

TERM 3, 2023

# NEWSLETTER

The latest news and updates from NSW School of Languages



NSW SCHOOL  
OF LANGUAGES

Learn locally. Communicate globally.

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Principal - Teresa Naso



## Principal's message

Dear School Community,

### Year 12

As we come to the close of Term 3, I would like to wish our Year 12 cohort all the best with their HSC Examinations in Term 4. It is important that students continue with their weekly lessons to receive feedback on their written work. We wish Year 12 all the best for their last few weeks of study.

### Australian Federation of Modern Language Teachers Associations (AFMLTA) National Conference

During the July school holidays, a team of teachers traveled to Perth to participate in the AFMLTA conference. The Senior Executive presented a session titled 'Nurturing Language Learning: Effective Strategies for Language Courses in Secondary Schools.' In this session, we showcased our new Canvas courses and innovative online teaching pedagogy. We received a lot of positive feedback and gained insights into the teaching of languages in other states of Australia and New Zealand.

*Photo: NSL staff attended the National Language Teacher Conference in Perth.*



### Mobile phone guidelines

You may have heard from the media that starting from Term 4, all Department of Education schools will implement a ban on mobile phones. As a Department of Education school, all students on-site will be required to adhere to the school's guidelines regarding mobile phones. At NSW School of Languages, we will be adopting the "Off and Away" strategy, which means that once students enter the school gates, their phones need to be turned off and put away. Please refer to the guidelines on the following page for more information. Parents and caregivers should also remember that they can contact the school office at (9381 4800) if they need to communicate any information to their children.

### Sustainable Schools Grant

I am delighted to inform you that our school's application for funding through the Sustainable Schools Grant has been successful. This grant will enable us to further our commitment to environmental sustainability by implementing various projects and initiatives. We are excited to embark on our World Kitchen Garden Project and appreciate the support and involvement of our school community in this endeavour.

### 2024 Enrolments

Our enrolments have also opened for any new students. Please forward our enrolment link if you know anyone who would like to study a language via distance next year.

*Teresa Naso*

## Mobile Phones and Electronic Devices Guidelines

Mobile phone use in schools can impact student learning and wellbeing. Restricting mobile phone use at school aims to increase classroom focus, remove distractions and promote positive social interaction while reducing the potential for online bullying.

### NSW School of Languages follows the “Off and Away” management option for mobile phones.

- Students cannot use mobile phones at school, including during recess and lunch.
- Principal (or delegates) will manage individual requests from parents, carers, and students for any policy exemptions.
- Principal (or delegates) may allow students to use mobile phones in specific circumstances, such as for an educational purpose, to achieve student health and wellbeing outcomes, or as part of reasonable adjustment to enable students with specific needs to participate in education on the same basis as other students.



### Procedures:

- All phones must be “off and away”. This means phones should be off (not on silent) and not visible, ideally in the student’s bag. However, if the student’s bag needs to be unattended, students should put the phone in their pocket.
- Phones and earbuds must be off and away from 8.30am until 2.30pm, including recess and lunch.
- At times, teachers may instruct or allow students to use mobile phones for specific educational purposes, such as:
  - taking a photograph of work displayed on a board
  - completing an evaluation for a lesson day
  - using an app specific to a subject.

At these times, students may use their phones but only when explicitly instructed to by their teacher.



### NSL Spotify

Reminder: we are on Spotify and you can find us [here](#)! Follow this link to listen to our favourites playlists for each language we offer. We update our playlists often, so if you have any songs you'd like to see on our playlists, please let your teacher know! Happy listening!



