

INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGES

Staff in the International Languages Learning Area:

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Chinese

New Zealand needs people who are fluent in a variety of international languages in order to participate successfully in cultural exchanges, diplomacy, education, trade, technology, tourism. Chinese is spoken by nearly a quarter of the world's population. It is widely spoken in Chinese communities throughout Asia and New Zealand. Chinese is a particularly significant language for New Zealand because of the economic and cultural ties this country is developing with the Chinese-speaking world. The large and rapidly growing Chinese-speaking Pacific Rim populations, in particular, offer New Zealand considerable potential for tourism and trade. By learning Chinese you will be able to:

- broaden your knowledge of another culture
- promote tolerance and positive attitudes to others
- broaden your employment options, both in New Zealand and internationally
- develop an appreciation of Chinese language and culture and enrich your own
- communicate more effectively with Chinese people
- develop an awareness of the interdependence of people across the globe

Heights Chinese programme is offered from Years 9 – 13 and scholarship levels. The learning takes you beyond the classroom. It challenges you to participate in interschool and national competitions, engage in cultural events and scholarship opportunities for China Camp. You will also be able to engage with visiting students and teachers from China.

Organisations that support the development of Chinese in NZ are

www.confuciusinstitute.ac.nz

www.clf.org.nz

www.asianz.org.nz

new-zealand-chinese-language-association-nzcla

French

Bienvenus au français á Western Heights High School.

French is an option subject. Students in Year 9 may choose the Terms 1 and 2 or the Terms 3 and 4 short introductory course to the French language and culture during which a variety of communicative activities are employed – games, songs, films, worksheets – and many opportunities are created for students to listen, speak, read and write in French in a supportive environment. At the end of Year 9 students may opt to continue their French studies for a full year in Year 10 when the same communicative approach is used

and students deepen their knowledge of the French language and culture. Students have the opportunity to visit a French café in Rotorua to partake of some French cuisine, using their knowledge gained during the unit on Food and Drink. Recently we welcomed students from our partner school of College de Tuband, Nouméa, New Caledonia. We are hoping to set up a yearly exchange between the two schools.

Useful links:

www.languageperfect.co.nz

www.linguascope.com

www.french.ac.nz

www.ilovefrench.co.nz

www.ambafrance.nz.org

Japanese

Japanese is an option subject. Students may choose to do a half year course at Year 9 and a full year at Years 10, 11, 12, and 13. Students will learn about the conventions of communicating in Japanese in a range of situations and will develop an understanding of Japanese culture. In addition, students find it interesting and enriching to study a language and a writing system that is so different from English and learn about the cultural differences between New Zealand and Japan.

At Year 10 and the senior levels, we visit a Japanese restaurant as a cultural experience and also exchange programmes are available at senior levels. The length of the exchange programme is from three weeks to ten months.

Each year Hamurodai High School visits us and students have the opportunity to host them.

Useful links:

www.japanese.ac.nz

Spanish

¡El Español es Importante!

Spanish is the second most widely spoken language in the world, with over 22 Spanish speaking countries and over 400 million Spanish speakers worldwide! At Heights we offer an introductory Spanish course in Year 9 which provides a good foundation for continuing to learn this beautiful language and culture, all the way to Year 13. We focus on the four skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing and use a variety of communicative activities such as games, songs, computer programmes, films and worksheets to enhance learning. Over the years two groups of students have spent three weeks in Spain in a total immersion language experience. Exchanges with Chile, as well as other Student Exchange programmes to other countries are also a possibility for those wishing to improve their language and cultural knowledge.

¡Viva El Español!

Useful links:

www.languageperfect.co.nz

www.linguascope.com

www.digitaldialects.com

www.languagesonline.org.uk