



# Year 7 & 8 Subject Handbook 2023



**Our Values**

**I**ntegrity  
**L**earning  
**E**xcellence  
**A**ccountability  
**R**espect  
**N**urturing

**Our Vision**

Mount Waverley Secondary College is a proudly diverse learning community where everyone is empowered to strive for growth and excellence.

Mount Waverley Secondary College acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we are located. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

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**International Student Code:** CRICOS Code 00861K  
**Provider:** Department of Education and Training

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# JUNIOR SCHOOL TEAM 2022

HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL:	Ms Debbie Sekula
ACTING JUNIOR SCHOOL LEADER:	Ms Lauren Lockhart
YEAR 7 COORDINATORS:	Mr Jamie Stroud Ms Danielle Robertson
YEAR 8 COORDINATORS:	Mr Jackson Waters Ms Georgia Mangano
TRANSITION / ADMIN OFFICER:	Ms Evie Popas
ATTENDANCE / ADMIN OFFICER:	Ms Dianne Earle

- Information about all subjects can be found in this Handbook
- Your teachers will be able to explain the subjects offered by their Learning Area
- All Key Learning Area Leaders or their representative can be contacted by email for further subject information

## 2022 Faculty Heads – Contact email addresses

English	Ms Elizabeth Sutherland	sth@mwsc.vic.edu.au
Mathematics	Mrs Felicia Williams	wlm@mwsc.vic.edu.au
Science	Ms Lily Papadopoulos	pap@mwsc.vic.edu.au
Humanities	Mr Peter Soutar	sou@mwsc.vic.edu.au
Languages	Ms Ayako Yasunaga	yas@mwsc.vic.edu.au
The Arts	Ms Jane Carter	cte@mwsc.vic.edu.au
Technology	Mr Matt Hall	hal@mwsc.vic.edu.au
Health/PE	Mr Liam Wall	wla@mwsc.vic.edu.au
Careers	Mrs Joanne Hall	hjo@mwsc.vic.edu.au



# A MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL



Welcome to the Junior School at Mount Waverley Secondary College. We offer a broad and comprehensive curriculum at Years 7 and 8 based on the Victorian Curriculum. Learning at Years 7 and 8 focuses on a wide range of core subjects including English, Humanities, Mathematics, Science, The Arts, Health and Physical Education, Technology and Languages. On enrolment, students are able to select either Japanese or German as their language choice.

The Junior School is purpose built for Year 7 and 8 students. The flexible teaching and learning spaces provide opportunities for students to learn both independently and collaboratively. We acknowledge the importance of meeting the learning needs for all of our students as individuals. Our curriculum caters for students who require support as well as offering greater challenge to those students who are ready to expand their knowledge and skills.

The introduction of 1:1 Hybrid Devices exemplifies our commitment to authentically incorporate digital technologies to best prepare students to be skilled and adaptive in their future. Hybrid Devices are regularly used in the classroom, providing greater scope for self directed learning, access to rich resources and opportunities for collaboration. In addition, students at both Years 7 and 8 study one semester of Digitech.

In supporting the transition process into secondary school we foster a strong sense of belonging at Mount Waverley Secondary College particularly for Year 7 students. While at Year 8, students are encouraged to consider their leadership potential. The extensive extra-curricular program ensures that each students academic, social and emotional development is nurtured in a positive and safe environment. Highlights of our extra-curricular program include:

- Home Group Program
- Wellbeing Program
- Mount Matters for Student Leadership
- Lunchtime Activities Program
- House Program
- Camps at both Years 7 and Year 8
- Rubicon Leadership Camp at Year 8

I hope that your child enjoys their time at the Junior Campus as a time where they develop a greater understanding of their strengths, prepared to face challenges with a growth mindset, feel confident with who they are and look forward to new opportunities as a Middle School student at Mount Waverley Secondary College.

Ms Debbie Sekula  
Head of Junior School



# WELCOME

Welcome to Mount Waverley Secondary College, the school of choice in our local community. Our learning community was established in 1964 and has an outstanding record of achievement. It has an excellent reputation for providing an academic learning environment resulting in a high proportion of our students gaining entrance to tertiary education institutions.

Set over two campuses within a short walking distance, our college is made up of:

- **Junior Campus**  
(Years 7 and 8)

Our college is a proudly diverse learning community where students and staff work together in a positive learning environment. Our college's Explicit Instructional Model, Student Learning Model and broad curriculum provide students with an opportunity to achieve their best. The learning environment is supported by the college's Code of Behaviour, high expectations, an orderly environment and positive relationships.

