



Principal's message



Welcome to 2019 at NSW School of Languages. We've already had many of our students visit for their face-to-face lessons and are into full swing with their studies.

Our school is growing

We've had a record number of enrolments this year, currently 2543 students.

This has also meant a large number of new teachers in the school. We're nearly running out of desks already!

Our Non-teaching and SASS team has been working hard to process enrolments and payments and to keep the wheels turning smoothly.

Congratulations to all of our students and teachers for the wonderful 2018 HSC results. Five students came First in State and 30 students in the top 5 of their year. Of the 745 students we had **194 in Band 6, 219 in Band 5**

In Extension: 21 in Band 4, 34 in Band 3

That's 63% in the top 2 bands.

These impressive results are a direct result of their hard work and their teachers' dedication to their students.

New Courses

This year we have launched new Year 9 courses to reflect the new Language syllabuses in NSW. Our writers are now working feverishly to

complete the Year 10 courses. The courses are being developed in Canvas, a new online learning system, and are being shared with other NSW Distance Education schools.

Professional learning- Janelle Byrne and Gina Doukas have been helping our teachers complete or maintain their NSW professional teacher accreditation. We are so lucky to have their expertise in the school.

We had 49 teachers participate in HSC marking last year. This is an extremely valuable addition to the professional learning of our teachers. We also have teachers preparing to present at state-wide and national conferences. The whole staff also participated in CPR and anaphylaxis training in February.

Staff wellbeing

What a stunningly talented and versatile staff we have! We now have a staff choir which has performed on several occasions, including in collaboration with the other Distance Education schools in NSW.

We also have a Gardening Club to help maintain our beautiful gardens. It would be wonderful if parents and students could lend us a hand too. Let me know if you'd like to volunteer.

Wishing you a happy start to the year.

Hilary Hughes
Principal



TOP ACHIEVERS LIST

2018 Top Achievers

Student	Course	Student	Course
*Kim, Seohyun	Chinese Beginners	Yamakawa, Shiori	Korean Continuers
Gao, William	Chinese Beginners	Antonelli, Elefteria	Modern Greek Beginners
Jones, Steven	Chinese Beginners	Calavrias, Alexander	Modern Greek Beginners
Wang, Ruohan (Ricky)	Chinese Continuers	Ioannou, Mariana	Modern Greek Beginners
Achhorney, Lucy	German Continuers	Papagelis, John	Modern Greek Beginners
Albrecht, Tessa-Ann	German Continuers	Zaverdinos, Christina	Modern Greek Beginners
*Low, Jasmine	Indonesian Beginners	*Patapis, Vicki	Modern Greek Continuers
Li, Martin	Japanese Extension	Pereira, Henrique Yuji	Portuguese Continuers
Myatt, Riona	Japanese in Context	Vasco, Dara	Portuguese Continuers
*Yee, Anneliese Yasmine	Korean Beginners	*Kucherenko, Yuliya	Russian Continuers
Hui, Pui Ling- Yoyie	Korean Beginners	Bashkova, Inna	Russian Continuers
Li, Huixian	Korean Beginners	James, Elizaveta (Eliza)	Russian Continuers
McTackett, Zoe Midori	Korean Beginners	Skripnikova, Yelizaveta	Russian Continuers
Lam, Ying Tung	Korean Continuers	Uzlova, Maria	Russian Continuers
Tomson, Natasha Jade	Korean Continuers	Jones, Toby	Spanish Beginners

*First in State

FAREWELL TO THE
HEAD TEACHER
JAPANESE AND EAL/D

Last December the Japanese and EAL/D staff farewelled Alison Cave who has worked at NSW School of Languages for 20 years. The school community wishes Alison Cave all the best in her retirement.



NSW SCHOOL STAFF CHOIR

NSW School of Languages staff choir represented NSL at the Distance Education Choral project. We were filmed with other DE schools at Sydney Distance Education High School. There was a lot of fun and harmony and a compilation video will be released soon.



SCHOOL SPECTACULAR



NSW SCHOOLS SPECTACULAR

Last term NSW School of Languages set up a stall at the Schools Spectacular. About 20 of our teachers volunteered to greet and hand out information about learning a language at our school. It was a fun experience and was a fantastic opportunity to show our fabulous school to the wider community. The famous Maths teacher Eddie Woo even stopped to say "Maths is a language too." A few of our current students and ex-students visited the stall to say hello.



