

Principal's message

Welcome to 2016 at Open High School!



I'm passionate about language teaching and learning and Open High School is a wonderful opportunity to inspire over 2000 students with the joy of engaging with a new language and culture.

Open High School is a place where students and teachers can flourish. We support the cognitive, emotional, social, physical and spiritual wellbeing of all students and colleagues.

Open High School is building a reputation for excellence, innovation and teacher and student capability. We had 10 students come First in State in last year's Higher School Certificate and I'm very proud of the hard work from our students and teachers that this represents.

2016 will be an exciting year, with record enrolment figures and 3 new courses. Our new Year 11 Korean Beginners course has 50 students enrolled here and another 60 students in other schools. Our Indonesian 100 hours course is being shared with several other schools around the state. The new French Continuers course will be completed this year, for introduction in 2017. The year 9 Italian course is having a makeover too!

We also have to work towards moving our school at the end of this year. We have considered 18 sites around Sydney and still do not have a definite address. NSW Government Properties has begun negotiations with a landlord at one possible site, so I'll keep you posted.

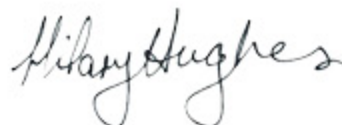


Professional Learning for our teachers this year will include student and staff wellbeing, analysis of HSC data to improve outcomes, differentiation of teaching to best serve all students and the use of new technology. Several teachers are being mentored in Head Teacher positions to build up the leadership capabilities within the school.

All of our staff are now using an online record system called Millennium. This has required significant design input for our specialised needs and training of all staff - a big thank you to Ms Jannan Assaad, our R/Head Teacher, Teaching and Learning (eLearning). All contact with our students and lesson information can be recorded and monitored. Later in the year we hope to give parents and supervisors access to their child's feedback too.

Until then, please contact your child's teacher, the Deputy Principals, Ms Cate Chapple and Ms Frances Selby or me if you have any questions about the school or your child's learning.

Hilary Hughes
Principal





EXCELLENT ACHIEVEMENT

2015 HSC First in the State in the following courses:

Open High School has consistently achieved excellent Higher School Certificate results, achieving an average of 8 - 10 First in the State in their language courses. We are proud to announce the 2015 HSC results.

Open High School congratulates our 2015 HSC Year 12 students!

1	Rebecca Bau-Gaspar	Spanish Beginners
2	Natalia Bogatyreva	Russian Continuers
3	Betina Ferreira	Portuguese Continuers
4	Muhammad Jaame,	Chinese Beginners
5	Iola Killian,	Korean Continuers
6	Qisthy Aliyya Nadifa Kodarusman	Heritage Indonesian
7	Haralambia Kolevris	Modern Greek Continuers
8	Haralambia Kolevris	Modern Greek Extension
9	Hillary Permata Sathio	Indonesian Beginners
10	Ivy Tang	Heritage Japanese



RESULTS

Summary of the 2015 HSC results

197 Open High School students achieved a **Band 6** (90 marks and over) in a language course.

13 Open High School students received All Rounder- a Band 6 result in every subject.

9 Open High School students studied two languages and achieved a Band 6 in at least one language.

1 Open High School student studied 3 languages and achieved a Band 6 in two languages.



Inkerz

Open High School welcomed *Valid Kolahdouzan, Masoud Douzan* and *Brian Chu* from Inkerz to train 23 Open High School teachers. They showcased their product and how it can revolutionise language teaching via distance. Inkerz is a new dimension in web conferencing using an ink pen and paper. Teachers are able to connect with students using audio, video and the online pen, sharing the same 'paper' online. Open High School will continue with trials of this software in 2016.

<http://www.inkerz.com/product.html>

Open High School is in negotiations with Inkerz for a favourable cost for students when the product goes live in our school. Parents and students will receive more details in the near future.



PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Film training for Open High School teachers

Filmmakers Tim Nathan and Karina Banno came to Open High School and trained 14 teachers in film making and editing. They created a short film in the 3 hour workshop, discussing short film content, how to write a short film and use of different camera shots. Teachers looked at creating 3 scenes telling the journey of the main character. The teachers filmed 2 scenarios and then edited the film using Adobe Premier. Lighting, angles, props and extras were all taken into consideration. We're expecting some wonderful entries this year into the Modern Language Teachers Association Linguafest Film competition!



