

# Learning a language

## *Years 7-10*

### Introduction

At St Andrew's Cathedral School, students are provided the opportunity to learn a language, as part of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program (IBMYP). From Year 7 to Year 10, students can choose from Chinese (Mandarin), French or Spanish.

### Language choice

Students start learning their chosen language from beginner's level in Year 7. If your child is already fluent (or even reasonably fluent) in one of the languages, they'll need to choose a different one. Our IBMYP program doesn't allow background speakers to take beginner courses in a language they can already use proficiently. The IB MYP guidelines require students to take a language acquisition course that provides true academic challenge. Therefore, students who are already proficient in a language are not permitted to study it at a beginner's level.

Once your child selects a language in Year 7, they'll study it all the way through to Year 10. This is a four-year commitment and changing languages midway is not an option, so it's important to choose wisely.

In Years 11 and 12, students can either:

- Study the HSC and:
  - Continue with the same language or start a beginner's course in another language; or
  - Opt out of learning a second language at the end of Year 10; or
- Study the IB: For those interested in the IB Diploma, studying a language is mandatory at either Language B or ab initio (beginner) level.

### New Year 8-10 students

For students joining us in Year 8-10, the language courses are differentiated to an extent that allows for different proficiency levels. If your child has prior experience with one of the languages, they may continue at their current level, depending on class availability.

For students without any background in French, Spanish or Chinese, it is generally recommended to start with French. There are many reasons why French is encouraged, and we are very happy to discuss that with new families. We aim to place new students in class with other students who have a similar level of proficiency, which allows them to complete differentiated activities. However, we are not able to provide separate beginners classes for incoming students in Years 8-10

To help new learners catch up, we strongly recommend they prepare with foundational language studies before starting. Students who complete a course in foundational language either before, or very soon after, commencing at SACS are able to engage with the language and lesson activities earlier and more confidently.

## Getting started

Foundation courses are usually offered through face-to-face tutoring, online or self-guided learning. Whilst all modes of learning are beneficial, we recommend face-to-face instruction as the best option. This provides the opportunity for students to learn content at a faster pace, develop proper pronunciation skills, and clarify their understanding with teacher advice and feedback.

See below for some provider suggestions.

Language school providers: Study options Year 7-10	
French	<b>The Alliance Française de Sydney</b> offers classes for all levels, holiday courses, intensive courses, tutors and preparation for DELF/DALF. <a href="#">Learn more.</a> Mosman French School - <a href="#">visit site.</a>
Mandarin	<b>Secondary School of Community Languages.</b> <a href="#">Find out more</a> and FAQs <a href="#">here.</a>
Spanish	<b>Instituto Cervantes</b> provides classes for all levels, holiday courses, intensive courses, tutors and access to DELE certification. <a href="#">Explore options.</a>

If you have any questions or would like more information about language options, please contact **Mr Bruce Perry, Registrar** [via email.](#)