Pembroke School Indonesian Program Receives Federal Grant for Innovation

Students of Indonesian at Pembroke School will be involved in a program during 2011 that is aimed at delivering innovative high-quality teaching and learning programs through the production of flexible online materials jointly produced with Pembroke’s sister school, Satya Wacana, in Indonesia. It is hoped that the program will improve student knowledge of Indonesia and Australia through the study of authentic e-learning materials developed and accessed through the e-learning platform, Moodle, and encourage person-to-person contact through email, Skype and social networking sites. These undertakings will also facilitate preparations for the annual Pembroke – Satwa Wacana Exchange Program for Year 11 students and maintain links after the exchange.

To date, Year 11 students from each school have made contact via email and Facebook, and the next stage will focus on guided discussions through the Forum facility on Moodle. Through these forums, students will discuss—in the target languages of Indonesian and English—aspects of their school life and daily routines through to issues facing young people in their respective countries. Special forums will be established to prepare potential exchange program participants for the challenging task of living and attending school in a country vastly different from their own. The video and audio streaming facilities within the forums will enable students to share photo stories, short video clips, music and other media-rich communication with each other, enhancing the language learning experience and bringing a little of each other’s country into the classroom. Next term the project will expand to include students of Indonesian at other year levels.

A clear aim of National Asian Languages and Studies in Schools Program funding is to promote the study of Asian languages within schools, and it is hoped that this project, coupled with the Indonesian Exchange Program, will fulfil this goal within Pembroke School.

Julian Trudinger
Assistant Head of Language