



Principal's message



Dear School Community

In the last term we have been busy teaching, learning and celebrating. Several of our teachers have been recognised for their years of service, some of our early career teachers have been awarded their accreditation with the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) as Proficient Teachers and many teachers have been decorating our classrooms for every language in the school.

A few significant events have taken place in the last few months. In September our school hosted the biannual Distance Education Leaders meeting. Over 30 of the Executive members of NSW Distance Education schools K-12 met for 3 days to discuss policies and issues concerning our schools. They were treated to a fun Korean lesson in the Korean Hana centre as part of the proceedings.

In October we held a very moving ceremony to dedicate Frances Selby Hall to our treasured staff member who sadly died at school last year. The opening was shared with Petersham Public School who use the hall regularly.

Students are continuing to enjoy the lesson days at our school. Teachers are combining intensive language learning with engaging cultural activities. I've seen salsa and K-pop dancing, a German Treasure Hunt and some amazing cuisine. Meanwhile our hard-working Year 12 students have been completing their HSC examinations. We wish them well in their studies.

Teachers have been attending and presenting at professional learning activities on assessment, Gifted and Talented Education, lesson observation, student welfare and specific language pedagogy. We have also been presenting workshops for university students who will graduate as language teachers. It is important for us to share our expertise and experience.

Teachers have almost finished crafting Year 9 courses to reflect the new NSW Language syllabuses which will be implemented in 2019. Created in Canvas Learning Management System, the courses integrate the latest research in online and blended learning. We will start writing the Year 10 courses next year. This huge project is a major focus of the School Plan.

Three exciting groups have formed since we moved to our new school: the school staff choir has become a regular feature of our school events and we are now rehearsing for a combined concert with staff from other NSW Distance Education schools; we're holding regular zumba lessons with the enthusiastic Sophia Higgins; the NSL Gardening Club meets on Fridays and will work to help spruce up and nurture our beautiful school grounds. The gardens became neglected before we moved in so they need a little TLC. If any parents are willing and able to help in this venture – all support is welcomed, so let me know. We're also the proud guardians of a currawong family in our playground.

Recruitment is now underway for 15 full time teachers and Executive staff for 2019- expect some new faces next year.

A special thank you goes to our School Administration Support Staff who toil to keep the wheels turning. Right now they are working through the hundreds of enrolment applications for 2019. Their leader, Jason Sellick, was honoured for his dedication at a ceremony for all South Metropolitan schools.

I wish you a happy and peaceful summer break and look forward to working with you next year.

Keep up with news about our school by following us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Hilary Hughes
Principal



PRINCIPAL NETWORK AWARDS 2018

SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS TO JASON SELICK!

On 14 November, our NSW School of Languages Business Manager and Senior Administration Manager, Jason Sellick, was honoured at the Metropolitan South Operational Directorate Principals Network Awards 2018. Jason received this award for outstanding achievement in the role of Administrative and Support Staff.

Jason Sellick is a treasured and indispensable member of staff. This year he has played a crucial role in the planning, execution and aftermath of the enormous task of moving 130 staff members to a new school. Jason has shown incredible flexibility and resilience in managing dramatic changes and events and is a lynchpin within the school. He is essential to our senior executive and his support is exceptional.



FRANCES SELBY HALL DEDICATION

On Wednesday 31 October 2018 the school community came together to dedicate the NSW School of Languages (NSL) hall named in honour of Frances Selby. Frances Selby was an esteemed and respected member of the school, who worked tirelessly for many years as an Indonesian teacher, Head Teacher of Enrolment and Deputy Principal. The school community celebrated her life

and achievements with family and friends from her career.

Invited guests included Jo Haylen MP, Member for Summer Hill, Sylvia Corish, Executive Director, School Performance and Metropolitan South Operational Directorate, and members of Frances' family. Crystal Walker from Petersham Public School gave the Acknowledgement of Country and the Petersham Public School Recorder Consort performed. The newly formed NSL staff choir performed 2 songs, Burung Kakaktua and Ramblin' Rose. Cesare Popoli accompanied by Noriko Bavinton performed The Girl from Ipanema.

The ceremony was followed by afternoon tea with guests and NSL staff.



*At the Frances Selby Hall Dedication event, the choir of NSW School of Languages performed the song **Burung Kakaktua** and played **Angklung**, a traditional Indonesian percussion instrument.*

This song was chosen, because the late Frances Selby was an Indonesian teacher at our school. It is a very popular children's song, which all Indonesians know and can sing well. The audience was asked to join the choir and we had a good time singing together.

