

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE FOR SCOTLAND'S SCHOOLS

NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2022



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Cover photo:
Celebration of the CISS Alumni dinner and ceilidh

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EDITORIAL

MINRONG ZHANG
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT



XIAOYAN ZHAO
PROFESSIONAL LEARNING ASSISTANT

Dear friends and colleagues,

Welcome to the Winter 2022 edition of the CISS newsletter. We hope your winter is full of warmth and you are achieving the goals you have set for yourselves this year.

2022 marks the 10th anniversary for CISS. Over the past year, we held several events to celebrate a decade of achievements. Our hybrid Knowledge Exchange Conference on Mandarin Teaching has been a success, where we reflected on the teaching of Mandarin in Scotland. As CISS Mandarin teachers, we would like to take this opportunity to share with you Mandarin programmes we are running, how we work with schools and support our young people, our Chinese Exchange Teachers (CETs) and Virtual Exchange Teachers (VETs).

Discovering China is an innovative project that gives learners across Scotland opportunities to learn up-to-date Mandarin language and culture. We offer a 10-week block of lessons to BGE primary and secondary classes, and year-long NQ classes for National 4, National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher Mandarin (Simplified). Learner achievement in all NQ presentations so far has been excellent.

This term, we have schools joining us from not just the north to the Borders, but also schools from remote islands. Wherever the schools are, we have always been communicating closely via Teams where the live-streamed classes, resources and sharing take place.

We are working hard to ensure our teaching and learning is relevant to our lives and have been connecting our lessons with what is happening around the world.

Through our day-to-day lessons, our learners are able to develop all four skills – reading, writing, listening and speaking. Our classes are also going to celebrate 2023 Chinese New Year online, where pupils will showcase their learning and perform Chinese cultural activities. Keep an eye out for invitations.

We will shortly be promoting our online offer for 2023-24 with details of how to register your school's interest. Look out for our flyers arriving to your school inbox, and sign up to the SCILT weekly bulletin to make sure that you are first to hear about it!

We are very honoured that our roles at CISS are not just offering Mandarin courses, creating teaching resources and delivering online lessons. We have been supporting our PDOs with professional learning for CETs, VETs and CISS GTCS Mandarin teachers. We shared our perspectives on Mandarin teaching in Scotland, advice on working with Scottish colleagues and online teaching experience to our newly-arrived/newly-joined CETs and VETs in the induction sessions.

Under the leadership of our CISS PDOs, we have also formed a Mandarin Framework Working Group and Mandarin Teachers Steering Group in order to support the Mandarin teaching and learning in Scotland.

Looking back, we have overcome many challenges and gained lots of experience. Looking forward, we believe that through working with our partners and colleagues continuously, the Mandarin teaching in Scotland will elevate to new heights.

We wish you all the best and a joyful Christmas holiday and Chinese New Year when they come.

Minrong and Xiaoyan



THE CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE
FOR SCOTLAND'S SCHOOLS

LOOKING BACK / LOOKING FORWARD
#10YEARSOF CISS

2022 MARKED THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE FOR SCOTLAND'S SCHOOLS. IN CELEBRATION, WE HELD A SERIES OF PROJECTS AND EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

GIFT DESIGN COMPETITION

In February, CISS launched an interdisciplinary competition for secondary students across the nation to showcase their business, design and language skills.

We set two categories for students to choose from and encouraged school departments - be that business, design technology or languages - to support and encourage interested students as they developed their pitch.

Our judging panel marked submissions on creativity, originality, practicality, cultural awareness and the incorporation of Mandarin within each design.

First prize winners in both categories saw their designs come to life as they moved from page to production.

CATEGORY 1



First prize: Liam G, China/Scotland playing cards
Second prize: Anna R, Reusable water bottle
Third prize: Phillip W, Bamboo phone stand

CATEGORY 2



First prize: Eve M & Stephen P, Commemorative Plate
Second prize: Desmond B, Dylan J & Nathan L, China/Scotland Table Tennis Set
Third prize: Eilidh P and April R, Double-sided Chinese Fan

CHINESE NEW YEAR POSTER EXHIBITION AT EDINBURGH ZOO

To highlight the UN's International Chinese language day, CISS worked with the Specialist Confucius Classroom Hub at RZSS to install a poster exhibition just inside the male tiger enclosure.

The posters exhibited, showcased the 6 winners and honourable mentions from the CISS Chinese New Year poster competition.

The exhibition connects visitors to the work of Beyond the Panda through a number of QR codes running through it.



KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE CONFERENCE ON MANDARIN TEACHING

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD

On Friday 25th November 2022, CISS hosted an in person and online Knowledge Exchange Conference at The Ramshorn, University of Strathclyde.

The event began with keynote speeches from David Roxburgh, Senior Teaching Fellow and Director for Global Engagement in the School of Education at the University of Strathclyde and Erin Duffy, member and chair of the CISS Alumni.

