Learning a language at Parkdale Secondary College

Learning a language opens the door to a new world of culture and way of life. Parkdale Secondary College offers two languages, French and Japanese. Language learning is compulsory for students from Year Seven to Year Nine and languages become elective subjects at the end of Year Nine. French and Japanese are offered at VCE. Students from French and Japanese backgrounds have the opportunities to continue with their background language with extension programs offered at the school.

Both languages are taught by qualified teachers of French and Japanese. At Parkdale Secondary College, students have the opportunity to develop a greater understanding and knowledge of the language through French and Japanese teachers who are native speakers. A Japanese Native speaker assistant also provides supplementary support to Japanese language learning at the school.

Parkdale Secondary College maintains a strong sister school relationship with Osaka Nishi High School, which is located in Osaka, Japan. Our exchange program was established in 1993 and it is designed to foster, maintain and promote mutual understanding and positive relations between the students of the two schools. It provides opportunities for students to improve their language skills and broaden their social horizons. Parkdale students also participate in a study tour to France in November for three weeks.

Choosing the language you want to study at secondary school is a very important decision as it will impact on future careers and life goals. In order to gain an enjoyable, rewarding experience, please consider the following when choosing a language to study at Parkdale Secondary College.

- Choose a language you can be passionate about learning. Have you always wanted to watch anime in its original language? Then study Japanese! If you want to work in the fashion industry, French could open up new possibilities.
- If you have learned French or Japanese at your primary school, it would be easier for you to continue with the language you studied at the primary school.
- It is a myth that Japanese is difficult because of its script that is different to English. Students at Parkdale Secondary College are taught to learn the script very quickly.
- Which country you have always wanted to visit? France or Japan? Choose its native language. The goal of traveling to France or Japan can be a huge motivator when learning French or Japanese.
- Your friends’ and your interests, future aspirations and learning styles are different! Therefore it is better not to select a language simply because your friends want to learn it.
- If you have friends or family members who speak French or Japanese, choosing the language they speak may mean you will have someone to practise the language with.
- If you still cannot decide, read about the culture of France and Japan. This will help you gain enthusiasm for the language you are beginning to study.

No matter what your choice is, you should be proud that you have chosen to study another language. Whether it is French or Japanese, you’ll gain a range of skills that will no doubt help you in the future. Please contact Lakshmi Weeraratne, the Languages Coordinator on 9580 6311 if you have any queries.