

TERM 2, 2021

# NEWSLETTER

*The latest news and updates from NSW School of Languages*



NSW SCHOOL  
OF LANGUAGES  
*Learn locally. Communicate globally.*

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Principal - Hilary Hughes



## Principal's Message

Dear School Community,

In the last few months, as you'll see in this newsletter, NSW School of Languages has been a hive of activity. We've had visits from excited students - our own as well as students from Petersham Public School for NAPLAN testing and Homebush Boys' High School and Mulwaree High School for immersion programs.

Year 11 students have taken enthusiastically to the new Beginners courses and our teacher/writers are putting the finishing touches on the Year 12 courses. We've also had great feedback from parents and students studying with us. Please let me know if you have anything you would like to discuss about your student's learning at the school.

We are very proud that Deputy Principal Teresa Naso has been selected as a representative on the NSW Curriculum Reform Taskforce, advising and shaping the syllabuses for the coming years. Several of our teachers have also been nominated to work on the Language syllabuses.

Two of our intrepid Italian teachers, Lena Foti and Rosina Tortorella travelled to Hay War Memorial High School to visit their Stage 4 Italian classes who have been learning online with us. See their report in this bulletin.

The [2020 School Report and 2021 - 2024 School Improvement Plan](#) are now available for the school community to read. We are very proud of our achievements and of our plans to continue the school's improvement cycle in the coming years. The outstanding achievement and wellbeing of our students is at the core of all our decision making.

Staff wellbeing has also been an important focus for the school. New electric standing desks have been installed for all teachers as a Health and Safety solution for teachers spending so many hours of the day at their desk. Also noise cancelling headphones were distributed to teachers so that students and teachers will be able to hear each other better during speaking lessons.

Teachers and administration staff have participated in activities such as cooking, knitting, yoga, gardening, crafting, walking and even giving blood (go Team NSL!). Our school swimming club was established and has raised over \$1800 for ReachOut.

The Department has issued a temporary ban on students, staff and visitors carrying any form of knife to government schools. This temporary ban is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of students and staff at all of our school sites. Please read [Student health and safety](#) for further information.

Bookings are now open for [Parents and carers interviews](#) with teachers. Please register by 8 June. Our teachers are really keen for you to connect with us.

Keep warm and well,



Walking group in Petersham Park on Wellbeing Wednesday

## MLTA NSW Linguafest 2021 Short Film Competition

Do you want to get creative with the language you are studying? If you are in Years 7-10, you are encouraged to enter the 2021 Linguafest short film competition.

Create your film with classmates or independently and have some fun! Let your NSL teacher know if you are entering, so they can submit your entry on your behalf. You can find more information about the competition on the [MLTA NSW website](https://mltansw.asn.au).

If you have any questions, you are encouraged to contact your teacher or the Linguafest Convenor at [linguafest@mltansw.asn.au](mailto:linguafest@mltansw.asn.au)

Good luck!



*Megha, Elise and Alessio*

## Young Leaders Day Conference

On 24 March, I had the honour of accompanying 3 of our Year 12 students, Megha, Alessio and Elise, to the National Young Leadership day at the Conference Centre at Darling Harbour.

It was a spectacular day and the whole experience was enjoyed by all. Students from schools all over NSW met and were entertained and inspired by a variety of guests who were purposely chosen to present their life stories inclusive of challenges and successes.

As Megha explains: "The conference was surprisingly... really fun! There were so many inspiring people with different talents and passions, and it was fascinating to hear stories of their lives from plane disasters to interviewing Justin Bieber.

A truly interesting day!

**Gianna Pagni**  
Head Teacher - Teaching and Learning



## Harmony Day

The NSW School of Languages celebrated Harmony Day on Wednesday 17 March. The staff choir performed the song "I am Australian."

You can watch the video clip and view photos by clicking [here](#). Enjoy!

*Photos and video by Sophie Choi*



## NSL Staff Photo 2020

*Can you spot your teacher?*



## Young Women's Leadership Seminar



*Ava, Prof. Rae Cooper and Melissa*

"On International Women's Day, 8 March, we were privileged to attend the Young Women's Leadership Seminar at State Parliament House as representatives of NSL.