Guests were able to join online with breakout groups taking place virtually and in person with the themes Sustainability, Technology, Mobility and Progression.



CISS 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

LULU'S DIARY

Lu Dong, a teacher of English at Tianjin Shuangshui Middle School was posted to the Confucius Classroom Hub on Isle of Arran between 2018 and 2020 to teach Mandarin.

As the very first teacher of Mandarin on Arran, she was given the nickname "Island Empress" by the locals. Lu started writing a blog to record her life on the island soon after she settled in. During her time in Scotland, she wrote 66 blog posts that were then made into the book Lulu's Diary.

The books were published as part of the 10 year celebrations and will be sent round to all hubs for pupils and new CETs to hear a new teacher in Scotland's experiences and perspective on living in a different culture.



CALENDAR PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

CISS ran a competition for hubs to submit photographs on the theme Chinese in our community. Whether that meant capturing learning in action, Chinese language or culture in their environment, pupils' work, fun activities, cultural celebrations, or community engagement, we were delighted to receive some wonderful images to feature in a 2023 calendar.

The calendar with the winning submissions will be distributed to hubs in December.



MINRONG'S '10 YEARS OF CISS' VIDEO

Our Professional Development Assistant Minrong Zhang put together a video with photos from the past 10 years of all the trips, events and projects CISS has had the honour of being a part of. You can watch it [here](https://vimeo.com/764598494) or at <https://vimeo.com/764598494>



CISS 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

ANNIVERSARY DINNER & CEILIDH FOR CISS ALUMNI



On 25th November 2022, after the 10 year anniversary Knowledge Exchange Conference, CISS hosted a Celebration of the CISS Alumni to celebrate the community of former scholars, from 2014 to now. The event took place at the National Piping Centre in Glasgow.

It was great to see so many former scholars, many of whom had travelled from far away to attend.

Speeches were given by Douglas Brodie, Associate Principal for Social Inclusion and Chair of CISS Board and Martin Mcdermott, Former Head of the Scottish Government Office in China. The night ended with a lively ceilidh.



ANNIVERSARY DINNER & CEILIDH FOR CISS ALUMNI



UPDATES FROM THE ALUMNI

- Our 2nd and 3rd [CISS Alumni Newsletters](#) are now published, where you can see more of what we've been up to in detail.
- Erin, our chair, spoke at an event organised by the Scotland China Education Network (SCEN) at Kinross High School. She also gave the keynote speech at the CISS 10th Anniversary Knowledge Exchange Conference and led a breakout session on 'Mobility: visits to China, partner schools and scholarship opportunities' during the conference.

ABERDEENSHIRE

ELLON ACADEMY

Pupils at Ellon Academy have been reconnecting via Skype with Zhang Wei, who was our Chinese Exchange Teacher just before the pandemic. Pupils have been skyping into her English classes at the No. 1 High School in Tianjin.



EAST AYRSHIRE

GRANGE ACADEMY CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Senior Mandarin pupils had a fantastic day visiting the SeeWoo Chinese supermarket in June and then a lovely lunch at Chinatown Restaurant - many authentic dishes were sampled and enjoyed!



MOONCAKES

Higher Mandarin pupils made lovely mooncakes to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival. 中秋节快乐! Zhōngqiū jié kuàilè.

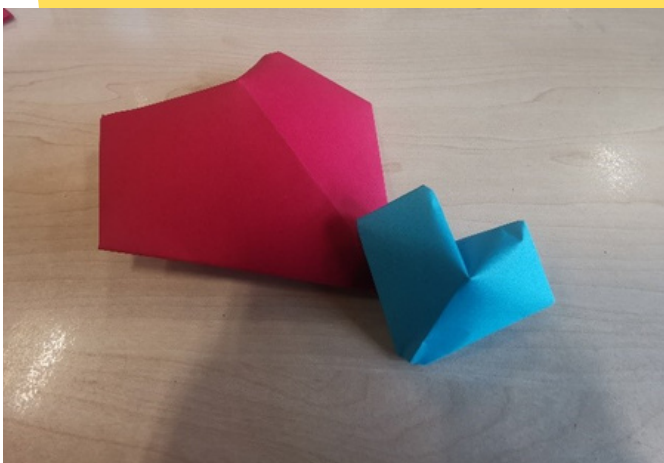


CHINESE LUNCH CLUB

Chinese Lunch Club welcomes pupils from S1 to S4. So far they have made 3D hearts, swans, Pikachu, pandas, and leaves amongst other things. Pupils not only get to experience Chinese culture but also enjoy a peaceful, creative process.



CHINESE LUNCH CLUB ARTWORK



PEN PALS

Senior pupils have started writing their introduction to their pen pals in our partner school in Tianjin. We can't wait for the replies!

