
Languages Program



LORETO
Mandeville Hall Toorak

“I love all the fun, challenges and benefits of learning a language. Unlike any other subject, languages are unique because you are discovering a way to communicate with others which you can use for the rest of your life, whether it be for work, travel or just for fun.

Niamh, Year 12



THE VALUE OF LEARNING A *Language*

At Loreto Toorak, the learning of languages is seen as an integral part of a complete and well-rounded education, and is therefore given the time and resources required for students to achieve success.

In an increasingly globalised world, the likelihood of our students working or travelling overseas, or engaging with people from other countries is becoming greater. Learning a language will inevitably help them to navigate their world.

Along with the advantages when seeking future employment, the benefits of learning a language include the development of a number of both hard and soft skills, including the following:

- knowledge of a language and its associated culture
- enhanced ability to learn other languages later on
- enhanced cognitive development
- enhanced communication skills
- interpersonal and intrapersonal skills
- cross-cultural understanding
- adaptability and resourcefulness
- problem solving

At Rathfarnham, all LOTE subjects are undertaken once a week. Our Preparatory - Year 3 students study a

“We hope that all students will discover the language that suits them best...”

semester each of Chinese and French, while in Year 4, girls learn both languages for the entire year. Students in Years 5 - 6 choose two languages from Chinese, Italian, French and Indonesian and learn per semester.

Before beginning Year 7, each student is asked to choose one language to study compulsorily in Years 7 and 8, then as an elective in Year 9 and beyond.

At Loreto Toorak, we offer four languages, Chinese, French, Indonesian and Italian, with the hope that all students will discover the language that suits them best, for which they feel an affinity and will develop a passion.

While it is not compulsory to study a language beyond Year 8, at Loreto Toorak the vast majority of students continue a language in Year 9, and about one-third of students take a language as one of their VCE subjects.

The following pages give a brief summary of the four languages offered to assist students in their selection.

WHY CHOOSE?

Chinese

- There are more people speaking Chinese (Mandarin) than English. It is the number one spoken language in the world.
- One person in every five people is Chinese. If you can speak Chinese, you can communicate with more people and learn about Chinese cultures.
- Chinese words are artistically formed; once you know the radicals and the basic 100 characters, you will easily find out the logical connections with other characters and extend your vocabulary very quickly.
- Chinese grammar is very easy; there are no tenses and conjugations in Chinese. The sentence structure is very similar to that of English.
- China is and will continue to be an important economic partner of Australia and thus Chinese language skills are a resume-builder – knowing Chinese may give you an edge when competing for employment.

Some Chinese Phrases:

nǐ hǎo !
Hello!

你 好 !

nǐ jiào shén me míng zi ?
What is your name?

你 叫 什 么 名 字 ?

xiè xiè
Thank you.

谢 谢

duō shǎo qián ?
How much is it ?

多 少 钱 ?

zài jiàn
Good Bye

再 见

“I enjoy Chinese because the punctuation is easy to understand and the Pinyin is usually spelt how it sounds, whereas most languages have hidden vowels and letters. The way it’s taught is fun and makes it easy to pick up. Our class can already write 20 characters independently and we can understand a lot more!”

Kiana, Year 7

WHY CHOOSE?

French

“I love learning French because it gives me a different perspective of communication. As humans, communication is something we constantly use, and learning a new language gives me a new window from which I can interact with the world.

Emma, Year 7

- French is spoken in over 53 countries in the world.
- French is the most widely taught second language after English.
- French has many similarities with English and so it is often easy to work out the meaning of words. Over 20,000 English words have their origins in French.
- France is the world's major tourist destination with 75 million tourists a year.
- French is widely used as an official language, for example in the Olympic Games, the United Nations and the International Red Cross.
- For those with the appropriate skills, there are also possibilities for work in the following fields: international business; international agencies; tourism and hospitality industries; the diplomatic service.

Some French Phrases:

Salut
Hello

Comment ça va?
How are you?

Bien, merci
Good thanks

À bientôt
See you soon

Comment t'appelles-tu?
What is your name?

Je m'appelle
My name is _____

“English is great! But why restrict yourself to one language your whole life? you’re simply limiting yourself by sticking to English your whole life. Languages are beneficial; they push you, lead you to think outside of the box, widening your horizons and aspects of your life.”

Ellie-Grace, Year 12



life? There's a plethora of languages out there, so diverse and interesting, languages can be challenging at times, but this is exactly why they're so our perspective and ultimately leading you to develop skills useful in other



WHY CHOOSE?

