

Saturday School of Community Languages

Connection Diversity Excellence

Newsletter

Semester 2, 2019



From the Principal



Welcome to the Saturday School of Community Languages!

It is with great pleasure that I forward to you our first newsletter from the Saturday School of Community Languages. As the new Principal, I am committed to continuous improvement in the delivery of high quality languages courses across our 15 centres, and to expanding and promoting our leadership in the delivery of languages curriculum, as a lighthouse for languages education in NSW. As a school we strive to create a culture of high expectations, where all our students are challenged by innovative, creative and engaging languages programs, as we seek to guide our students in strengthening their connection with their language, identity, culture and community.

As the largest provider of face-to-face languages education in NSW, the SSCL offers 26 language courses to 3,161 students from Year 7 to Year 12. All our highly qualified teachers are approved to teach in public schools in NSW.

We achieved outstanding 2018 HSC results, with 19 students awarded First in Course in the HSC. Congratulations to these students and their wonderful teachers who have worked so hard to achieve these amazing results.

Home school supervisors will now have access through the school administration portal to their students' communications and engagement in their courses. This will make it easier for Home school supervisors to keep track of their students' progress in their courses and to monitor students' attendance on Saturdays.

As our centres only operate on a Saturday, please visit our school website for centre information, enrolment forms, language codes, and assessment schedules for Stages 4, 5 and 6. Our website can be found at <https://saturdaycl-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/>

Sana Zreika
Principal



HSC First in Course 2018

Domara Eskandar	Arabic Continuers Arabic Extension	Birrong Girls' High School Centre Birrong Girls' High School Centre
Davit Melkumyan	Armenian Continuers	Chatswood High School Centre
Jaena Lorelie Santos	Filipino Continuers	Bankstown Girls' High School Centre
Riya Soni	Hindi Continuers	The Hills Sports High School Centre
Attila Fazekas	Hungarian Continuers	Bankstown Girls' High School Centre
Shiori Yamakawa	Japanese and Literature	Chatswood High School Centre
Bunthai Chea	Khmer Continuers	Liverpool Girls' High School Centre
Seohyun Kim	Korean and Literature	Strathfield Girls' High School Centre
Juhui (Julie) Seo	Korean in Context	Chatswood High School Centre
Emily Kasovska	Macedonian Continuers	Kogarah High School Centre
Anisah Rajabi	Persian Background Speakers	Arthur Phillip High School Centre
Jagoda Szymanska	Polish Continuers	Ashfield Boys' High School Centre
Eunice Lopes Da Silva	Portuguese Continuers	NSW School of Languages Petersham Centre
Vipneet Kaur	Punjabi Continuers	The Hills Sports High School Centre
Andela Arnold	Serbian Continuers	Liverpool Girls' High School Centre
Juliana Velasquez	Spanish Continuers	Kogarah High School Centre
Daniella Andrea Espinoza	Spanish Extension	Ashfield Boys' High School Centre
Thi Thien An Ho	Vietnamese Continuers	Liverpool Boys' High School Centre

