14 August 2015

Dear Parents & Caregivers of Junior School students

**Important information regarding our Languages Other Than English (LOTE) program**

Radford College recently conducted a review of its Languages Other Than English (LOTE) program.

It was a comprehensive review of LOTE learning and teaching, including:

- how to instil a lifelong love of learning LOTE in Years K–6 students,
- how enjoyment of learning LOTE enhances literacy in English, and
- the most appropriate language to teach and learn at the primary level.

The review considered academic research on the effectiveness of an *apprenticeship language*, i.e. one that is easy to learn. A subsequent survey of Junior School parents indicated parents want a European language in the curriculum, with Spanish the preferred option.

Spanish meets the criteria for an *apprenticeship language*. It is relatively easy to learn with regard to spelling and pronunciation. English and Spanish both use the same alphabet. Spanish also provides a bridge to the learning of related languages, including French and Latin.

The LOTE review found that although Asian languages are valued, Mandarin is considered comparatively difficult to learn, especially in the primary years.

Given the review findings, at a meeting last night the Radford College Board ratified the replacement of Mandarin with Spanish in the Junior School curriculum.

Accordingly, the College will move to secure a teacher of Spanish for 2016.

The next Junior School *Conversations* evening, to be held **Tuesday 18 August** from 6.00 pm–7.00 pm, will explain the benefits of offering Spanish, and answer any questions you might have.

Yours sincerely

Fiona Godfrey  
Principal

Paul Southwell  
Head of Junior School