- **Senior Campus**  
(Years 9 - 12)

Each campus is supported by a wellbeing team which consists of a Student Support and Resources Manager, counselors and health professionals. Communication about student progress and attendance is shared with parents and carers through the use of Compass.

*'It's such a big school, I wasn't sure at first, but when I looked around on Open Day, I had a good feeling about it... now that my son's started, I can only go on the fact that he comes home with a smile on his face every day, and he's always got something positive to say to me.'*

*Year 7 Parent*



# WHAT WE VALUE...

At Mount Waverley Secondary College we “treat every child as our own.” That is what makes us such a special learning community.

- I** integrity
- L** earning
- E** xcellence
- A** ccountability
- R** espect
- N** urturing

## INTEGRITY

Mount Waverley Secondary College is committed and passionate about making sure we do our very best for every child in our care. We strive to ensure that they receive the very best education, care, support and opportunity possible.

We endeavour to provide the kind of environment that will effectively nurture our students' development and feeling of belonging and connectedness to school. We regard most seriously the trust which parents place in us and are sensitive to the need for regular communications with parents so that we can work together to prepare students for the challenge of living and leading in the future.

## LEARNING

Our students are spoilt for choice at Mount Waverley Secondary College. Innovative programs and studies include the Music Band training program in Year 7, where every student learns an instrument; to Psychology, Photography, Hospitality, STEM programs, university subjects and a special enrichment program for Years 7 - 9. Every student's talents can be catered for!

We equip students with the knowledge, skills and values to operate effectively in an increasingly globalised society through the intensive study of another language and culture, including a period of immersion in that culture. We have a long history of innovative language provision and cultural 'immersion' through our International Student Program and our teacher and student exchange programs with our sister schools in Japan and Germany. We have also established a relationship and cultural exchange with a school in Shanghai.

## EXCELLENCE

Mount Waverley Secondary College's commitment to provide its community of learners with an academic curriculum that incorporates a broad knowledge base and skills of thinking within a challenging and supportive environment has enabled the college to be a consistently high achieving state school. Our outstanding ATAR results mean our students are able to access a range of tertiary courses and universities.

We are a non-selective government school and we are proud of our results. Visit our website to get a snapshot of our latest results: [www.mwsc.vic.edu.au](http://www.mwsc.vic.edu.au)

Our outstanding achievement at senior levels is a culmination of the curriculum, programs and high quality learning and teaching in Years 7 - 12 supported by an after school Homework Club which operates for Years 7 and 8 students.

Programs include:

- additional assistance through literacy and curriculum skills programs
- tutorial sessions offered by teachers to assist our students
- school study program for senior students that offers a range of units and examination technique advice, allowing students the opportunity to make full use of our specialised senior student centre
- access to latest information and communications technologies
- a silent study area for VCE students and a group discussion facility
- University Enhancement Programs for high achieving students
- nationally accredited through the local VET network in a number of different programs
- acceleration and enrichment programs
- annual competitions to further extend student knowledge and develop confidence and self esteem. These include contests in English, Poetry, Debating, Mathematics, Chemistry, Science, Computers, Public Speaking and many others at state and national levels
- lunchtime, in and out of school competitions that encourage student participation in sporting, artistic and cultural activities.

# WHAT WE VALUE, *continued...*

## ACCOUNTABILITY

Mount Waverley Secondary College is a learning community that focuses on the establishment of positive attitudes and relationships between teachers and students and between other members of the college community.

Community links between local, national and international communities are of great importance. The college fosters partnerships with parents/carers, providers of further education, business and industry and community groups to enhance our student's learning opportunities.

Our student leaders create many opportunities for us to develop our sense of community, raising money for many and varied charities throughout the year. Students are always encouraged to be 'the best that they can be'.

## RESPECT

We believe we have built a powerful learning community that reflects mutual respect and supports academic excellence.

We have an unashamedly disciplined, academic environment and our Code of Behaviour is strictly adhered to. When students feel safe and understand expectations this promotes productive and cooperative relationships. This in turn sets the tone and atmosphere for learning activities.

Students are encouraged to show respect for themselves, other students, the environment and staff.

## NURTURING

The college has a highly respected and professional student wellbeing team consisting of wellbeing, careers, inclusion team and health professionals. This team plays a crucial role in our transition programs across the college and the establishment of programs and support structures to provide ongoing wellbeing.

*"I was really impressed with the students' behaviour; they were respectful and controlled in the classroom, and I found the students who were representing the school to be mature, well spoken young people, and that reflects back on the school. I also found the teachers to be really approachable."*

*Open Day Visitor*

# JUNIOR CAMPUS

Our Junior Campus is a unique setting, as it comprises only Year 7 and Year 8 students. At the Junior Campus we build confidence and consolidate essential learnings. Our facilities are specifically designed to meet this age group's learning and developmental needs.