The Keynote speaker at the seminar was Rae Cooper (Professor of Gender, Work and Employment Relationships at Sydney University). She shared her experiences of the challenges she faced finding the right career path and also of being a woman in leadership.

We also heard from three female MPs from the Liberal, Labour and Green's party. We were able to ask them questions, which I found particularly interesting - especially as a legal studies student - to see how what they personally believe is reflected in what their party stands for. Overall, the seminar had a focus on feminism was encouraging and empowering women to get into positions of leadership, especially in politics in order to bridge the gender gap.

They also discussed the importance of building other women up and how we need to work together with men to tackle this very current issue. This was a unique and inspiring opportunity, I also thank my teacher, Mrs. Rodriguez, for accompanying us."

### **Melissa**

"On International Women's Day, 8 March, we were privileged to attend the Young Women's Leadership Seminar at State Parliament House as representatives of NSL.

The day opened with a presentation from Rae Cooper, a professor of Gender, Work and Employment Relations at Sydney University, who talked of her own personal experiences about being a woman in the workforce and the challenges she has faced. Professor Cooper also spoke on the broader subject of women in the workforce and some statistics surrounding this topic. She shared the challenges she faced finding the right career path and also of being a woman in leadership.

We also heard from three female MPs from the Liberal, Labour and Green's party. We were able to ask them questions, which I found particularly interesting - especially as a legal studies student - to see how their personal beliefs are reflected in what their party stands for.

Overall, the seminar, with a focus on feminism, was encouraging and empowering women to get into positions of leadership, especially in politics in order to bridge the gender gap. They also discussed the importance of building other women up and how we need to work together with men to tackle this very current issue. This was a unique and inspiring opportunity, I also thank my teacher, Mrs. Rodriguez, for accompanying us."

### **Ava Ferrari**





## Education Perfect in Term 1

Our students have answered over 100,000 questions in Education Perfect in Term 1. Congratulations - this is a great accomplishment.

### Education Perfect Languages Competition 2021

Held 15th March – 23rd March

- 846th equal overall in Australia out of 1,231 schools.
- 875th overall in French out of 1,383 schools.
- 155th equal overall in Russian out of 790 schools.
- 510th overall in German out of 1,082 schools.
- 160th equal overall in Modern Greek out of 648 schools.

#### Student comments:

- J. Booth (learning Italian) “fun and interactive.”
- N. Clarke (learning Italian) “It was amazing but hard.”

*Photo: One of our students recently attended a snowboarding competition in Switzerland. Here he is doing Education Perfect in Switzerland.*



## RUSSIAN РУССКИЙ

### Year 10 Russian Lesson Day

Although it is only a small class, the Year 10 Russian students and Mrs. Anokhina had an enjoyable Lesson Day. The day provided a good opportunity to practise their speaking and writing skills, and to interact with each other face-to-face. They had a lot of fun doing a variety of collaborative language tasks.



Mrs. Anokhina and Year 10 Russian class



## Year 8 Italian Enrichment Day at Hay War Memorial High School

*Buongiorno a tutti!* Students in Year 8 at Hay War Memorial High School enjoyed a full day of lessons in Italian with their teachers, Professoressa Foti and Professoressa Tortorella, visiting from Sydney.

Students gathered in the library and were given the opportunity to learn more about Italian culture through a variety of activities. They increased their Italian vocabulary and numeracy, learning how to describe each other as well as playing some Italian games of *Tombola* (Bingo) and *Indovina chi e'* (Guess who?).

A highlight for most students was learning to cook and then enjoying their meal of *spaghetti con le polpette* (spaghetti and meatballs) for lunch.

The Year 8 Italian students enjoyed meeting their teachers, enthusiastically engaged in the activities and were appreciative of the time given by Signora Foti and Signora Tortorella.

Year 8 Purple and Year 8 Gold are continuing with their online Zoom lessons and have all shown improvement in their use of the Italian language since the Enrichment Day.

Thank you to the town of Hay for welcoming us and a special thanks to Professore Nelson for all his assistance on the day and during each online lesson.