INDONESIAN

FIRST IN STATE FOR INDONESIAN BEGINNERS

Jasmine Low came First in State for Indonesian Beginners in the 2018 HSC. The news came as a delightful surprise for Jasmine and her mother. We had an awards ceremony at NSW School of Languages. Jasmine could not attend because she was travelling overseas. Luckily, her home school has their awards ceremony this term and Jasmine's teacher, Ms Christin Anggrahini will attend.

As part of the continuing support from the Australian Indonesian Association for the study of Indonesian language, Jasmine also received a monetary prize for coming First in State.

Here are the proud student and teacher.



CHINESE



CELEBRATING CHINESE NEW YEAR

This year, Chinese New Year was celebrated on 5 February. When students came in for their face-to-face day, they celebrated this most important cultural event together with their Chinese teachers.

There were Chinese paper cutting and lantern making lessons for Year 9 and 10 students. They made lucky decorations that are used typically to decorate students' homes in China during Chinese New Year.

Year 11 students made and ate dumplings which symbolise wealth and prosperity. They also received red envelopes from the teachers, known as 'Hongbao' in Mandarin. This is another New Year tradition where money is given inside these red envelopes from parents to children. Although there was no money involved, students were happy to receive their *Hongbao* containing 'lucky lollies' symbolising their teachers' wishes for a good start to the New Year and success in this important academic year.

GERMAN

FACE-TO-FACE LESSON DAYS

The very first Term 1 Lesson Days for Years 9, 11 and 12 have been very successful! It was fantastic to see so many students on these days enjoying themselves, meeting their teachers and new classmates

as well as having fun with the lesson activities. The highlight was the preparing and baking of traditional *Apfelstrudel*. As you can see, the finished product not only looks *lecker* (delicious) but also tasted *lecker*, especially with a dollop of *Schlagsahne* (cream) on the side. It was a big thumbs up from all of our students!



MODERN GREEK

HSC RESULT FOR MODERN GREEK



Vicky Patapis topped the state in the HSC Modern Greek Continuers course, while Agapi Miyakis received 8th place.

In Modern Greek Beginners, our students' results were significantly above state average ranking from the 2nd to 9th place.

In detail:

HSC Modern Greek - Beginners

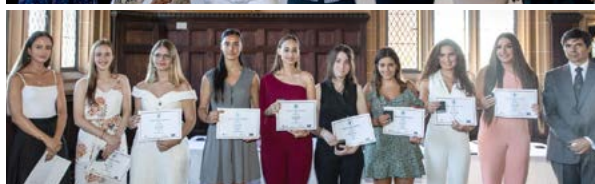
- 2nd Christina Zaverdinos
- 3rd Elefteria Antonelli
- 4th Alexander Calavrias
- 5th John Papagelis
- 5th Mariana Ioannou

- 7th Elisabeth Weirum
- 8th Nicoletta Tromboukis
- 9th Harold Borbilas

These are significant achievements and a credit to our students, of whom we are very proud.

Our students also received awards from the Australian Hellenic Educators' Association (AHEA) and the Greek Orthodox Community of NSW (GOC).

In February 2019, the AHEA presented awards in recognition of achievement in Modern Greek HSC Beginners, Continuers and Extension courses, in its 24th anniversary year. This was held under the auspices of the Consul-General of Greece in Sydney, Mr Christos Karras, at NSW Parliament House.



On 17 February, the GOC of NSW held its annual Dionysios Solomos Awards at the University of Sydney, as part of the 37th Greek Festival of Sydney 2019. The awards are named after one of Greece's most acclaimed poets, Dionysios Solomos. His "Hymn to Freedom" was adopted as the Greek National Anthem after Greek independence in 1821. Συγχαρητήρια (congratulations) to the class of 2018!

LESSON DAYS FOR MODERN GREEK STUDENTS

Year 12 Extension students had a very successful lesson day and also prepared for their first HSC Assessment. There was enthusiastic class discussion about the film set for study and students appeared well versed on the topics we have covered this term. At lunch time, students enjoyed some traditional Cretan snacks, an appropriate cultural link to the film which is set in Crete. Students commented on how much they enjoyed the day.

