

## **St Aidan's Anglican Girls' School Languages Program**

St Aidan's AGS recognises the study of a language as an integral part of a student's education, and as a result provides and offers the study of Chinese, French, German and Japanese right through from prep to Year 12. There are a large number of girls studying languages at St Aidan's AGS; each year we have approximately 75% of our school population enrolled in and studying a Language other than English.

In the junior school (P-7) the students are exposed to each of the four languages on a rotation system. From prep – Year 2, students study each language for 6 months each (as a result some are studied for a further 6 months). As studies and surveys have suggested that only studying languages for a short period of time is not helpful to language learning, the rotation system allows for students in Year 3 and 4 to study a language for a full year. Then, in Years 5-7, students choose one language and study it for the full 3 years. In the senior school, students choose one language in Year 8, and then all four languages become electives in from Year 9-12.

Each language offers opportunities for acceleration and extension. A student may be accelerated if they demonstrate a higher level of proficiency than is expected at their current level. This usually happens in Year 8 (when they join a Year 9 class), where they may have had prior learning and have already covered all parts of the Year 8 curriculum. It may also happen when a student demonstrates that they are progressing at a pace much faster than the rest of the year level. If the student continues with their language into senior, they effectively graduate from the Year 12 language course at the end of Year 11. This then opens up opportunities for them to enrol in another subject (such as an extension subject) or enrol in a university subject.

The Languages Faculty hold a number of events every year that help promote and support language learning in our school. This year, our school has officially grouped our languages into a 'Languages Faculty' (previously we ran as separate entities), which has meant that we have been able to receive collegial support to expand the activities and events that we offer and hope to offer in the future.

We started the year with a 'bang' and held an inaugural 'Celebration of Languages Dinner', open to all language students from Years 5-12 and their families. The night was structured as a dinner, with everyone experiencing taste sensations from each of the target countries of the languages offered here at St Aidan's AGS. Students from our Hospitality course at St Aidan's AGS were involved in the set up and service of the dinner, which went towards the 'competencies' they are working towards in this vocational education subject. We ordered all of the food from local restaurants. While eating and enjoying the meals, everyone experienced traditional performances from Japan, Germany, France and China. These were a taiko drum and bamboo flute display from Japan, Alpenrosen (bells and dance) from Germany, an accordion player from France and a lion dance from China. We also ran a trivia quiz throughout the night, which consisted of 20 questions (five per target country).

Each term we have planned a major Languages Faculty event, and so in the final week of this term we are arranging a 'Languages Picnic'. This will involve all language students in the school being offered the opportunity to have an authentic lunch from the language that they study. In term three we have scheduled a 'Languages Week' (which has been timetabled in the school calendar). In this week we are doing various activities including ALC testing, an ESL lunch, form class trivia competitions each day, a Language Craft Extravaganza and a Year 6/7 Languages Day of Excellence. In the final term we are planning a movie marathon, where we will invite students to join us for movies based on the four target countries (and their language), and join in refreshments and supper.

There are certainly many other activities that our four language groups run separately. Each class holds restaurants dinner visits, lunches, guest speakers and performances, trips to the target countries, sister school agreements, student exchanges, Days of Excellence, any many more exciting endeavours.

Languages are also visible in the school through regular newsletter and school magazine articles, signage in the four languages around the school, assembly performances and displays of student work. Furthermore, each language has a dedicated classroom filled with lots of student work, realia and decorative pieces from the target countries.

Our languages program receives an incredible amount of support from the school community – School council, administration, teachers, staff, parents and students. There is no doubt that this contributes to the success of the Languages Program at St Aidan's Anglican Girls' School.

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