

Information for Parents

How will my child benefit from learning a language?

Learning benefits

- Instruction in a foreign language can have a direct effect on the development of cognitive skills
- Languages can expand your range of thinking
- Transferable skills gained in a language learning class e.g. discussing in pairs, expressing opinions, working with others, taking part in public discourse
- Learning a new language improves the use of a student's mother tongue
- Boost brain power
- Develop strategies for learning that are transferable to other languages and other subjects
- Languages are a life-long skill
- Enhance problem-solving skills

Cultural benefits

- Language facility promotes better understanding between cultures
- Relationships with others improve
- Gain better appreciation of other cultures and adds to other subjects such as history, geography, politics, economics, business studies, law
- Very enriching experience
- Increase cultural literacy, cultural enrichment

Social and societal benefits

- Prepare students to live in a multicultural society and fosters greater tolerance
- Strengthen social cohesion, and mutual understanding
- Understand our identity through the study of language
- Languages support communities and can make others feel more included
- A world-class education system must reflect that the world we live in is multi-lingual

Economic benefits

- Increase employability
- Language learning promotes equal opportunities
- Rapid expansion of e-business driving a need for languages ability. Customer expectations and the high stakes of winning or losing business require competence to work in a customer's language
- Make travelling easier

Adapted from: Subject Centre for Languages, Linguistics and Area Studies, University of Southampton