LANGUAGE PERFECT

Language Perfect is an additional learning resource that offers language students across the world the opportunity to learn languages with fun and engaging online activities. Students can even compete in international competitions. The activities are based on the NSW languages syllabuses and align with Open High School's online courses. Activities cover all 4 skills - listening, reading, speaking and writing.

Students can learn vocabulary, sentence structures, expressions and script (Asian languages) in the following languages: Chinese, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latin, Modern Greek, Russian and Spanish.

Parents and students are invited to purchase Language Perfect to enhance their language study. It is not compulsory. Membership is \$30 per student for one year.

If you wish to sign up to Language Perfect go to this link:

<https://start.languageperfect.com/payment-open-high.html>

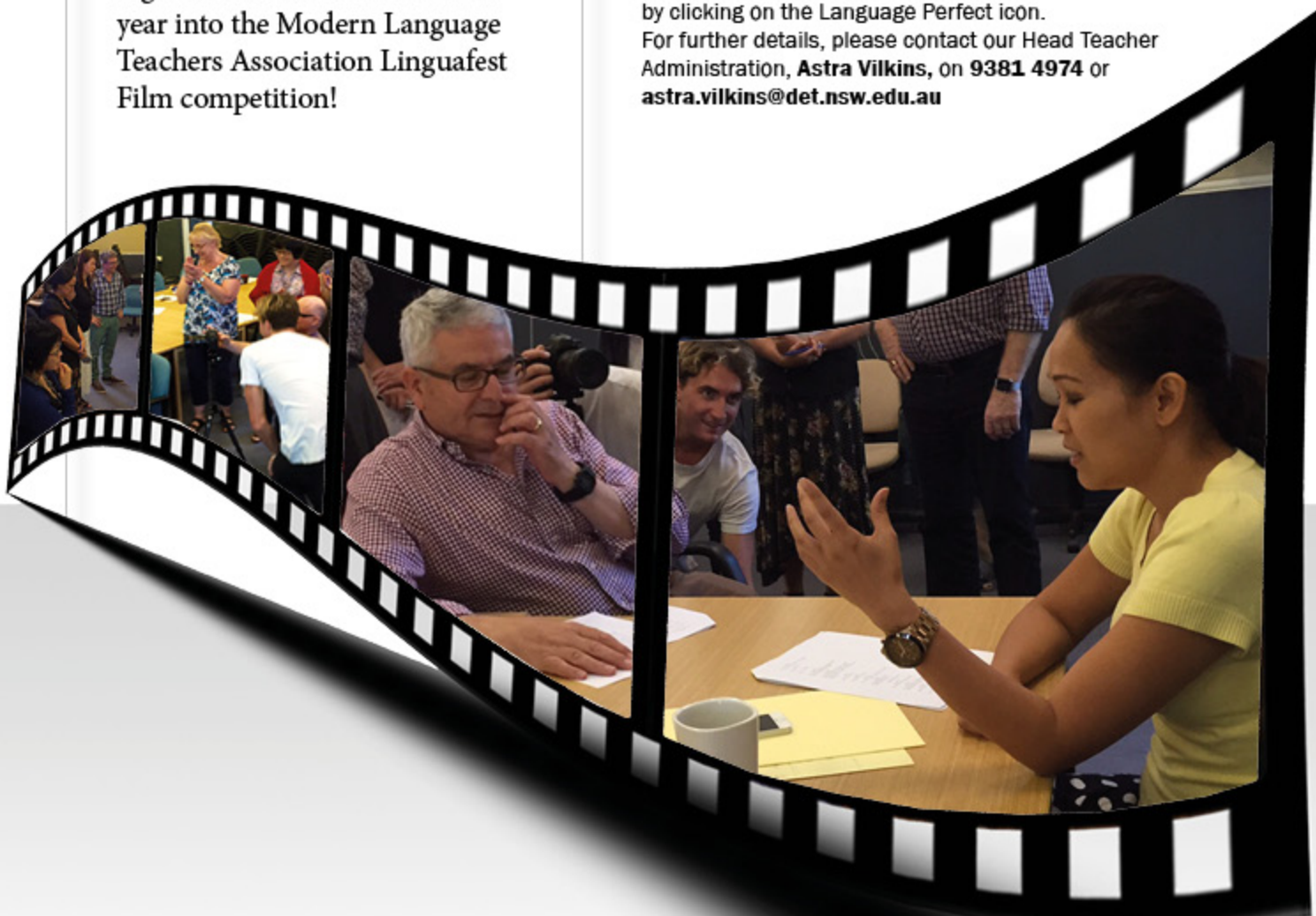
Student comment about Language Perfect:

"Language Perfect is a fun way to learn the vocabulary. It strengthens your knowledge of grammar, script and expressions.

