ELECTIVE SUBJECT: Two Semesters

WHY STUDY LANGUAGES?
As Australians, studying a second language presents us with the opportunity to enhance and further develop our identity as lifelong learners and members of a global community. Learning a second language enriches the educational, intellectual, personal, social and cultural development of students and has the potential to improve the quality of their participation in a rapidly changing world.

THE BENEFITS OF LEARNING LANGUAGES FOR INDIVIDUALS ARE EXTENSIVE. THEY INCLUDE:

- Extends an individual’s capacity to communicate, not only in the target language, but also in literacy, cognitive and life skills
- Strengthens a learner’s knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of languages, culture and communication processes
- Builds a personal capability of understanding, respect for difference and diversity, openness to alternative perspectives and experiences which ultimately develops a sense of global citizenship
- Maintains a healthy mind by providing challenging learning experiences!
- Expands one’s future university study and career options

WHICH LANGUAGE SHOULD I CHOOSE?
As much as possible, students should choose to continue studying the language offered in primary school. If that option is not available, parents and students might like to take the following into account:

French

- French and English are closely related, both belonging to the Indo-European family of languages. French is linguistically close to English, making it a very ‘learnable’ language.
- French along with English are the two most commonly taught languages throughout the globe. Learning French gives you the skills to speak with French learners the world over.
Japanese

- Japanese is a scripted language. This means the students will be learning a new alphabet in their first 12 months of study. This alphabet is phonetic (the sound of the letter and the name of the letter is the same).
- Spoken Japanese is very easy to learn.

COURSE ORGANISATION:
Languages will be studied over 2 semesters.
- Year 7 Semester 2: Introduction to French (7FREN)/Japanese (7JAPA)
- Year 8 Semester 1: Continuation of French (8FREN)/Japanese (8JAPA)

By the end of the 12 month course of study students will be able to use their language to communicate about themselves, their friends and family. They will be able to respond to familiar questions and directions as well as ask for help or clarification. They will be able to describe their appearance and character. They will notice differences between the target language and compare this to English. They will adjust language to suit contexts and situations and respond in culturally appropriate ways.

POSSIBLE LEARNING EXPERIENCES:
Students will participate in a wide range of learning experiences and activities in their chosen course of Language study. These include:
- writing about themselves and others
- speaking about themselves and others
- reading short texts in the target language
- listening and responding to short texts in the target language
- revision of learned vocabulary and sentences patterns through online quizzes, games and competitions
- singing songs
- performing stories and plays

Assessment
Teaching and learning in Languages is centred upon 2 strands:
- communicating - using language for communicative purposes in interpreting, creating and exchanging meaning; and
- understanding - analysing and understanding language and culture as resources for interpreting and shaping meaning in intercultural exchange.

Continuing in Year 9 & 10
Students should be aware that they can continue studying their chosen Language from Semester 1 Year 9 and each semester thereafter. The Languages Department highly recommends that students continue to study their Language units consecutively to ensure success and consistency.

Units available Semester 1 Year 9 are:
- Year 9 French – sports, hobbies and my house
- Year 9 Japanese – Japan’s past and present