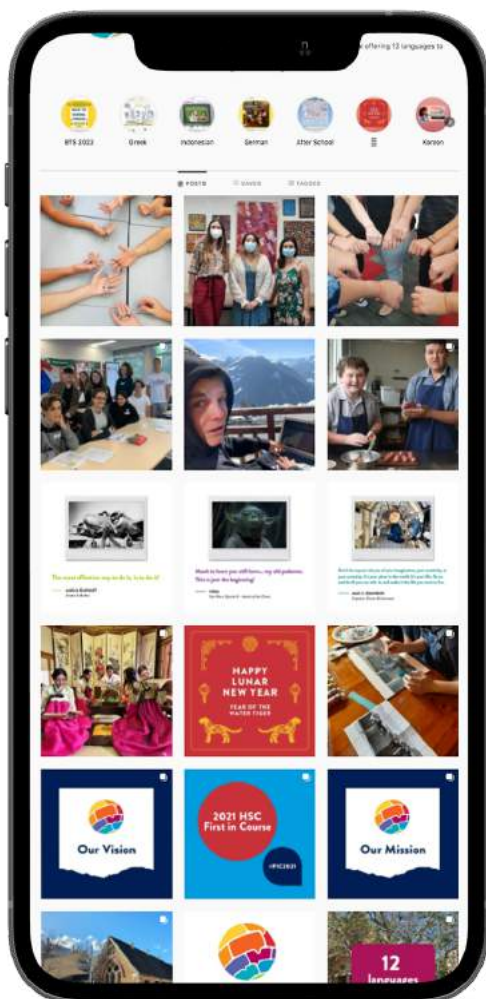
## Important dates at NSL - Terms 3 and 4, 2023

### Term 3

- Monday 28 August - Friday 1 September: Year 9 Assessment Task 3
- Monday 28 August - Friday 8 September: Year 11 Yearly Examinations
- Friday 22 September: Term 3 student lessons finish

### Term 4

- Monday 9 October: Term 4 student lessons commence
- Monday 23 - Friday 27 October: Year 9 and 10 Yearly Examinations
- Wednesday 22 November: Year 12 Assessment Task 1 All courses (Except EAL/D)
- Monday 4 December: Year 12 EAL/D Assessment Task 1
- Friday 15 December: Term 4 student lessons finish



### NSL Instagram

Follow us [@nswschooloflanguages](https://www.instagram.com/nswschooloflanguages) to keep up-to-date with all the latest news and events from our school. We will also share important information and updates from NSW Education and other relevant cultural and language-related posts.

You may also like to follow us on [Facebook](#) for more in-depth posts about lesson days and school updates.

## Supporting students with distance education language learning

We appreciate the support parents, carers, and supervisors provide to students to help them reach their full potential. Studying a language, especially via distance education, can be a challenge. Students need to spend their allocated time on the coursework and ensure they maintain weekly contact with their teacher. They need to develop good time-management skills. One approach students could be encouraged to try is the **Rule of Three**.



- First, write a list of everything you need to do.
- Circle the top 3 tasks that need to be done. What is most important and most urgent?
- Put them in order from 1 to 3.
- Start at the first task and complete it before moving on to the second.
- Once all three tasks are completed, look through the list again to choose the new top 3 tasks.
- Don't cheat – you have to fully complete the first task before moving to the second.

If distraction is hindering productivity, it may be worth using an app to help maintain focus. Forest is an app that may help to resist the temptation to use the mobile. Every time you want to stay focused, you plant a seed. The seed grows into a tree for as long as you stay focused. By keeping the focus, you'll eventually grow a virtual forest. The visual stimulation is like playing a game with the incentive to stay off the phone and on task.

There are many different methods of time management and prioritising. Students may need to try different ones and see what helps them to remain organised and meet the requirements of the course schedule.

Yearly Examinations for Year 11 take place at the end of Term 3, and for Years 9 and 10 at the beginning of Term 4. Assessment notices can be accessed from our school website. We encourage students to prepare well to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and skills. Behaving dishonestly in an assessment is regarded as malpractice and can result in a zero mark and a Warning Letter being issued.

## The Languages Open Day

Following the success of the 2022 Year 10 Languages Day, the Languages Open Day was held on Thursday 29th June, at NSW School of Languages. This event promoted the importance of language learning at school and beyond. Students were provided with information from experts about: HSC Bonus Points, Scholarships, career opportunities, and personal experiences about the benefit of language learning. Students also enjoyed the interactive activities, which allowed them to connect with students from different schools. Languages teachers were provided opportunities to network and obtain resources from this event.

Thank you to all the guests: The visiting schools; The Department of Education Languages and Culture Team representatives; The HSC Language Graduate; The participating universities: Australian Catholic University, Australian National University, Macquarie University, Sydney University, University of Technology Sydney, Western Sydney University.

We look forward to future opportunities to promote languages, and support staff and students.