Angklung is a musical instrument made of bamboo and every person has to play one particular note. So it takes great concentration and cooperation to be able to make a flowing and nice sounding melody. This instrument reflects the way of life in Indonesia - gotong royong - working together to produce a good and fruitful result.

<https://goo.gl/5vfYos>

CALTEX ALL-ROUNDER AWARD



Martin Li Year 12 Japanese Extension

Academic: Martin studied at NSW School of Languages this year and has demonstrated highly developed language skills in the demanding Japanese Extension course, in which he scored a high Band 6 in the

Trial HSC examination.

Martin has also achieved many awards for academic excellence, including many distinctions and high distinctions in competitions, including International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) and Australian Languages Competition (ALC). He particularly enjoys languages and has been studying Japanese since Year 8.

Personal Conduct: Martin is well organised and always completes his work on time. He is a most courteous, modest and mature young person. He is always willing to help others, is respectful and always supports fair play in sports.

Leadership and Service: Martin took part in the Duke of Edinburgh award at his school, where, in his junior years, he often took on leadership roles

during weekend expeditions. This provided him with leadership experience and his involvement in extracurricular activities is recognised by his school's Intermediate Wykhem Award, which he received in Year 10. He also became vice-captain of the school environment team, to improve cleanliness and the overall appearance of his school. He is also a member of his school Interact club which promotes social justice and raises awareness of gender inequality and other serious issues in the world today. Additionally, he participates in the yearly Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal as a volunteer door-knocker in his local area, raising money to help those in need.

Extracurricular: Martin has participated in an extensive array of extracurricular activities, including swimming, basketball and drawing. He participated in competitive grade sport throughout high school, including table tennis, basketball, T-ball, touch football and soccer and received 'best and fairest' awards numerous times.

He also qualified for the Zone tournament for Athletics and Cross Country. He has always participated in school cultural activities, such as the annual Talent Quest, Techfest, short film festival and school dance.

REUBEN F SCARF AWARD



Vicky Shabani Year 11 French Beginners

The Reuben F. Scarf Award is an annual prize awarded to a student who demonstrates commitment, hard work, consistent effort and a desire to improve in their studies with us.

In 2018, Year 12 French Beginners student, Vicky Shabani, is the proud and very worthy recipient of this award.

Vicky has demonstrated an outstanding degree of commitment and dedication to her studies by, amongst other things, completing the Preliminary course well in advance of the course schedule. Once she had completed the Preliminary course, Vicky sought more educational material so that she may extend her learning experience.

Throughout the course, Vicky produced written and spoken work that was fully developed and went beyond expectations. The Vlog (video blog) she produced for her first assessment task involved multiple costume changes, whilst she spoke in detailed French.

Vicky has demonstrated consistent effort and a desire to improve by engaging in weekly telephone lessons and taking responsibility for her learning. She always responded to feedback and endeavoured to incorporate suggestions for improvement into her spoken and written work.

Vicky's dedication to her French studies is exceptional.

Vicky is the eldest child of a large family, refugees from the Congo. She lives with her parents and siblings and likes to write about and speak in great detail in French about each member of her family. She attends a comprehensive state school in the western suburbs of Sydney.

Vicky presents as a very positive, good-humoured student with a 'can-do' attitude, who does not let obstacles get in her way. Vicky aspires to attend university after she completes her HSC and should do well with so many positive attributes.

Congratulations to Vicky Shabani on receiving the Reuben F. Scarf Award in 2018, a student who embodies the spirit of this award.

NATIONAL YOUNG LEADERS DAY

ATTENDED BY 2 NSW SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES STUDENTS: MARIE HERRERA AND DANIEL VAN SLUYS ERLICH

"The National Young Leaders Day conference, held on Friday 2nd November at the Convention Centre, Darling Harbour, was an inspiring and fulfilling experience, which I was grateful to have had. All the speakers spoke with such raw and positive knowledge. The speakers included a representative from the Cotton On Foundation, Holly Ferling, Cate Campbell and Dr Jordan Nguyen. All speakers provided an authentic insight into their success in their chosen fields.

