

Studying A Language

Studying a foreign language is not just a matter of developing communicative skills with people of other cultures, it is a discipline which strengthens intellectual and analytical capabilities, enhancing critical thinking and creativity, qualities which are central to our educational ethos and necessary for an educated, critical and innovative workforce.

By studying another language, students develop an understanding of the nature of language, its structure, its complexity and peculiarities and this not only allows the acquisition of the foreign language but strengthens and deepens their understanding of their own language, often leading to a more precise and sophisticated use of their mother tongue.



The cultural engagement that second language acquisition demands widens students' horizons encouraging intercultural sensitivity. This helps develop a culture of respect and openness fostering understanding of diversity, the appreciation of different perspectives and valuing the variety of experiences both observed and received.



At Canberra College Chinese, French, German, Italian and Japanese are offered to both beginning and continuing students. The teachers are experienced and dedicated native speakers. Each language brings its own particular focus in developing linguistic capabilities and cultural understanding. Chinese and Japanese introduce wonderful scripts, challenging

intonations and cultural practices and mores that invite reflection and respect. French and Italian will extend the learner's understanding of their cultural heritage, their values and the elements that ultimately contribute to their cultural identity. In studying German, students will discover its close relationship to the English language whilst appreciating the challenge of a more demanding, albeit precise grammatical system.

In a globalised world, where English is the lingua franca, the study of another language still contributes to strengthening social, economic and international links. Whilst not always evident, language capabilities are valued and sought after at many levels in the work-place: linguists can apply their skills from the courtroom to the classroom, from the boardroom to software development, in particular in the fields that facilitate learning, interpreting and translating, and most importantly tracking communications.