

18 March 2026

Headteacher - Ms N Sheppard

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to you regarding the possibility of an exciting Mandarin trip to Taiwan. The trip is initially being offered to Carisbrooke students who are currently in years 8 and 9 and who plan to study Mandarin at GCSE level in years 10 and 11.

Taiwan is a densely populated, mountainous, subtropical island off the eastern coast of China where Mandarin is the primary language spoken. We are offering students the chance to explore the island from north to south, visiting the cities of Taipei, Chiayi, Tainan and Kaohsiung. Students will develop an understanding of life on the island along with an awareness of Chinese customs and festivals. A period of time spent in Taiwan will also provide students with an unrivalled opportunity to use and further develop the language skills they will have been learning while studying Mandarin at Carisbrooke College.

The duration of the trip will be around ten days. We are aiming to carry out the trip in October 2027. At the moment we are looking at the cost of the trip being approximately **£2,435** although until names are confirmed this is subject to change slightly depending on uptake, dates and flights etc.

Students will stay in hotels with shared rooms and full board - all transport costs and excursions are included. Students will have the opportunity to purchase their own food from local eateries if they wish. While in Taiwan students will visit a variety of places including Longshan Temple, the Taipei 101 Tower, tea farms, night markets and Sun Moon Lake. They will also spend a night in the mountains and watch the sunrise from Alishan Forest. At the end of the trip, students will ride the bullet train back to Taipei to catch their flight home. While in Taipei, I have also arranged for students to spend a day studying at a Mandarin language centre in the city perfecting language skills and revisiting key vocabulary in preparation for their GCSE exams.

In order to see as much of the island as possible, students will travel between cities on high speed trains and there will be a range of other exciting excursions and attractions around the island which will be confirmed nearer the time.

If your child wishes to be included on the trip, **please log into the Arbor app and express your interest by Monday 13 April 2026**. There will be a maximum number of students allowed on the trip and if the trip is oversubscribed, places will be drawn at random. In the event that sufficient numbers are not met the trip may not be able to go ahead.

If the uptake for the trip is successful, I will write to you again in due course with a more detailed itinerary, consent forms and details of a deposit. Once the deposit is made, the remaining amount can be paid in monthly installments.

In the meantime please click on the following links to read about our recent previous trips to Asia:

[China 2025](#)

[Vietnam 2023](#)

[China 2019](#)

I am sure you will agree this is an incredibly exciting opportunity for students looking to continue studying Mandarin at Carisbrooke College. Our previous trips to Asia have all been very successful and we look forward to providing yet another world-class learning opportunity for our students.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me on: joe.briscoe@carisbrooke.iow.sch.uk

Yours faithfully



Mr Briscoe

Teacher of Mandarin - 中文老师
Educational Visits Coordinator
Carisbrooke College / HISP



Here are a few of the main locations on the itinerary:



Taipei 臺北



Sun Moon Lake 日月潭



Chiayi 嘉義



Alishan Mountains 阿里山



Kaohsiung 高雄