



SCEN COMPETITION 2015: The Junior Prize

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Why all Scottish students should have the opportunity to learn Chinese

Ni hao! My name is Lily and I am going to give my reasons as to why Scottish schools should offer the opportunity to learn Mandarin.

First of all, one of the reasons you should learn Mandarin is that it is the most widely spoken language in the world, with approximately 1.2 billion speakers across the globe. In fact, it is the most commonly spoken language. So if you can speak English and Mandarin, then you have a tremendous advantage for being successful in later life.

Another reason to speak Mandarin is that it uses both sides of your brain, because you are using tonal noises, much like music. It is scientifically proven that Chinese/Mandarin speakers use both sides of their brains instead of one, as we do in English.

One last reason that you should learn Mandarin is that it is actually easier than it looks. It is proven that most people decide not to learn the language because it looks too complicated or confusing. This is not actually true, as many of the characters symbolise something in English, which then means that if you read it, you can make out the meaning of the characters.

I believe personally that all schools across the country should offer their pupils the opportunity to learn Mandarin, because their chances of getting a job are much higher. An interviewer will most commonly pick someone who can speak more than one language, as it is helpful when they have

customers that do not speak English. I enjoy Mandarin strongly, and it would be great if everyone else felt the same.

I hope my words have been persuasive.

Lily Penman (P7: Geits)