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Acting Head of School: Mrs D Ritchie  
Acting Executive Headteacher: Mrs F Craik

22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to inform you that from September 2023 we have taken the decision to temporarily suspend the offering of Mandarin as a second language to students in Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9). I apologise for any disappointment that this decision may cause to those students who were hoping to continue their Mandarin studies. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen staffing challenges, we have been compelled to make this difficult choice.

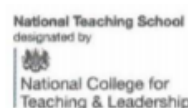
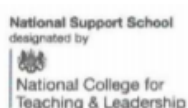
Your son/daughter has recently completed a high-standard Mandarin Hurdle Test provided by the Mandarin Excellence Programme at UCL IOE. In the Autumn term, we will share their test results with both students and parents, celebrating their achievements and participation in the Mandarin Excellence Programme by awarding them a certificate that can be included in their record of achievement.

I would like to assure you that we remain committed to providing our students with a high-quality curriculum that includes foreign language studies and are exploring the possibility of offering an extra-curricular experience of Mandarin from September. We are currently in discussions with the Confucius Institute at Newcastle University around what this offer may look like and will provide further information to parents and students at the earliest opportunity.

We appreciate your understanding and support during this time of transition.

Sincerely,

Mrs R Maxwell  
Assistant Head Teacher



**Northern Saints**  
Teaching School Alliance



**Bishop Chadwick**  
Catholic Education Trust

Excellentia per fidem, per scientiam, per adiuvatum