Looking forward to the next time.

*Alla prossima!*

*Photos: Hay War Memorial Year 8 Italian class and students learning to cook spaghetti and meatballs*



**INDONESIAN***Bahasa Indonesia*

Year 10 Indonesian students and example batik patterns

## Year 10 Indonesian Lesson Day

On 6 May, Year 10 Indonesian had a lesson day at NSL. One of the sessions was an introduction to the Indonesian craft and traditional culture of batik. We discussed the history of batik and its origins and watched a short video about the art and how it is still a major export product for Indonesian artists.

As the setting up of traditional batik is messy with hot wax and dyes, we instead used cotton calico pencil cases and waterproof wax and highlighters with the aim of producing the patterns commonly displayed in Indonesian batik products. Students were shown a cluster of patterns to either copy or create their own pattern. The class produced some interesting results and everyone enjoyed the craft time.

## Years 11 and 12 Portuguese Lesson Day

In this lesson we started off with some assessment information for the Year 11 students and some exam revision for Year 12. Following this we had a short break to socialise and then went back into class to do some reading exam preparation.

Once we finished this we talked through the answers and then went into a game of Kahoot! to test the language skills we have been learning. It was a good lesson where we had the opportunity to meet lots of new students and practise our Portuguese.

*Below: Years 11 and 12 Portuguese class*

**PORTUGUESE***Português*



*Students in traditional Greek costume*

## Year 9 Modern Greek Lesson Day

Our face-to-face lesson this term brought together 10 of our 11 students, one of them travelling from Newcastle. We started the lesson with a trouble-shooting session, looking at our course on Canvas and coming to grips with some of the issues that the students were experiencing. It is no mean feat that our students study a language online. They must be disciplined to ring their teacher once a week, upload written submissions, access teacher-feedback, complete assessments and work independently to meet the course schedule. So, when we have a face-to-face lesson, the students look forward to seeing their peers, connecting with their teacher and leaving with a sense of accomplishment.

### Lessons with a Cultural Flavour

Lesson days for Modern Greek often include a fun cultural activity to end the lesson. This year we paid tribute to the custom of creating *martakia* (red and white wrist bracelets) to welcome the sun after a long winter. We practised counting and learnt new vocabulary by making *komboloi* (worry beads) and we celebrated the 200th anniversary of Greek Independence with reference to history, song and Greek national costumes.

