



# Newsletter

The White Hills Park Trust

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 whptrust.org

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## Learning Languages and Understanding Cultures

There are many things that are special about the schools in the White Hills Park Trust, but one of the things we are most proud of is the way our schools look beyond our boundaries and introduce pupils to the wide world beyond school. Over the years, countless students from Bramcote College and Alderman White have had the opportunity to visit countries all over Europe – Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, Poland, Germany – and we have now had several student trips to China. The German exchange has been a major feature of our school year for over four decades, and lifelong friendships have been forged.

Our relationship with the Chinese community in the UK has become very close and despite not being able to operate at the moment, the Saturday Chinese School at Alderman White has become the centre for the cultural and language education of Chinese children in Nottingham. The Confucius Classroom has added another dimension in recent years, providing a host of language and cultural experiences for our students, as they find out more about one of the most influential and fascinating parts of the world.

At the heart of connecting and understanding the culture of different countries across the world is an understanding of the language spoken in them. As the world becomes ever more interlinked, speaking another language is not only an interesting accomplishment, but has become a huge advantage, particularly as young people seek employment in a challenging market. Developing language skills is also a valuable academic and intellectual activity, but even if people just learn enough of a language to have a conversation when they go abroad on holiday, it can be fun and rewarding.

This is why language teaching has been given such an important status in our schools. The Florence Nightingale Academy has a tradition of language teaching that stretches back many years, and now all children at the school learn Chinese Mandarin. Our secondaries continue this strong ethos of language teaching – results in languages at both of our secondary schools have consistently outperformed national averages and many students have gone on to further language study or to use their skills in their work or travels.

Alongside the learning that takes place in class is the Language College, which runs at Alderman White every weekday evening, bringing classes in a whole variety of different languages, from Europe and across the world. Over the years, many hundreds of families and members of the local community have come together to try a new language – it has been a fantastic contribution that the school has made to the local community, and the untiring work of Mr Stephan, our Language College Director, and Ms Shaw, the college administrator, has been appreciated by many people who have successfully developed their speaking and listening skills. The on site evening classes have, of course, been one of the casualties of the coronavirus crisis. However, the college quickly adapted and we are now offering a full programme of online classes, including classes in Arabic, Chinese/Mandarin, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Polish, Spanish & Russian.



It is still a chance to meet with a group of other people who are enjoying developing a new skill, and because it is now online, we are able to offer it far more widely than before. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact [languages@aldermanwhite.school](mailto:languages@aldermanwhite.school) or go to [aldermanwhite.school/languages/language-college](http://aldermanwhite.school/languages/language-college). Who knows, next summer, we may be able to travel once again, and you may be showing off your newly-acquired language skills in the hotel bar!

**Dr. Paul Heery**  
Chief Executive Officer

## Golden Book Assembly

Well done to everyone who was chosen for the Golden Book Assembly this week!



Dina Asher Smith Class – Zoe

Leonardo Da Vinci Class – Fay

Billy Jean King Class – Abdur Rahman

Ellie Simmonds Class – Albert

Evelyn Glennie Class – Dexter

Nina Simone Class – Stephen Junior

Greta Thunberg – Jonjo

Ada Lovelace – Eloise

David Attenborough – Logan

Martin Luther King – Melissa

Sanna Marin – Ryan

Barack Obama – Riley

Michelle Obama – Jessica

Joseph Rowntree – Jacob

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***This week: Leonardo Da Vinci class learn which materials will keep teddy dry, and which don't work so well!***