Shawn Purcell, the presenter from the Cotton On Foundation, spoke about their success in achieving quality education for children who live in disadvantaged countries. Their aim is to provide every disadvantaged child with equal opportunities to achieve their aspirations. He explained, "A quality education gives every child the potential to change the world. That's why we exist." Then came cricket star Holly Ferling, who, at the age of 22, has already debuted for the National team as well as playing several seasons in the Australian Women's cricket league. I enjoyed her speech, particularly when she spoke of how she has used her setbacks as a means of opportunity to benefit herself in her sport. She advised to "Think of the things



you can do, rather than what you can't do". Next was Olympic swimmer Cate Campbell, who I personally enjoyed the best, because of her commitment to her sport and her work ethic. One thing that really resonated with me was when she explained what the notion of sacrifice meant. She said that it is "The surrendering of something of value, in the hope of obtaining something better". The last speaker was Dr Jordan Nguyen, who is a technological wizard who has broken through many barriers, which has changed the world we inhabit. His intelligence is mind blowing, especially when he revealed that he has created a mind-controlled wheelchair. His main advice was "Intelligence is the ability to adapt to change". He explained that in order to succeed you need to be willing to adapt and be resilient. The conference was eye-opening, inspirational and above all, worthwhile."

Marie Herrera

LANGUAGE PERFECT



2019 LANGUAGE PERFECT SUBSCRIPTIONS

NSW School of Languages is offering Language Perfect to our 2019 students at a discount price of \$33 per year. This resource is not mandatory, however we encourage our students to consider this option.

Language Perfect is not just an online vocabulary resource. It now provides Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing resources and gives access to past HSC examination papers from Victoria and New Zealand. The site includes a new feature called Languages in Action, which offers literacy and numeracy exercises in the target language. Students can also write a task in the target language and submit it to Language Perfect online and have it marked automatically according to the NSW HSC marking guidelines.

It is available in the following languages:

German, Japanese, Indonesian, Russian, Chinese, Greek, French, Italian, Spanish, Latin and English as a Second Language

Our 2018 students who have subscribed to Language Perfect this year will need to renew their subscription for 2019.

Cost: \$33.00 for a 1 year subscription for 2019

NSW School of Languages invites all our current and new 2019 students to subscribe to Language Perfect for 2019. Here is the payment link:

<https://worldseries.educationperfect.com/payment-ohs.html>

GERMAN

YEAR 12 CONTINUERS LESSON DAY

The German Continuers Year 12 class came together for their first face-to-face lesson this term. They had fun revising grammar and vocabulary using role plays and dress-up activities. An animated version of a classical German ballad 'Zauberlehrling' by Goethe provided a taste of German literature. As we are approaching the Advent season, the students also baked some traditional *Plätzchen* (German Christmas biscuits) and assembled *Lebkuchenhäuser* (Gingerbread houses).



YEAR 12 BEGINNERS LESSON DAY

An enthusiastic group of Year 12 German Beginners students spent a productive and fun-filled day with their teachers and classmates where they participated in a range of grammar and language skills workshops in preparation for their upcoming assessment task. However, they were by no means confined to the classroom or to the use of pen and paper. Students went on a treasure hunt around our school and it was great to see that everyone managed to decipher the clues which tested their knowledge of German. After lunch students practised their speaking skills by playing JENGA with their teachers. The highlight of the day was creating and decorating gingerbread houses. Overall a great day was had by all and we look forward to welcoming our Year 12 students back to our school in Term 1 2019!



RUSSIAN

YEAR 12 FILM EXCURSION

Year 12 Russian students attended an excursion for the Russian Resurrection Film Festival. They enjoyed watching the classical film *The Cranes are Flying*. The film allowed the students to reflect on the importance of empathy and forgiveness, and also the focus on family and friends in Russian culture.



YEAR 9 LESSON DAY

Year 9 Russian students enjoyed revising the topic of professions during this term's lesson day. They had fun showing off their creative skills by making a suitable outfit for their chosen profession. Here is Anton dressed as a chef with his fashion designer Elizabeth.

MODERN GREEK

GREEK TEACHERS' CONFERENCE CAMPUS

NSW School of Languages teachers attended the Greek Language Teachers' Conference in October, which proved to be a very rewarding Professional Learning experience. The day's program was filled with very informative and engaging presentations on current research and teaching methods, as well as a NESA update on Unpacking the New K-10 Languages Syllabuses. One of our teachers, Mrs Athina Papanikolaou, gave a presentation on Online Learning Tools in Greek. Teachers also had the opportunity to browse through a wide range of books and teaching resources.