Indonesian

- Indonesian is spoken by 250 million people throughout Indonesia and the closely related Malay language is spoken by a further 40 million people in Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei.

- Bali is visited by about 1 million Australians each year; a trip to Bali takes on a whole new dimension if you can speak Indonesian.

- Indonesian grammar is reasonably simple and so it is easy to learn the basics.

- Indonesian is perhaps the easiest Asian language to learn because it uses the Roman alphabet and there are no tones. Spelling is also simple and pronunciation is easy to master.

- Indonesia's economy is growing quickly and is the world's 10th largest economy, and is expected to be the fourth largest by 2050.

- Indonesia is one of Australia's closest neighbours, a stable democracy, a major trading partner and will be an important part of Australia's future. Knowing Indonesian will open up enormous opportunities in many fields.

Some Indonesian Phrases:

Selamat pagi
Good morning

Apa kabar?
How are you?

Baik-baik saja
Just fine

Siapa namamu?
What is your name?

Nama saya _____
My name is _____

Terima kasih
Thank you

Sampai jumpa
See you later

“I love learning Indonesian because not only is it super fun, but it is also super easy to learn. Because it isn't a Latin-based language, it sounds nothing like English, making it really interesting. If I didn't get the opportunity to learn Indonesian at school, I would probably never hear it in my whole life. I am so glad I chose to learn Indonesian.

Steph, Year 7

WHY CHOOSE?

Italian

- Italian is widely spoken in Australia with over half a million Italian Australians using the language every day.
- Italian is recognised as one of the most beautiful spoken languages and it is the closest language to Latin; the common ancestor of all romance languages.
- Italian spelling and pronunciation are straightforward and its rules are actually easier and less irregular than English.
- According to UNESCO, Italy has more of the world's cultural heritage sites than any other country.
- Italian has the highest number of words for describing food.
- Speaking Italian opens pathways to the culinary arts, hospitality and tourism. Studying Italian is a gateway to the study of the arts, music, opera, literature, cinema and all aspects of design.

Some Italian Phrases:

Ciao
Hello

Come stai?
How are you?

Bene grazie
Well, thank you

Come ti chiami?
What's your name?

Mi chiamo _____
My name is _____

A presto
See you soon

“*Italian is a new language for me that I started in Year 7. Learning new languages helps you to communicate with more people locally but also globally, also because Italy is one of my dream destinations, learning the language will help me enjoy more if I ever travel to Italy.*

Elaine, Year 7

Below: Carnevale Dinner in Venice on the Italian Language Tour



YOUR LANGUAGE *Journey*



Prior to commencing secondary school at Loreto Toorak, students select one language from the four available.

Year 7

150 minutes per week (3 lessons)

Learn the basics of your language through listening, speaking, reading, writing and grammar activities under various topics.

Year 8

150 minutes per week (3 lessons)

Consolidate the basics and prepare for further study of your language. It is our intention that you will want to choose your language as one of your Year 9 electives because of your love for your language and the confidence you have developed during Years 7 and 8.

Year 9

150 minutes per week (3 lessons)

Continue to add to your knowledge of and confidence in your language, as you are exposed to an increasingly broad range of grammar and vocabulary designed to help you express yourself.

Year 10

200 minutes per week (4 lessons)

Begin preparation for VCE as you master more grammar and vocabulary and become more capable of having conversations and writing about a range of topics.

Year 11

225 minutes per week
(9 lessons per fortnight)

The first of two years of VCE study, a 'dress rehearsal' for Year 12, where students experience the types of assessments they will be assessed on in Year 12, such as listening, speaking, reading and writing. Individual and small group conversations become a regular feature of classes in Years 11 and 12.

YOUR LANGUAGE *Journey*

Language Tours

Students in Years 10 and 11 have the opportunity to take part in an overseas study tour for their particular language, which are run every two years for each language. A wonderful opportunity to not only visit another country, but to experience it as only a student of its language can. You will come back with greater understanding and confidence.

Year 12

225 minutes per week
(9 lessons per fortnight)

The culmination of language study at Loreto Toorak, after which students can leave school with a high degree of fluency and cultural understanding in their chosen language.

As an added bonus, all languages are scaled up to varying degrees in the VCE ATAR scoring system, making them doubly valuable subjects to undertake throughout secondary school.

Victorian School of Languages

For those students wishing to study an additional language that Loreto Toorak does not offer, there is the possibility of studying them through the Victorian School of Languages via distance education. The school has a long history of supporting and facilitating such study.

Right: Chinese class

Below: LOTE Week activities





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THE CHALLENGES
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