

Multilingualism an emerging trend

More Singaporeans view multilingualism as an asset in a global economy.

By Cheryl Chua

The Schofield Language School at Brook Road has been coping with overwhelming demand for their language classes, especially in the last few years. The demand stems mainly from anxious parents, eager to give their children a head start in an increasingly globalised economy and workforce.

One such parent we spoke to was Mrs Valerie Leong, whose daughter, 12-year-old Samantha, attends Russian language classes at Schofield. As Mrs Leong explains, "We are preparing her for a career which may take her anywhere from Moscow to Vietnam.

Besides Russian, my daughter has also completed a course in basic conversational Thai."

Such sentiments are shared by many parents it seems, as Schofield's head of administration, Mr Melvin Siew reveals, "Our school saw a 50% jump in enrolment in the last 2 years, and we expect to see an even bigger increase this year."

Many language schools that iNews spoke to have acknowledged the increase in demand for language classes as well, especially for languages of emerging markets such as China, India and the Middle East.

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