YEAR 12 BEGINNERS LESSON DAY

Year 12 Modern Greek Beginners enjoyed yet another fantastic day at NSW School of Languages. Students had the opportunity to learn new concepts, revise and enrich their level of Greek, make new friends, enjoy the special camaraderie that exists traditionally in these classes, and most importantly have fun. Some students made presentations on their place of origin in Greece inspiring everyone around to want to visit Greece. Some students painted images of Greece and by looking at their work, we may even have a future El Greco here at NSL.



KOREAN

KOREAN PERFORMANCE CONTEST

In September, Monica Te in the NSL Year 12 HSC Korean Beginners course won a prize in the 2018 Korean Performance Contest, hosted by the Korean Education Centre, Consulate General of the Republic of Korea. A total of 324 contestants competed and Monica danced while singing a famous K-Pop song in Korean in the Korean performance division. She won a \$50 participation voucher. Congratulations to our talented student!



YEAR 12 KOREAN BEGINNERS

Year 12 HSC Korean Beginners students focused on reading and writing skills in preparation for their upcoming assessment task. With their teachers, Ms Sophie Choi, Ms Ga Na Kim, Ms Na Ri Kim, Ms Michelle Bae and Ms Angela Noh, students designed eco-bags with special patterns, a combination of Korean and English letters and interesting phrases in Korean. It was a day of learning and fun and there were many happy faces amongst our Year 12 students.



YEAR 11 KOREAN CONTINUERS

Year 11 Preliminary Korean Continuers students made Korean fusion *kimbap* during the lesson day with their teachers, Mr Yu Chul Kim and Ms Angela Noh. Our students enthusiastically played Korean style games to earn the ingredients for the fusion *kimbap*. Students looked like professional chefs and they enjoyed cooking with their teams.



CHOON PA KOREAN LANGUAGE SCHOLARSHIP INCORPORATED

Two of our students, Jacqueline Fenn (below right) and Ho Ching Cheng (below left), in the Year 11 Korean Beginners course have been awarded scholarships from the University of NSW for the Choonpa Honours Scholarship in Korean Studies. The Choonpa was established on March 1st in 1992 to encourage students to undertake programs in Korean studies. Our teachers, Ms Ga Na Kim, Ms Na Ri Kim and Ms Michelle Bae, attended a night of celebration on 8 October to celebrate our students' success.



SPANISH

SALSA AND TACOS IN SPANISH CLASSES

“This week we had a blast learning Spanish face-to-face, while we also explored some key aspects of Hispanic culture, namely dance and food.”

After working on our preparation for the upcoming Reading and Writing assessment tasks, students tasted *pebre* and *dulce de leche*. Then, Jaime Jesus from Latin Dance Australia, congratulated the Beginners students on their Spanish-learning journey, as he taught us some amazing salsa moves, with a little “salt and pepper”. Speaking in Spanish on many occasions, he said “dancing is fun and it increases confidence”. This was evident as the room was filled with smiles from students, teachers and even the Principal, while trying out the new moves. Earlier in the week, the Spanish Continuers group

met on “Taco Tuesday” to work hard and prepare for their upcoming assessments. The students were very enthusiastic about writing a horror story in groups. They were motivated to discuss and practise strategies to respond to a stimulus text in Spanish. It was great that teachers and students were keen to “taco” about it. They were rewarded a bit later with a delicious assortment of tacos which they had prepared with much dedication.

Thank you to all the Spanish teachers and support staff for your hard work in preparation for the lesson days. And thank you to Jaime and to the students for coming along. It was great to see our students encouraged and excited as they embark on their Year 12 journey. We hope to see you again next time!



JAPANESE

YEAR 9 AND 10 LESSON DAY

In September Year 9 and 10 Japanese students attended a lesson day for the first time at our new school campus in Petersham. Students created role-play commercials about food (Year 9) and travel (Year 10) topics and filming took place in the school's new film studio. This required the students to divide into groups to write an original script in Japanese and produce their own videos. Even Japanese costumes and props were used. In between the filming of each group, students were on task revising for their yearly examination. As a reward for a hard day's work, the students enjoyed an obento lunch in the school gardens and outdoor area.

