16 May 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

We are writing to you to inform you of an exciting enrichment opportunity starting in September 2018 for students in current Years 7-12 at Rickmansworth School.

Following a recent demonstration lesson with a year 9 class, we are hoping to introduce Mandarin as a twilight lesson using the My Chinese Teacher programme. Live and interactive lessons taught by Beijing based Chinese teachers are broadcast directly into the classroom. Each week there will be a 25-minute session with a Beijing based Chinese teacher and this will be supplemented by trained staff members at Rickmansworth who will be provided with follow-up and review activities to align with each session. Later on down the line there will be the opportunity to be paired with a Chinese sister school, so that students have the chance to practice their Mandarin skills with students in China of the same age.

Chinese is apparently not as hard as you might think, and in fact technology is making it much easier. In addition, knowing Mandarin Chinese opens a learner up to vastly improved job opportunities and enables them to function as a bridge between an emerging China and the outside world.

The future of the world will likely be shaped by the billion-strong population of China, and it is indeed a hugely useful move to learn to speak to these people and understand their culture.

The maximum number of students to whom we can offer this fantastic opportunity is 25 and we will need a minimum of 20 for it to run. The cost of this course for students is £125 which would be payable in advance and includes the weekly interactive lesson with the teacher in Beijing as well as the follow-up session with a member of Rickmansworth School staff and all resources. If we are able to run a group of 25 students the cost will be reduced to £100 per student. Further information can be found at https://mychineseteacher.org/.

If you would like your son/daughter to be involved with this programme, we would be grateful if you could return the attached form together with a non-refundable deposit of £25 by Monday 4 June. Please note that we are able to pay for the full cost of the course for students in receipt of Pupil Premium funding.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me sstreatfield@rickmansworth.herts.sch.uk

Yours sincerely
Miss S Streatfield
Head of Modern Foreign Languages

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To: Bursar’s Office

Re: Mandarin Twilight Lessons

Student Name ........................................................................................................

Form & Teaching Group ......................................................................................

☐ I would like to be involved with the My Chinese Teacher programme in September 2018 and enclose a non-refundable deposit of £25.00.

Please tick against method of payment below:

☐ Online payment: I am registered for the School internet payment facility and would like to make online payments

☐ Cheque payment: please make cheques payable to Rickmansworth School and hand in at the Bursars Office

☐ Cash payment: please hand in with this slip at the Bursar’s Office

☐ Pupil Premium: My son/daughter is in receipt of Pupil Premium Funding

My email address is ..............................................................................................

Signed (Parent/Carer) .......................................................................................

If the payment is in cash and over £20 a receipt MUST be obtained from the Bursars Office. Cheque and cash payments MUST be placed in an envelope clearly labelled with the Student’s name and the payment reference. Thank you.