Why a Japanese Excellence Program?

Broadbeach State School acknowledges the importance of supporting individual learners to excel in areas of personal interest and talent. Although the school offers Japanese language classes from Years 1-7, it recognises that some students have a deeper passion and aptitude for Japanese studies and are motivated to engage in more detailed and focused study. For some their motivation may be a desire to learn Japanese for the purposes of further study or relate to future career aspirations. Across the year levels there is a large group of students who continually demonstrate both high achievement and interest in Japanese language studies. The Japanese Excellence Program was introduced as a response to meet the needs of these particular students.

The curriculum is set at a level, pace, degree of abstraction and complexity beyond learning expectations for their age peers, characterised by:

- a faster pace of instruction
- processing of more complex language and use of higher order thinking
- opportunities to engage in learning with students of the same or higher ability
- work of a more challenging level enabling the development of perseverance strategies

What are the goals of the Japanese Excellence Program?

Communication in Japanese is the primary goal of the Japanese Excellence program at Broadbeach, which naturally includes both written and spoken language. Students are introduced to approximately 50 Kanji characters as well as the Hiragana script and at Senior level Katakana. Tasks are designed to develop students' speaking and listening skills through using Japanese in socio-culturally appropriate ways for a range of real-life or life-like purposes.

The broad goals of the Japanese Excellence Program include:

- providing opportunities for identified students to engage in more focused enrichment learning opportunities in literacy, numeracy and a specific area of interest
- providing opportunities for identified students to extend their learning beyond the normal classroom parameters
- providing opportunities for identified students to assume increased ownership, self-direction and self-management in relation to their specific learning goals
- providing opportunities to access online learning programs/activities
- providing opportunities for students to communicate via email to peers in Japan
How will students be identified?
Students will be identified through review of assessment data, competency and exposure to other languages, interest and motivation for Japanese studies. Some of the data sets that will be used include:

- Report Cards reflecting consistent “A” levels in Japanese studies
- Reports from private tutors/instructors reflecting high level performance in language studies
- Anecdotal observations/interviews - engagement in classes, group work, practical assessment tasks and oral presentations
- Participation in Japanese learning outside the regular classroom such as Japanese Speech Competition

What are the expectations of students participating in the program?
Students participating in the Japanese Excellence Program are required to:

- Maintain regular attendance
- Engage in the program with enthusiasm
- Aspire to high level personal goals
- Commit to out of school and online learning as required

What are the expectations of the parents of students entering the program?
Parents of students entering the Japanese Excellence Program are required to:

- Actively support their child and their learning
- Commit to supporting their child in out of school learning
- Ensure students are sufficiently organised and on time for Excellence classes
- Maintain a close working relationship with the Japanese Excellence teacher

What will be the time commitment for the Japanese Excellence Program?
Japanese Excellence classes are held weekly before school for 40 minutes throughout the school year. The Junior Program operates for Year 4-5 students and the Senior Program for students in Years 5-6.

What areas of study will the Japanese Excellence Program offer students?
The Japanese Excellence Program will provide enrichment and extension learning in the following areas:

Intercultural Communication:
Learning to communicate inter-culturally involves developing sociocultural ways of communicating in Japanese, familiarity with the functions of language and general knowledge according to their needs, interests and prior leaning.

Language Awareness:
Language awareness focuses on students developing an awareness of the role of language as well as culture within their world as they learn another language. Children will gain a deeper understanding of:

- the features of their own and other languages
- language functions in everyday life
- language as a system and how it works
- applying language in varying contexts
- how language is learnt
- how diversity is enriched through culture

Learning how to learn:
While the main focus is on meaning, discussions about strategies that assist internalising language will be learnt. By participating in learning experiences in Japanese, children begin to develop an awareness of both the skills and strategies required to take responsibility for their own learning.

How will student progress be reported?
All students will receive their regular class semester progress report which will include progress in the Japanese Excellence classes. The assessment focus will include student self assessment, peer assessment and the completion of assessment tasks requiring higher level thinking and the application of more complex Japanese language and concepts.