

# Evolving Practice, Accelerating Progress: Rethinking Italian from Year 7 - 10

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Melbourne Archdiocese  
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Catholic  
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# Presenters



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Co- Domain Leaders of Language



**Bianca Turrisi**  
Assistant Principal -  
Teaching and Learning

# Agenda

- Our school context
- Our Italian program -  
Where were we and where are we now?
- TCL and EPI
- Pilot unit in Year 7 Italian
- Example activities



# Our school context

- Co-educational school
- 7 to 10 campus with 650 students
- Italian is the only language offered
- Italian is compulsory until the end of Year 9  
(Elective at Year 10)
- Introduced two Year 9 Accelerated Italian classes from  
this year
- 2 x 60 minutes sessions per week at Years 7 -9
- 3 x 60 minutes sessions per week at Year 10



# Our Italian program

## Where were we?

- Students would progress across levels, but with very little knowledge retention.
- Curriculum was overloaded (presenting too much vocab and grammar).
- Lessons were teacher -centered, and students were often passive recipients.





## Our Italian program are we now? - Where

- Collaborating with MACS consultants to shift our pedagogical approach.
- Implementation of EPI (Extensive Processing Instruction) and adoption of high impact teaching elements of the TCL (Teacher as Co-Learner).
- Visit to Feeder Primary School, Emmaus, to observe TCL in practice.

# EPI and Teachers as Co Chloe Briand

- Learners

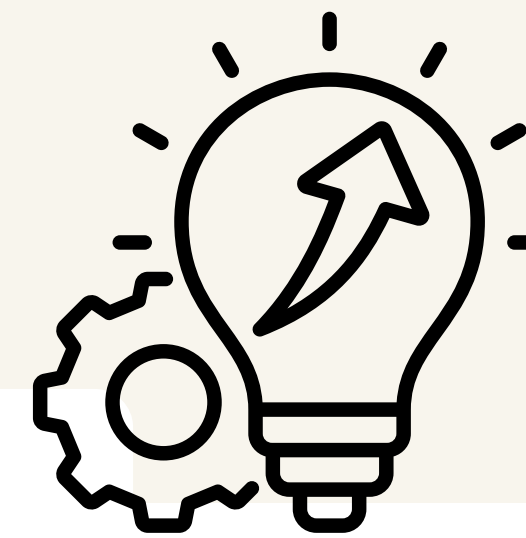
- Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools (MACS) provides its primary schools with a fully built F -6 Languages program aligned with the Victorian Curriculum 2.0 in Italian.
- The program is highly structured and is delivered daily (15 minutes) by the mainstream classroom teacher who is learning Italian with their students.
- TCL is currently delivered in over 50 MACS primary schools, as well as in MACS schools with trained Italian teachers who wish to apply EPI to their teaching programs.

# EPI and Teachers as Co

# - Learners

- The TCL program is explicitly underpinned by the EPI pedagogical principles. It serves as a practical implementation of EPI.
- Dr Gianfranco Conti has officially endorsed the TCL program.
- TCL is growing in MACS primary schools: it has been featured in [research project](#) from Deakin University and [Teacher Magazine](#).
- Secondary schools have started exploring how to adapt the TCL program in order to embed EPI in their Year 7 courses.

# How our Italian program evolved



- Our units, our lessons, our resources and our practice all transformed.
- Our units are now designed around key, practical language that we want our students to actually retain and build upon each year.
- Each unit is accompanied by language mats and sentence builders.
- Each lesson integrates EPI activities.

**YEAR 7  
TERM 1  
LANGUAGE  
MAT**

**Greetings & farewells**

Ciao - hi/ bye  
Salve - hello  
Buongiorno - good morning  
Buonasera - good evening  
Buonanotte - good night  
A dopo - see you later  
A presto - see you soon  
A domani - see you tomorrow  
Arrivederci - goodbye

**Polite Expressions**

Grazie - Thank you  
Prego - You are welcome  
Per favore - Please  
Posso andare in bagno? - Can I go to the bathroom?  
Puoi ripetere per favore? - Can you please repeat?

**Talking about names**

**Come ti chiami?** - What is your name?  
**Come si chiama?** - What is his/her name? (Also formal)

**Mi chiamo...** - My name is...  
**Si chiama...** - His/Her name is... (also formal)

**How are you?**

**Come stai?** - How are you? (informal)  
**Come sta Lei?** - How are you? (formal)  
**Come sta lui/lei?** - How is he/she?

**Sto bene grazie** - I am well thanks  
**Sto molto bene grazie** - I am very well thanks  
**Sto male** - I am unwell  
**Sto così così** - I am so so  
**E tu?** - And you?

**Numbers**

0 Zero	11 Undici
1 Uno	12 Dodici
2 Due	13 Tredici
3 Tre	14 Quattordici
4 Quattro	15 Quindici
5 Cinque	16 Sedici
6 Sei	17 Diciassette
7 Sette	18 Diciotto
8 Otto	19 Diciannove
9 Nove	20 Venti
10 Dieci	

**Days of the week**

**lunedì** - Monday  
**martedì** - Tuesday  
**mercoledì** - Wednesday  
**giovedì** - Thursday  
**venerdì** - Friday  
**sabato** - Saturday  
**domenica** - Sunday

**Months**

**gennaio** - January  
**febbraio** - February  
**marzo** - March  
**aprile** - April  
**maggio** - May  
**giugno** - June  
**luglio** - July  
**agosto** - August  
**settembre** - September  
**ottobre** - October  
**novembre** - November  
**dicembre** - December