我的爱好是足球但是我更喜欢大多数的运动。我最喜欢的颜色是蓝色和白色。我喜欢喜剧和恐怖电影。我喜欢吃健康的食物，但我喜欢甜食。我最喜欢的歌手是(Lewis Capaldi and Olivia Rodrigo)我希望将来能去旅行。

你好!我叫Larise。我喜欢画画听音乐。我最喜欢的食物是面条。我最喜欢的颜色是红色。

我叫Chloe。我喜欢一边画画一边听音乐。我也喜欢看我的最喜欢的电影是The Kingsman。我弹钢琴和我的最喜欢的歌手是Noah Cyrus。我觉得最漂亮的颜色是橙色。在未来我想环游世界。

你好我叫Fraser Sande。我十五岁我住在格拉斯哥附近。我的爱好是打橄榄球看书和跑步。我和妈妈爸爸哥哥和叔叔住在一起。我喜欢玩游戏和朋友。我最喜欢的电影是Get Out。我最喜欢的食物是spaghetti bolognese。我最喜欢的书是The Hunger Games和Harry Potter。

你好我叫杜泰路。我喜欢玩电子游戏和与地下场和我的朋友们一起做一些跑酷。如果屋顶潮湿我们会踢足球。我最喜欢的电影是终结者二和我最喜欢的食物是香肠卷。

对不起我的汉语不好。
你的爱好是什么?

我叫李凯路。我十五岁。我住在墨尔本。我的爱好是踢足球。我最喜欢的歌曲是Someone you loved。我最喜欢的歌手是Lewis Capaldi。我最喜欢的电影是Cool Boys。我最喜欢的演员是Will Smith。我最喜欢的中餐是宫保鸡丁。

你好我叫Diana。我十五岁。我住在墨尔本。我的爱好是看电影听音乐和运动(排球)。我最喜欢的中餐是面条奶茶和炒饭。我最喜欢的苏格兰食物是(fried fish and chips, haggis, pie etc)。我也喜欢喝牛奶和水。我家有四口人(妈妈、姥姥和我)我有爸爸和弟弟。

苏格兰最有名的是城堡和尼斯湖水怪。苏格兰的最喜欢运动是足球(我不喜欢)。

我住在格拉斯哥附近。

你好我叫Yander。我十岁。我住在墨尔本。我最喜欢的中餐是鸡炒面。我有一只狗，叫Yander。我最喜欢的颜色是白色。我最喜欢的地方是咖啡店。在学校我学习数学和戏剧。我最喜欢的电影是成剧。



ST. NINIAN'S HIGH SCHOOL MOON FESTIVAL CELEBRATIONS

Written by Matthew Nellaney, S6

On the week of the 5th of September, S1 to S6 Mandarin classes at our school held celebrations for the Chinese Moon Festival. Miss Zhang and Mrs Liu showed us a presentation of how the Moon Festival originated and how people in China have celebrated it throughout the years.

Miss Zhang and Mrs Liu also told us some traditional stories about the Moon Festival. Mrs Liu sang some traditional Chinese songs that are linked to the Moon Festival and made a lot of delicious moon cakes for us to taste.

We have learned various interesting facts about the Moon Festival and Chinese culture from the celebration. My favourite part was tasting the moon cakes as they were extremely tasty. We are all looking forward to next year to be able to celebrate the Moon Festival again.

It was incredible! I learned so much about Chinese culture and history and enjoyed myself so much. The food looked amazing but my favourite part was the songs. They've been stuck in my head for so long!

Olivia Carroll, S1

That it was the BEST Mandarin Lesson ever!! From Ms Liu singing, to Ms Zhang Teaching it was all so enjoyable! I never knew about the Moon Festival until that Mandarin Lesson!

Cameron Smith, S1

It was so fun and interesting! The songs were also so great, and cool! The stories were also so fascinating and the moon cakes are yum!

Amber Lennox, S1

I really liked the lesson on the moon festival! It was really fun and intriguing and I do wish to have to look into it again!

Kiara Nnomadim, S2

The Moon Festival lesson was fantastic! The history and folk tales were enticing and the whole atmosphere was awesome. Can't wait for the next one.

Chance Gillhaney, S3



**MOON FESTIVAL
CELEBRATIONS**



CROSS ARTHURLIE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Ni hao from East Renfrewshire!

We are proud to say that Mandarin is continuing to flourish from Nursery to Primary 7 here at Cross Arthurlie Primary School. With the knowledge and guidance of our CISS Teacher, Jingjing Cao, we had another successful year last session and are excited about the year ahead.



We are continuing to utilise our Hub to strengthen and develop Family Learning as well as to continue to develop the Young Workforce (DYW). Families enjoyed Chinese cookery classes with the help of local business 'Totnosh'. The children were exposed to the flavours of China whilst also learning skills for life. Recent interaction with parents and carers tells us there is high demand for these cultural cookery classes to run again this year.

The whole school came together to celebrate the Year of the Tiger with Chinese art lessons taking place across every year group. Each piece of art was inspired by the Tiger and was a collaboration including every pupil at Cross Arthurlie. Plans are now underway as we look towards the Year of the Rabbit in 2023.

