“The Jews started it all—and by ‘it’ I mean so many of the things we care about, the underlying values that make all of us, Jew and Gentile, believer and atheist, tick. Without the Jews, we would see the world through different eyes, hear with different ears, even feel with different feelings…..we would think with a different mind, interpret all out experience differently, draw different conclusions from the things that befall us. And we would set a different course for our lives.”

_Thomas Cahill, The Gifts of the Jews_

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### Jewish Life and Philosophy

Education is of central importance in Judaism. It is the key to our future Jewish community. At Masada we offer an enriched Jewish Life program, providing a solid foundation to develop, nurture and build a Jewish way of life.

### Programs

At Masada pupils from Year 7 to 10 participate in engaging Jewish Life lessons 5-6 times a cycle. During these lessons students learn a wide range of Jewish topics and how they are relevant to their everyday lives. Students are kept engaged and stimulated through the use of Smart board technology, relevant media and interesting reading material. Topics include:

- Examining the Tanach and the associated Rabbinic commentaries.
- Jewish moral issues—from how do we know there is a G-d to why we need to give Tzedakah (charity) and much more.
- Jewish Halachah (law) - from Kashrut (Jewish dietary requirements) to the observance of Shabbat and much more.
- Important Jewish personalities and their contributions to Jewish thought.
- Practical Judaism—from how to navigate through a siddur to how to treat your fellow man and much more.
- Chagim (Jewish Festivals) - from why we observe the particular Chag to what Halachot are involved in the observance and much more.
- Students are offered the choice of choosing Classical Hebrew for the HSC.

### Syllabus

We offer various Hebrew courses at Masada College.

**What is NETA?**

NETA is a dynamic Hebrew language curriculum designed for students in Years 7-12. Created by Hebrew language curriculum specialists from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, NETA is a multi-dimensional program integrating the four major language-acquisition skills-listening, speaking, reading and writing—by immersing students in everything from Classical Hebrew texts to Israeli music and from historical documents to poetry and drama.

**What is Alpha NETA?**

Our younger student’s study the preparatory NETA course called Alpha NETA and after a placement test the students enter the NETA course at the appropriate level.

**What is the ULPAN Course?**

In Years 9 and 10 the student’s elect if they would like to continue to study conversation Hebrew and we have developed a very dynamic interactive ULPAN Hebrew course.

In the Senior years our pupils can elect to do the Modern Hebrew continuers course for the HSC.
HSC / Gifted and Native Students

We offer both Classical and Modern Hebrew for the HSC and year after year, our graduates attain a very high level in the communicative skills and in their HSC results.

We cater for native speaker Israeli students through our extension program and offer Extension Hebrew groups with a native speaker.

Enrichment

Multiple opportunities are provided for students to participate in non-formal and appealing means of learning and enrichment of their Hebrew. These include:

- Annual Hebrew Camps
- Annual Hebrew School Assembly
- Hebrew Movie presentations
- Native Hebrew Guest speakers
- Hebrew School Newsletter
- Hebrew projects

Hebrew at Masada

Philosophy

Teaching a language outside of the country where it is commonly used requires special strategies to compensate for the lack of language exposure that a native environment offers. As a result of this we, at Masada carefully set our goals in order to maximize the learning experience.

We do this through targeting function as the basis for teaching Hebrew at all levels. This means that students are expected to know about the language as well as be able to function in it in all language skills ie. Reading, writing, speaking and listening and we bring our learner—from the beginning level to the advanced levels.

One of the main principles is that we teach Hebrew within the context of a specific subject of theme. Our goal is to bring learners—to a point where they can function in the real world through exposure to authentic and semi authentic texts.

Learning the culture of Israel is an integral part of learning language skills. The ability to produce language of a higher quality depends on understand the culture of the language which is learnt and in this case it is the cultures of the peoples of Israel.

We do this through the teaching of the Alpha NETA program which prepares our learners to embark on a more authentic approach by studying the NETA program itself. Our ultimate aim is for our pupils to be conversant in Hebrew and to be able to function on a simple but fluent level within Israel society.