Ms Sia Memtsas & Ms I. Hionis



Lesson Days have started on a high at NSL for Modern Greek students! Our first Lesson Day was with Year 9 students, eager to participate in the orientation session with Q &As relating to the course. We covered some grammatical structures in a fun way using QUIZLET and students learned to introduce themselves in Greek. We were very lucky to welcome our Greek Education Support Teacher, Ms Amalia Synodinou from the Greek Consulate, who made a valuable contribution to the lesson with her expertise.
Mr Bill Gonopoulos

KOREAN

YEAR 12 KOREAN BEGINNERS

We had a great year! Congratulations to our students in the 2018 Year 12 Korean Beginners course. All students achieved outstanding results in their Korean HSC exam, performing beyond our expectations. We teachers are very proud of our students. Four students were placed in the top 5 in the state for the HSC. We hope you all remember doing Korean was FUN. Now it's time to celebrate!



YEAR 12 KOREAN CONTINUERS

Welcome back everyone! In February Year 12 Korean Continuers students jumped back into another exciting term. Students began with focusing on listening and speaking skills with their teachers in preparation for the upcoming assessment task. Let's all try our best this term!



EducationPerfect

NSW School of Languages would like introduce you to a wonderful language learning resource. It is being offered to our students (except for background language students studying "in Context" and "in Literature" courses). Language Perfect is offered at a discount price- \$30/year (+\$3.00 for Paypal processing). The resource is not mandatory; however we encourage your child to consider this option.

NSW School of Languages invites all our current and new 2019 students to subscribe to the 2019 Language Perfect. Here is the new payment link:
<http://worldseries.educationperfect.com/payment-ohs.html>

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

NSW School of Languages students logged into Language Perfect over the summer holidays and answered 50,000 questions. In the first four weeks of Term 1 our students have answered a further 54,000 questions. Our students love this resource!

Here is what some of them have to say about Language perfect:

Marie Herrera (learning Spanish): "Really helpful!!!"

Olivia Twyford (learning Spanish): "Thank you very much for the opportunity to use Education Perfect. It has so far helped me significantly with my Spanish studies!"



Mia Peterson (learning Japanese): "I am really enjoying this and it makes it easy to learn."

Paige Hollings (learning French): "Great way to learn as it is simple and easy to understand!"

Clarence Lin Thein (learning Japanese): "Education Perfect is a good learning platform! Thank you!"

ITALIAN

YEAR 11 ITALIAN BEGINNERS

In February, 57 Year 11 Italian Beginner students attended their first Face-to-Face lesson at NSW School of Languages to meet their teachers and their classmates.

After getting to know each other, they practised some Italian speaking skills and they were then able to feast on some delicious sweets at morning tea – *cannoli* and *sfogliatelle* with ricotta, custard and Nutella fillings.

Students then watched “*La torre di Babele*”, a video on conjugating regular verbs. After some language and speaking games students were able to introduce and describe themselves and their classmates.

A rewarding first Face-to-Face lesson with some very enthusiastic and hard-working students!

YEAR 12 ITALIAN CONTINUERS

It was wonderful seeing our Year 12 students enjoying the day at NSW School of Languages. All of the students had a chance to revise the more challenging verb forms such *congiuntivo*, *condizionale* and *imperfetto* by joining a grammar workshop of their choice. The next session focused on developing listening and reading skills and equipping students with important strategies needed for approaching these tasks. After lunch each student had the opportunity to speak in Italian about their “Personal World” and to connect with each other.

We were very impressed with the enthusiasm and participation of our students on the day.

11 ITALIAN CONTINUERS

Year 11 Italian Continuer students attended their first Face-to-Face lesson at NSW School of Languages to meet their teachers and each other.

Students were then placed in small groups to participate in grammar workshops and then focussed on reading and writing activities. At lunch they were treated to some *Bruschetta al Pomodoro*.

In the afternoon session, students participated in a “Speed Dating” activity to practise their speaking skills.



LATIN

Years 9, 10 and 11 Latin have been doing the Classical Literacy Examination, an international test that has among some of its aims, to encourage students to make links between Latin and our language, English, to delve more deeply into myths both Roman and Greek, and to expand their knowledge of important events and figures in Roman history.

The guiding idea of the CLE is to include everything that educated people should know about the classical world, even if they have unfortunately never had a Latin class. Students study an official list of classical



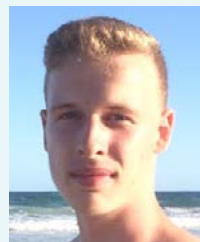
terms, phrases, and identifications. The test then requires students themselves to provide the term, phrase, or identification from that list that correctly answers a given question. The CLE is a great way for students to test their knowledge of the classical world.