Last session, pupils from nursery to P7 extended their ability to recall and identify vocabulary through excellent Mandarin language lessons with Cao Laoshi, who also led engaging learning in six other ERC schools. Further to that, the support of secondary cluster colleagues and the VETs meant Chinese language and culture learning experiences reached 14 primary schools altogether. This year's planning will ensure progression for all P5-7 learners in these schools, using a similar hybrid model.

Looking ahead, plans are currently in motion as we begin our Twinning Project with our partner schools in China. Our school has been paired with Mrs Cao's school back in Tianjin and we are lucky to have two other ERC primary schools (Maidenhill and Carolside) participating in the partnership programme. We are delighted to have this opportunity to enrich our learners' modern language skills and cultural awareness, as well as strengthen our collaborative work across East Renfrewshire Council.



ST NINIAN'S HIGH SCHOOL CHINESE CULTURE WEEK

From Monday 1st November to Friday 11th November, St Ninian's High School has provided a series of exciting Chinese cultural activities for all year groups studying Mandarin.

Pupils in all Mandarin classes took part with pride, but it was the S1 lunch-time club that stole the show with their inspiring enthusiasm with the Chinese dance sessions. These S1 pupils hope to participate in a school performance for Chinese New Year 2023.

Other pupils particularly enjoyed activities such as: watching Chinese tea ceremony demonstrations; learning the art of Chinese paper cutting; playing Chinese chess; practising Chinese calligraphy; and energetically taking part in Chinese songs, dances, and Tai Chi.



EAST RENFREWSHIRE

These activities have had a positive impact on the life of our pupils. This week of exciting experiences offered our young students a taste of traditional Chinese culture, and in so doing, they learned a great deal about the fascinating world of China, its language and its ancient customs.

The enthusiasm shown by our pupils for the subject has been excellent, leaving us in no doubt that studying Chinese language and culture will contribute to the reputation of St Ninian's High School as a progressive centre for excellence in learning Mandarin and Chinese culture.

By combining these experiences with language lessons, pupils have had the opportunity to gain a deeper appreciation for the richness of Chinese language and culture. We hope that over the coming months, pupils will have more opportunities to further explore these themes.



ENJOYING MANDARIN DAY

This term we held Chinese immersion days in our Confucius Classroom, based within Culross Primary School, and conducted a whole day of Chinese learning and cultural experience activities with three major themes. Primary schools in the cluster and from across Fife signed up for this.

The topic that children have been most interested in is Mid-Autumn Festival. As the second largest traditional festival in China, Mid-Autumn Festival plays an important role in China. Learning Mid-Autumn Festival vocabulary, passing small balls to practice Chinese new words, making delicious moon cakes, discovering charming legends and creating beautiful lanterns greatly attracted students. In class, we talked about legends, made moon cakes with clay, made lanterns with coloured paper, and experienced the customs of Mid-Autumn Festival.



Responding to the needs of students of different ages and interests, we have designed an optional topic of Chinese sports activities and Chinese traditional art. Children who like sports can jump rope, kick shuttlecock, count by Chinese numbers and experience traditional Chinese sports in the beautiful seaside playground of our school.



Art-loving children can learn about the characters, background music and traditional cultural customs in Chinese traditional animation, experience the charm of Chinese Peking Opera and design unique masks or kites.



ENJOYING MANDARIN DAY



What students liked most was the topic of Chinese food and tea. We talked about different snacks and cuisines making comparisons between China and Scotland, learnt about the six different kinds of teas, touched the Chinese tea set, before finally watching the live performance of a traditional tea ceremony, tasting Chinese jasmine green tea.

At present, over 13 different primary classes have participated in the immersion days this term, with fantastic feedback about their day at Culross Primary School! Next term, we will continue, hoping to help more children fall in love with Chinese culture.



GREAT MOMENTS IN THE DAY TO DAY LEARNING OF MANDARIN



The kite is one of the symbols of Chinese culture. In the most beautiful season of the Highlands, Autumn, students assembled their own kites and flew them to experience the charm of Chinese culture. Students walked out into the field to experience the vibrancy of nature, pulling the strings and letting the kites ride the wind, looking up at the kites soaring in the sky and leaving their worries behind. There is a famous Chinese saying, "If you pull the string and concentrate on your mind, the wind will blow away all of your illnesses".



