



Dear Parents/Carers,

With the implementation of the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) in Merici College, language acquisition will be compulsory for all students from Years 7 – 10 or those who are enrolled in 2018 onwards. The study of additional languages in the MYP provides students the chance to develop deep understanding into the features, processes and craft of language and the concept of culture, and most importantly, realise that there are varied ways of living, behaving and viewing the world.

Language acquisition in the MYP aims to develop a respect for, and understanding of other languages and cultures, and is also designed to equip students with a skills base to encourage and facilitate further language learning. Language learning is recognised as a developmental process in which students have opportunities to build on prior knowledge and skills in order for them to progress to the next phase of language development.

Language acquisition in MYP is organised into six phases. The phases represent a developmental continuum. As students progress through the six phases, they are expected to develop competencies to communicate appropriately and effectively in an increasing range of social, cultural and academic contexts, and for an increasing variety of audiences and purposes. The table below describes the competencies expected of students in each phase of the MYP language acquisition subject group:

## MERICI COLLEGE

Wise St  
Braddon  
ACT 2612

GPO Box 154  
Canberra  
ACT 2601

Telephone (02) 6243 4100  
Facsimile (02) 6243 4199

[principal@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:principal@merici.act.edu.au)  
[www.merici.act.edu.au](http://www.merici.act.edu.au)

Emergent Communicator		Capable Communicator		Proficient Communicator	
Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Phase 5	Phase 6
In a limited range of everyday situations	In a limited range of familiar situations	In a familiar and some unfamiliar situations	In familiar and unfamiliar situations	In social situations and some academic situations	In social and academic situations
Some aspects of register	Some aspects of register	Appropriate register	Appropriate register	Appropriate register	Appropriate register
A very limited range of interpersonal and cultural contexts	A limited range of interpersonal and cultural contexts	A limited range of interpersonal and cultural contexts	A range of interpersonal and cultural contexts	A range of interpersonal and cultural contexts	A wide range of interpersonal and cultural contexts
Use basic vocabulary	Use basic language	Use language accurately	Use language accurately	Use language accurately and effectively	Use oratory technique
Simple short texts	Simple texts	A limited range of texts	A range of texts	A range of texts	A wide range of texts
Interact in simple and rehearsed exchanges	Interact in basic rehearsed and some unrehearsed exchanges	Interact in rehearsed and unrehearsed exchanges	Engage actively	Engage actively	Engage actively
Understand and respond	Understand and respond	Understand and respond	Interpret and respond	Analyse and respond	Evaluate and respond
Identify and recognise	Recognise and understand	Understand	Construct meaning/interpret	Construct meaning/analyse	Evaluate

The above table is from the MYP Language Acquisition Guide. International Baccalaureate Organization, 2014

## MERICI COLLEGE

Wise St  
Braddon  
ACT 2612

GPO Box 154  
Canberra  
ACT 2601

Telephone (02) 6243 4100  
Facsimile (02) 6243 4199

principal@merici.act.edu.au  
[www.merici.act.edu.au](http://www.merici.act.edu.au)



The phases do not correspond to particular age groups and students could be placed in the most suitable phase outside of their year group. Transition from one phase to another is recommended by the students' language teachers based on data gathered in formative and summative assessments. Students usually transition at the end of a reporting period following an analysis of the assessment data.

To transition to the next phase, within and at the end of an academic year, students must achieve an overall MYP Grade 7 from across all four criteria. These four criteria are:

- A Comprehending spoken and visual text
- B Comprehending written and visual text
- C Communicating in response to spoken and/or written and/or visual text
- D Using language in spoken and/or written form

A written notification will go to you and your daughter to inform you of the progress to the next phase. The phase progression, outside of students' year groups, is to ensure that all students are offered an academically challenging course and provided with the most opportunities to achieve in a language.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for more information or seek clarification should you have any questions.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jen Baines', written over a white rectangular background.

Mrs Jen Baines ([jen.baines@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:jen.baines@merici.act.edu.au))  
Acting Languages/English Coordinator

## MERICI COLLEGE

Wise St  
Braddon  
ACT 2612

GPO Box 154  
Canberra  
ACT 2601

Telephone (02) 6243 4100  
Facsimile (02) 6243 4199

[principal@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:principal@merici.act.edu.au)  
[www.merici.act.edu.au](http://www.merici.act.edu.au)