

Our Mandarin trip to Norwich School!

When I walked inside, the first thing I saw was a staircase type looking thing, which had blue seats on it and Chinese decorations. We decided to quickly rehearse our 'Nian' story in front of around 5 people. Then, we sat down, and waited for everyone else to come in to the hall. Then, once most people had sat down and were in the hall, a man showed us Chinese calligraphy. I thought that he was rather good at it. Next, a lady showed us how to make traditional Chinese tea. She chose some volunteers to try the tea. One boy who tried the tea said it tasted like *ice* tea, and I got to try it as well, and it sure did taste like ice tea! Then we got to perform our story for real. I was a bit nervous, but we did it, and it sounded awesome! After we had performed, we took our seats again and listen to a man and a lady who talked about the story of Chinese New Year. Then they both did a song, and we had to clap along. I thought they were great singers. Then, some six forms did a Mandarin speaking competition. There was a 1st place prize, as well as a (smaller) 2nd place prize and a 3rd place prize. I thought that they all did incredibly well. After every six form had performed their incredible Mandarin speaking, they announced the results, and then some drums started banging. People were dressed up in these cool dragon costumes, and they were dancing! It was lots of fun to watch! My favourite costume was the small orange one. Then, we got to try the dragons for ourselves! We didn't get to try a proper dragon costume; we tried more of a big stick puppet dragon. Then, after sitting around and then waiting in line for a bit, we got our Chinese food! Here are the things that I can remember we tried:

Spring rolls – Pretty spicy, but also rather nice.

Prawn crackers – Didn't try them there, but I have tried them before, and they're pretty nice, especially when you dip them in sauce.

Minty pineapple sticks – Very minty! The mint, however, did not block the taste of the pineapple! I thought they were very nice.

Spicy chicken drumsticks – They were rather spicy, but they were a bit too spicy for me, and plus, I'm not a fan of chicken drumsticks.

Pork cubes – They were really squishy, and hard to eat.

Fortune cookies – The actual cookie was super nice, but I got some really interesting fortunes... Apparently something good will happen on Saturday.

Thank you for reading.

By Danny