GRANTOWN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

EXPERIENCING TRADITIONAL CHINESE DRESS



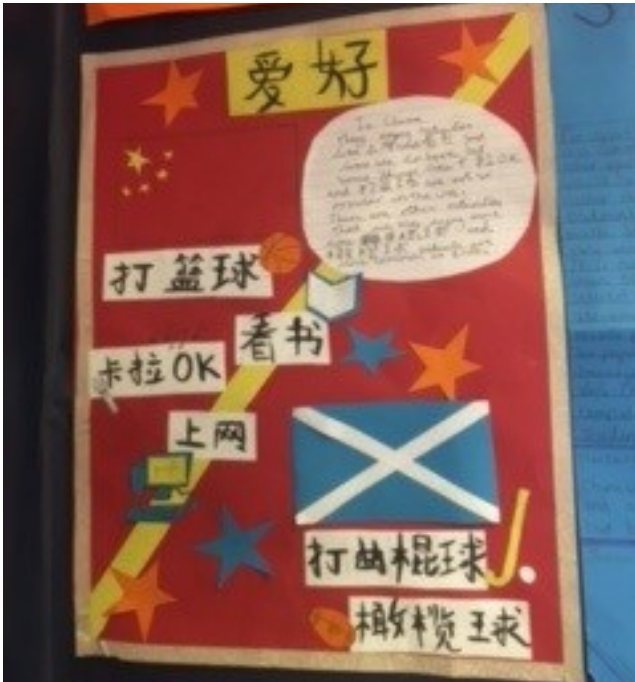
Qipao is one of the most typical, traditional costumes for Chinese women. Qipao can display a Chinese women's beauty. It has become a symbol of oriental traditional costume. Pupils tried on the Qipao, so that they could not only touch the real silk but also see the exquisite embroidery on the dress. Along with that, they have also done papercutting of a Qipao. We are having a fantastic time during Mandarin classes.

PEKING OPERA MASKS

After we learned different colours in Mandarin, we wanted to explore the cultures behind these colours in Peking Opera. Red symbolises loyalty, bravery and is more for the positive roles. Black represents power and might. White tells you that the character is evil and crafty.

Pupils really enjoyed making the masks in Mandarin class. Everyone had a fun time designing them.





JORDANHILL SCHOOL

MANDARIN IN S2

Written by Coll Jackson, S2

At Jordanhill school during the S2 Mandarin course we have learnt many things. We have learnt basic greetings, school subjects, days of the week, hobbies, pets, order of sentence structure, time, etc. We have learnt how to read these, write them, recognise them when we listen to them and to pronounce them in Mandarin. We have been learning all of these topics in a nice calm friendly environment.

Our teacher (Fu Laoshi) is very nice and encourages us to make the most of our revision and learning and may also occasionally give us a fun learning exercise to do like Gimkit. Gimkit is a website that allows you to play games with questions of whichever language you choose (similar to Blooket).

She also keeps track of how well we are remembering what we have learnt by giving us a weekly vocabulary test. In these vocabulary tests there are usually 6 questions each worth 5 marks and they are written in Mandarin characters, so we have to correctly translate these sentences into English. An example of a question would be 我上午十点半有数学课。 This translates to; At 10:30 AM I have a maths lesson.

We also sometimes have an assistant Mandarin teacher come in and we do speaking assessments. The teacher asks us questions in Mandarin and we give an answer to that question in Mandarin.

Usually at the start of the period we have a starter task to do where we have to look at the sentences in English and translate them into Mandarin in our jotters, or the other way around; we look at the sentences in Mandarin and translate them into English in our jotters.

MOON FESTIVAL PROJECT

Ruby Sutherland, Anna Syme and Isla Nairn on behalf of P7A class

P7's project was to make a poster about the Moon Festival. We could either do a poster, recipe, facts or the story about how the Moon Festival came around. I chose to do facts, but other people did different things. We were allowed to include pictures if we wanted to. Many people chose to draw and advertise a mooncake or a Chinese lantern. In addition, it was a popular idea to draw or print out some Chinese characters to symbolize the story.

JORDANHILL

Personally, I think our class have learned a lot about the tradition and what they do to celebrate it in many countries including China. I think we all enjoyed watching an animated story about the man who saved the world by shooting down 9 of the suns so we would not be too hot, leaving us with only 1 sun.

Mooncakes play a big part of the festival. Mooncakes are usually made with salted egg yolk or 2 and a nice red bean surrounding. Beautiful patterns are normally found on top of mooncakes.



MANDARIN IN PRIMARY 7

Ruby Sutherland, Anna Syme and Isla Nairn on behalf of P7A class

While you're in Mandarin you will learn loads of stuff. During the ten weeks, you will learn interesting things like food and days of the week. In the first few weeks of Mandarin, we learned how to say different fruits like apples, pears, grapes, strawberries etc. We also learnt how to tell the story of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar', which is a story about a caterpillar eating lots of different foods and becoming very large, then making itself a cocoon and bursting out as a beautiful butterfly! We also learned the days of the week Monday to Sunday. We worked through games with our teacher (Miss Song).

We enjoyed loads of parts about Mandarin. It really helped how we were shown fun songs to boost everyone's mood and it really helped to learn all the words. Occasionally the class would take a fun quiz after we had learned all the words and everybody would get really competitive and try to beat the other class.

We have really liked Mandarin, the culture in China is so fascinating and I'm upset last Thursday was our final lesson.

Xie xie for reading this!



JORDANHILL PUPILS HAVE BEEN LEARNING ABOUT THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN EDUCATION IN SCOTLAND AND CHINA. S2 PUPILS HAVE WRITTEN ABOUT WHAT THEY HAVE LEARNT.