**Marian Botros**  
Network Leader and French Teacher



Photo: One of the universities display table



Photo: NSL staff



Photo: Universities presentation



**CHINESE**

中文

**Chinese cooking lesson**

Being an online distance education school, NSL's unique Lesson Day provides a valuable opportunity for both students and teachers to interact in person. Our recent Chinese Lesson Day for Year 11 and 12 students was a huge success, featuring several highlights.

Along with practising all four language skills, students engaged in cultural immersion activities like drinking Chinese tea and making Chinese sweets (glutinous rice balls). This approach encourages students to take an active role in their language learning process in addition to making the learning process more interesting and enjoyable.



Photo: Year 11 students making Chinese sweets

**Year 12 mock speaking**

A prime focus is on Year 12 students. The teachers provided comprehensive guidance on HSC exam strategies during the Lesson Day.

In addition, the teachers created an inspiring and motivating environment for the development of speaking skills by conducting two mock speaking examinations. This integrated approach not only improves students' language proficiency, but also boosts their enthusiasm in their learning journey.



Photo: Year 12 students doing mock speaking exam

**PORTUGUESE**

Português

**Portuguese lesson day**

The recent Lesson Day for Portuguese Continuers students was filled with language learning, cultural exploration, and delicious treats that our students adore - "guaraná" and "pão de queijo"!

Beyond language, the day was an opportunity for our students to forge connections and build friendships. Through interactive activities and engaging discussions, they not only learned from their teachers but also from each other's unique perspectives.

As our Year 11 students prepare for the Yearly Examination, this immersive experience has equipped them with valuable insights and the confidence to excel.

*Muito obrigada e até a próxima!*



Photos: Group photo of Year 11 students and pão de queijo for lunch

## Fostering a stronger Australia-Indonesia relationship for the future

**INDONESIAN**  
*Bahasa Indonesia*

Indonesian President Joko Widodo visited Sydney from July 3 to 5, 2023, for the Indonesia-Australia Annual Leaders' Meeting. He met Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, building on their previous meeting in Bogor, Indonesia, last June 2022. President Widodo highlighted Australia's significance as a valued friend, neighbour, and strategic ally in the Pacific for Indonesia.



Photo: Ms Harsojo in the welcoming crowd with Indonesian President Joko Widodo

Besides discussions, he engaged with the Australian Governor General and business figures invested in Indonesia. The central themes were investment and trade due to the remarkable growth in these aspects between the two nations. Health and human resources sectors showed potential for increased trade.

Amid their visit, President Widodo and Prime Minister Albanese explored a Sumatran Village at Sydney's Taronga Zoo despite the rain, observing Sumatran tigers.

They were also greeted by Indonesian children from Pelangi School performing 'Abang Tukang Bakso' song. These annual meetings aim to fortify the Indonesia-Australia relationship. [Read more.](#)

**JAPANESE**  
日本語

## Francesca Oaten, HSC Japanese Beginners student, graduated 2022

"Hi everyone,

Just wanted to send a post-HSC email to say thank you so much for everything these past two years! I really, really enjoyed studying Japanese and I was very lucky to have Kato-Morcom sensei as an excellent teacher.

Now that exams are over, I am currently travelling in west Japan by myself. I'm staying in Osaka, exploring the city, and making day trips to surrounding areas (I'm going to Hiroshima tomorrow!). I have been using my Japanese every single day - my speaking is definitely not perfect but that does not stop me :) Today I had a very nice conversation with the lady at the cafe where I had lunch. It's lots of fun being able to use what I learnt in the real world, and I am definitely going to keep practising beyond school - in the evenings here I work on teaching myself more and will continue to do so at home until I head off to uni in 2024. All the best."

**Francesca Oaten**  
**Year 12 Japanese Beginners**



Photos: Francesca Oaten at Dotonbori, Osaka and at Todaiji Temple, Nara



## GERMAN Deutsch

# My experience as an exchange student in Germany

## When/where did you go?

"Last year I went to Berlin for three and a half months to complete a student exchange. I stayed in Prezlaue Berg which is a super diverse, 'cool' suburb in Berlin. I was in Berlin from mid-August to late November, so I got to experience a bit of German summer, autumn and even what felt like a bit of winter."