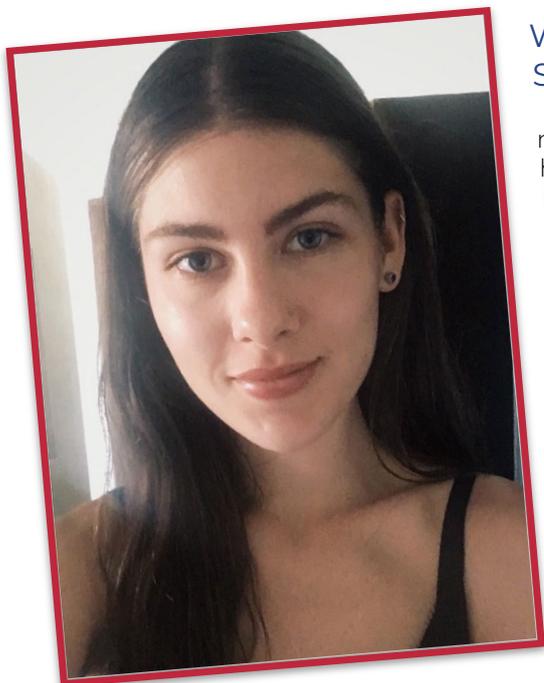
HSC Top Achievers 2018

Karam Yagan	Arabic Continuers	St George Girls' High School Centre
Bahjat Hatoum	Arabic Continuers	Birrong Girls' High School Centre
Yichen Liu	Chinese and Literature	Chatswood High School Centre
Meiyi Huo	Chinese and Literature	Strathfield Girls' High School Centre
Bianca Jimenez	Filipino Continuers	Bankstown Girls' High School Centre
Erica Salonga	Filipino Continuers	Bankstown Girls' High School Centre
Dorothy Joy Tagle	Filipino Continuers	Bankstown Girls' High School Centre
Damanjot Bhatti	Hindi Continuers	The Hills Sports High School Centre
Viktoria Kovacs	Hungarian Continuers	Bankstown Girls' High School Centre
Anett Kis	Hungarian Continuers	Bankstown Girls' High School Centre
Sara Ota	Japanese and Literature	Chatswood High School Centre
Kanon Yumoto	Japanese in Context	Chatswood High School Centre
Kazune Horimoto	Japanese in Context	Chatswood High School Centre
Kaito Tanabe	Japanese in Context	Chatswood High School Centre
Ji Yoon Kang	Korean and Literature	Strathfield Girls' High School Centre
Yubin Bae	Korean and Literature	Strathfield Girls' High School Centre
Yeonsu Jo	Korean in Context	Chatswood High School Centre
Jihye (Hannah) Lee	Korean in Context	Strathfield Girls' High School Centre

Soo-Hee Wu	Korean in Context	Strathfield Girls' High School Centre
Jin Lee	Korean in Context	Strathfield Girls' High School Centre
Ana-Maria Stevans	Macedonian Continuers	Kogarah High School Centre
Evangelia Sakarellou	Modern Greek Continuers	St George Girls' High School Centre
	Modern Greek Extension	St George Girls' High School Centre
Irene Katsadima	Modern Greek Continuers	St George Girls' High School Centre
Eleftheria Papadopoulou	Modern Greek Extension	St George Girls' High School Centre
Anna Korovesi	Modern Greek Extension	St George Girls' High School Centre
Maryam Karimi	Persian Background Speakers	Arthur Phillip High School Centre
Weronika Golos	Polish Continuers	Ashfield Boys' High School Centre
Izabela Kotasinska	Polish Continuers	Ashfield Boys' High School Centre
Izabella Brzozowska	Polish Continuers	Ashfield Boys' High School Centre
Monika Chorobski	Polish Continuers	Liverpool Girls' High School Centre
Tatiana Moreira Coelho	Portuguese Continuers	NSW School of Languages Petersham Centre
Bavneet Kaur	Punjabi Continuers	The Hills Sports High School Centre
Sehaj Preet Singh Lamba	Punjabi Continuers	The Hills Sports High School Centre
Stefan Dukic	Serbian Continuers	Liverpool Girls' High School Centre
Adrian Popovic	Serbian Continuers	Liverpool Girls' High School Centre
Katarina Erdeljan Djordjevic	Serbian Continuers	NSW School of Languages Petersham Centre
Jelena Avramovic	Serbian Continuers	NSW School of Languages Petersham Centre
Adela Nicula	Spanish Continuers	The Hills Sports High School Centre
	Spanish Extension	The Hills Sports High School Centre
Aitana Mann-Betanzos	Spanish Continuers	The Hills Sports High School Centre
Laura Vanessa Lopez Zuniga	Spanish Continuers	Kogarah High School Centre
	Spanish Extension	Kogarah High School Centre
Jose Ruiz	Spanish Extension	Ashfield Boys' High School Centre
Ivan Jose Courtney	Spanish Extension	Chatswood High School Centre
Bade Elif Gulmez	Turkish Continuers	Arthur Phillip High School Centre
Lam Nhu Truong	Vietnamese Continuers	Liverpool Boys' High School Centre

Jagoda Szymańska

First in Course 2018 – Polish Continuers



What did you enjoy most about studying at the Saturday School of Community Languages?

I enjoyed spending time with people from the same cultural heritage. I made a lot of friends there, with whom I had an understanding I couldn't have with any of my other friends. I liked going to Saturday school because my classmates and our amazing teacher Mrs Gosia Vella made it feel like home in Poland for me.

Has studying a language for the HSC helped you get in the course you applied for?

I didn't get into any course yet as I've decided to go to university in Poland. However I can say for sure that studying a language for HSC gave me the confidence to decide to study in Poland.

What advice do you have for current Year 12 students studying a language for the HSC?

Studying a language broadens our horizons and gives us possibilities after the HSC that no other subject can give, as they open the world to us. It might seem hard at times, but you will finish your HSC quicker than you think, and have the benefits of studying languages for life.

Why do you think maintaining your first language is important?

I think that it's very important for a lot of reasons. First of all, it allows you to communicate with your family and friends, and strengthens the sense of cultural belonging. It allows to explore books, movies and other cultural goods created in your first language, which allows a better understanding of your heritage and gives you new outlooks. Furthermore, being bilingual improves many brain functions like for example the ability to focus attention or multitask. I think that another benefit worth mentioning is that each consecutive language you learn, is easier for you to grasp, as there are always similarities in language patterns.