The levels of questions vary. It is definitely recommended, as it helped me immensely."

The payment link is also on the Open High School's website by clicking on the Language Perfect icon.

For further details, please contact our Head Teacher Administration, **Astra Vilkins**, on **9381 4974** or astra.vilkins@det.nsw.edu.au



National Young Leaders Day 2015



In November 2015, four students from Open High School travelled to Sydney Olympic Park for The National Young Leaders Day, hosted by the Halogen Foundation. These students were *Adam Bransgrove, Mahime Watanabe, Elizabeth Behne-Smith* and *Ethan Ford*. We all arrived at the station to meet the other 3 students whom each of us had never met before. And so began the day...

After a short walk from the station we reached the venue – the Sydney Olympic Park sports centre. We were met with a warm greeting by Halogen volunteers, and made our way in. There were lights, music, and some 2 500 seats set up in the building (both in front of and to the sides of the stage). Around the outside were stalls set up by various companies, organisations and universities to promote themselves and show us what they are all about.

We found our seats and were greeted by a very enthusiastic man named Mr. Shrack who was there to represent the Halogen foundation and to introduce all the speakers for the day.

Throughout the day a variety of different people spoke to us, all of whom were motivational, inspirational, and amazing. There were so many people from so many different walks of life. We could talk all day about these people and all of their unique stories, but 2 people really stood out.

The 2nd speaker of the day, Jess Fox, is an international athlete, an Olympian who represents Australia in the kayak and canoe slalom. She managed to win a silver medal in the

2012 London Olympic Games in her kayaking event. Jess was truly awe-inspiring with her incredible speech and something that high school students can dream to achieve. In 2011, Jess was training for the Olympics at the same time as her HSC exams. She did not drop out of school to achieve her sporting dreams – instead, she trained hard, studied hard, and placed 1st in the state for PDHPE, achieved band 6 in all her subjects and finished with an ATAR of 99.1. This superhuman effort gained her Dux of Blaxland High School. Jess's speech was one we can all look up to and be motivated by. "Go high, jump higher, and dream big!" - Jess Fox

We also listened to a talk by the Hon. Mike Baird, Premier of NSW. Mr. Baird was a very good speaker, as you would expect, and he informed us about his schooling, childhood, and about how we can approach our futures. Mr. Baird was a very motivational speaker, and at times a funny one too.

At the end of the day, we left the sports centre feeling proud, inspired, and motivated. The day was filled with tremendous people, new friends and mind-changing speeches! The day was terrific and we would highly recommend it to anyone else who is nominated in the future. A big thank you goes out to Open High School for nominating the 4 of us; we would do it again in a heartbeat."

Adam Bransgrove

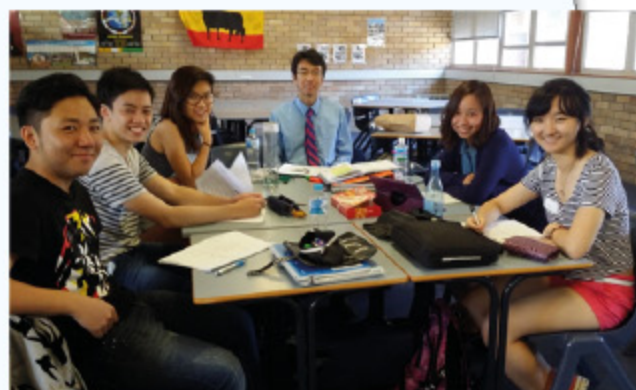
GERMAN

Many newly enrolled Year 9 & 10 German students and their parents attended Open High School for the Orientation session on Friday 12 February.



It gave students and parents the chance to get to know their teacher, the school and get a better idea of how learning a language via distance education works. After 'Kaffee & Kuchen' (afternoon tea), the online courses were shown and explained. Students learned about the upcoming Lesson Days, an excursion and the German camp. Students & parents had lots of questions and found it a great chance to talk to each other in this informal setting.

CHINESE



New students visited Open High School for the first time and met their classmates and teachers early in February. This induction session has equipped students to study Chinese via distance education. On the 16 February, approximately 20 Year 12 students attended a face-to-face lesson day to prepare for their second HSC assessment task. The students



actively participated in a variety of activities such as group discussions, practice listening tasks and mock speaking exams.