## How did it eventuate (through an organisation or privately organised)?

"I privately organised my exchange as we already had contacts in Berlin I could stay with. My father grew up in Berlin, so he reached out to some friends, and I ended up staying with an old friend of his, who had daughters my age. Through those friends we were able to find a school that could accommodate me for three months."

## Where did you stay?

"I stayed with friends for most of the stay and then with my Opa and Oma (my grandparents) for the last two weeks. The apartment I stayed in was in the heart of the city and it made things very easy for me. I was able to ride a bike everywhere or catch the train/tram."

## How did you like the school experience? Could you cope with the schoolwork?

"I attended a Gymnasium and absolutely loved my experience. Fortunately, my grades didn't matter so I focused more on learning the language and making friends rather than learning the actual content. The school system is wildly different from Australia's, so it was interesting completing education in a totally new environment. There is no uniform in the schools over there, which I really enjoyed as I was able to wear whatever I wanted and could also better accommodate the weather and personal preferences. In senior years in 'Gymnasium' you do ten subjects in total. There are two 'advanced' courses and then eight regular subjects. For my advanced courses I chose Chemistry and Visual Arts, and then I did six subjects instead of eight so I wouldn't get overwhelmed. The subjects were History, English, German, Maths, Physics and Sport. Students and teachers alike were all so friendly and super accommodating to my lack of language skills."

## Did you make friends?

"Yes! Everybody I met was so kind and friendly, I even have some friends that I still talk to daily. Thankfully, one of the girls I stayed with was my age, and so she introduced me to her friendship group. I ended up hanging out with them a lot. I especially clicked with a couple of people and so I saw them quite often. I also played football while I was over there and managed to make a few friends on the team. I sometimes saw them before/after training and games."

Photos: (from top to bottom) Esther Schroeter, Berchtesgaden and Schloss Neuschwanstein



**What were the highlights of your stay/your travels?**

*"One of the highlights of my stay was going to Prague with my German family. We drove from Berlin to Prague and spent a long weekend there. The city is absolutely beautiful, and it was also really nice getting to spend time with my family. I'd never been to Europe before my exchange, so to me everything was new and exciting. Another one of my highlights was when my Mum came and visited me. She had a work trip to Frankfurt and then came to Berlin afterwards to visit me and the family. Mum and I took a trip into the south of Germany. We caught the train to Munich and then drove around from there. We visited Neuschwanstein castle, hiked in Berchtesgaden, and explored little villages in South-east Germany."*

**Did you get to celebrate any German festivals/special days?**

*"Unfortunately, I wasn't there to celebrate any festival or special days. Oktoberfest occurred while I was in Germany. However it isn't celebrated much in Berlin."*

**Did your language studies help you settle in Germany?**

*"Yes, definitely! While I wasn't fluent or very confident when I went over, the basic knowledge of the language and its structure was so helpful for improvement. Not only this, but the course taught me both colloquial and more formal language, so I was able to translate my learning into everyday scenarios without sounding overly formal."*

**How did your language skills improve?**

*"My language skills improved immensely over the four months I was gone. The first few weeks were really difficult. It took a lot of adjusting to even understand small talk. The constant translating and thinking about the language made me so tired as well. However, I got used to it and it was really exciting seeing my skills improve. Over the course of the trip, I went from speaking slowly and often wrongly, to being able to converse about (almost) anything with (relative) accuracy. The most notable improvement was my change in confidence and ability to speak. While my grammar and writing skills improved too, it was at a lower rate than speaking and listening. Towards the end of my exchange, I was able to understand everything in my classes and complete most schoolwork and sometimes even contribute to class discussions."*

**Would you recommend other language students to do the same?**

*"Yes! I absolutely loved my exchange and am grateful that I had that opportunity. It brought me so much closer to my German family and I made so many valuable friends. Sometimes it got a bit lonely, but I'm super independent and that feeling never lasted. I missed my family and friends back home, but regular Facetime and texting reassured me. Sometimes, it took a lot of courage to introduce myself to so many new people and make friends, but it also provided a huge opportunity for growth. I can see that because of my exchange I've matured a lot more, my communication skills in both English and German have improved, my football skills have improved (lots of training in Germany!), and I'm a lot more confident and open to new opportunities. So, to any student considering doing an exchange, DO IT! "*

**Esther Schroeter**  
**Year 11 German Continuers**



## Stage 4 - Rural and remote immersion days

Early in Term 2, NSL staff had the absolute privilege of visiting the three schools involved in the rural and remote language program facilitated by our school.

