



MANDARIN: BRIDGING ACTIVITY

You cannot be “away” from a language for long! To ensure that students start on equal footing and feel prepared to begin their Sixth Form course, we are asking that students complete the following tasks which will help to prepare and motivate for September.

Literature:



We will study one book and one film. The book is called “A very special pigeon” 《一只叫凤的鸽子》. And the film is called “Please vote for me” 《请投我一票》. We will study the Chinese versions in lessons.

Task 1: Read the English text of *A Very Special Pigeon* via the link below. Then write 2 pieces of essays in English:

Article 1: Summarise the story in 1 A4 page.

Article 2: Analyse the relationship between the two boys in 1-2 A4 pages. Support your views with reference to the text.

A Very Special Pigeon (English): <https://writingchinese.leeds.ac.uk/book-club/june-2016-caowenxuan-%E6%9B%B9%E6%96%87%E8%BD%A9-and-childrens-literature/a-very-special-pigeon/>

Task 2: Watch the film *Please Vote for Me* in English in full. Write a 1-page film review.

Please Vote for Me (English): https://youtu.be/y1Tw1V0_ZAQ

Listening, reading and speaking:



Mandarin Bean allows **free** access to all their podcast lessons. These lessons are tailored in different HSK levels. It is best to listen to different materials at different level to maintain your listening skills.

Task 1: Study at least 6 podcast episodes this summer. You should attempt at HSK4 level. For **each** podcast:

1. Write down new words you have learned, including Pinyin and characters.
2. Make a full sentence in characters of each new word you learn

Mandarin Bean: <https://mandarinbean.com/>

[Note on *Mandarin Bean*: It is also recommended that you purchase a subscription. It contains listening materials with scripts in Pinyin, levelled by HSK levels. We are aiming to achieve a HSK5 level in terms of language abilities at the end of the A level course.]

Task 2: For **each** Mandarin Bean podcast text you study, read it out loud until you are fluent. Pick 2 sentences from the text, replace a few words to create your own sentences in Pinyin.

Vocabulary and character writing:



Task 1: Watch below clip to write down some technology tips for using apps or websites to help you.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cHgZi4EO80o>

Task 2: Make a habit of using www.quizlet.com to create digital flashcards. Start by creating some for the words you have studied with these bridging activities. The teachers would like to see the new-word word bank you create over the summer!

Grammar:



Task: Explore the Chinese Grammar Wiki website. You can start with A2 Grammar and work through B1 Grammar points. Take notes of at least 10 grammar points and share with the teacher in September.

A2 Grammar points: https://resources.allsetlearning.com/chinese/grammar/A2_grammar_points

History and culture:



Chinese history, culture, literature and language are all tied together. It is particularly important to learn the modern China history (20th century).

Task 1: Read at least 2 chapters in “THE OXFORD ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF MODERN CHINA” edited by Jeffrey N. Wasserstrom. Create a mind map of key events for each chapter you read.

Find the digital copy of the book in the shared folder:

https://1drv.ms/u/s!AuIQMiggaHeVg_tBC2Zy-q0V0jzrWg?e=Rw7Cvz

Task 2: Visit the Chinese sections in the British Museum. Miss Lin has created a booklet for Key Stage 3 students but you can use it as a springboard and explore more. Share your experience in September!

Find the booklet in the same shared folder:

https://1drv.ms/u/s!AuIQMiggaHeVg_tBC2Zy-q0V0jzrWg?e=Rw7Cvz

If you are unable to visit the museum physically, use their website to explore the highlights:

<https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/china>

Textbook:



Consider purchasing this book “Chinese for AS (Simplified characters)” Paperback – 1 Jan. 2019.

If not, that is okay! You can borrow from the teacher when school starts.

If you have any questions before September, 2024 please do not hesitate to contact me:

[\(sixthform@becketkeys.org\)](mailto:sixthform@becketkeys.org)

Optional Wider Activities

Wider Reading

Read books about the founding of the People's Republic of China:

- The Chinese People at War: Human Suffering and Social Transformation, 1937-1945
(Published by Cambridge University Press ISBN 9780511761898)

Read other Chinese literary texts. For ANY language A level learners, simply doing homework set by the teacher is not enough; wider reading is essential!

- Visit <https://writingchinese.leeds.ac.uk/book-club/>
Aim to read and study a story every two months
- 《城南旧事》（惠安馆）by Lin Haiyin, 1960
- 《城南旧事》（爸爸的花儿落了）by Lin Haiyin, 1960
- 'Chronicle of a Blood Merchant'（卖血记）by Yu Hua (trans. Andrew Jones, First Anchor Books)

Enrichment Activities

- Listen to this Maomi Chinese podcast regularly: <https://anchor.fm/Kaela-cai>
- Watch the film "Beijing bicycle"（十七岁的单车）, 2001; available on Amazon Prime
- Stay tuned on BBC News: This is the BBC News website. The readers can find all sorts of interesting articles published in Chinese language.
<https://www.bbc.com/zhongwen/simp>
- Check out this website on learning Chinese:
<https://www.hackingchinese.com/blog/>
- Follow this Twitter account: A popular resource with learners. This is a good channel for the learner who is keen on practising their oral skills in Mandarin.
<https://twitter.com/bbcchinese>
- Use your social media skills! Find useful, fun and interesting channels on Chinese language and Chinese cultures on:
 - i YouTube
 - i TikTok
- Download the free app "Hello Chinese". It is similar to Duolingo but only for Mandarin Chinese.