Arthur Phillip High School Centre



Arthur Phillip High School Centre is dynamic as ever. The Centre is led by Douglas Melville, Centre Supervisor, Irfan Yigit, Assistant Supervisor and Anu Chhabra, Curriculum Coordinator. The centre offers Arabic (Years 7 to 12), Persian (Years 11 and 12) and Turkish (Years 7 to 12). Our centre is the only SSCL site teaching Persian. We currently have a Year 11 class and a Year 12 class, and our Persian classes are usually at full capacity in terms of numbers. As we continue to operate from the historic Arthur Phillip High School, we have been watching the construction of the new school across the road. We are looking forward to moving into the new facilities, hopefully from the beginning of next year – a new future focused, multi storey school purposefully built to foster an online, interactive, digital learning environment that facilitates collaboration, critical and creative thinking which can all be done in these languages!

At the end of this term we will farewell one of our long serving teachers of Turkish, Mr Erol Yilmaz, who recently decided to retire from the SSCL. We wish Erol all the best in his future endeavours. Arthur Phillip Centre also has, as Assistant Supervisor, one of the longest serving members of staff in the SSCL community: Irfan Yigit was awarded the 40 Year Service Certificate last year. Irfan will be on leave during Terms 3 and 4 for some leisure activities with his family.

At Arthur Phillip High School Centre we celebrate being able to support our students by facilitating asynchronous lessons for those students who don't live in the Sydney metropolitan area, but who wish to access their language on a Saturday. We implement many tools and techniques to support and monitor the progress of our distance students at each stage of their learning that is consistent with a constructivist approach to teaching. We have established a learning community which supports students to interact through online discussions and feedback from other students.

We are looking forward to the parent-teacher interviews on the last day of this term. This is one of a few special occasions in the year when we can share some of the wonderful teaching and learning activities we provide with our parents in-person, and discuss how their children are progressing towards their educational goals.



An artist's impression of the new Arthur Phillip High School high rise

Ashfield Boys' High School Centre

The Centre is located at Ashfield Boys High School, Liverpool Road, Ashfield. The school has excellent access to public transport with bus stops right outside the school and Ashfield Railway Station just around the corner. The Centre has approximately 180 students studying four languages: **Chinese, Modern Greek, Polish and Spanish**. There are 10 teachers supported by three executive staff and three clerical staff.



Our school has a dedicated Saturday School office, access to three very well-equipped computer labs, the school library, school assembly hall, senior study room as well as the use of connected classrooms. Every classroom has an interactive whiteboard and students have good internet access through the school's Wi-Fi network. Our recent appointment of **Mr Samuel Muthiah** has further ensured access to many laptops and iPads for student and staff use.

HSC Results

We are very proud of the outstanding HSC examination results achieved by our students under the guidance of their outstanding teachers. In the 2018 HSC, the following students achieved exceptional results:

Daniella Andrea Espinoza – First place in the State in Extension Spanish.
Jose Ruiz – Second place in the State in Extension Spanish.
Congratulations to our Spanish teacher Rosa Rodriguez.

Jagoda Szymanska - First place in Polish
Weronika Golos - Second place in Polish
Izabela Kotasinska - Third place in Polish
Izabella Brzozowska- Fourth place in Polish
Congratulations to our Polish teacher Gosia Vella.

Millennium Team

The central location of Ashfield SSCL has facilitated the establishment of the Millennium team on the school premises. This team consists of 6 staff (Linda Hodgess, Jessica Dimovski, Jing Huang, Dimitra Saisanas, and Gabbie Leung), led by **Jannan Assaad** (previously employed as Senior Spanish teacher at Ashfield Centre!).

This team supports Executive across the 15 Saturday School Centres in the management of the new Millennium data base. The Millennium team are currently using the Ashfield Boys High School Senior Study room – which is equipped with desk top computers, printing facilities, touch screen display, and a very spacious meeting area. The Millennium Team conduct training sessions for 15 the Saturday School centres on site and remotely through web conferencing.



Bankstown Girls' High School Centre



Our Centre uses the amenities of Bankstown Girls High School, with the generous support of the host school, every Saturday during school terms, from 7:30 am to 12:30 pm. The three languages currently taught at the Centre are Filipino Years 11 and 12, Hungarian Years 7 to 12, and Macedonian Years 7 to 12, with one student from Merewether Centre participating remotely each Saturday. Years 7-10 classes have two hours of lessons each Saturday, while Year 11 and Year 12 classes are in operation for three hours.

The staff at the Centre include three executive, two clerical officers, one IT coordinator and eight teachers.