**Age**

**Quanti anni hai?** - How old are you?  
**Ho \_\_\_\_\_ anni.** - I am \_\_\_\_\_ years of age.

**Colours**

Rosso - Red	Nero - Black
Giallo - Yellow	Blu - Blue
Bianco - White	Grigio - Green
Azzurro - Light blue	Verde - Green
Marrone - Brown	Rosa - Pink
Viola - Purple	Arancione - Orange

OPINION QUESTION	OPINION ANSWER		
QUESTION	VERB	NOUN	ADJECTIVE
Cosa ti piace mettere? (What do you like to wear?)	Mi piace tanto mettere... (I really like to wear...)	la maglietta (the tee-shirt)	bianco/bianca. (white [masc./fem.])
	Mi piace mettere... (I like to wear...)	il cappello (the hat)	nero/nera. (black [masc./fem.])
	Non mi piace mettere... (I don't like to wear...)	la giacca (the jacket)	rosso/rossa. (red [masc./fem.])
	Odio mettere... (I hate to wear...)	il maglione (the jumper)	giallo/gialla. (yellow [masc./fem.])

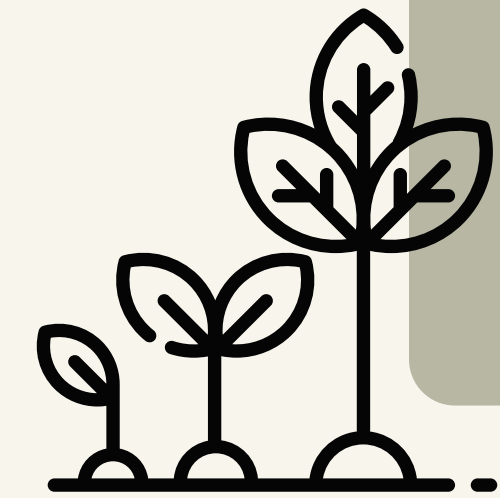
# Bringing the Vision for Instruction to Life at CRCNK

## High impact teaching practices

- **Clear cues and routines:** opening routines, attention signals, closing routines.
- **Full participation classrooms:** choral response, choral reversal, gesture, pronouncing with clapping, active tracking, and choral reading.
- **Checks for understanding:** non-volunteers (safe cold calling), mini whiteboards, physical demonstration, response cards, effective questioning, quick quizzes, and exit tickets.
- **Daily review:** in built at the beginning of every lesson, so students are always retrieving and reproducing previous language.

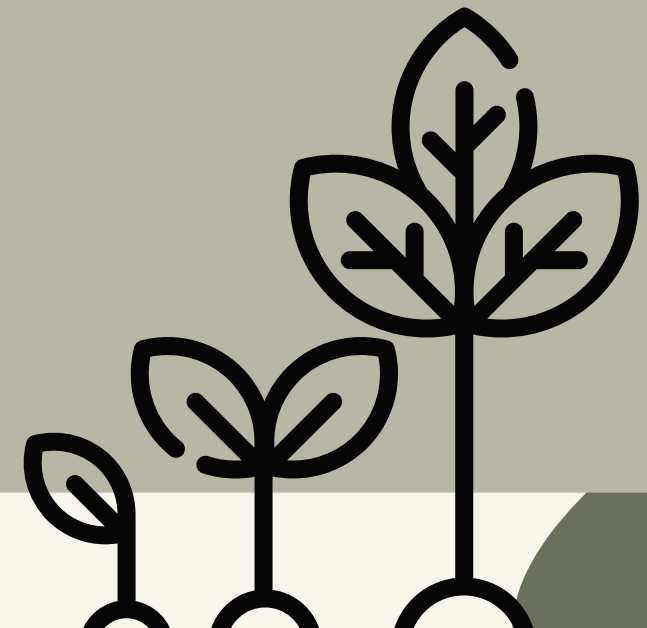
# Growth - students and staff

- Year 7 cohort 2025 demonstrated, by the end of Term 4, greater engagement and a very significant boost in language retention.
- Year 8 cohort 2026 is now showing stronger retrieval of language covered previously and confidence in using language in context.
- All language teaching staff have transformed and got on board with the new approach.



# Next steps

- Started at Year 7 in Term 3 2025.
- In 2026, Year 7 -9 units are all under development implementing the new approach.
- We are now focused heavily on incorporating interleaving practices in our daily reviews.
- Federation connection, broader context - collaboration with our high schools in the area



**Year 7 Term 3 2025:**














**Cosa ti piace mettere?**

**Pilot Unit**
















- **Unit 14A 'Expressing opinions about clothes'**
- **Retrieval of the vocabulary of months of the year and seasons**
- **Teaching how to express what we like to wear, and not, according to the seasons**

# Sentence Builder

# - Choral Calling

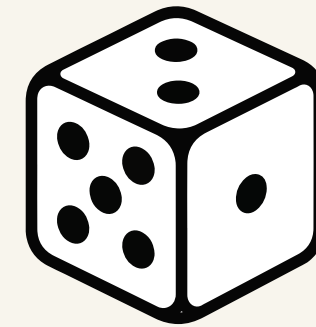
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# Vero o Falso? - Mini Whiteboards

SENTENCES	VISUAL PROMPTS		
1. Non mi piace mettere la maglietta bianca.			
2. Mi piace tanto mettere il cappello rosso.			
3. Non mi piace mettere il cappello giallo.			
4. Mi piace tanto mettere la maglietta nera.			
5. Mi piace mettere la giacca bianca.			

# One – pen - one - dice

1. Il mio compleanno è il diciannove marzo.
2. È in autunno.
3. È ventoso e nuvoloso.
4. Mi piace mettere il maglione giallo e il cappello rosso.
5. Odio mettere la giacca nera.



Grazie mille!

*Thank You*

Take a copy of the activities and feel free to get in contact:

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