how well I would get on in a National Qualification of a language I had never spoken before. An additional reason for my worry was the noticeable difference between this class and any other class I'd taken before, the fact that it was entirely online. Although having some experience with online learning due to the 1st lockdown, it really did feel like I was going to be thrown in at the deep

end. But to be honest there was nothing for me to be worried about at all. Every lesson was streamed live through the Confucius Institute and SCILT (Scotland's National Centre for Languages), with direct video feed of our teacher, Mrs Zhou, beginning with starter exercises and then onto the content for the day.

We moved from topic to topic comfortably with the pace adhering to our ability and readiness to move on, which I believe really helped with my confidence in Mandarin. A useful aspect of the course were the recordings of every lesson available to us on Microsoft Teams. If for example, I wasn't able to attend the lesson or I wanted to go back through a certain section, these recordings enabled me to do so.

In my opinion the best part of the class was the wide range of content we covered. It ranged from simple greetings and dates, to directions, landmarks and countries of the world. Along with the required topics, we were always given lessons about Chinese culture and festivals. For example, the Mid-Autumn Festival or 中秋, which traditionally celebrates the end of the autumn harvest. It is usually spent with family and friends having delicious meals together and releasing lanterns to pray for good fortune. This was all shown to us through vibrant and

exciting pictures but made even more memorable with the lantern making activity that went along with it.

Of course, all of this was only possible thanks to Mrs Zhou. A teacher whose enthusiasm kept my classmates and I 100% focused on the course, whether it was team quizzes or crafts for Chinese New year, every lesson brought me and my classmates closer together enabling us to work together in a team to help each other learn. I must admit that doing five Highers alongside Mandarin was not easy, and it was only with Mrs Zhou's never-ending patience and constant words of encouragement that I was able to get so far. Mrs Zhou's brilliant teaching only proved even more helpful during the spring term when once again we were put back in lockdown.

As the end of the school year grew closer our impressive progress was reflected greatly. Our approaching assessments were met only with slight nerves as our confidence had been growing from strength to strength, leaving us now sounding natural whenever we spoke.

And as a further example of progress, I'd like to mention one of my classmates Emily Crawford, who won the 2021 British Council Mandarin Competition. Pretty impressive when you think just like me, she had no experience of Mandarin a mere 7 months before and faced competition from pupils from some elite English private schools.


Hearing Emily had won the competition made me realise how much I had grown to love and appreciate the Mandarin language. So much so that I now hope to participate in the competition myself this year. As a result of my experience with Nat 4 Mandarin, I have begun studying Nat 5 Mandarin with an in-person teacher who has just started in our school. I know I am incredibly lucky to have an in-person Mandarin teacher and am extremely grateful as it allows me to continue the language I have come to love and appreciate over the last year and a half. So much so, that I'm planning to take Mandarin one step further and pair it with my other language French to go on to study Chinese and French studies at university.

THE COURIER
Evening Telegraph

Home > Education > Schools

Grove Academy pupil wins prestigious Mandarin competition – less than a year after starting language

By [Laura Devlin](#) June 7 2021, 10:30am



Emily Crawford, a sixth year pupil at the Broughty Ferry school, saw off competition from across the UK.

A Grove Academy pupil has been crowned the winner of a prestigious Mandarin speaking competition – despite only taking up the language last year.

Premium content — exclusive to our subscribers

- VIDEO: Longann Power Station's 6th chimney demolis
December 9 2021
- Perthshire couple 'terrorised' by nightmare night say court's compensation on joke
December 9 2021
- Owner 'broken heart' as Angus shop to after almost 40 years
December 8 2021

[Link to full article](#)

UPDATES FROM THE CISS TEAM

CISS TURNS 10!

EVENTS PLANNED IN 2022

2022 will mark the 10th Anniversary of the Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools at the University of Strathclyde.

We are excited to celebrate this milestone along with our colleagues from hubs across Scotland, and plans are underway for a series of events.

Watch this space for announcements!



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations are in order for CISS Communications and Projects Coordinator Natasha Bowman, as she and Barrie welcomed a baby boy in August 2021. Baby Josiah joins big sister Belle. Congratulations to you all!

THANK YOU KATIE



In 2021 we said goodbye to Katie Hawkins, CISS Communications and Projects Officer, as she moved on to the teaching profession.

Katie was a key member of the CISS team for many years, and most of our friends and colleagues worked with her on projects or events.

Her knowledge and sunny personality are much missed, and her pupils are lucky to have her!



WELCOME

Please join us in welcoming our new CISS team members!



MINRONG ZHANG

Former Chinese Exchange Teacher (2017-19) Minrong rejoins CISS as Professional Development Assistant after gaining a PGDE qualification from the University of Strathclyde.

Minrong was a 2019/2020 Saltire Scholar and an NQT at Robert Gordon's College in Aberdeen. She is enthusiastic about working to ensure a high quality of teaching and learning for Scottish young people in a nurturing and inclusive environment.

CALUM GIBB

Communications and Projects Coordinator Calum joins us from the Confucius Institute for Scotland in Edinburgh.

He graduated with a degree in Modern and Classical Chinese from the University of London's School of Oriental African and Middle Eastern Studies, and is fluent in Mandarin, having spent half a decade exploring, studying, and working in China, based in Beijing, Haikou and Shanghai.

Calum is excited to get more young people involved in learning Chinese.



**Confucius Institute
for Scotland's Schools, 2021**
www.strath.ac.uk/ciss

Follow us on social media!

