

Year 9 Languages

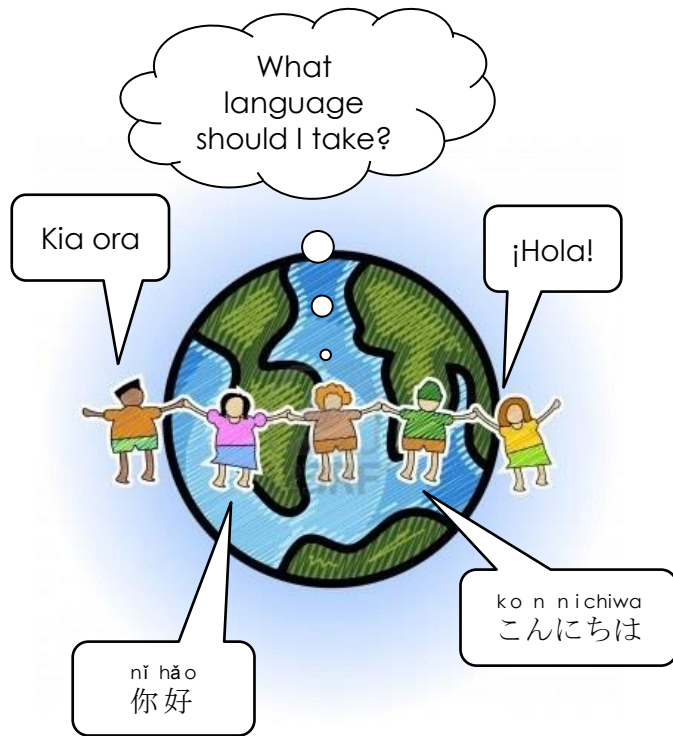
Why Learn a Language



It's increasingly recognised that languages are basic life skills. In New Zealand there is both political and educational support for students to learn at least one second language. European countries are aiming for skills in three languages.

Not only do languages develop people's communication skills, but they also develop their analytical thinking skills, problem solving ability, and people skills, which are all qualities that employers find valuable. An employer who takes on someone who has learned a language knows that even if it is not required for their job, the person who studied it will have developed tremendous strengths, and is able to deal with people from another cultural in a culturally sensitive manner.

In fact, careers involving languages are often highly paid. Research has shown that language graduates earn on average 8% more in their jobs than non-language graduates. Having a second language is seen as an added string to your bow, something that is there to add value to the main skill that you have.



Languages at Wellington High

Wellington High School offers four languages at Year 9 level: Japanese, Mandarin Chinese, Spanish and Te Reo Māori.

As Te Reo Māori is the indigenous language of Aotearoa/New Zealand it is vital we educate our



students in this language. "By understanding and using Te Reo Māori, New Zealanders become more aware of the role played by the indigenous language and culture in defining and asserting our point of difference in the wider world." (New Zealand Curriculum, 2007).

Japanese, Mandarin Chinese and Spanish are the languages of the Pacific Rim. These are the languages that will be of most benefit for students as they enter the job market. China and Japan are the second and third largest economies in the world respectively, and Latin America offers a huge emergent trade market, as evidenced by John Key's recent visit. In 2010 the head of the Business Round Table stated that New Zealand needs more people who speak Japanese, Mandarin Chinese and Spanish so that we can grow our foreign trading potential. Most universities require students to learn another language if they intend to do an International Bachelor of Commerce degree, so why not get a head start? In addition tourism accounts for 8.6% of New Zealand's GDP and people who can speak a second language have huge advantages in securing jobs in this industry.



Japanese (日本語)

Konnichi wa. Japan has a fascinating culture that blends the technology of the modern world (robots, anime, fashion) with the traditional (ninja, samurai, Zen Buddhism). It is also the third biggest economy in the world, our fourth biggest export market and our fifth biggest tourism market.



Students who take Japanese will not only learn to speak and maintain a basic conversation about themselves, they will also learn to read and write in another alphabet, hiragana. It's not as hard as you think, and we have a bunch of online tools to help you.

Mandarin Chinese (中文)

Nǐ hǎo. Do you know one fifth of global population speak Mandarin Chinese? Do you know what New Zealand's biggest export to China is? Do you know that Mandarin Chinese grammar is much simpler than English?



Students who take Mandarin Chinese will not only learn to read and write simple Mandarin Chinese sentences, they would also learn to count, bargain and use a wide range of language to communicate in Mandarin Chinese. Students will become more knowledgeable in Chinese culture, customs, and history. There are many online tools that can help students to study the language and make learning interactive and fun.

Spanish (Español)

¡Hola! Do you know that Spanish is the second most spoken language in the world?



By the end of the year students who chose to do Spanish will be able to speak and maintain a basic conversation in Spanish, exchange basic information and read and understand brief Spanish written passages. They will also be culturally familiar with the Spanish world, including cooking and tasting food from Latin America and/or Spain. Plus they'll have the possibility to have an overseas Spanish speaking "buddy" (online).

Te Reo Māori

Tēnā tātou katoa. Ngā mātua, ngā taurira, ngā whānau o tēnei kura.

By the end of Year 9, students will be able to understand basic Te Reo Māori. A Year 9 student's understanding will include well-rehearsed sentence patterns, familiar vocabulary, and the ability to interact in predictable exchanges. They will have the ability to read and write straightforward versions of what they have learned to say. Students will be aware of and understand some of the typical cultural conventions that operate in interpersonal communication.



Contact Details

If you have any questions or want to know more about a particular language course, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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The Royal Society of New Zealand paper on multilingualism "shows a strong language policy can reduce barriers to trade, improve student performance across the curriculum, and influence better health and well-being, particularly among Maori, Pacific and migrant groups." *New Zealand Herald*, March 5th 2013