

EMBASSY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, IN ASSOCIATION
WITH JOINT UK CONFUCIUS INSTITUTES:

UK Schools Welcome Pandas from China



Secondary School Speaking Competition

Calling all young UK ambassadors, your country needs you!

This December, two giant pandas are coming all the way from China to live in Edinburgh Zoo. The pandas, known as Tian Tian 甜甜 (Sweetie) and Yang Guang 阳光 (Sunshine), will be the first giant pandas in the UK for 17 years.

To welcome the pandas to the UK and celebrate their arrival, we are holding a public speaking competition for selected UK secondary schools associated with the joint UK Confucius Institutes.

Participants are asked to compose and deliver a short speech that will mark the arrival of the pandas and demonstrate enthusiasm for learning Chinese and about China. The speech can be in Mandarin or English, and may draw on learning from across the school curriculum and from personal interest and research. Students may enter either or both categories of the competition.



Option 1: Speaking Competition in Mandarin

- *Length:* Each presentation should last no longer than 2 minutes.
- *Number:* Entries can be delivered by one student or by two working as a pair.
- *Introductions:* Students are encouraged to introduce themselves in English at the beginning of their presentation (name, age, school, how long they have learned Mandarin).

- *Topics:*

Students are encouraged to speak about a topic of their choice that relates directly to pandas or Chinese language, culture or history.

It is recommended to draw links between the UK and China and to explain what learning Mandarin means to you.

Some research on the topic might be needed in order to complete the presentation. Schools are encouraged to explore cross-curricular links, e.g. with Citizenship, English, Geography, History.

- *Prompts:* Participants may bring a simple note with no more than 20 words of English or Chinese, to be referred to occasionally during the course of presentation as a prompt.
- *Criteria:* The judges will judge the presentations in three aspects:

(1) **Engagement** – personal enthusiasm for pandas, learning Mandarin or about China; ability to represent UK in warmly welcoming the pandas from China

(2) **Communication** and content structure as appropriate

to the student's level;

confident presentation)

(3) **Accuracies** (pronunciation

and intonation, correct use

of words and phrases in

context).



Option 2:

Speaking Competition in English

- *Length:* Each presentation should last no longer than 5 minutes.
- *Number:* Entries can be delivered by one student or by two working as a pair.
- *Introductions:* Students are encouraged to introduce themselves at the beginning of their presentation (name, age, school, how long they have been learning about China).

- *Topics:*

Students are encouraged to speak about a topic of their choice that relates directly to pandas or Chinese language, culture or history.

It is recommended to draw links between the UK and China and to explain what learning Mandarin means to you.

Some research on the topic might be needed in order to complete the presentation and schools are encouraged to explore cross-curricular links, e.g. with Citizenship, English, Geography, History.

- *Criteria:* The judges will judge the presentations in three aspects:
 - (1) **Engagement** – personal enthusiasm for pandas, Mandarin or about China; ability to represent UK in warmly welcoming the pandas from China;
 - (2) **Content** – choice of engaging subject matter relating to pandas, Mandarin or about China; evidence of research; depth of knowledge and understanding



- (3) **Delivery** – speed, volume, variety, articulation, appropriate language, gestures, movement, eye-contact, audience awareness

The judges will consider the age of the student and length of the time the student(s) have studied their chosen topic.

How to enter

1. **31 October - 15 December (first round):** Students research and compose presentations, following the guidance above. Each school selects up to three of the best presentations. Schools film their best presentations and upload individual clips to the secure programme website: www.panda-pals.org The website will be launched in early November.

Please include clearly in each clip: the student's initials, age, school, how long they have learned Mandarin/chosen topic. You may wish to write these details clearly on a large piece of card or paper that the student can hold up to the camera at the beginning of the presentation.

**** The deadline for submitting entries will be Thursday 15 December 2011. ****

2. **December 2011 - January 2012 (second round):** An expert panel of judges will review all clips entered online and select 15 presentations to perform at a ceremony hosted by the Chinese Embassy in London.
3. **February 2012 (finals, date TBC):** Finalists from the 15 shortlisted presentations will be invited to perform at a ceremony hosted by the Chinese Embassy in London. His Excellency Ambassador Liu Xiaoming will lead a panel of judges in choosing the final winners.

His Excellency the Ambassador will award prizes for the top 5 presentations at the end of this event. Subject to sponsorship, winners of the top prize may make a 5-day trip to China with one of their parents to visit pandas in their nature reserve in Sichuan. Other winners could win tickets to the panda enclosure at Edinburgh Zoo. The schools of the 15 winning entries will also receive a package of resources for learning Chinese language and Chinese culture.

We look forward to receiving your entries online!

www.panda-pals.org

The panda partnership website is a secure, user-submitted content management system that is moderated by carefully selected moderators. Content is simply uploaded by approved representatives from each participating school.



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