Homework for Chinese students. (中国学生)

Typically, Chinese students will get a lot more homework than UK students. Chinese parents are normally quite strict with their children wanting good grades and Chinese students normally spend 3 hours daily doing homework. That is twice the global average! China has passed a law blaming after-school tutoring and are planning to ban after-school tutoring. The media say that parents are being asked to manage their child's screen time and rest time to ensure that they are healthy. Around 85% of Chinese students suffer from stress from the amount of homework that they receive. Homework also has a strain on parents because with the amount of homework they get parents need to be constantly tutoring and constantly checking assignments, some parents are unable to do this due to their busy schedules which puts stress on both parent/parents and child/children.

Homework for UK students. (英国学生)

UK students get a lot less homework than Chinese students with 1hr 30min for 7 – 8 years a week. And 5 hours for 10 – 11 years a week. Genuinely, parents are less strict on their children. There are different types of homework that UK secondaries could include; learning, completing questions, researching, writing up, revision and reading ahead. Mainly UK homework is fairly relaxed but due dates are very important and late homework leads to punishment.

Jessica Doran, S2

Education in China

Schooling in China consists of three years of kindergarten, six years of primary school, three years of junior middle school (also known as secondary school), and senior middle school (high school). After completing these years of schooling, students then can continue in higher education.

A growing number of Chinese students are choosing to study abroad when they reach the college level. However, at the elementary, middle school and high school levels, Chinese parents consider the Chinese education system to be the best in the world.

Harry Watson, S2

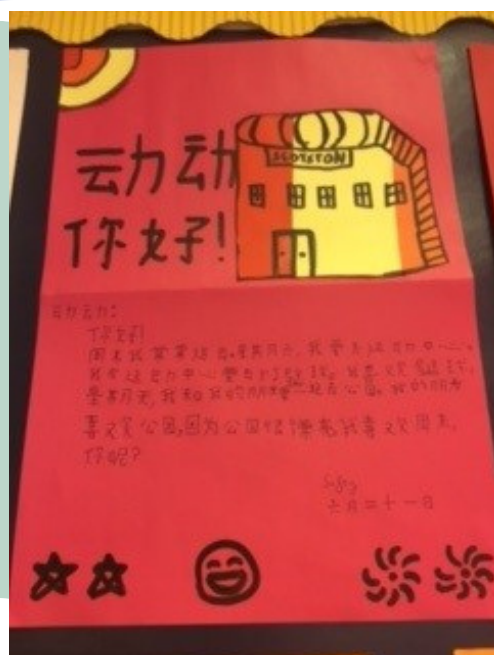
Extra curricular activities in China

In China, most children are enrolled in after school activities for up to 5 hours on a weekday and up to 10 hours on weekends.

Some of the most popular activities are music (piano and violin), art (drawing or painting), academic classes (computer science, math, and English) and sports (swimming, basketball, and taekwondo). These activities will help students get into better schools in the future

The UK students attend similar activities to Chinese students, however they are more about fun than performance.

Evan Young, S2



Work by
S3 pupil, Ryan

NEWS FROM CET FU JIAMING

MIDLOTHIAN

My name is Jiaming Fu. Bonnyrigg, where I live, is a small town in the southern outskirts of Edinburgh. The scenery here is beautiful, with large wheat fields, wilderness, and lush forests. The residents are very warm-hearted and always give me kind assistance. I teach in four primary schools. The lovely students are also very interested in Mandarin and Chinese culture.



In October, I participated in the Chinese culture workshop activity held by CISS at Edinburgh Zoo. From morning to afternoon, the children who came to the workshop were full of enthusiasm and brought Chinese culture home. They experienced activities such as writing Chinese characters, kicking shuttlecocks, and making colourful Chinese lanterns.

The teaching content in November started with Halloween. I taught students how to say Happy Halloween in Mandarin, introduced Chinese Ghost Festival customs to them, and helped them to draw Chinese lotus lanterns. They were interested in the customs of the Chinese Ghost Festival, and they wrote some wishes on their lotus lamp, hoping to achieve it in the coming year.



I have thought many times about how my experience in the online teaching program 'VET' this past year was extremely important for my transition to teaching in Scotland. My prior knowledge and understanding of the Scottish education system made me quickly adapt to work here. With the collision of cultural differences, students and I have deepened our understanding of the word RESPECT.

We are more able to face people from different cultures with an open and tolerant attitude. All my colleagues including my mentor and headteachers are also very warm and friendly. In the process of communicating with them, I deeply felt that no matter which country people are from, the desire for a better life and the pursuit of the value of life are the same.

