

## 5.3 LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH (LOTE)

Many people, specialists in employment and education as well as social commentators, continue to make predictions that many jobs existing today will disappear within the next 20 years. They also say that today's school leavers will have to change careers completely up to five times during their working lives. The key requirement to cope with this uncertain future is a broad education with the ability to be flexible. A Language Other Than English is seen as a very useful humanities subject to balance out the preponderance of Maths and Science subjects that our students prefer these days.

More than at anytime before, Languages Other Than English are seen as an essential requirement by an increasing number of employers. In an age of relatively high unemployment and tougher competition for jobs, phrases such as "Ability in the \_\_\_\_\_ language would be a distinct advantage" need to be addressed. Studying a language in the Middle School provides the absolute minimum of vocational competence.

### 1. JAPANESE

*Teacher who may be contacted for further information:*

**Mr H Suzuki**

#### **Course Content**

The basic elements of the Japanese language and an understanding of the uniqueness of the Japanese social and cultural traditions are integrated through a focus upon specific topics in the syllabus.

The Katakana syllabus is studied in Year 9. At least 100 frequently recurring Kanji are practised in reading and writing exercises.

Topics are chosen to facilitate active, communicative use of the language and include school life/social life in Japan, sports, hobbies, recreations, and simple language tasks to assist with shopping, talking about families and asking for directions in the street.

In 2007 Year 9 students will be able to choose between 2 courses. The first one has four lessons per week, which is the same as the current Year 9 Japanese course, and the second one has two lessons per week. Students who want to continue Japanese in Year 10 onwards are recommended to choose the course with 4 lessons a week.

#### **Assessment Criteria**

Each of the four skills, listening, speaking, reading, and writing, are assessed, normally twice per semester. Each of the skills is equally weighted, i.e. 25% of the total.

To assess listening skills, comprehension passages relating to topics covered are prepared. Speaking is assessed with reference to fluency and pronunciation. Writing needs to convey meaning concisely and be grammatically correct. Reading skills are assessed for gist and comprehension.