

Chinese Speaking Competition

Take part in the British Council Mandarin Chinese speaking competition for UK schools supported by the HSBC Global Education Trust, and you could be heading off to Beijing at Easter.

There are two categories in the competition, one for language ability and one for performance.

Category 1: Language ability

Open to all secondary and sixth form students in years 7-13 who are non-native speaking learners of Chinese. Contestants will compete in one of three groups depending on their length of study of Chinese. One winner will be selected from **each** group. Schools can only enter **one** candidate for **each** of the three groups.

- Beginner (less than 18 months)
- Intermediate (18 months - 3 years)
- Advanced (3 years +)

There are three parts to Category 1:

- 1 A short speech:** Each contestant will give a two-minute speech on a prepared topic from the National Curriculum, eg family and friends, home and pets, hobbies, etc. Please note: students will not be allowed to read their speech from a script. Brief, bullet-pointed notes are permitted;
- 2 Question and answer (in English):** Each contestant will answer 3-5 questions about China;
- 3 Translation:** Each contestant will translate some simple English sentences into Chinese.

Category 2: Group Performance

Open to all secondary and sixth form students in years 7-13, who are non-native speaking learners of Chinese. There should be up to **six** contestants in a group from a **range of year groups**. One group, and an accompanying teacher, will be selected as the winners. Contestants will perform for up to five minutes in Chinese in one of the following genres - music, poetry, drama (eg a short sketch or scene from a play). The language element is an important component of the performance and must be integrated into the performance. The judges will look at the expressive use of the language as well as the performance itself. Schools can only enter **one** group of up to **six** pupils for Category 2.

Competition Stages

Regional heats in the north and south of England will take place in December 2008 at the following locations:

- School of Oriental and African Studies, London, **15 December 2008**
- University of Leeds, **17 December 2008**

Please note: capacity at the venues is limited to 150 and places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Competitors who are successful at the regional heats will be invited to attend the competition final on **5 March 2009** at the V&A Museum, London. The winners will visit China from **6 - 14 April 2009**.

Next Steps

Interested schools should complete the online registration form at <https://survey.britishcouncil.org/wix/p8117703.aspx> by **24 November 2008**. We will endeavour to place you at your preferred location of regional heat; however, this may not be possible in all cases. A place will be allocated for **one** accompanying teacher. An extra place for an additional member of staff will be allocated if a school enters more than 8 pupils in the competition.

If you would like more information, please contact the British Council:

T **020 7389 4595**

E world.links@britishcouncil.org

This information is also available on www.britishcouncil.org/schoolpartnerships-china

Please note: this event will be filmed and publicity photographs will be taken. These will only be shown or published with the permission of the parent/guardian(s) of the student(s) concerned.

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