20 October 2015

Dear Parents and Carers

Over the past month the college has been working on the strategic planning for LOTE (Language other than English) within the College. In consultation with Independent Schools Queensland, and the College Council, the decision has been made that the Junior Campus will study Indonesian instead of German starting from 2016.

During the strategic review it has also been decided that Indonesian will start in Prep from 2016 and provide a continuous language experience until Year 10, with the option to continue studying Indonesian as a Senior Secondary Subject. The study of LOTE in the early years for one lesson a week has proven to:

- Improve cognitive development and improve students ability to think logically, solve problems and increase the ability for students to express themselves with clarity;
- Improve the ability for young people to communicate, improving processing skills;
- Improve students’ appreciation of other cultures and opens up more cultural learning opportunities.

By studying Indonesian as a college it will allow Prince of Peace to respond to the “Advancing Education” plan produced by the Queensland State Government that identifies LOTE as a clear way to raise achievement in schools and equip students to meet the needs of the future. With the release of this document only last week by the State Government it is affirming to see that the findings of our review and their strategic plan are very similar, with both documents identifying the importance of studying culture and language for students to become global citizens. The Advancing Education Action Plan states that schools will “expand the study of culture and language from Prep to Year 12 with a focus on Asian languages”.

The strategic intent is that the learning opportunities will go far beyond the study of the language and will expand into cross-curricular study of culture and people. We have already strengthened our partnership with our sister schools Sekolah Kristen Terang Bangsa in Semarang and Sekolah Ciputra in Surabaya. This provides the opportunity for shared learning as Indonesian students will visit the Junior Campus. There will be the opportunity for Indonesian students to be billeted into Prince of Peace families for short periods of time and relationships to be developed. These relationships can be further strengthened as we offer the opportunity for our students to visit their school and meet their families. These partnerships also offer the College opportunities to live our mission by extending support and friendship to people who are less fortunate than ourselves with 75% of the Sekola Kristen student population being classified as disadvantaged. Through this strategic partnership we have the opportunity to help support and engage with other Christians in Asia.
I realise that this may be distressing for some families in Years 4-6 on the Junior Campus that have both developed a love for German and would like to continue their study of the language. As a college, we will provide opportunities for students on both campuses to continue their study of German in a voluntary capacity. This will be structured through lunchtime clubs that will be run by German speaking teachers/community members and will provide students an opportunity to continue their study in this area.

Please find attached a synopsis of the findings from the LOTE Strategic Review (should you wish to complete further reading on this subject) that identifies the reasons this decision has been made. We are very excited about this opportunity to embed international perspectives across our P-12 curriculum and enhance global citizenship.

Kind regards

Phil Hulland
Head of College