FRENCH

Student Feedback: My time at Open High School

"I chose to undertake the French course at OHS at the start of year 9 as I believe learning a language is very useful, and I enjoy a challenge. I found the Moodle course to be organised and learning the language was quite straight-forward. The course is set out nicely, and methodically walks through the topic at hand. I would ring my teacher once a week for a status update on my work and if there were any issues, before revising verbs, vocabulary and practice in French speaking.

My teacher was very helpful, well-educated and experienced, engaging, and personable. She made the telephone lessons and lesson days fun, taught me important learning and language skills and provided good tips to

help me remember words or grammatical structures. I was very pleased to have her as my teacher during the course.

The termly lesson days improved our speaking and communication, and introduced us into more challenging texts and situations which tested our skills and taught us to go further into the language. Overall it was a very pleasing experience and thanks to the friendly teachers, organised learning path/course and a little bit of commitment and work I was able to achieve very exciting results at the end of year 10 and my 200 hour course. In fact, my experience has been so positive that I have also chosen to study Japanese Beginners at the OHS for year 11".

JAPANESE



Japanese Orientation days

In the last two weeks Japanese students were invited to attend Open High School for Orientation. They were treated to onigiri (rice balls) for morning tea.



ART AWARD

Japanese student receives Art award 2015

Congratulations to Open High School's *Angela Truong* in Year 9 (currently Year 10) who received second prize in the middle year division Art Speaks Japanese Contest. View her artwork at:

<http://artalive.jpf-sydney.net/gallery.html>

"The participants had to create an artwork inspired by information/poetry/traditional artworks from the 'Art Speaks Japanese: Japanese Language Education Kit'. I had chosen for my work to be inspired by a particular artwork -- 'The Beauty Looking Back' -- due to its compelling backstory regarding the art, artist, and meaning. With that, some Japanese language (a compulsory element) was added to reflect the emotions portrayed in the work. I had decided to enter my work deemed: わたしのナミダ(My tears). It was most definitely a new experience to do something you love and getting a result you weren't really expecting out of it. I stayed determined and had a great time."

Student Feedback:

"I have been a student at Open High School for last two years. I studied Japanese in Year 9 and 10 and now am continuing my studies into Year 11. I would like to say a very big thank you to my teacher for such a wonderful 2 years of Japanese. I will always remember the kind hearted nature of all the teachers and I'm sure many other students and parents think the same. When I was having a long tough day at my Home School all my worries were lifted when I spoke to my teacher for our phone lesson. Japanese never felt like a school subject because I was enjoying it so much. I always walked through the Open High School front doors with a smile because I knew I was going to have a great time on our Face-to-Face Lesson days."

ITALIAN

ITALIAN STUDY TOUR

19 September -15 October 2016

PRICE ESTIMATE \$4800 - \$5300

Visit Rome, Tuscany, Florence and Venice and study at an Italian school.

Immerse yourself in an academic and cultural adventure.

Open High School invites our Year 10 and 11 Italian students to contact:

⇒ Mrs Josie Miritello

Italian Teacher – Open High School

josephine.miritello@det.nsw.edu.au

Ph.: (02) 93814912 or 0431 312 316

⇒ Mr Cesare Popoli

Italian Teacher- Open High School

cesare.popoli@det.nsw.edu.au

Ph.: (02) 9381 4833 or 0422 909 080



A student's personal account of her Italian Study Tour Experience in 2015

“This Study Tour is an absolutely unforgettable experience. We did so many amazing things in our time in Rome, Montepulciano, Venice and Florence.

In Rome we saw famous sites such as the Colosseum, the Vatican Museum, Saint Peter's Square, the Trevi Fountain and more.

Montepulciano was more of a cultural experience where we lived with our host families for about 2 weeks and went to their school, caught their buses and explored the little town. Our time in Montepulciano (which we now affectionately call Monti) was great because we had free time to explore and by the end of 2 weeks we found some truly beautiful places that became 'our hangout spots.' Thank goodness that we walked a lot though, because my friends and I ate at least 2 cups of gelato a day!

In Venice, we travelled by private boat to see glass blowing at Murano, the colourful island of Burano and Saint Marco's Square. The Pizza was really good on our last night in Venice and we sat on a jetty by the canal and ate it - it was quite magical.

In Florence we saw the Pitti Palace and Gardens, the Uffizi Gallery and some of us climbed to the very top of the Duomo which had an amazing view, overlooking the whole city.

I went on the trip not knowing anyone so I thought that making friends would be the biggest challenge. I ended up meeting people who are now life-long friends.