Our students are given every opportunity to achieve great success in their community language study, and are encouraged to participate enthusiastically at the Centre, under the leadership of our exceptional staff allied to a fully supportive community.

For **Filipino** classes, Higher School Certificate results are consistently excellent and the students are immersed in their community language in innovative and enjoyable ways in the classroom. For example, students greatly enjoy games such as Filipino Scrabble, as seen in the photo above.

Macedonian is our largest group of students and they are enthusiastic and highly successful in their pursuit of community language. Our Macedonian teachers, while



are positive outcomes in the study of their doing an exemplary job in the classroom, take every opportunity to collaborate with their counterparts at other centres to foster ideas, assistance and collegiality, as shown in this photo of a function organised by the Macedonian School Council of New South Wales in appreciation for contributing to the preservation of Macedonian language, heritage and culture in Australia.

Judit Albecz, seated in this photo with her **Hungarian** class from 1986, has been our Senior Hungarian teacher at the Centre for over three decades. The Hungarian Ambassador to Australia recently presented Judit with the Hungarian Order of Merit awarded by the President of Hungary. This is the second highest State Order of Hungary. Judit received this award for her long service in helping to maintain the Hungarian language as part of Australian education.



Birrong Boys' High School Centre

Over 210 students attend our Centre each Saturday to engage in learning Chinese and Vietnamese. Chinese and Literature, Chinese in Context and Vietnamese Continuers courses are taught to HSC level, and Chinese and Vietnamese are offered for Years 7-10. The Junior Vietnamese class is the only class that caters for students at this level at the Saturday School of Community Languages.



We are fortunate to have committed and experienced teachers who also serve on examination committees, and act as Senior Markers and Markers for the HSC examinations each year. Our 15 teachers develop their expertise in technology with the support of our IT Coordinator and the Centre successfully delivers programs through distance education mode. All our staff are committed to providing a meaningful and relevant learning experience that enhances the ability of each individual student to excel in their language development. Our HSC results confirm the high standards that are attained in our classrooms.

A small team of three executive staff and three administrative support staff work tirelessly to ensure staff and students at the centre as well as parents and carers within the wider community are well supported. Beyond the running of the Centre, this team works collaboratively to ensure excellent communication with and support of external stakeholders including home schools and community groups.

Opportunities to participate in extra-curricular activities have been provided for students at our Centre, with students successfully participating in the 2019 Chinese debating competition.

We are committed to ensuring that all our students feel supported and cared for as well as connected to their culture and language, including the significant percentage of our students who are international students. Public education at its best!



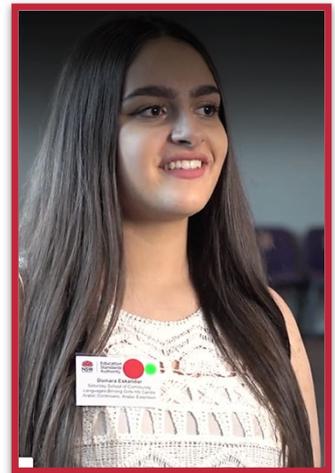
Birrong Girls' High School Centre



The Birrong Girls' SSCL Centre is a thriving, single-language centre teaching Arabic to our dedicated and vibrant student body. Our highly experienced staff are led by Mr Jim Tsafis (Centre Supervisor) and Mr Hilal Chanaoui (Curriculum Coordinator), and are supported by our hard-working Administrative Staff.

First place in HSC Arabic - Domara Eskandar

Congratulations to our very own Domara Eskandar who topped the state in Arabic Continuers and Arabic Extension in the 2018 HSC. Just two years after arriving in Australia from Syria! This is a tremendous achievement and an inspiration to all our students who study Arabic at the Birrong Girls High School Centre.



Harmony Day 2019

On 23 March 2019 our Centre participated in Harmony Day Celebrations. A huge thank you goes to all the staff and students who coordinated and contributed to the morning tea for Harmony Day. Indeed a plentiful and delicious feast for all to enjoy together!

Thank you to our Junior teachers Mrs Amin and Mrs Wehbe for organising their classes in creating wonderful artwork for Harmony Day. A special mention to Shahd Jbili for a fantastic speech to open the Harmony Day Celebrations.



Chatswood High School Centre



The Chatswood Centre is one of the original Saturday School of Community Languages centres, teaching languages continually for 40 years at Chatswood High School. The Centre is also the largest of all the SSCL centres, with over 550 students. We are pleased to offer Armenian 7-12, Chinese 7-12, Japanese and Korean 7-12, including In Context and Literature courses, Russian 7-12 (introduced in 2018), and Spanish 7-12. A staff of 45 is led by a very capable and efficient team: Cate Chapple, Supervisor, Helen Vlachos and Corinne Grant, Assistant Supervisors, and Wei Leu and Helena Kedza, Curriculum Coordinators.