#### - Modern Greek staff



*Students holding their komboloi*



*Students enjoying gyros for lunch at their lesson day*



*Students wearing the martakia they made in class*

**CHINESE**  
中文



*Students practising Chinese calligraphy*



*Traditional Chinese calligraphy tools*

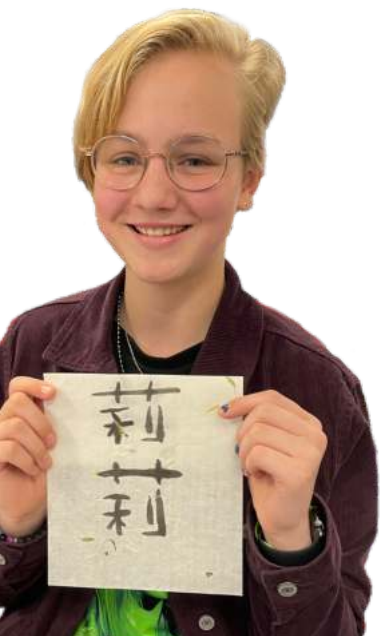


## Years 9, 10 and 11 Chinese Lesson Day

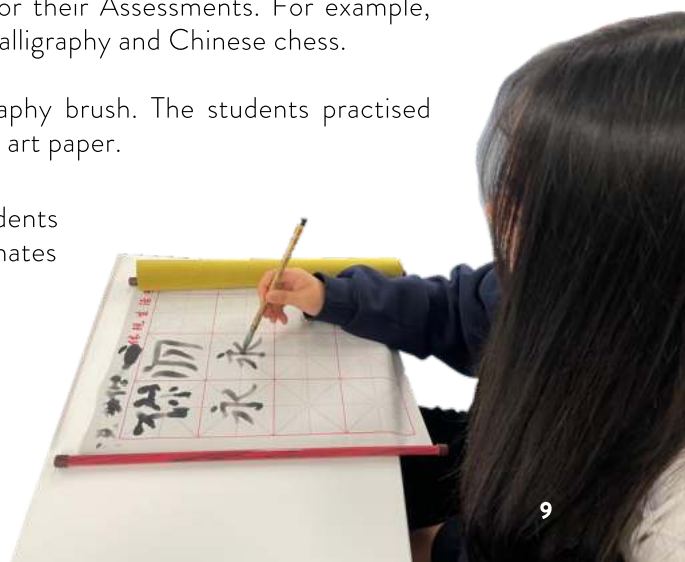
Years 9, 10 and 11 students attended their Term 2 lesson day. The language and cultural activities prepared the students for their Assessments. For example, the students were introduced to Chinese calligraphy and Chinese chess.

It is an art to learn how to use a calligraphy brush. The students practised writing their Chinese name on the Chinese art paper.

Through these hands-on activities the students formed a stronger bond with their classmates by working together in groups.



*Examples of our students' Chinese calligraphy*





Year 11 French Continuers students and Ms. Grogard playing Barbichette

## Year 11 French Continuers Lesson Day: Le Jeu De La Barbichette (The Goatee Beard Game)

"In the Term 2 Lesson Day, we played the 'Barbichette' game, a classic French game of the 17th century which I have played a couple of times before, but in a completely different context. Normally, the game is very simple. Two players hold each other by the goatee and sing the famous song made specifically for this game: "I hold you, you hold me by the goatee, and the first to laugh will get a little smack". The two players get into a staring contest. The first to laugh gets a smack as promised.

However today, for COVID safety reasons, and to stay in the field of learning, we had to hold on to the end of a string and ask each other a series of four to five questions. After these questions were asked by one player and answered by the other, the staring contest started. The first person to laugh would lose the opportunity to ask the other player a question instead of being smacked. It was fun and it helped us a lot in developing our abilities to answer questions about ourselves in a language that might for some of us be a native language or for the others a second language, and all that while we were having fun. So, a big thank you to our teachers who made this day incredible."

**Aimee Nyake**

French  
translation

*"Aujourd'hui comme dernière activité nous avons fait le jeu de la barbichette, un jeu classique français du 17ème, un jeu que j'ai déjà eu à jouer auparavant mais dans un contexte complètement différent. Dans les normes, le concept du jeu de la barbichette est simple, deux joueurs se tiennent l'un et l'autre par la barbichette et chantent la fameuse chanson indiquée particulièrement pour ce jeu: "je te tiens, tu me tiens par la barbichette, le premier qui rira aura une tapette". Les deux joueurs se lance dans un concours de regard, le premier à rire reçoit donc une tapette.*

*Mais aujourd'hui, pour des raisons de distanciations sociales et pour rester dans le cadre de l'apprentissage, nous devons tenir la fin d'une ficelle et se poser une série de quatre à cinq questions, après avoir posé et répondu aux questions, le concours de regards pouvait commencer et le premier à rire au lieu de recevoir une tapette perdait l'opportunité de poser lui aussi des questions à son partenaire. C'était très amusant et ça nous a beaucoup aidé les uns et autres à développer nos capacités à répondre aux questions sur nous tout en s'amusant avec des amis. Donc un grand merci à nos professeurs qui ont fait de cette journée une journée incroyable."*

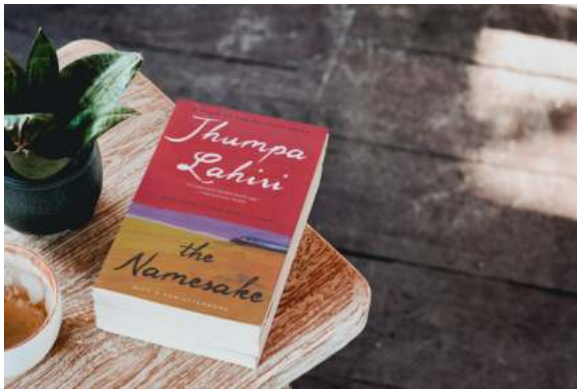
## Year 11

Online Zoom lessons have continued this term and Year 11 EAL/D students have adapted to distance education. Students are confident using Zoom, Google Docs and Moodle in their two lessons each week. Year 11 students are studying the powerful film 'Rabbit-Proof Fence' directed by Phillip Noyce this term. They have gained knowledge of the Stolen Generations and film techniques so they can analyse the film.