The most testing part is that you are challenged daily and you end up growing and becoming a better person. I would recommend this trip because I went to learn Italian but I came back having learnt so much more about the world, myself and others”.

Samantha Whitling

LATIN

Our Latin Students in Years 9 and 10 will be participating for the first time in the introductory level and level 1 of the annual Classical Literacy Examination. The guiding idea is to include everything that educated people should know about the classical world. Students study an official list of classical terms, phrases, and identifications. The test then requires students themselves to provide the term, phrase, or identification from that list that correctly answers a given question. By the time of the exam, held in the last week of February at the students' schools, they will have already practised at least 6 exams from previous years. Our students also share in the preparation of their own list of definitions which they put up on a shared Year 9 or Year 10 Latin Google doc.



INDONESIAN



Open High School acknowledges the excellent achievements of the Indonesian students in Year 12 last year. Two students achieved First in the State for Indonesian: *Hillary Sathio* in Indonesian Beginners (Top right) *Qisthy Kodarusman* in Indonesian Heritage. Here are the girls receiving their First-in-Course certificates from NSW Education Minister, *Mr Adrian Piccoli* (Photos courtesy of BOSTES).

Another Indonesian Beginners student, *Chiara Christian*

achieved fifth ranking in the State. This was an admirable achievement for Chiara who started with no knowledge of Indonesian. *Hillary Sathio* will receive \$200 from AIA (Australia Indonesian Association), *Qisthy* received \$200 from the Consulate of Republic Indonesia and Chiara received a certificate of appreciation and a gift from the Consul General of Republic of Indonesia, *Dr Yayan G Mulyana* for their achievements. The Consul General also presented

EXCELLENT ACHIEVEMENT



Hillary Sathio (top)
Qisthy Kodarusman (Above)

a trophy to the Principal of Open High School to acknowledge these achievements. Within five HSC Indonesian courses, there were eight students achieving Band 6 (a mark of 90 and above).

SPANISH

HSC RESULTS 2015

The Spanish Department is delighted to share with you our outstanding HSC results. Our students have worked hard and their efforts have been well rewarded. We congratulate them and wish them all the very best in their future endeavours.

HSC Top Achievers in Course

Name	Place	Course
Rebecca Bau-Gaspar	1	Spanish Beginners
Alia Huberman	4	Spanish Beginners
Amelia Lee	5	Spanish Beginners
Harry Darwand	3	Spanish Continuers
Daniella Haber	4	Spanish Continuers
Paula Sanchez Bisquerra	3	Spanish Extension
Eugenia Muñoz-Prieto	5	Spanish Extension

MODERN GREEK

LETTER FROM GREECE



ΕΛΛΑΔΑ-GREECE-GRIECHENLAND-GRECE-GRECIA

After the week that was with 2015 HSC results and ATAR notification, I just wanted to thank the Greek teachers once more for all their efforts this year. As you are aware, I got a mark of 97 and am extremely happy with this mark. It is a reflection of how far I have come since I started the course and I want to thank you for all the efforts you have put into me into developing my answers and allowing my Greek to flourish.

Overall Greek was my best performing subject and I'm fairly pleased with my overall ATAR as it gives me options with what to study next year.

To top it all off, I'm in Greece at the moment and I feel that what I learnt has allowed me to enjoy and connect closer to my heritage.

Thanks once again, for a fantastic two years, your efforts did not go unnoticed.

Thanks, George Thessaloniki

Year 12 (2015) student

PARENT FEEDBACK

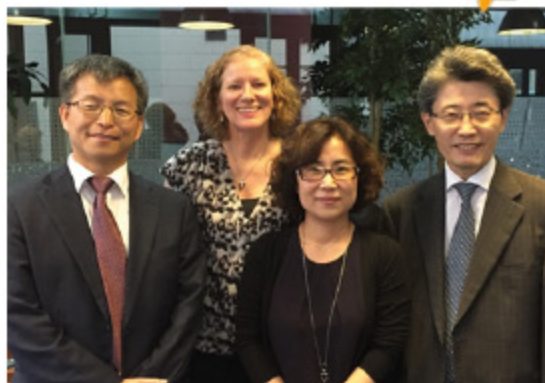
"Thank you for all the support given to my son in order to help him achieve such an outstanding mark in the 2015 HSC Modern Greek. He has come a long way with his confidence in the Greek language and also with his regenerated interest in his heritage.