In this issue, we are highlighting our Japanese teaching and learning program.

Japanese students and teachers

Chatswood Centre offers both Literature and In Context courses to cater for background and heritage speakers of Japanese at senior level. Our Centre is one of the very few providers of the Japanese and Literature course in NSW.

Students studying Literature and In Context courses further develop their language skills as well as their understanding of Japanese culture and society.

It is pleasing to see through our courses that students of Japanese background from different schools are connected and working together towards their common goals.

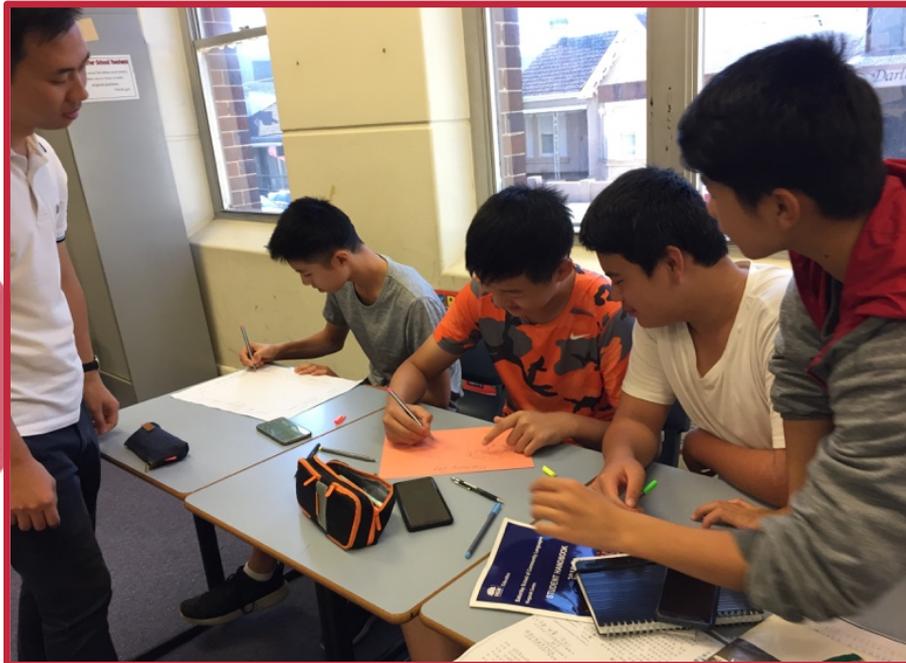
Many of our Year 12 Japanese and Literature students are preparing for both HSC and Japanese Entrance Examinations

this year. Previously some Japanese in Context students have been successful in entering Japanese universities to further their studies in Japan. It is an enormous challenge for our talented Japanese teachers, led by Ms Mai Takamura, to prepare students for both these examinations.

The Japanese Consul to Australia, Mr Keizo Takewaka visited Chatswood Centre on Saturday 23 March. Ms Maki Toshimori and Ms Mami Saito from the Japan Foundation also attended. Mr Takewaka was very impressed with the high level language skills of our Japanese students, and the innovative pedagogy used to support students both in the classroom as well as our remote students from all over NSW who participate in lessons via Skype. Mr Takewaka was also amazed at the level of commitment the students displayed by attending classes every Saturday, to ensure that their skills in their background language continue to develop and improve.



Kogarah High School Centre



Kogarah Centre is a busy and thriving educational community, a place where staff, students and parents work productively to enhance student learning.

For a few hours each Saturday, the Centre comes alive, delivering lessons in Chinese, Macedonian and Spanish to its large student group. Studies in these languages enjoy all the natural advantages of curriculum areas valued by the local community, and their success is reflected not only in the enthusiasm with which students engage in their learning, but also in some of the outstanding results which the Centre has produced over the years. Our Centre, students and staff form a vital part of the local educational landscape.

Credit for the success of Kogarah Centre must, as always, be largely attributed to its dedicated,

committed and wonderfully capable staff – staff who, largely, only work together once a week, but who bring to bear a professionalism, a passion for the languages they teach, and a great desire to similarly enthuse and inspire their students. To recognition of these must be added acknowledgement of the vital role played by the Centre's support and administrative staff, who truly operate 'behind the scenes' to ensure that each Saturday's program runs smoothly. They are an amazing team who work collaboratively to support the operation of our Centre.

Equally essential is the part played by the parents and local community, whose support for community languages, with the culture, tradition and history that they represent, underpins all that SSCL stands for.

Kogarah Centre is indeed fortunate in the advantages it possesses, and which have developed over time. Our Centre will continue to offer vital and valuable educational opportunities to our students in the years to come.



