

LANGUAGES – Japanese

Japanese may be studied as a 100-hour course (Year 9 or Year 10) or as a 200-hour (Years 9 and 10) course in Stage 5.

Course Description

Learning a Language Other Than English (LOTE) is a vital skill in a rapidly changing world, where most people speak more than one language. The Japanese course provides students with the opportunity to gain effective skills in communicating in this language, to explore the relationship between Japanese and English, and to develop an understanding of the cultures associated with the Japanese-speaking world, as well as enhance their own literacy skills. The course also provides them with the opportunity to work collaboratively, manage their own learning and engage in activities that develop their communicative and ICT skills. Students will also have the opportunity to take part in a study tour to Japan to practise using their language skills and also learn more about the unique geography, history, culture, arts and environments of Japan first hand.

What will students learn about?

The course begins with an introduction to the language and culture of Japan with a focus on talking about oneself. This includes talking about their family, their pets, interests and school. This is delivered in a flexible, dynamic, student-centered manner. It is interactive, so that each student can work to develop and extend their own language skills in a unique manner. The use of ICT will be extensively integrated into all units of work which cover a range of topics including:

- Holidays, transport & travel
- Illness
- Shopping
- Eating out
- House & daily routines
- Towns & cities & directions
- TV & films & music
- Seasons & weather
- The environment & animals
- Jobs, occupations & careers

Students will learn how to use an extensive range of tools to create slideshows, film clips, avatars and then learn how to integrate these into collaborative learning spaces and joint online classrooms with school students in Japan. Students will be given the opportunity to work collaboratively with students and teachers from Japanese schools through synchronous learning, using tools such as Google Docs and Skype.

What will students learn to do?

Students will not only develop effective communication skills in Japanese through listening, speaking, reading and writing tasks. They will also learn how to access and apply an extensive range of computer and web technologies to achieve this in a dynamic, flexible and creative manner.

Record of School Achievement (RoSA)

Satisfactory completion of 100 or 200 hours of study in Languages-Japanese during Stage 5 (Years 9 and/or 10) will be recorded with a grade on the student's NESAs Record of School Achievement.