On the first trip, we visited Bundarra Central School and Barraba Central School, and Hay War Memorial High School on the second.

The immersion days were a great success with students participating in face-to-face lessons as well as cultural activities such as playing Bocce and Italian cards.

One of the highlights of the visits was learning the history of Margherita pizza and then having a go at baking their own.

The support offered by the respective schools was fantastic, with Barraba Central School lighting up their woodfired oven which gave the students the most authentic of experiences.

These visits provided an invaluable dimension to the program, and we look forward to continuing them going forward.

### S. Screnci and M. Cavallaro Italian Teachers

*Photos: (from the top clockwise) Students enjoying the pizzas they made; Mr Screnci teaching students to play Italian cards; Ms Cavallaro working with students on a listening activity*



**ITALIAN**  
*Italiano*



## Celebrating the potential of our students

The High Potential Gifted Education Committee at NSL has been operating with an inclusive approach to find the potential in every student, develop their talent and make a difference in their lives.

One of our students, who loves mythology and ancient civilizations, recently attended a performance at the Opera House entitled 'The Gods, The Gods, The Gods' accompanied by his family. The student was encouraged to participate in this event by his Italian teacher, who saw the opportunity in this extra-curricular activity to bind his passions and the syllabus content of the Year 12 Italian Beginners course (writing a school magazine article). Finally, the student could combine his brilliant language skills in Italian with one of his favourite domains for which he has so much knowledge and passion: Greek mythology.

Despite being pushed outside his comfort zone, the student acknowledged the positive value of this experience and wrote a brilliant article for our school newsletter. Enjoy his detailed recount of the performance; *bravo!*

*On the next page Patrick D.'s school magazine article - (Year 12 Italian Beginners)*



# Giornalino Scolastico

Questo coinvolgente spettacolo teatrale per i giovani è una gioiosa rivisitazione dei miti classici e dei loro dei. Un ibrido tra un concerto pop mozzafiato e un'ora gioiosa di narrazione.

*Vieni giovane, vieni vecchio, gli Dei si stanno radunando e tu sei invitato...*

Sono andato con i miei genitori al teatro dell'opera di Sydney per assistere a uno spettacolo sulla mitologia greca chiamato 'Gli dei, Gli dei, Gli dei' il 4 aprile. Almeno questo è stato detto sulla brochure ma sono deluso perché mi aspettavo uno spettacolo sui miti e costumi greci tradizionali.

Nessuna menzione del fatto che Zeus (Giove) era un seduttore trasformista, o della sua gelosa sorella/moglie, delle esplosioni di gelosia di Era (Giunone) nei confronti delle sue amanti, che facevano ridere gli antichi. Un argomento per un capolavoro di un artista. Ma un album di 12 tracce sulla divinità dei mortali. "Sarete come dèi" ha detto a Eva il serpente dalla forma femminile, facendo cadere l'uomo dalla grazia e dalla beatitudine. Questo concerto mi ha ricordato Evemero che ha detto che gli dei erano un tempo uomini gloriosi scambiati dai loro discendenti per dei e dee, e usati dagli apologeti cristiani per affermare la loro fede riconoscendo allo stesso tempo i miti dei Greci e dei Romani.

Quando ho chiesto ai registi dello spettacolo perché hanno scelto mortali noiosi e la loro divinità interiore, invece di semidei gigachad, eroi, mostri e divinità, come Eracle e Giasone, hanno detto che miravano a qualcosa di più filosofico non a una versione della mitologia greca della Marvel.

Mi è piaciuto perché sono uscito con la mia famiglia. Mi è piaciuta anche la poesia.

Patrick D.



*The Gods . The Gods The Gods trailer*

*Opera House show*



## RUSSIAN

Русский

## Using Russian language skills outside the classroom

Dascha Saltanovski is one of our Year 11 students who is taking her language learning one step further and applying her skills to drama.

Recently her drama class at St. Alexander Nevsky School performed a famous Russian comedy called 'Balzaminov's Marriage'. The comedy is about a young man, Balzaminov wanting to marry a rich woman, which leads to hilarious situations.