Liverpool Boys' High School Centre



Welcome to Centre

Liverpool Boys High School Centre is the second largest centre within the Saturday School of Community Languages. Courses are offered in 3 languages: Arabic Years 7-10, Year 11/12 Continuers and Year 12 Extension; Croatian Years 7-10 and Year 11/12 CCAFL Continuers; Vietnamese Years 7-10 and Year 11/12 Continuers. Our centre also supports students enrolled at Smiths Hill High School Centre in Wollongong to study Croatian via Connected Classrooms.

Academic Achievements and Student Contributions

This year we have introduced a new student leadership committee to facilitate student voice and provide leadership opportunities for our senior students. Students have performed consistently above expectations and achieved excellent results both in the School Certificate and Higher School Certificate. In 2017 HSC results included first in state in Continuers and Extension Arabic and in 2018 HSC achievements included first in State in Croatian and Vietnamese.



Liverpool Girls' High School Centre

Our Centre is led by Mario Bugeja, Centre Supervisor, Thanh Van Nguyen, Assistant Supervisor and Darko Levkovski, Curriculum Coordinator. We have a strong team of 21 highly professional and hardworking teachers.

Academic achievements

Our students consistently achieve excellent results in the Higher School Certificate. In the 2018 HSC, our results saw the majority of languages achieving Bands 5/6 for most of the students and the following Top Achievers placings:

- Khmer** First place
- Polish** Fifth place
- Serbian** First, Second and Third place

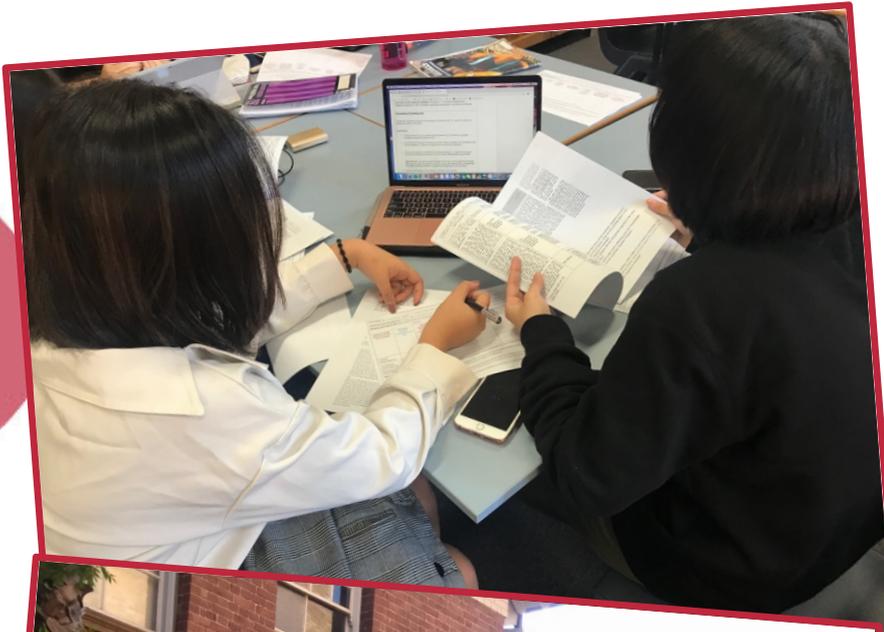
Students learning their community language at our Centre are not only learning the language but also the culture, history, traditions and at the same time making friends. By developing their skills in speaking, reading and writing their language, students are able to engage more confidently in their language-speaking community both locally and overseas.

Tamil

In 2018 Tamil was introduced at our Centre. Tamil has a strong presence as a community language in the wider community. 2019 saw the expansion of Tamil language to two classes. It is expected that our first cohort of Stage 6 students will commencing the Stage 6 Tamil Continuers course in 2020.



NSW School of Languages Petersham Centre



This has been a busy and exciting start to the year for the NSW School of Languages (NSL) Centre. We bid fond farewell to Dulwich High School of Visual Arts and Design that had been our home for over 20 years and returned to our original location at the newly refurbished NSW School of Languages in West Street, Petersham.

We have received a very warm welcome and support from the Principal and staff of the NSL and have access to all the school's facilities. We offer Portuguese, Turkish, Serbian and Vietnamese and have 170 students enrolled at our Centre. Our passionate and dedicated teachers value language teaching and work to imbue that passion for languages in their students.

Staff and students are taking advantage of the refurbished classrooms and the excellent facilities, including state of the art technology, with an interactive display system in every classroom and a dedicated computer lab. We are looking forward to an exciting and dynamic year in our new location as we learn to maximise the benefits of the excellent facilities available to us!



