Dear Parent/Guardian,

One of the courses your child will undertake this year is Japanese. It is a mandatory 100 hour language course.

The subject Languages has been a part of the Department of Education’s curriculum for a long time and there are many of us who have memories of studying other languages when we were at school. There are many benefits to be gained from learning another language:

- Moving between countries, cultures and languages has become more common because of globalisation, easier and cheaper travel and advanced communication technologies. High quality education in languages helps prepare students to live and work in an ever-expanding world.

- Contemporary research has established a clear link between the learning of languages and improved literacy skills. Even limited experience of the learning of languages is shown to increase grammar awareness and strengthen brain development.

For Japanese in particular:

- Languages that use different writing systems and scripts exercise your child’s memory whilst exposing your child to a variety of techniques to memorise information. These techniques can be applied when studying for other subjects as well.

- The study of Japanese provides access to the language and culture of one of the globe’s most technologically advanced societies and economies. It also introduces students to an important part of the rich cultural tradition of East Asia.

- Japanese has been identified by the government as one of the priority languages to be taught in Australian schools. This is due to Japan being one of our East Asian neighbours and one of our biggest trading partners. There is a current focus on learning languages not just for travel but for well-paid future employment as well.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call me at the school on 6554 6062.

I look forward to our partnership in regards to your child’s learning this year.

Melissa Pol
Japanese Teacher

Judy Hall
Principal