**Language Immersion**

Language Immersion, also known as CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning), is the most effective form of bilingual education, designed for students with high communication skills.

Gladstone Park is the first secondary school in Victoria to offer Italian utilising this methodology.

Immersion learning is significantly enriching and is a very common practice overseas, especially in Europe and in North America, while in Australia it is offered by only Gladstone Park and a few other private secondary schools. Immersion is a revolutionary concept because, by enabling students to learn a language through content, as happens in real life, it leads to a more engaging and relevant process of language acquisition.

**How it works**

Immersion students at Gladstone Park experience the full breadth of the curriculum offered at our college while studying Mathematics, History and Geography in Italian.

During the Italian language classes students learn new vocabulary and grammar that will facilitate their understanding of the above mentioned subjects. The course is highly interactive and ICT based.

**Benefits of the program**

Immersion has been widely implemented overseas and research has demonstrated that students exposed to this teaching approach:

- Are more stimulated and subsequently motivated
- Improve their literacy skills and develop a range of learning and critical thinking skills
- Achieve higher results in a variety of subjects compared to those students who are exclusively taught in English
- Acquire a great deal of the foreign language used, in our case Italian
- Develop a deeper intercultural understanding that enables them to appreciate the values of the community and become better global citizens.
IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL STUDENTS

Students best suited for the Immersion Program should display:
• Excellent auditory & communication skills
• Curiosity and a wide range of interests
• Good interpersonal skills
• A high degree of creativity
• Good problem-solving skills

Having an Italian background or being exposed to Italian at home might be an advantage, however it is not essential.

SELECTION PROCESS

Students will attend an Italian elementary level lesson and subsequently sit a test examining their ability to retain the content previously taught in class. We will also test their reading comprehension skills, mathematics, general scholastic aptitude, and students will complete a writing task. Students shortlisted for the program will be asked to attend an interview. Primary teachers may also be contacted to complete a confidential assessment form.

WHY AT GLADSTONE PARK SC?

We have the benefit of having several highly qualified Italian speakers among our teaching staff and offer Italian up to Year 12. We also have a well established exchange program 'Destinazione Italia' with an Italian secondary school.

Therefore, every two years, we organize a school trip to Italy which involves daily excursions and academic activities at our sister school.

ZONE BOUNDARIES

Students selected for the Immersion Program gain entry to our zoned school under curriculum grounds, without residential restriction.

FURTHER INFORMATION

See contact details below if you would like to discuss this program further with: The Junior School Principal or the Language Immersion Coordinator.

For important dates & application forms, see GPSC website.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

Department of Education, The University of Melbourne & The Italian Government