

# Emily's address at CAL Launch

C MAG, 17 January 2017

First of all, I would just like to thank Frank for inviting me to speak and to everyone who was a part of developing this wonderful (and undoubtedly successful) project. For me, I studied French in my two years of college under the tutelage of Frank and it was my best subject. But there weren't many students in the class (especially in year 11 when there were 7 at best turn up for class). And I think that the view of learning languages today in young students is that it's too hard to learn a language or not per say "fun" and these views really brutalise the opportunities to young students and I thoroughly believe that the Canberra Academy of languages will change these views today and for more generations of students to come. And I think that's something really exciting.

For me learning a language was a breath a fresh air, it was a different studying routine from the classic English, maths, biology where you just read notes and copying. With French you need to read, speak, write (with also correct grammar) and listen and your brain is just working two times faster but also a really fulfilling feeling when you get those things right. Another important thing learning a language does is boost communication and social skills. Students through their two years of college spend majority of their time isolated studying and studying, but learning a language, students are thrust in to this (at first) uncomfortable situation where you need to interact with others who you don't really know, and through being out of your comfort zone, you build unexpected friendships and interacting with others outside the class room a little easier.

So, for me I initially chose to learn French for the end goal of being fluent in hope that it will aid me for my career aspiration to work at the United Nations. But through my experiences I enjoyed learning a language thus I will be continuing it to my university studies with also learning Mandarin as well. So I am extremely excited and humble to be here at the opening of the Academy and wish it all the best for the future. Thankyou.

Emily Fisher