At Masada College we offer three different courses of language studies: Chinese, Modern Hebrew and Classical Hebrew.

**Hebrew**

Modern Hebrew is spoken by most of the eight million people in Israel, while Classical Hebrew has been used for prayer or study in Jewish communities around the world for thousands of years.

Teaching a language outside of the country where it is spoken requires special strategies to compensate for the lack of language exposure and immersion that a native environment offers. As a result of this challenge, we at Masada set out goals in order to maximise the learning experience.

We do this through targeting function as the basis for teaching Hebrew at all levels. We use several different programs depending on the levels where students learn to use the language rather than learn about the language. While we teach the basic skills i.e. reading, writing speaking and listening we also teach the language within the cultural context.

We teach a functional Hebrew so that our graduates can not only arrive in Israel and function on a day to day basis but can also read the newspapers and understand the television.

Our ultimate aim is for our students to learn Hebrew in an interesting and enjoyable way so as to be conversant in Hebrew and to be comfortable within the Israel context.

**HSC**

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.

**Enrichment**

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

- Annual Hebrew Camps
- Hebrew Days
- Hebrew language festivals
- Israeli guest speakers
- Hebrew newspapers
- Hebrew projects
- A visit to an Israeli restaurant
- Yom Haatzmauth celebrations
- Yom Hazikaron memorial services
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 out goals in order to maximize the learning experience.

We do this through targeting functions as the basis for teaching Chinese 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 i.e. reading, writing, speaking and listening and we bring our learner – from the beginner level to the advanced levels.

One of the main principles is that we teach Chinese within the context of a specific subject or theme. Our goal is to bring learners – to a point where they can function in the real world through exposure to a range of authentic and semi-authentic resources.

Learning the culture of China is an integral part of learning language skills. The ability to produce language of a higher quality depends on understanding the culture of the language which is learnt. In this case this is the cultures of the people of China.

Enrichment:

- Excursion to the “Chinese temple” and “Wing-Chun Chinese Kung Fu School”
- Language festival: where we showcase the languages taught at Masada College
- Chinese cooking class: make our own Chinese dumplings and Chinese drinks
- Chinese chess competition
- “Chinese Karaoke” week
- Chinese calligraphy and Chinese painting workshop
- “Chinese traditional festival” incursion with other schools
- Establishing a sister school in China
- Chinese assembly

Languages Teaching Staff

Mrs Auryt Jacobson (Head of Languages)
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