NEWS FROM CET ZHAO RUI

ALLAN'S & ST. NINIANS PRIMARY SCHOOLS CELEBRATE MID-AUTUMN DAY

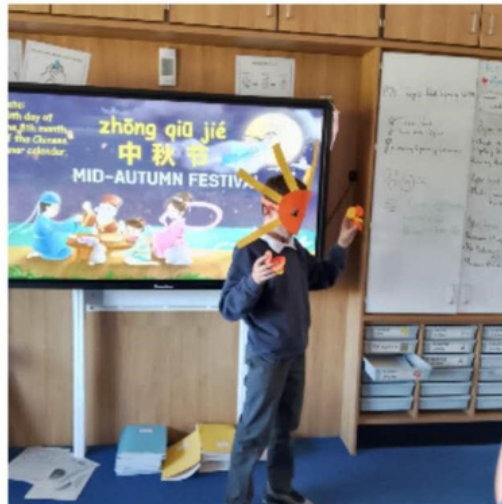
Since September 2022, the p7 pupils at Allan's and St. Ninians Primary schools have been learning Mandarin for the first time. So I decided to teach them Mandarin from two aspects: language and culture, so as to increase their interest quickly.

Fortunately, this year's Mid-Autumn Day was close to the beginning of the term, so it was a great opportunity to introduce them to Chinese life and culture. I organised a lesson to introduce and celebrate the festival. I used 'Secret Missions' to boost their confidence in learning Mandarin.

Because of their different personalities, I designed two kinds of tasks: one was for less confident children, and the others were for those who love performing.

The former had a paper-cutting task. They cut out paper mooncakes with different characters, and glued them on to paper plates in order (中秋节 Mid-autumn Day, 团圆 family reunion, 吃月饼 eat mooncakes).

For those who love performing, I designed different tasks: one group needed to research the history of the Mid-Autumn Festival and perform it in the form of a poem or create a rap; one group needed to research "the legend of Chang'e and Houyi", one group needed to research "The Story of Wu Gang Chopping the Cherry Bay", one group needed to research "The Story of the Jade Rabbit" and act them out in the form of a short play or a song or story.



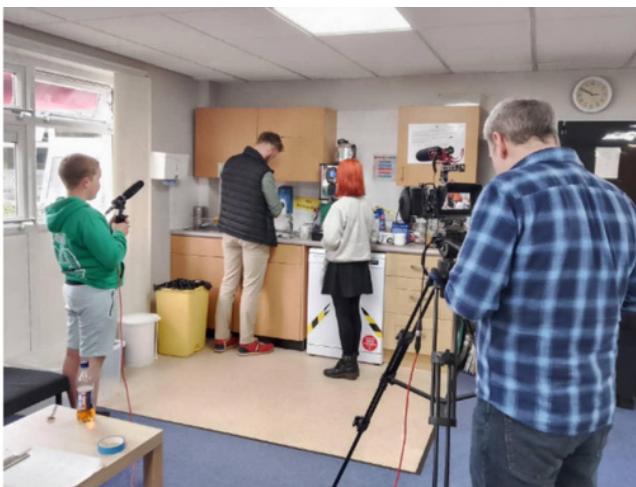
BRAEHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL VISIT THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN, EDINBURGH

Susan Lawson is the leader of the Mandarin team. She has so many great thoughts to help pupils learn Mandarin and Chinese culture. There is a Chinese Garden at Braehead Primary School, and they built a pagoda, a bridge, a stream covered with painted stones and a moon-gate.

In order to familiarise pupils with the kinds of plants that are typical Chinese ones and what kinds they can plant in their Chinese Garden, she organised a school trip to Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. The staff introduced many classical Chinese plants and pupils wrote their ideas and drew their favourite plants. Through this trip, pupils had to brainstorm and make their decisions for their garden.



MANDARIN FILMS AT BRAEHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL



Susan Lawson carried out a film project to help pupils learn Mandarin for the whole country. She chose some topics, such as sports, hobbies, family members, food and drinks, self-introduction etc. and hired some professionals to film. Pupils made up the settings, stories and lines for each topic. During the filming they were really focused. When I taught them how to pronounce each character, they did their best to speak standard Mandarin.

