

## Overview

**The Wales China Schools Project consists of the three Confucius Institutes at Cardiff University, UWTSO and Bangor University. The project has three overarching objectives:**

1. To increase opportunities for pupils in Confucius Classrooms in Wales to develop knowledge and understanding of Mandarin and Chinese culture in both formal and informal settings.
2. To increase opportunities for pupils in other schools in Wales (within specific catchment areas and across the four education consortia) to access a range of extra-curricular activities and Chinese teaching.
3. To provide Professional Development to UK Mandarin teachers in Wales and Chinese language tutors and volunteers, as well as tailor-made language immersion courses.

**The Welsh CIs have continued to offer opportunities to pupils across Wales in a range of ways:**

- Pre-prepared and / or recorded resources such as the Resource Bank
- Live in-person sessions: Regular classes or one-off sessions
- Streamed activities for specific events such as Chinese New Year

**The regular classes pupils have been taking are:**

- Exam preparation courses: GCSE, YCT, HSK, Language Pathways
- After school and lunch clubs
- Project Based Learning
- Enrichment classes

## Key points for 2021-22

Learning in schools moved from in person to online during the pandemic and included pre-recorded lessons and live streamed classes. At present, the majority of regular classes have moved back to being in person, but with some online classes still taking place. These are largely for schools we are not able to physically send a teacher to due to the location, and has enabled us to work with new partners.

Whilst still lower than pre-pandemic figures, teaching hours and pupil numbers have been rising significantly. There were well over twice the amount of teaching hours and pupil numbers in March 22 compared to the same time last year for example. This seems to imply that Mandarin learning across Wales is on the rise again following the challenges of the last two years.

Additionally, we are also reaching out to pupils with a blended learning approach such as our joint resource bank which includes HSK, YCT and language & culture video classes, and is available for Welsh

CI tutors to use with schools. We also provide a range of open-access resources and Cardiff CI's day of virtual activities at a [Chinese New Year Festival](#), which attracted thousands of pupils from across Wales.

Other points of note for 2021-22

- There are 16 Confucius Classrooms across the three Welsh CIs; five managed by UWTSD CI, four by Bangor CI and seven by Cardiff CI.
- The number of schools we have worked with is significantly higher than last year. For instance, in July 2021 we were working with 41 schools and as of March 2022, we have been teaching in over 56\* schools.

*\*There are a handful of other schools we have worked with this year that I do not have data for, such as the Summer Schools and New Year Festival. Total schools will therefore be higher than 56.*

- The numbers of children taking YCT and HSK classes this year has risen dramatically, from 265 pupils in nine schools at the end of 20-21 to 415 in eleven schools in 21-22.
- Approximately half of all participants have been receiving regular Chinese classes taught by tutors from one of the Welsh CIs, and at least 27 have been involved in one-off/irregular activities such as special Language Days and UWTSD's Taster sessions in April.
- Both pupils and teachers have taken part in our classes from schools spanning the whole of Wales.

## Main characteristics of Wales China Schools' Project provision

### Online resources

- Resource bank expanded to include resources from Cardiff and Bangor (HSK, YCT and language & culture video classes), and all three CIs having access to it and able to offer it to schools. Bangor also offers its videos on their YouTube channel.
- [Online open-access resources](#) increased to include activities for festivals (Cardiff), exam preparation (Bangor) and Chinese health & wellbeing (UWTSD).

### One-off events/activities/courses

*Including collaboration with external partners*

- Languages Day at Cathays High School
- Cardiff University's **Widening Participation Summer Festival**
- Chinese Summer Schools held by the CIs at Bangor (10 pupils from four secondary schools) & UWTSD (five pupils from year 12)
- **Cardiff Hubs and Libraries'** celebration of European Day of Languages
- [Chinese Taster Days and Self-Study course](#) (UWTSD) - **Seren Network**
- Cardiff CU tutors preparing online resources for **MFL Mentoring & Routes into Language Cymru**

## Teacher training

### *Teachers' courses*

- 2 x Learn to teach Mandarin CPD course for Welsh teachers (UWTSD) - intakes Nov 21 & May 22
- 2 x Introduction to Mandarin for teachers (Cardiff) - intakes Nov & Feb). 14 teachers attended, and a quarter of participants from the first course (2) have progressed onto CPE course. The second course is still ongoing.
- Four-week Conversation Club held by Cardiff in summer 21, to include teacher course graduates & pupils

### *Wales China Schools Forums (online)*

- December forum: Hosted by UWTSD CI / 59 delegates registered for the event, among which nine were speakers / Forum presented teaching methodologies for multilingual teaching as well as Chinese language training opportunities offered by the Welsh CIs, and promotion of the online resource bank.
- March forum: Hosted by Bangor CI / Theme: Teaching Languages in a Hybrid Classroom: Methods, Opportunities, and Challenges / 43 educators from across Wales and China to provide insight into national and international approaches to hybrid teaching and learning.

## Chinese New Year

### *Bangor*

[A series of live events](#) including a workshop on Chinese culture & language, two film screenings, and a solo theatre performance. Bangor also provided pre-recorded videos of art & crafts and martial arts.

### *Cardiff*

A day of virtual activities at a [Chinese New Year Festival](#), attracting thousands of pupils from across Wales with almost 100 teachers signing their classes up for the festival or recorded sessions. Chinese New Year celebrations via Cardiff Hubs & Libraries. In person new year activities in schools currently providing regular classes for.

### *UWTSD*

[Activities in schools](#) including Bamboo Brush Painting, Jingang Gong health exercise, the Chinese Tiger song, Olympic Song gesture dance and making Zodiac animal masks.

## CPD training

- CPD training for all Welsh CI tutors held online on March 22: Three workshops by two Mandarin Excellence Programme trainers and Head of Languages from Ysgol Cwm Rhymini (Cardiff CI's Confucius Classroom). 30 teachers in attendance. Theme: Classroom & behaviour management.

- Tutors at Bangor and UWSTD CIs completed teacher training over six weekends with Fang Xiao, a Cardiff CI tutor for schools and an independent trainer. Topics included an overview of Mandarin teaching in the UK and Wales, engaging activities, and creating good lesson plans.

#### Other key activities in 21-22

- Chinese School (UWTSD): 120 pupils studying Mandarin YCT, GCSE and A levels.
- In March 22, 19 teachers from the UK took part in the final round of the 1st UK Mandarin Teaching Championship (organised by CLEC UK) including four from Wales. First place was awarded to UWTSD CI teacher Huang Wenyi, and Wales' 21-22 competition winner / Cardiff CI tutor He Ling was awarded an 'Excellent Powerpoint' award.
- Four pupils from Cardiff CI Confucius Classroom Ysgol Cwm Rymni took part in the Chinese Bridge for secondary schools (UK competition), also organised by CLEC UK. One pupil will be going through to the finals to represent Wales at the end of May.

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