Strawberry Pocky <https://goo.gl/iiUcKk>
Teleport to Tokyo <https://goo.gl/Pji4BY>



ASIA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

ADRIENNE GRADUATES FROM ASIA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY



"Hello, my name is Adrienne Aiello. I have recently graduated from Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU) in Kyushu, Japan after four years studying International Management with a major in Finance and Accounting. If you are looking for a unique studying experience and are serious about living in Japan or learning Japanese,

APU could be the ideal place for you. I studied Japanese through NSW School of Languages during my final high school years. Ms Alison Cave was my teacher and the person whom I have to thank for introducing me to APU and encouraging me to apply. APU's cultural diversity has taught me much more than Japanese language and culture, but also more than I could have ever imagined about cultures around the world. Understanding life from different students' perspectives has made me truly appreciate how unique and valuable each individual's and each culture's input is. If you believe your opinions and passions should be heard and expanded upon, let APU guide you into a world of opportunities. Thank you Ms Cave and NSW School of Languages for introducing me to the path at Asia Pacific University that held countless remarkable experiences, diverse learning and exciting life opportunities."

STUDENTS OFF TO UNIVERSITY IN JAPAN!

Max Helmreich

"I have been accepted into Asia Pacific University in Beppu, Kyushu, to study International Business Management starting in April 2019!

Last July I visited the university on a summer camp, the ACE camp, where I had an amazing time and made some great friends. The university is very inviting and multicultural, as half of the students come from 144 different countries around the world. The week we were there it was Vietnam week and we celebrated Vietnamese culture.

I intend to continue my Japanese language studies in Beppu, as well as another language, and hopefully gain fluency while living abroad. I'm very happy I studied Japanese for three years at NSW School of Languages, as it has given me a head start into this next chapter of my life."

Kiarra Marchione

"A few months ago I was accepted to study at Asia Pacific University (APU) in Beppu, Kyushu. I became aware of APU through NSW School of Languages when I attended the information session. After hearing what APU had to offer, I just had to apply. The application process was long, but it was worth it as I have been accepted!

I am extremely excited to move to Japan next year and start studying a Bachelor of Social Science. I see this as a great opportunity for a lot of things: I am looking forward to continuing my Japanese studies and being immersed in the country and culture. It is also a good opportunity for me to become more independent and meet new people, as well as following an academic path which will enable me to pursue a career."



CALLIGRAPHY PERFORMANCE

Year 12 Japanese Continuers student Matthew Orlando participated in the Willoughby Spring Festival demonstrating Japanese calligraphy. As a student of Japanese calligraphy for the last 9 months, he helped run the Japanese Calligraphy workshops and also performed the art of calligraphy for the onlookers.

TEACHING ENGLISH IN JAPAN

"I have been teaching English to elementary school students as a part-time job while I am studying at university in Japan. It feels I have come full circle since I started learning Japanese for the first time with NSW School of Languages, and now I am teaching English using the Japanese I learnt."

Noah Jago

(2016 NSL Continuers/Extension student)



LATIN



LATIN MASTERCHEF

Year 9 Latin celebrated the figurative learning steps they have taken during the year by following some concrete culinary steps from genuine ancient Roman recipes. The photo shows Year 9 Latin students, who attended the face to face lesson day in Term 4, savouring Tali's flavoursome vegetarian turnip dish and then delighting in some delectable and authentic sweets made by Aeowyn.



CHINESE



FAREWELL TO YEAR 12 STUDENTS

Year 12 students attended their final face-to-face lesson day at NSW School of Languages and enjoyed a farewell party. Other than revising the language skills learnt throughout the course, students also had more opportunity to get to know each other and have some great fun. They made rice balls and learned a new Chinese song called 'Peng You' (Friends) during lunch time. For many students, it was their very first time making a rice ball from scratch. They shared the food and enjoyed the experience of cooking together. After lunch, they moved to Frances Selby Hall, where some students performed dances and sang the newly learned song 'Peng You' together. Many students stayed after the party to take photos with their teachers and some wonderful memories were created on that day.

ITALIAN



YEAR 11 CONTINUERS LESSONDAY

During our Year 11 Italian Continuers face-to-face lesson this term, students baked a delicious Italian cake, called *Ciambella*, and enjoyed being mini chefs during the preparation of this simple cake. It also gave them an opportunity to learn grammar, such as the use of the imperative voice, and have fun at the same time! It was a very successful session and the *Ciambella* prepared by the students themselves was delicious- *Bravissimi!*



ESL

SCHOOL VISITS

ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher, Jennifer Mifsud, visited students at Katoomba High School recently to spend a productive day with her students studying the poetry of the famous Aboriginal poet, Oodgeroo Noonuccal.