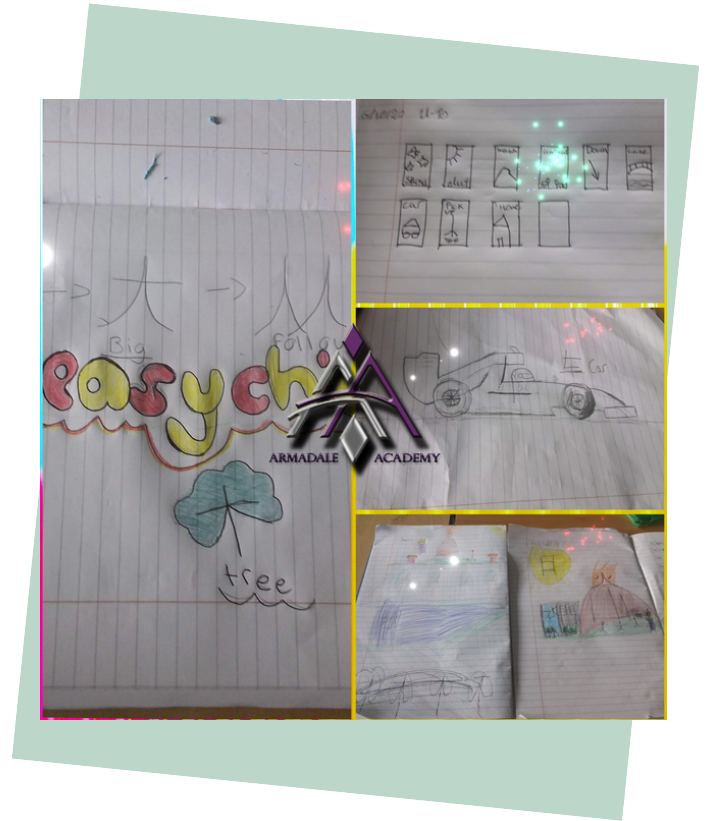
Last but not least, as a Chinese exchange teacher, with the help of Hongyu Li and Susan Lawson, I really appreciate this opportunity to experience teaching Mandarin in different schools and make much progress on adapting to different teaching systems and methodologies.

ARMADALE ACADEMY

Armadale Academy, West Lothian embarked on a new journey in August 2022 as a new Confucius Classroom Hub linking with our already established primary school at Armadale. BGE classes have been enjoying taster sessions with our fantastic teacher Mrs MA.

Pupils used Chinese characters to create a poster up to three levels (pictured):

- Decorate one of their favorite characters
- Use a few characters to make a scene
- Embedding the Chinese characters to make a story in English



This is just the beginning for us and we have a lot of exciting activities planned for 2023 so watch this space in our next article for the newsletter!

ROYAL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND (RZSS)

BEYOND THE PANDA ON THE ROAD AGAIN!

Sandie Robb, RZSS Project Coordinator for Languages

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🐦 @Sandie_Robb



This year, Beyond the Panda has been delivering in-person outreach again all across Scotland. However, the upper primary programme offers hybrid learning because there are great advantages to the multiple touch points which enables a progressive course. Four weeks virtual learning with the 5th week an in-person visit.

"Throughout the sessions, Sandie always linked the content (eg animals or habitats) to the Mandarin language - explaining the history of how the character was created which helped the children remember the character as well as the word." St. Charles' Primary, P5

In this course, wildlife related vocabulary is introduced but then the sentence structures are used to learn a simple introduction.

"They are still speaking phrases now to visitors and other teachers." Oyne Primary, P5-P7

Beyond the Panda, is definitely looking beyond the panda! With the new 'Giants' programme we compare two RZSS (Royal Zoological Society of Scotland) projects. The giant panda from China and the giant anteater from South America, also comparing the languages Mandarin and Spanish. 'Stripy Tails' due to launch in April 2023, will compare the red panda from China with the ring tailed lemur from Madagascar, linking Mandarin and French.

ROYAL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND (RZSS)

These programmes are aimed at upper primary but selected S4-S6 language students are helping create the sound files and some of the resources.

"The children gained a great deal of knowledge about both animals, their habitats and threats. It was an excellent piece of learning and really interesting for both pupils and teacher!" Doune Primary, P7



Find out about all the resources and programmes Beyond the Panda can offer at beyondthepanda.org.uk



At Grove Academy, we participated in the SCEN conference at Kinross High School, singing a traditional song 茉莉花 (Jasmine Flowers) and reciting Li Bai's (李白) Quiet Night Thought (静夜思). Pupils and staff involved had a great time sharing our learning with the other participants.

Our cohort of Mandarin linguists is growing with all first-year pupils studying Mandarin, as well as a healthy S2 and S3 cohort and a handful of senior phase pupils. We hope that this growth will continue in coming years as we develop as a friend of CISS.

Our first-year pupils have been learning about the different sounds in Mandarin, learning a noun containing the sound as they go. This has developed into pupils being able to create imaginative sentences such as “我明天吃短吻鳄。” (Yesterday, I ate crocodile.).



Our S2 pupils have been learning to ask a wider variety of personal questions regarding personal information and appearance. This has led to S2 being able to play 'Guess Who' (猜猜我是谁?) in Mandarin.

S3 have been developing their skills around using dictionaries to become more independent learners. To gain more practice, pupils are translating short traditional poems and stories. They have also been developing their independent research skills, researching a Chinese city or region.

In December, 12 senior phase elective pupils will go to a local Chinese restaurant to try Dim Sum. This follows lessons in which pupils learned how to use chopsticks, Chinese dining etiquette and cultural norms.

We have also been focused on involving primary schools within our cluster. Mandarin lessons have been taught at Barnhill Primary where pupils have been learning about the Chinese Zodiac and animals, creating pictures from characters to highlight the story behind the character. Lessons will begin at Forthill Primary in the coming weeks.

**Confucius Institute
for Scotland's Schools, 2022**
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