LOTE (Language other than English)

**Italian Language Program 1**

The Italian program aims to integrate the Italian language into the children’s daily activities in the Montessori classroom. Focus areas are linked into the Montessori curriculum where possible (e.g. lifecycle of the butterfly) and incorporated into their Montessori classroom in the form of picture and word matching card sets.

The weekly Italian class enables the students to focus on specific activities that introduce and practise new vocabulary and phrases, grammatical concepts and aspects of Italian culture. Italian class activities are concrete and hands-on. Students are immersed in a literacy-rich environment through stories and participation in the performance of a play in Italian (Cycle Two and Three). Cycle One children perform Italian songs on Italian Day and watch the older children perform plays in Italian. They are encouraged to be confident in speaking the language through the use of songs, rhymes, role-play and puppets. Where possible the language of communication with the learners is Italian. Relevant, age-appropriate Italian culture and cultural artifacts are explored and experienced.

The broad aim of the program is to enable the students to experience speaking another language fluently, to be confident in trying out new sounds whatever language they study at high school and to view language learning as an enjoyable activity.

**Italian Language Program 2**

L.O.T.E Italian lessons take place in the child’s classroom space. All children in all Cycle classes engage with the Italian language and culture once a week.

Theme based instruction begins in this group. A topic may be chosen, i.e. ‘animali nella fattoria’ (farm animals), and the lesson is structured around it. The use of manipulatives, visuals, song, play, and crafts are utilised. A story may be read, games played, songs sung, dances danced, and crafts made – the majority directed in Italian. Children are essentially learning what they normally learn at this age, but in Italian. Repeating Italian words are encouraged to develop language, listening, and concentration skills. Story time in Italian is introduced in Cycle One, as children love to look at picture books. Puppet and role-play are integrated with song and games, and musical instruments are added to increase enjoyment and help develop a sense of rhythm. Easy arts and crafts help reinforce the Italian being learned. Children will start to repeat songs and phrases at home. Learning language through traditional children’s and Regional Italian songs. Your child will sing, dance, play instruments and use props and colorful materials, all whilst absorbing the wonderfully expressive language that is Italiano.