Right: 'Rabbit-Proof Fence', 2002, film poster



EAL/D



## Year 12

Year 12 EAL/D students are studying the prose fiction novel 'The Namesake' composed by Jhumpa Lahiri. Students can relate to the themes of alienation, cultural clash, name and identity. Below are two poems written by Year 12 students after discussing childhood memories in Janet Merewether's documentary 'Reindeer in my Saami Heart.'

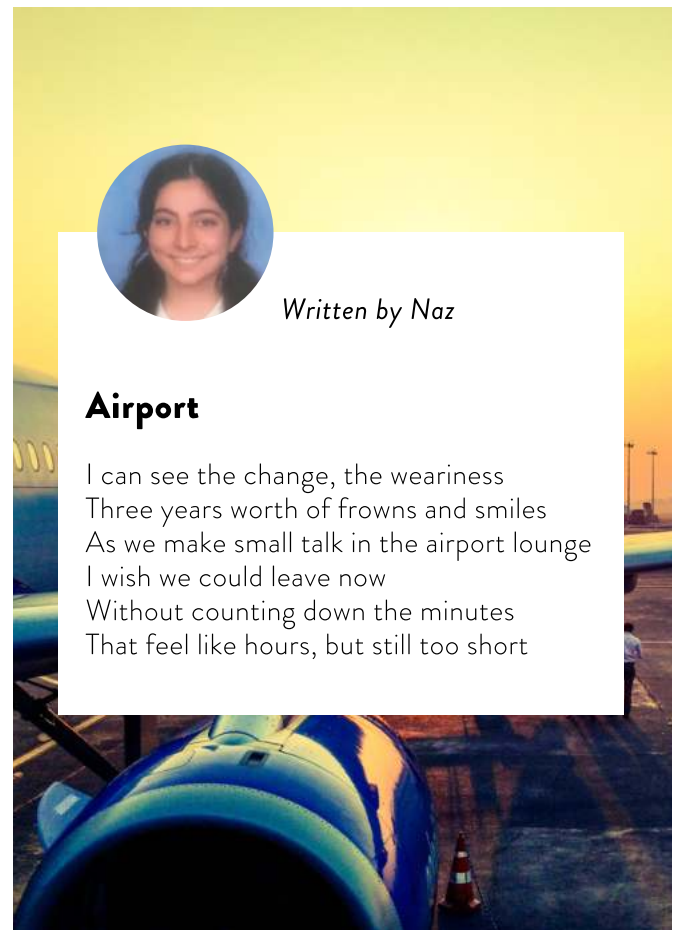
Left: Jhumpa Lahiri, 2003, 'The Namesake', Houghton Mifflin, USA



Written by Magnifique

### At The Corn Farm

At the corn farm  
Corn falling at my head  
Me on mother's back  
Tall green forest of leaves  
Hiding us all three  
My mum, dad and me at the corn farm



Written by Naz

### Airport

I can see the change, the weariness  
Three years worth of frowns and smiles  
As we make small talk in the airport lounge  
I wish we could leave now  
Without counting down the minutes  
That feel like hours, but still too short

## GERMAN *Deutsch*



*Students enjoying the tea ceremony and a layout of traditional kluntjes, teaspoons*

### East Frisian Tea Ceremony - Year 10 students enjoy the custom

In Northern Germany, in East Frisia, tea is drunk two to four times a day. The East Frisia mix is usually Assam and Ceylon tea leaves mixed in a two to three or one to three ratio.