*"In this performance, I was one of the lead roles 'Belotelova' who is an aged, rich, masculine woman that ends up marrying Balzaminov", states Dascha.*

*Overall, the whole experience was amazing and being on stage felt euphoric and unreal. At the end of the play, I received heart-warming compliments and flowers, and it made me feel like a real actress."*

**Dascha Saltanovski**  
**Year 11 Russian Continuers**



Photo: Dascha Saltanovski

## SPANISH

Español

## My amazing practicum experience in NSL

*"My name is Yuting, and I consider myself incredibly fortunate to have had the opportunity to do my practicum at the NSW School of Languages as part of my journey to become a Spanish teacher. Throughout my time here, I have received exceptional support from the staff, teachers, and students at the school. The culture of collaboration and mutual support among the teachers is truly remarkable, and being a part of this office environment has been an incredible experience.*

*One memorable event during my practicum was the Spanish face-to-face Lesson Day, which included a lively dancing session.*

*It was a joy to see all the students and Spanish teachers fully engaged and enjoying themselves. I truly cherish the time I have spent here and feel immensely grateful for the opportunity to be a part of this exceptional school."*

**Yuting**  
**Spanish Practicum Teacher**



Photo: Spanish faculty teachers morning tea farewell for Yuting



## KOREAN 한국어



Photo: Ms Kim in a meeting with Korean visitors

## Introducing NSL!

Ms Kim gave a special induction about distance education learning at NSL to Korean visitors at Sydney Distance Education Public School. Visitors from Korea were amazed at the Australian Education system that caters to students across NSW and the students' passion to learn the language.



Photo: Year 11 Beginner students performing 'Head, Shoulders Knees and Toes'

## Year 11 Korean Beginners Performance Contest

Year 11 Korean Beginners will compete as the final contestants of the 2023 Korean Performance Contest with their energetic and well-choreographed performance of 'Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes' in reference to the body parts learned this term.



Photo: Year 12 Korean in Context students with their rice-cake

## Year 12 Korean in Context and 찰떡 (chapssal ddeok: rice-cake)!

Year 12 Korean in Context students made traditional Korean rice cake '찰떡' (chapssal ddeok). In Korea, it is believed that eating this 'sticky' sweet can help 'stick' the materials studied by the student to their mind, hence a popular gift for students sitting for exams!



Photo: Year 9 and 10 Korean students attending Taekwondo lessons with the master

## Year 9 and 10 Korean Taekwondo – Power up!

Year 9 and 10 students attended a passionate Taekwondo training session to learn self-defence skills, along with discipline and respect, which is significant to Korean culture. Students carried out their courtesy, integrity, perseverance, self-control, and indomitable spirit in their performance.





Photo: Halong Bay, Vietnam

## My migrant experience by Chi (Kai) Nguyen

Year 12 students are studying the novel, *The Namesake*. This involves reflecting on their own experiences as migrants to this country.

This is a speech by Kai Nguyen to his whole school assembly. Kai is the Vice Captain at his home school.

*"Good morning, everyone! My name is Kai and I was born in Vietnam. I moved to Australia when I was 12 and I have been studying here since Year 7.*

*Vietnam is a Southeast Asian country which borders China and Laos. Our main beliefs are Buddhism which is the belief that Buddhism is a path of practice and spiritual development, which leads to insight into the true nature of reality. It's a religion, a philosophy, or a set of beliefs and practices based on the teachings of the Buddha.*

*In my family, our main custom would be that we all eat dinner together. Our culture in Vietnam revolves around family and we all take care of each other and it's a way to incorporate our Vietnamese culture all the time. Our main customs are harmony, duty, honour, respect, education, and loyalty to the family. In Vietnam, we also have special celebrations including Tết or Lunar New Year which is basically a celebration of the arrival of spring which is based on the moon calendar.*

*Now I will share a little bit of my experience about when I moved to Australia.*

*It's been a long time since I moved to Australia. When I moved here, the language barrier would be the biggest challenge I faced. I could not catch up with what everyone was saying, and I did not know a lot of English back then to have a proper conversation with anyone. But about that problem, I want to give a shout out to all my friends down there that have helped me over the past few years to improve my English so I can stand up here today to talk to everyone about myself. I hope everyone here will be supportive to people who are struggling with their problems.*

