**Foreign Languages**

In a world era that is increasingly globalised, it is quite useful to be able to speak other languages. It can also open worldwide doors of opportunity and friendship. Learning a language is a mental discipline that increases logical reasoning skills as well as appreciation of other peoples and cultures.

Apart from being a requirement of the Australian Curriculum, learning other languages increases an understanding of our own language and the ability to quickly decipher unknown words. For example 60 percent of the English language comes from Latin as well as all of our medical and scientific words. English has significant influences from Greek, French, and Scandanavian words.

It is common for people in European countries to be familiar with four or five languages, which helps relations with neighbouring countries, but also adds a cultural richness to a child’s education.

In an ideal Charlotte Mason education we would try to give the children an introduction to several languages (Romance languages, Germanic, Asian, and Classic languages); and then the students may specialise in high school. The following list is our preferred sequence for a student who is with us for all the Year levels. However, this list is also negotiable.

* Year P-2: Select one of the Romance Languages (French, Italian, Spanish) or a Family Ancestor’s language. Just one or two short sessions each week
* Year 3-4: Keep on with a chosen romance language and also introduce one of the Germanic languages (eg., German, Dutch, Afrikaans, Frisian or Scandinavian languages)
* Year 5-6: Keep on with your chosen romance and Germanic language plus introduce one of the Asian languages (Mandarin Chinese, Japanese, Hindi, Arabic) or an Austronesian language such as Indonesian.
* Year 7-8: Continue one or more previous languages; and commence Latin. (eg., using “Latina Christiana Level 1 Kit” )
* Year 9-10: Continue one or more previous languages; and also continue Latin. (eg., using “Latina Christiana Level 2 Kit” )
* Year 11-12: Optional: continue preferred languages or Latin, or Ancient Hebrew or Greek.