We have just come back from overseas, of which 3 weeks were spent in Greece over the festive season. Ironically enough, our son's HSC results came through when we were in Kavala (which is a special memory in itself!). During our travels in Greece it was amazing to see that his language skills have come such a long way since a few years ago. We are very grateful for the many benefits he received from studying Modern Greek for his HSC and for the support his teacher gave him. Your input was very much appreciated."

"I wanted to write back and thank you for the wonderful operation you run at Open High School. My daughter, Olivia, is doing Modern Greek. She attends The Australian International School of Hong Kong. Her mother and I are of Greek background and though we ourselves never learnt Greek properly, we are very proud that Olivia is able to learn Greek and can do so from Hong Kong, whilst we live here for work purposes. Thanking you so much. Your teachers are wonderful and it is a wonderful experience that Olivia is undergoing and the learning process is wonderful."

KOREAN

KOREAN FUNDING



Principal Hilary Hughes and Korean teacher Sophie Choi accepted a generous donation to Open High School from the Consul-General of the Republic of Korea, Mr Whie Jin Lee and Education Director Mr Soo Hwan Kang. This donation will contribute to the introduction of the new Year 11 Korean Beginners course being written at Open High School. The course will be shared with other schools across Australia. Open High School thanks the Consul-General of the Republic of Korea for their friendship, close working relationship and funding.

PORTUGUESE



In August 2015, years 11 and 12 from Portuguese Continuers gathered around the table for a barbecue at lunch time with food and drinks brought along by the students and their teacher, Nazaré Castro Santos. It was part of their face to face lesson, just before year 11 did their end of year exam and year 12 started their HSC exams marathon. One of these students would achieve best in state in Portuguese and three of them band 6 in Portuguese as well. A great group of students from Open High School!

RUSSIAN

The Importance of Identity

Many Open High School Russian students were born in or brought up in Australia. Others arrived from the new independent states - from the Ukraine to Central Asia. There are also students who are the descendants of so-called "White" Russians, those who served on the Chinese military railway or escaped after the Russian Revolution and settled in China or the countries of Europe for a few decades. Some of these families still refer to the Russian immigrants of the last four decades as the "newcomers".

These language students have a strong emotional link to the Russian language and through it to the Russian culture and its people. Learning Russian seems to have given them a sense of belonging and an enhanced sense of self.

Many of the newly arrived students work hard to master English when they come to Australia, and as a result, their Russian writing skills often deteriorate. One third of the students have, at some stage, attended Saturday Russian schools in Australia. These students have a good understanding of grammar and have been introduced to the highlights of Russian classical literature and history, but generally have a limited understanding of, or interest in, the broad Russian cultural context.

Given their diverse backgrounds, the question of cultural identity becomes a core issue.

For many students, the Russian language becomes an important part of their search for identity. One student, a Year 12 student from Russia who is of Armenian background, expressed the following opinion:

"I was raised in an Armenian family while living in Russia and I have learnt from both cultures. The two nations have been living together for a long time. I believe it is extremely important not to forget your language and culture. We are living in Australia now and our beautiful languages (Russian and Armenian) are all we have."



POST SCHOOL DESTINATIONS

Open High School has conducted a destination report tracking the whereabouts of our school leavers. The information is used to help the school develop our vocational and educational programs.

Open High School had altogether over 670 entries for the HSC Exam in 2015. All of these were Higher School Certificate language courses, namely, Arabic, Chinese, English as Second Language, French, German, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latin, Modern Greek, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.

About 10 students were accelerated to do the HSC. These students will be in Year 12 at their home school in 2016. Amongst the Year 12 students (non-accelerants) who responded to the survey, around 98% chose to continue with tertiary education, with the vast majority of them having accepted offers from a university. Our students have accepted local, interstate or even overseas university offers. Some regional students chose to study at a university that was close to their residence.

Arts and education related courses gained the top spot (18%) for university offers for our students. Business and law programs attracted 11% of our school leavers. Offers for health and medical-related degrees were strong. Enrolment in international and global studies attracted 10% of the students. Around 25% of students intend to continue to study a language at university level. Some students will study a language as a minor in their degree program while others will learn one or more languages as their major studies and have plans to go to the target language countries. Other courses undertaken by students include games design and apprenticeship. Meanwhile, those choosing to defer their university study to take up a gap year make up 13% of our graduates.

Some 29% of students took advantage of the plethora of double degree opportunities. Degrees in law, commerce, arts and international studies predominated, often as part of a double degree.

Open High School Class of 2015 Post School Destinations

