



NEWSTEAD WOOD SCHOOL

"creating opportunities for success"

10 July 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 8 Twilight / Lunchtime Courses: Japanese, Latin & Mandarin Chinese

In Year 8, your daughter has the opportunity to complement her learning of Modern Foreign Languages by studying either Chinese, Japanese or Latin as a Twilight subject after school and at lunchtime. If your daughter is studying Latin, it is possible to continue with Latin AND Chinese or Japanese.

Newstead Wood School has offered this range of exciting options for many years now and our students have enjoyed the intellectual challenge of learning these languages, whilst benefiting from enriching their knowledge of different cultures. Those who complete their GCSE exam in these subjects have often stood out in the admissions process at top universities.

These subjects are taught above and beyond the school curriculum as Twilight sessions, which run after school on different days of the week for one hour per week from **3.45pm to 4.45pm**. There is also a thirty-minute lunchtime session each week in Japanese and Chinese. Details of the session times are in the attached timetable.

Initially, in Year 8 and 9, these sessions are run as enrichment courses, the philosophy being for students to facilitate a rich and challenging educational experience for the students. These courses offer the opportunity for students to take a GCSE exam as they progress further up the school.

Studying a Twilight course requires commitment and relies on a student's ability to work independently, learning vocabulary, characters and completing the homework tasks set by their chosen language subject teachers. **Please note, students can only take a GCSE in these subjects further up the school if they complete these courses in Year 8 and 9, unless they are bi-lingual speakers of Japanese and Chinese.**

Below is a brief overview of each of the languages:

Japanese

Japanese has been running at Newstead Wood School for many years and during that time, the department has had an excellent record of exam results and success in local, national, and international competitions. We also run an annual 'Japan Day' for students in Year 7. Students in Year 8, 9 and 10 have the opportunity to visit places of cultural interest in London and correspond with a penfriend from one of our partner schools in Japan. A very successful *Home-Stay* exchange visit has taken place every other year since 2011. Our next *Home-Stay* trip to Japan is taking place in October 2026. **Students are able to take their GCSE in Japanese at the end of Year 11.**

Headteacher: Mr Paul Norman MA, MSc, BSc (Hons), PGCE

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Latin

If your daughter has studied Latin as part of our Year 7 Twilight course, she will be able to continue with Latin next year. In Year 8, students continue reading and responding to Latin in its social and cultural contexts and they continue to use the OCR Latin to GCSE course, which integrates language and culture and uses much authentic Roman subject matter. Students develop their knowledge and understanding of vocabulary and grammar and move on to the translation of more complex sentences. Comprehension questions are used to assist understanding. The course continues to provide students with an insight into the structure of a language and supports both English and Modern Foreign Languages. There are opportunities to visit places of historical interest in Year 8 and Year 9. **GCSE Latin exams will be taken at the end of Year 10.**

Mandarin Chinese

Mandarin Chinese has also been running for many years, and the GCSE results have always been outstanding. Students in Year 8 and 9 have the opportunity to visit places of cultural interest in London and can correspond with a penfriend from our partner school in Beijing. There is also a 30-minute lunchtime lesson one day a week. We also run an annual 'China Day' for students in Year 7. We have organised four very successful Home-Stay visits to China for students in Years 10 and 11. We hope to run our next Home-Stay trip to China in October 2027. **Students can take their GCSE in Chinese at the end of Year 11.**

Additional Information about Twilight Courses

We are able to offer these Twilight courses for a **maximum of 25 students** per teaching group, therefore, if your payment is made after the deadline, it is possible that the course may be full.

The cost per Twilight course is £250 per academic year. We believe that this represents excellent value for money as this equates to less than £5 per week for high quality tuition, support, and extra learning opportunities. Tuition in these subjects outside school would cost approximately £30 per hour for private tuition and approximately £650 for one hour per week of group tuition in a specialist language academy.

Please note, should your daughter opt out of the Twilight course she has chosen after the first two weeks of it running, unfortunately, we will be unable to refund your financial contribution.

If you would like your daughter to participate in these fantastic additional language opportunities, please make a payment of **£250 per Twilight subject** (Latin, Mandarin, Japanese) via WisePay by **Tuesday 21 July 2026**. Please be aware that payment constitutes permission for the Twilight courses. Should you have any financial concerns with regards to payment for these lessons, please contact finance@newsteadwood.co.uk in confidence.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at shau@newsteadwood.co.uk.

Yours sincerely,

S Hau

Miss S Hau
Head of MFL

Chinese, Japanese and Latin twilight classes timetable 2026-2027

Day of Week	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Monday	Chinese (13:35-14:05) I26 SZ Japanese (15:45-16:45) I27 KB		GCSE Latin (13:10– 14:05) L22 EC GCSE Japanese (13:20-14:05) I28 KB	GCSE Chinese (15:45-16:45) I28 SZ
Tuesday		Chinese (15:45-16:45) I27 SZ Japanese (13:20-14:05) I28 KB	GCSE Chinese (13:20-14:05) I26 SZ GCSE Japanese (15:45-16:45) E29 KB	
Wednesday	Latin (15:45-16:45) I20 Japanese (13:35-14:05) I26 KB	Latin (13:10-14:05) L20 EC	Chinese (15:45-16:45) I28 SZ	GCSE Chinese (13:20-14:05) I28 SZ GCSE Japanese (15:45-16:45) E29 KB
Thursday	Chinese (15:45-16:45) I28 SZ	Chinese (13:35-14:05) I28 SZ Japanese (15:45-16:45) I27 KB	Latin (15:45 – 16:45) L22 EC	GCSE Japanese (13:20-14:05) I26 KB