Fellow ESL teacher, Vicki Lynn, spent a day with her students at Corrimal High School in Wollongong. As well as covering a lot of school work, Vicki and her Syrian students also enjoyed a lovely Middle-eastern style lunch of falafel, hummus, tabouleh and more!

Not only do these school visits provide invaluable support to ESL students, but they are also wonderful for reinforcing the teacher-student relationship.

Stage 6 ESL is an ATAR course, a subject used to gain entry into university. In order to be eligible to enrol with us for the Preliminary course, students must have been in Australia for less than 5 years, or had interrupted study in their own country, and live in country or regional NSW. Our 3 ESL teachers teach students from countries including India, Syria,



Vietnam, Thailand, Nepal, China, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Russia.

Our purpose-written Stage 6 ESL course is delivered online, with students submitting weekly work online and teachers marking and returning work to students online. Weekly lessons are delivered via video conference or Adobe Connect and telephone lessons. Modules of work include exercises and essays on film study, poetry and novel study, as well as a listening module.

INDONESIAN

This term, the Indonesian teachers have been busy decorating their classroom with Indonesian paraphernalia, some of which have been donated by the Consulate General of Indonesia. We are hopeful that before the end of the year we will be able to provide students with a classroom that makes them feel like they are in Indonesia. The feedback from the Year 12 students has been positive. They enjoy learning Indonesian surrounded by Indonesian cultural items.



FRENCH

2018 FATFA-NAFT FRENCH CONFERENCE FOR TEACHERS

In September, 3 teachers from the French faculty attended the biennial conference of the Federation of Associations of Teachers of French in Australia (FATFA), in conjunction with the annual NSW Association of French Teachers' (NAFT) conference, held at the University of Sydney. The 2 days were packed with lectures and workshops delivered by international French speakers and local French language teaching



professionals. Some of the themes covered included: the didactics of plurilingualism, multilingual perspectives, international French teacher networks, using technology, new syllabus implementation and teaching and assessment strategies.

An underlying theme of the conference was the challenges

of teaching languages other than English in a country where a monolingual mindset dominates the education sector.

It was a very worthwhile and inspiring experience for the teachers who attended and highly recommended for all French teachers to attend every two years.

Please see the website for further information:

<http://www.fatfa.net/fatfa-conference-2018.html>

Madame Castro-Santos, Monsieur Hashambhoy et Madame Saran

NSL French Student on Exchange

"My exchange so far in France has been so much fun and a life-changing experience. I'm staying in a city just outside Paris, right next to Versailles, with my Mum's aunty and her family for 6 months. They have been so nice and welcoming to me and I will be forever grateful to them.

I arrived at the beginning of August and have already visited many beautiful cities in France. I have been to Paris, Marseille, Amiens and I spent summer in a small town near La Rochelle. Since I am right next to Paris, I have been there many times and explored a lot of the city with my friends, family and by myself and I absolutely love it!

When I first arrived, I was completely overwhelmed by the French language. It was also strange and sometimes sad to be away from my friends and family back home.

My first day of school was scary and I was very worried that no-one would be able to understand me and I wouldn't make any friends. However, after I mentioned that "Je suis australienne" everyone helped me out and I made

plenty of friends!

I am in Seconde (equivalent to Year 10) at a lycée with around 300 students just in my year. I am frequently asked if I prefer French or Australian school, but it's honestly just really hard to choose because they are so different. There is a lot more freedom in France. For example, whenever we have lunch or a free period, we can leave the school. The Cantine is amazing and we get a delicious three course meal every day. All my friends are used to it, so they have no idea how annoying making your lunch in the mornings is in Australia! The school subjects are pretty much the same, but they don't have any creative subjects like Art, Food Tech and so on. My favourite subject here is, without a doubt, English! I help the teacher and my friends and it's so much fun. I think the worst thing about school in France is the long days. My longest day of school

is Mondays, 8am-6pm. All of the teachers have been really helpful and especially my French teacher, who gives me private French lessons.

I have just over two months to go and it's going to be really hard to leave. I have made some amazing friends and enjoyed getting to know my French family.

This has been one of the best experiences of my life because I've been able to explore France, its food and culture. I have also improved immensely in my language skills, become more confident and a lot more independent.

If you have the chance to go on exchange, I would definitely recommend going. It's really hard to say goodbye to everything you know, being on the other side of the world and not being able to speak and understand all the time, but you'll definitely have an amazing and life-changing experience!"

Year 10

Melody Gray