<http://www.classicalexams.org/classical-literacy-exam>

RUSSIAN

YEAR 9 FACE-TO FACE LESSON DAY

The first Lesson Day for Year 9 Russian students took place in February. Many of our students are very new to the Russian language and Russian culture. The students enjoyed playing card games to develop their understanding of the newly acquired Cyrillic alphabet as well as having fun writing cursive Russian on the interactive board. We look forward to seeing all of our students again next Lesson Day and seeing how their language has developed during the term.



A GREAT ACHIEVEMENT FOR ONE OF OUR RUSSIAN STUDENTS!

Alexander Alkhimov, who is in his final year of studying Russian with us and who also works as an assistant teacher at his Saturday Community School, was recently nominated to represent the Russian community as a Russian Language Cultural Ambassador for the Department of Education. The members of this diverse cultural ambassadors' team are expected to have high language skills, experience working with and contributing to a community's cultural and educational environment and most importantly, a love of language and culture. With the knowledge he has gained from not only his Saturday Community School experience but also his studies at our school, Alexander will make an outstanding cultural ambassador. We wish him all the very best in this prestigious role!

SPANISH

THE SPANISH FACULTY HAVE EMBARKED ON A NEW YEAR WITH JOY AND POSITIVE ENERGY FOR 2019

Across the school and for many languages including Spanish, this is a very exciting year. For the first time, we are launching a brand new Year 9 course on a new e-learning platform, Canvas. Faculty course writers began this project last year and have developed a systematic and engaging online course to start our students' journey in learning the Spanish language. The course follows the story of two fictional Spanish students and their friends as they develop their Spanish competency and learn about the culture of several Spanish-speaking countries including Spain, Chile, Mexico and Cuba. Through their conversations, videos, emails, online chats and text messages, students are introduced to key language structures and vocabulary as well as cultural nuances and events that are all a part of beginning language study. Using Canvas, the Spanish faculty hopes that students from across the state will be able to collaborate more through regular discussion forums where they can express an opinion on a topic or sometimes post an audio or video response in Spanish. As always, our teachers are just a phone call away to support students in their learning.

The Spanish faculty is enjoying welcoming new



students and continuing students into a new academic year. Equally, this year there are three newly appointed permanent Spanish teachers in the faculty: Esther Arlidge-Lyon, Margarita Diaz and Stella Papanakos. Preparations are in train for dynamic face-to-face days. As well as deepening students' understanding of the core subject matter of their course, the Spanish language, students will be preparing food from Spanish-speaking countries, exploring the music, playing language games in groups and even possibly learning some Salsa moves. Participation from as many students in the course as possible will ensure a wonderful experience on these days. We wish all our students the best in their Spanish studies this year.



FRENCH

NOTRE JOLIE MAISON

The French faculty was so delighted to be given our own room to decorate in our lovely new school, that we spared no effort. We scoured antique shops and attics, and gathered together a fabulous collection of French things to make our French Room a delightful learning space.

When you approach the room, you are greeted by a bicycle with baguettes under a French flag, and a café setting with French curtains.

Once inside, you can't help being delighted by all the lovely things around the room, as you can see in the pictures. The students love having their Lesson Days in the room, and exploring all our little treasures.

Amitiés
Madame Bennett



JAPANESE



MARTIN LI YEAR 12

“Studying at the NSW School of Languages during my HSC year has been very rewarding for me. Though I transferred here in the middle of term 1, with the support of my teachers, I was able to immediately recognise what content I had missed and thus was able to continue my study of Japanese Extension in a smooth manner. I felt that

as a part of a cohort that was not able to meet often, the lesson days prepared were important both as a study enhancer and as an opportunity to connect and share knowledge with my fellow students. They were also a great chance to meet and get to know the teachers whose voices were only heard through phone calls. I personally enjoyed studying at NSL, and its environment and people were no doubt a great part of my success in the Japanese Extension HSC course. I will definitely be back to visit!

As someone who studies a foreign language, I have always believed that it is incredibly important to experience the culture of the language studied in person. That belief was validated following my trip to Japan post-HSC. It was amazing to see all the little things I learnt about Japan with my own eyes, from the signs I saw at the airport to the subway and shinkansen tickets, the customs of the country. They made me realise what studying a language meant. The means to be able to completely connect with

and understand a country. Nothing will compare to holding a conversation with a Japanese person. You will realise that you can really be a part of another society. Those were my thoughts as I happily conversed with my driver on the way back from Karuizawa Ski Resort about the optimal time to go to ski (It’s in January!). I encourage anyone studying Japanese to personally visit the place as it is an invaluable experience and will transform you into an ever more confident speaker.”