In each glass or tea cup, *kluntjes* are placed and the hot tea is poured through a small strainer over the sugar *kluntjes*, filling to half. Now a bit of cream is added. The tea is drunk without stirring and the drinker comes in contact first with the bitter tea, then the milky taste towards the middle and a bit of sweetness at the end.

As a guest, it is considered impolite to drink fewer than three cups of tea at a sitting. Placing your cup upside down or the saucer or your spoon in the cup signals that you are finished and want no more tea.

### German Immersion Day for students from Mulwaree High School Friday 21 May

This term we welcomed 40 Year 8 students from Mulwaree High School for a fun-filled day of learning German. The students took part in numerous language learning games and activities to help improve their German.

By far the most appealing part of the day were the food activities. Students enjoyed making their own dough creations and eating the freshly baked goods for morning tea. Lunch was also a big hit where the students sampled authentic German *bratwurst* sausages and *sauerkraut* on a bread roll.

As a memento of their visit to NSL, students took home with them a traditional German *tüte* (cardboard cone) filled with lollies and other trinkets for the long road home to Goulburn.



*Mulwaree High School students and teachers*

## KOREAN 한국어



## Year 11 Korean Continuers Lesson Day

The students of the Preliminary Korean Continuers course enjoyed getting to know each other and their teachers. Students had to earn their coupons during the sentence auction game for them to acquire ingredients for making their own versions of *gimbap* (Korean rolls).

## Year 11 Korean Beginners and Korean in Context Lesson Day

‘우리는 하나예요!’

Year 11 Korean Beginners and In-Context course students had their first lesson day in March. Students enjoyed the whole day of culture and language focused workshops, made friends and mastered the Korean script. Students used a QR code to find: ‘우리는 하나예요’ (We are one in harmony through language and culture) which was the group chant for Year 11 Korean group.

## Years 9 and 10 Korean Lesson Day

Junior Korean Course students Term 1 lesson day was filled with competitive culture games, creative arts and craft, challenging language workshops and productive course focused lessons. Students were able to meet peers in the same course but also other students in different years and in different stages of learning Korean. This was a unique experience for our Junior Korean students. Also, students went home with beautiful pencil cases influenced by unique and traditional Korean patterns.

## Hana Centre resumed!

On the last day of Term 1, the Hana Centre welcomed our awaited visitors from Homebush Boys' High School and successfully resumed our cultural immersion program! The students experienced wearing *hanbok*, the Korean traditional costume, played traditional games, engaged in a game of bingo and craft activities. Students were immersed in the Korean language and were able to actively participate throughout the day engaging with teachers and peers. NSL can't wait to welcome more visitors to our Hana Centre!

*Photos: Students making gimbap, students enjoying their lesson day activities, students showing their work from their lesson day, class photo with their teachers, Homebush Boys' High School students in the Hana Centre for their Korean immersion day.*



**SPANISH**  
*Español*

*Ms. Diaz with alfajores and students enjoying their guacamole con topos during their lesson day*



## Back to school grounds! - De vuelta al cole!

Year 12 Spanish Beginners students had their first lesson day in February. It was an exciting day for the students and a great opportunity to consolidate their learning and to be part of lots of fun interactive activities. Also, students tried delicious *alfajores* and *guacamole con topos* on that day. ¡Qué delicioso!

## We Love Spanish Pop Culture!

“*Hola!* Our names are Koko and Raphael, and we’ve been learning Spanish Beginners at NSL for the past two years from our school in the Blue Mountains. Our experience immersing ourselves in the culture and developing our language skills has been fantastic so far and we would recommend it to any aspiring linguists.

NSL has enabled us to broaden our knowledge of Spanish culture, for example each week learning the customs and traditions of different Spanish speaking countries. Our growing love for Spanish pop culture has led us to appreciate different music, movies and shows, including our favourite ‘*La Casa De Papel*’!

This year for our swimming carnival, we dressed up in the famous costumes that the characters wear. We look forward to continuing our course and using our new language skills in new and exciting ways moving past the HSC.”

