



## LANGUAGES LEARNING AREA

### INFORMATION FOR PARENTS, CAREGIVERS AND STUDENTS 2015

#### **Rationale:**

Welcome to the Languages Learning Area at Woodvale Secondary College for 2015. We would like our students to enjoy learning about an Asian culture and language and have planned a variety of educational and enjoyable strategies to achieve this.

#### **Japanese**

The College has been running a strong Japanese program for many years and enjoys high retention rates from Year 9 to Year 10; considerably higher than the state average. As mentioned, nationally recognised and accredited vocational courses are running successfully in all Year 10 classes as well as Year 11 & 12 Japanese and Mandarin in Year 11 in 2015. Woodvale Secondary College has a long term sister school relationship with Aboshi High School in Hyogo. This relationship involves exchange trips with Year 10 and 11 Japanese student participants. Information about the trip will be made available to students via class teachers. We also run excursions, lunches, cultural workshops and visits for all year groups.

#### **Mandarin**

In 2006 the school became part of the City of Joondalup and Jinan Sister City Stakeholder Group and since then we have conducted tours to China and staff visits to Perth annually. The school has also formed two sister school relationships: Jinan Number 9 High School (2006) and The High School Affiliated to Beijing Institute of Education (2014). Students have had the opportunity to study Mandarin as one of their subjects and this year we have substantially more Mandarin classes running across all year levels. Mandarin classes run in upper school Year 10 – 12.

#### **Classroom Behaviour**

Students are expected to behave in accordance with the College policy outlining Respect, Rights and Responsibilities and reflect the College values of Respect, Responsibility and Relationships. To further complement the school's values, the teachers in the languages learning area expect ACTIVE PARTICIPATION from all students.

This includes the following expected behaviours:

- Always aim for excellence
- Always behave with pleasantness and respect
- Always complete set work
- Always arrive at class on time
- Always follow instructions
- Always be prepared for class

#### **Technology/iPad Use:**

The College's Electronic Devices Policy is to be adhered to in regard to iPad use. In addition to this:

- Each student is issued generally with a particular numbered iPad they will use during lessons.
- Students have the responsibility to report any damage to the teacher immediately upon receiving the iPad
- Students must only use the application that the teacher has directed them to use and are not to freely access other applications during lesson time.

- Languages teachers will closely monitor each individual iPad activity. To protect students' digital footprint, students are responsible for the deletion of any content created in class (Unauthorised use of the iPad will incur consequences eg detention, loss of good standing, yard duty).
- Failure to comply with this policy will result in access to iPads being limited and/or withdrawn.
- Students/Parents may be responsible for the cost of any negligent use of the iPads.

**Parent/Guardians' Roles:**

Parents/Guardians are strongly encouraged to read all documentation about courses, as well as to keep an active interest in what the students are learning and provide regular encouragement. This may include discussing what they are doing in classes and excursions, encouraging them to access course work or extension work on *Moodle* located on our homepage, discussing current issues, watching relevant television programs, encouraging them to use audio-visual texts (from libraries or internet sites), attending interesting community events, or doing a range of other cultural activities, including attending Asian film festivals and using chopsticks to eat at Asian restaurants! Equally as important is consolidating content learned in class. For Japanese it is important for students to review and practise the script. These websites may prove useful for this [www.drmodus.com](http://www.drmodus.com) and [www.chipchat.com](http://www.chipchat.com). For Chinese, it is important for students to familiarise themselves with and practise the tones of the Chinese language. One application suggested for this is [Mindsnacks](#).

Parents can contact teachers by phone or email.