**The Mandarin Department**

**at Becket Keys Church of England School**

***The team***

We currently have two teachers within the department. The Head of Mandarin is supported by an NQT. Our Head of Mandarin has been teaching in the UK since 2002 and has a broad range of experience in teaching Mandarin in secondary schools. The team is continuing to build upon its GCSE results and has also established Cambridge Pre-U course within the Sixth Form. 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 classrooms. Currently, there are two designated Mandarin classrooms that seat up to 32 students each and two display boards in the landing of the Languages department. Both classrooms are equipped with smart boards and projectors. Furthermore, the ICT suite is 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. 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, 1 class in Year 8 and 2 classes 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 2 years ago. We follow Cambridge Pre-U course and, currently, there are 6 students in Sixth Form (3 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 a range of different sports. 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.