ALARM (A Learning and Responding Matrix): Our new teaching strategy

We have introduced the ALARM tool to Year 11 Vietnamese classes at our Centre this year. The ALARM scaffold assists students in

composing more sophisticated written responses for their assessment tasks and exams.

New school year, new Centre ... What do students think?

Our first impression is this is one of the most impressive schools we have been to... The rooms are nicely decorated with different themes of different cultures which inspire us a lot to learn our language. The school playground is big and there are lots of trees. It is fascinating to see a wide range of languages that are being taught here. We love this new Centre!

- Year 12 Vietnamese class

Smiths Hill High School Centre

Our Centre is located at Smiths Hill High School in Wollongong. Our Centre has access to all school facilities such as computer rooms and interactive whiteboards, which enables our teachers to engage their students in meaningful and relevant language learning experiences. We offer Years 7 to 12 courses in Arabic, Chinese, Macedonian, Modern Greek and Serbian and currently have 185 students. Ten of our students connect to our Centre via a remote program, where they are able to access quality language learning through video conferencing, Adobe Connect and Zoom in Macedonian, Croatian, Modern Greek, Korean and Chinese and Literature.



Back row: Christina Naydovska (7-8 Macedonian), Rowan Badarne (10 Arabic), Evoon Yacoub (Arabic support teacher), Marina Azmy (7-8 Arabic), Angela Lalopoulos (7-10 Modern Greek), Glenn Brown (IT Coordinator). **Middle row:** Rafat Ayoub (11 Arabic), Milica Zimonjic (11-12 Serbian), Mini Kukec (9-12 Chinese), Samirah Bahbahani (9 Arabic), Hui-ling Wang (7-8 Chinese), Siham Kanas (12 Arabic), Cveta Chumkovska (9-10 Macedonian), Judy Leddy (Clerical). **Front row:** Liz Osborn (Clerical), Snezana Mijakovac (9-10 Serbian), Trajana Stojanovska (11-12 Macedonian), Evia Kyriacou (Curriculum Coordinator), Margaret Uitterlinden (Supervisor), Khaled Elhage (Assistant Supervisor), Amal Diab (12 Arabic), Nariman Awada (7-8 Arabic).

Supervisor’s Merit Awards

Congratulations to the following students who, having achieved a minimum of five merit certificates, have earned the Supervisor’s Award:

Year 12 - Esmeralda Gerges, Abdul-Hadi Hadaya

Year 11 - Ala’a Abdul-Latif, Rana Khalqa, Yousif Alsamirae, Vian Ibrahim, Safin Aboudamer, Joanna Alhalabi, Sidrah Ayoub.

Student/parent interviews for Year 12 were held on 1 June. Interviews for Years 7-11 students will be held on 6 July and we encourage all parents to come along and discuss their child’s progress with the class teacher.



Alumni

Amro Zoabe and Sara Al Arnoos (inset) received Friends of Zainab Tertiary Scholarships of \$2000 to assist in their studies at the University of Wollongong. Amro and Sara are alumni of Year 12 Arabic 2018 and we congratulate them on their awards.

Harmony Day

We are proud to celebrate Harmony Day each year at our Centre as a platform to showcase the SSCL as a school that values Connection, Diversity and Excellence. Our staff, students and parents are invited to participate in a

range of activities as well as dress in various cultural backgrounds. All our students have the option to participate in

the poster competition, where they submit artwork that represents the theme of Harmony Day. This year’s theme was ‘It’s up to us’ and 35 students submitted entries.

St George Girls' High School Centre

Our Centre has been housed in the grounds of St George Girls High School for over 40 years. The Centre is led and managed by Mark Christison, Centre Supervisor, Cathy Apostolopoulos, Curriculum Coordinator, and a small clerical team. We have highly skilled and motivated teachers of community languages Arabic and Modern Greek. We have cordial cooperation and collaboration with St George Girls High School and access to the school's excellent technical support and teaching and learning facilities.

Students at our Centre have a strong record of achievement in HSC examinations in Arabic and Modern Greek Continuers and Extension courses, including First in Course.

At our Centre, learning is central to the activities. Students are respected and valued for their presence, participation and contribution to their own learning and that of others. Relations with parents and carers are cordial and communication is on a two-way basis.

We have Year 11 and Year 12 classes this year in Modern Greek and Arabic Continuers, and a Modern Greek Extension class. There are Years 7-10 classes in Modern Greek and we are most keen to build enrolments for Years 7-10 Arabic from 2020.



What do our students say?

"In Year 11 we have been studying topics such as personal identity, relationships with family and friends and are now learning about the environment and pets. In each lesson, we practise and develop our skills in writing, reading, listening and speaking."

