

The Mandarin Department at Becket Keys Church of England School



The team

We currently have two teachers within the department. The team is continuing to build upon its GCSE results and has also established Cambridge Pre-U course within the Sixth Form. From 2022, Sixth formers will be taking Edexcel A level examination. The department also supports Billericay Educational Consortium (BECs) and Institute of Education in London (IOE) with their PGCE students.



Teaching area

Mandarin teachers at Becket Keys have their own classroom space and access to a shared office. All classrooms are equipped with smart boards and projectors. Furthermore, there is a small ICT suite located opposite the Mandarin classroom and it is designated for language uses.

Curriculum, Assessment & Student Groupings

Mandarin Chinese was introduced to the curriculum at Becket Keys in 2013. From 2013 to 2018, Mandarin has been a compulsory subject for Year 7 students (6 classes of approximately 25 students per class). Each Year 7 student studies 2 periods of Mandarin a week. At the end of Year 7, students can decide if they want to carry on learning Mandarin in Year 8 and beyond. Since September 2019, the department has become part of the Mandarin Excellence Programme and we have selected a group of 25 students to join this exciting opportunity. Each week, our MEP students have 4 periods of Mandarin, plus a lunch time club. The MEP group students will be taking hurdle tests at the end of the academic year as well as internal assessments. Within Key Stage 3, we have one MEP class in Year 7, one MEP class in Year 8 and one class in Year 9.

At Key Stage 4, Mandarin is a popular course. We currently run two sets at GCSE (AQA) at both Year 10 and Year 11. Within Key Stage 5, Mandarin was offered to Sixth Form students when the Sixth Form was opened 4 years ago. We follow Cambridge Pre-U course and, currently, there are 7 students in Sixth Form (4 in Year 12 and 3 in Year 13). We continually strive to develop our understanding within examination Mandarin, and we work closely as a team to share and develop resources.



Professional Development

We take our CPD seriously, as all of us can develop our generic and subject-specific expertise. A wealth of experience within the department means that meetings focus on sharing ideas, jointly planning lessons, moderating assessments and generally making ourselves better at teaching! We benefit from work scrutiny, learning walks, and longer observations by RET advisors and our senior team, which help us focus on what works well and where we need to adjust our practice. The RET provides opportunities for Trust-wide training, and guidance from language specialists.