Martin Li (Japanese extension 2018)
I’m studying the dual degree of arts and business/law at UNSW.



ImmerseMe is a powerful, interactive, language learning tool used by 100s of schools around the world. ImmerseMe combines automated speech recognition with VR technologies (360 video), to ‘immerse’ students in authentic cultural experiences

across 9 languages (French, Chinese, German, Japanese, Spanish, Greek, Indonesian, Italian and English). ImmerseMe is differentiated by level (Beginner, Intermediate, Advanced), comprehensive (covers the full school curriculum) and scaffolded to encourage full production of



the target language from learners.

Students can register for ImmerseMe and access a 25% discount to \$30 per student by using the promo code “NSW” when they reach checkout at: <https://immerseme.co/store/student>

HUON KIRKMAN YEAR 12

“I studied Japanese Continuers at NSL from year 10, graduating at the end of 2018. Learning a foreign language was difficult, as I had no background in it and few people around me to practise speaking with. The study was repetitive and frequent, and I constantly doubted my ability, but with my encouraging teacher from NSL, I managed to come out of high school with more ability and knowledge of the language than I thought possible. Japanese became something not only interesting to learn as a language, but the country’s landscapes and culture grew on me especially.

I recently returned from a trip to Japan with family, travelling to locations such as Osaka, Hiroshima, Kanazawa, and Zao Onsen. In various situations I would be interacting with locals and they would often attempt some small



phrases of English, but I would then surprise them when I responded in Japanese. Their faces would light up and they would enthusiastically go on to make friendly conversation. I have had plenty of fun and enjoyable moments with people in Japan, and really enjoyed using the language more frequently. This year I begin life at university. I have decided to study a Bachelor of Language and Linguistics in Japanese! I look forward to continue improving my ability in Japanese and possibly applying it in the future to a career path.”



From the left Huon, Boyd (my brother) and, Bridgette (my sister).

KRIS DEANG YEAR 12



Beginners student in 2018, Kris was accepted into Asia Pacific University. He starts in April 2019. Kris wrote about his studies at NSW

School of Languages:

“Studying at the NSL was both an enjoyable and beneficial experience that thoroughly prepared me for my endeavours in Japan. I have been fortunate enough to have been accepted into APU, pursuing a Bachelor degree in International Relations. In the future, I hope to use this education in securing a job with the United Nations.”

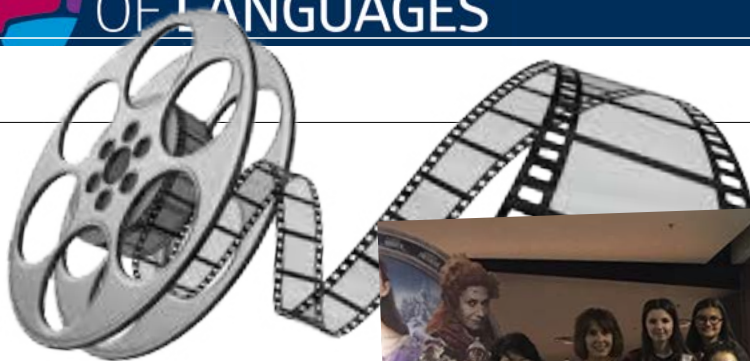
「NSLで学んだこと」

RIONA MYATT YEAR 12

“Having taken Japanese in Context as one of my HSC courses, I’m glad that I’ve done that, as it has not only helped me to maintain my bilingual skills, but it allowed me to thoroughly understand the culture and tradition of Japan – the wonderful nation of my ancestry. NSL has also provided me the skills to express my own beliefs and discuss various opinions bilingually, with the understanding of different cultural perspectives between Australia and my background country, Japan, which encourages me to become a global citizen. The skills I have learnt in NSL will benefit me in contributing towards this country’s cultural diversity and indeed a borderless world.”

利桜奈





JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL EXCURSION

NSL Japanese students were among the many hundreds of students from schools across Sydney and beyond who attended the Japanese film festival to see *My Love Story*, a romantic comedy dealing with teenage love. Students participated in the pre-movie Japanese trivia quiz, with NSL students winning various prizes. NSL also won the teachers' quiz, receiving a double pass to the film festival. Students' names were drawn out of a hat and the double pass was presented

to Kelly Harris (currently Year 12 Continuers). Japanese lunch at a nearby Japanese restaurant and a shopping trip to Daiso afterwards allowed students to use their Japanese in real situations.