"In Years 9 and 10 we have studied a variety of topics that have enhanced our knowledge of language and culture. We have enjoyed learning more about various celebrations in our community. We realised the significance and the importance of these community events in our lives in the Australian context."

"In Years 7 and 8 we have been working on the topic of relationships in Term 1 and education in Term 2. We completed our first assessment task and had fun creating phone conversations and interviews."

"Our class is always lively and there's always time allowed for discussion on the topic at hand. Our classmates are able to express their opinions and thoughts whilst having similar and differing interests. Every lesson is packed with new information and it is always fun to extend our knowledge of our language and culture."



Strathfield Girls' High School Centre



Centre executive- from left to right: Anna Hampouris, Assistant Supervisor; Evelyn Mark, Supervisor; Evelyn Man, Curriculum Coordinator.

Our Centre operates on the grounds of Strathfield Girls High School from 7:30am until 12:30pm every Saturday during school term time. Classes are offered in three languages: Chinese, Korean and Italian. There is a staff of three executive, three clerical officers, one IT coordinator and 18 classroom teachers. In 2019, there are 275 student enrolments and the majority are studying Chinese. Most of the students are in Stage 6 and we have a large international student cohort.

Remote study at Strathfield Girls' HS Centre

Our Centre offers distance education courses in Korean Stage 4, Chinese and Literature Stage 5, and Preliminary and HSC Chinese and Literature courses. Currently a total of eight students are connecting with our Centre through a program called ZOOM.

What do distance education students say about remote study at Strathfield Centre?

"At first I was worried about facing the camera, but now it doesn't bother me at all. At the start I didn't feel part of the class and didn't like the remote study, but I now realise that I get the same support from the teacher and the quality of the lessons doesn't suffer. The teachers are very supportive and that really helps me. I get the same homework and assessment feedback and am able to take part in all the class activities even though I am not physically in the room."

Student Highlights

One of our Year 11 Korean students has been successfully chosen to be part of a program in Korea- OK Friends Homecoming Teens Camp (2019). Congratulations to Julia Jeong!

What do our students say?

Saturday School is a place where I can meet new people and learn more about my language. It is a place that gives me the chance to take a step closer to my heritage, my family. It is something I do to fulfil my dream of trying to widely understand my language. It's a place where you can meet and bond with people with the same background language.

What do our teachers say?

This is my 10th year working at the Centre. The thing I like most is that our Centre is like a big family and we all get along extremely well. The executive and all staff support me professionally in my teaching and help me grow as a person as well. The students are really motivated and it is a rewarding experience to know that they appreciate the work that we do to help them achieve their best.

What does the community say?

I am so happy that my child is able to continue with their study of my family's language, because they cannot do it in the school that they go to during the week. Strathfield Centre offers my child the opportunity to study up until the Higher School Certificate and to use their knowledge of their background language to get good marks. I feel lucky that my child has such a good teacher and is keen to go to school even though classes are held on Saturdays.



The Hills Sports High School Centre



Meet the exceptional team from The Hills Sports High School Centre! Languages delivered at our Centre include Chinese 7-12, Hindi 7-12, Korean 7-10, Maltese 7-12, Modern Greek 7-12, Punjabi 7-12 and Spanish 7-12. Our 33 committed staff provide outstanding teaching and learning experiences to engage the learner and nurture the passion for background language mastery. Year after year, our exceptional HSC results continue to reflect the dedication of teachers and students alike together with the powerful school-community partnership.

Insights from our student, Jasmeet Kaur

The Saturday School of Community Languages is a great initiative that allows me and many students to connect with and further develop their mother tongue. I love coming to the Saturday School because of its warm environment, positivity towards all languages and various events held to promote the unity within all cultures such as Harmony Day. Harmony Day is a great whole-school event that beautifully mirrors the diversity of many amazing cultures here at the Saturday School. Being able to embrace my language skills in my mother tongue is a fantastic opportunity that I will always appreciate.



Insight from our teacher, L. Chavez

I love teaching at The Hills Centre because I so enjoy seeing each child grow and develop a different set of skills. I love seeing the amazement in their faces as they master their background language and feel that confidence and belief that they can succeed. The ability to connect with their peers, their family and broader community is also so worthwhile for me to nurture as their teacher!

Insight from one of our parents, M. Singh

I have loved watching my children thrive at the Saturday School. The Hills Centre has really encouraged and engaged my children in the study of their background language and the results have been extraordinary! We have connection and conversations at home with grandparents and broadened perspectives about career opportunities in the future! It has been wonderful!



Contact Our Centres

Our Centres may be contacted by phone on Saturday mornings only

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02 9244 5694

Arthur Phillip HS Centre
0436 652 301

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Bankstown Girls' HS Centre
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