

Chinese Language @ Jordanhill

In the March 2015 edition of the Journal Dr Thomson wrote about his trip to China and the nature of the Chinese school system. Following this the school submitted an application to Hanban to site a Confucius Classroom at Jordanhill School.

We were delighted to be able to announce in October that the Confucius Classroom bid had been successful. In tandem with these developments, discussions have been ongoing with the Swire Trust and in January we were able to announce that a Swire Chinese Language Centre will be established at Jordanhill in 2016.

The centre has a 6 year plan which will see experiences in Mandarin rolled out through P5 to S2 in the first two years with National Qualifications at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher following in subsequent years.

The success of the centre is predicated on it supporting the wider aspirations of the Scottish Government's policy on Modern Languages 1+2. This envisages that in addition to their native language L1 (English or Gàidhlig) all Primary pupils will be taught a modern foreign language L2 from P1 onwards and experience a second language L3 from P5 onwards. The school will now be implementing ML 1+2 on an accelerated timescale with French as L2 and Mandarin as L3.

An important element of the Centre's work will be to deliver experiences of Mandarin to children in neighbouring schools. Pupils who wish to progress to Higher and Advanced Higher in Mandarin will then come to Jordanhill for that class as currently happens for several Advanced Highers¹.

The first step in establishing the centre has been to appoint a Head of Centre who will play a key role in delivering its aims and supporting the wider work of the Confucius Classroom. The Centre will be embedded within the Modern Languages department to benefit from their pedagogical expertise, wider sharing of good practice and the leadership of the Director of Languages Madame Helary-Quinn.



Swire Chinese Language Centre

The key aims of the Centre are to

- Create a coherent curriculum structure and high quality learning which will lead to a sustainable offering of National Qualifications in Mandarin
- Work with key partners to maximise the impact of the centre and access for young people beyond the immediate Jordanhill community
- Deliver outreach programmes in partner schools
- Provide placements for trainee teachers
- Arrange and support the provision of trips and exchanges to mainland China for the Centre's pupils and teachers
- Collaborate with other Swire Chinese Language Centres to develop best practice and provide advisory support

¹<http://www.jordanhill.glasgow.sch.uk/document/2015/advanced-higher-hub>

As a Confucius Classroom Hub, a join us from September 2016 for closely with the Centre to deliver exchange teacher will also benefit from learning. Jordanhill already supports offering opportunities for newly arrived to observe and discuss good practice.



Chinese teacher from Tianjin will two years. This teacher will work the Confucius Classroom aims. The the CISS programme of professional the CISS induction programme teachers to visit the school in order

The first manifestation of our Confucius Classroom was the Primary China Week which took place from 22-26 February as reported on the following pages.

From 10-17 July eight pupils from S5 accompanied by Ms Eleanor Trevena (Principal Teacher of Pastoral Care) will participate in the CISS China Bridge Summer Camp in Tianjin, China along with pupils from across Scotland.

The trip immerses the pupils in Chinese language and culture for over two weeks. The course includes Mandarin lessons at Tianjin Foreign Studies University, some sightseeing in both Beijing (e.g. Great Wall and Forbidden City) and Tianjin and cultural lessons such as a tea ceremony and calligraphy.

Following the Rector's visit, Ms Susan McDade (Depute Head responsible for S4-S6) will be participating in a 10 day visit to China in April.



We look forward to a very fruitful partnership with Swires and the Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools in the years ahead and the many opportunities this will bring to our young people.



The year 2016 marks two very significant milestones for Swire: it is the group's 200th anniversary and it is also 150 years since Swire first opened an office in China.

To mark the occasion Swires are funding the establishment of a number of Chinese Language Centres in schools across the UK.

You can read more about the bi-centenary of the Swire group at <http://www.swire.com/200anniversary/>