

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Dear Parent/Caregiver,

The Swire Chinese Language Foundation are delighted to offer the opportunity for your child to partake in a weekly Chinese Club every Tuesday afterschool at Lowbrook Academy from 15:15-16:15 beginning in the Spring Term of the 2019-20 academic year.

The club will be predominantly cultural in nature to raise your child's awareness of Chinese culture in the event of your child possibly having access to Mandarin lessons in the future, as the subject continues to expand in popularity over the next few years. These activities can include, but not limited to:

- Chinese Calligraphy
- Traditional Chinese Painting
- Chinese Couplets
- Chopsticks
- Chinese Gymnastics
- Paper-Cutting
- Shadow Puppets
- Beijing Opera
- Chinese Board Games (Chinese Chess & Go)
- Chinese Martial Arts (Tai'Chi & Kung Fu)
- Chinese festival themed activities (dumpling making, dragonboats, mooncakes etc)

...and much more!

As there only 12 places available for the club, your child will only be able to do the club for one full academic term so that as many Lowbrook academy pupils as possible have an opportunity to do the club.

We look forward to seeing your child at the club!

Yours sincerely,

*Chris Webster*

Programme Director

Swire Chinese Language Programme (Oxford)

Website: <http://www.sclf.org.uk>

The London-based Swire Group celebrated its 200th anniversary in 2016, having been founded by John Swire in Liverpool in 1816. 2016 also marked the 150th anniversary of the group's activities in Greater China, where the major part of the group's business is still conducted today.

As part of its celebrations, the Group set up and is funding the Swire Chinese Language Programme.

This private initiative aims to improve both the quality, quantity and reach of the teaching of the Chinese language in the UK. The programme is working with various schools across the country to create language centres, from which both the individual school and other schools in the local area will benefit. It is expected that pupils of all ages will gain greater access to Chinese language teaching, and that greater interest in the language and Chinese culture will be generated. It is also hoped that this programme will act as a catalyst to many other schools and that the teaching of Chinese will become self-sustaining in due course.

With relations between Britain and China becoming more important than ever before, this is an exciting time to engage with Chinese language and culture. This programme will encourage more young people to learn this fascinating and enjoyable language, and will increase access to it for pupils across the country.

We are currently working with a whole range of schools across the UK - both state and independent - who started the programme in the academic year beginning in 2016. The schools are located in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Newcastle, Gosforth, Sheffield and Oxford. The programme is currently assessing schools in other locations for inclusion in the programme in the future.