*For myself, it has been a great time being in Australia. It is a totally different way of life, but I have had a great opportunity to make new friends and learn about your culture. Australia has shaped me into a better person, the outgoing person you see today, so I feel very thankful to talk to you guys here today."*

**Chi (Kai) Nguyen**  
**Year 12 EAL/D**

**MODERN GREEK**

Ελληνικά



## Because studying a language at NSL helps build relationships!

In December last year, our then Year 9 Modern Greek student Ignatios Kamberos visited his teacher, Ms Timonidis, here at NSL. Ignatios lives in Albury-Wodonga and couldn't attend the face-to-face lesson days, but as he had finished the school year and was on holidays, he wanted to come and say hello. He was impressed by the school and, of course, the view from Level 3. It was a lovely visit! During that visit, Mrs Papanikolaou, Head Teacher Italian and Modern Greek, promised that the next time she goes to Albury-Wodonga, she would also visit.

During the July holidays, Mrs Papanikolaou happened to be in Albury and, true to her promise, visited Ignatios and his family at their traditional family store. They were surprised and happy to see Mrs Papanikolaou and showed their gracious Greek hospitality by treating her to an unexpected, delicious meal!

As we look ahead, we eagerly anticipate the next time our paths cross with Ignatios. Until that moment arrives, we wish him all the best.

**Ms Athina Papanikolaou**  
Head Teacher Italian and Modern Greek



Photo: Ignatios, his parents and Ms Papanikolaou



Photo: Ignatios with Ms Timonidis and Ms Papanikolaou

## Au revoir Year 12 French 2023

There are always mixed feelings as we prepare to farewell our Year 12 students.

After almost two years of studying French, they will soon start their HSC Exams and prepare for what lies ahead.

To help them, the last lesson day at NSL was devoted to supporting their preparations for the HSC and celebrating how far they have come as learners of French.

At NSL, we are very proud of our students and their achievements, however great or small, and look forward to learning that they have put their study of languages to good use beyond the school context.

Term 3 Lesson Days included the opportunity to take part in mock speaking rotations and workshops on improving listening, reading and writing skills, as well as a vocabulary and grammar shake-up!

As a farewell gesture, students of French Beginners created a painting collaboratively, which will be hung up in the French room. They also contributed their testimonials to a Padlet, which can be viewed [here](#).

*Au revoir et bonne chance à tous les étudiants de français à NSL!*

**Maria Lomis**  
Head Teacher French and Latin

FRENCH

Français



Photo: French Beginners class of 2023 farewell painting

LATIN

Lingua Latina

## Love learning Latin!

*Salvete omnes! Hoc trimestri spatio articulus ab anni noni discipula, nomine Anastasia, scriptus est. Illa valde diligens discipula est. Ego omnibus Linguae Latinae discipulis diligentibus gratias agere volo. Sic Anastasia scripsit:*

*"Salvete! I'm Anastasia and I am studying the Year 9 Latin course. I started the language in Year 8 at my home school, PLC, and being an Ancient History fanatic, I took an interest in the subject's combination of culture and language. It impresses me how learning Latin is the closest we can get to understanding how Roman emperors spoke! It also blew my mind whenever I discovered an English word's derivation from Latin!"*



Anastasia Mouzos

*I'm sure all Latin students have been asked: "What's the point of learning a dead language?" But how can it be dead if there is still so much of it in other popular European languages such as French, Spanish and English (to name a few)? Studying Latin helps us understand the true meaning behind words; knowing this can expand our knowledge in areas such as literature, medical terminology and so on.*

*In Year 9, I decided to shift to distance learning through the NSW School of Languages, which was a new way of learning that scared me at the beginning of this year, especially due to the increase in content. The pace of vocabulary, grammar and even the structure of the Oxford books put me out of my comfort zone. I couldn't wrap my head around seeing my teacher once a week! This is my advice if you're in that situation: try solving this through mindset. I ignored the change and started from the basics, before building my prior knowledge from there.*

*The great thing about distance learning is that you can discover your own way of consuming information. Whether this means going over exercises to get more practice or applying Latin to other language structures, don't treat distance as a barrier but more an opportunity for your own learning style."*

**Anastasia Mouzos**  
Year 9 Latin