### Raphael Davey and Koko Wilson, Spanish Beginners

*Right: Koko Wilson and Raphael Davey in ‘La Casa De Papel’ costumes*



## JAPANESE 日本語



Years 9 and 10 (100 Hours) Japanese classes, Below: Students enjoying their obento lunch boxes



## Years 9 and 10 (100 Hours) Japanese Lesson Day

In March, 34 Years 9 and 10 students attended their first Japanese lesson day. Mrs. Peers-Hooper and Miyajima sensei began the day with Welcome to Country said in English and Japanese. Students purchased *obento* lunch boxes which were delicious!

## Year 10 Japanese Lesson Day

Year 10 students attended a very wet lesson day on 22 March. A popular activity was the fashion parade where groups of students used their creative flair to make fashionable clothes from newspapers. Students described what the model was wearing using their Japanese.



Year 10 students newspaper fashion



## Multas per Gentes vecti

**LATIN**  
*Lingua Latina*

Two of our students travelled a long way to NSL for our lesson day. Thank you, *optimi discipuli! Magistrae gratias lurimas vobis agunt.*

Here is what they say of themselves:

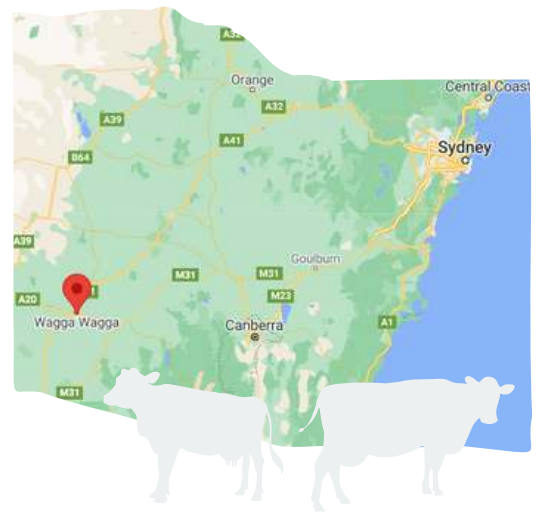
“My name is Jack. I’m 15 years old, and live on a Black Angus cattle stud near Wagga Wagga. I play soccer and piano and, apart from my other studies, now I am studying Preliminary Latin through NSL.

What made me decide to study Latin? Well, I first encountered the study of Latin in Year 7. Though it wasn’t offered in Year 8, I enjoyed the structured, eloquent and somewhat simple language of Latin so much that (consecutive clause!) I decided to keep studying it outside of school. As evidenced above, through my study of Latin at NSL, I have learnt what a consecutive clause is, not to mention all the other points of grammar and translation I have learnt from Ms. Calorio’s wealth of knowledge. Latin has also helped me with grammar and sentence structure in English, as well as memory and vocabulary in general.

Last term I flew up to Sydney to participate in the NSL face-to-face day. While it did mean an early start and late finish to the day, in the end it was a very worthwhile experience. It enabled me to meet my teacher and classmates in person and have an intensive day of Latin. I was able to ask questions about the work and the year in general, and ended up coming away much more informed about the curriculum and the year ahead.

I’d like to thank all the staff I met at the face-to-face day; they were friendly and organised and made the day run very smoothly. This definitely extends to Ms. Calorio, who is kind, encouraging and a fount of wisdom for all things Latin.”

**Jack**



“My name is James. In year 8 I began learning Latin and have been hooked ever since. It’s a language that constantly draws me in, whether it be in the lyrics of metal songs or in classical texts, there’s something addictive.



*James, Emperor of Photoshop!*

Studying Latin has taught me much about problem solving and how to make sense of and analyse problems which aren’t always clear, and given me a better understanding of the ancient world and its cultures. Latin exposed me to a whole new world of intrigue, drama, and expression.

Face to Face days are a great opportunity to spend the whole day doing a subject which you love, and are really useful when it comes to understanding the content. Even though it’s a long drive to get to the NSL campus, I’d certainly say that it’s worth it.

At NSL I’ve had the pleasure of being taught by two great teachers who have made learning consistently interesting and enlightening and I’m looking forward to what the rest of this year in Latin will bring.

Thanks to support from both my school and NSL I’ve been able to learn a language which I love, despite its small presence in Canberra.”

**James**