Our Junior Campus has received international attention for its design and learning capacity.

We are proud recipients of the following awards:

- International CEFPI Award – Best new construction of a major facility
- Australian Chapter of the Council of Education – Award for Facilities Design
- The Project of Distinction Award by the Council of Educational Facility Planners International (CEFPI) for Best Middle School/Junior High.

Our focus is on educating the individual. Our Explicit Instructional Model and our Student Learning Model maximise student learning outcomes by personalising the learning for each and every student. Our students learn best from a variety of sources and have access to multiple teachers in varying group sizes that match the student's individual interests, needs and learning goals.

Students and staff are actively engaged in new and innovative programs to ensure that the needs and interests of students are catered for.

## TRANSITION

Starting secondary school is an important milestone in the students' life as they enter adolescence and it can be an exciting and sometimes challenging time for parents and students. Grade 6 students look forward to Year 7 with great anticipation, excitement and sometimes uncertainty.

Although change can be daunting, the transition program at the Junior Campus is highly effective. It allows Year 7s to acclimatise and interact with their year level without being overwhelmed by other year levels. Through our transition programs we aim to provide a smooth progression from primary school to a secondary college.

At Mount Waverley Secondary College we have an extensive transition program across all stages of education including:

- links with local primary schools
- an Orientation Day in December
- a special Orientation Program for the first two days of Year 7 that allows the students to familiarise themselves further with the college and staff, learn the expectations of secondary school and enjoy themselves and a Year 7 camp early in the new year assists students in settling in to the college.

*"I think that the transition program from Grade 6 to Year 7 is quite comprehensive.*

*My daughter was very confident and comfortable when she came to school in the first week."*

*Year 7 Parent*





### Year 7 Subjects

- English
- EAL – English as an additional Language
- Literacy
- Science
- Languages (Japanese/German)
- Humanities
- Physical Education
- Health
- Art
- Music
- DigiTech
- Food Technology
- Wood
- Mathematics (Support/Mainstream/Accelerated)

### Year 8 Subjects

- English
- EAL – English as an additional Language
- Literacy
- Science
- Languages (Japanese/German)
- Humanities
- Physical Education
- Health
- DigiTech
- Drama
- Music
- Art
- Visual Communication
- Food Technology
- Mathematics (Support, Mainstream, Advanced/Accelerated)

### Opportunities for Year 7 & 8 students

- Active Sports Program
- After School Study Program
- Challenge Program for Year 8 students
- College Production
- Debating team
- Enrichment class in core subject areas for high achieving students
- Instrumental Music Program
- Leadership roles and responsibilities for Year 7 & 8 students as Captains and members of Mount Matters
- Lunchtime Activities Program
- Orientation Camp for Year 7 students
- Outdoor Education for Year 8 students
- Swimming, Gymnastics, Self Defence, Maths Games



## DIGITAL LEARNING

Mount Waverley Secondary College places a high value on student learning and academic growth which is at the forefront of everything we do.

Developing each student’s potential and ability to the fullest is strengthened by the integration of digital technologies as educational tools. Digital learning devices provide opportunities for the development of essential learning skills such as collaboration, communication, creativity and problem-solving, enhancing student learning. It will allow our students to;

- Collect information
- Create Connections
- Expand understanding

#### INFRASTRUCTURE/COST:

- Used anytime and anywhere
- Long battery life
- Lightweight & Portable
- No moving parts
- Stylus provides versatility
- Intuitive – ease of use

#### OTHER:

- Student are familiar with this technology
- Very appealing to students
- Personal responsibility of students for device and content
- Prepare students for a technology rich society

The device will be owned and maintained by the student/family. The college has established a partnership with a local business supplier. Further information will be provided.

### Year 7- 8 Digital Learning

Year 7 students will use a hybrid device to support their learning. There are many arguments for different technological devices. The college wanted a device that was personal, engaging and could be used all day. The hybrid device meets these requirements.

There are many reasons why the college has made this decision. Some of the key reasons include;

#### LEARNING:

- A technological learning tool
- Access to rich resources
- Greater scope for student self-directed learning
- Opportunities to collaborate
- Ability to annotate work





# YEAR 7 ENRICHMENT CLASS

Mount Waverley Secondary College recognises the needs of high achieving students and offers a Year 7 Enrichment Class. This program is available to Grade 6 students who have been offered a place in Year 7 at the college.

Mount Waverley Secondary College prides itself on being a neighbourhood school. Students offered places in the Enrichment class will come from students who have obtained a place at the college as part of the normal selection process. Students entering the Enrichment Class will be required to adhere to stringent attendance requirements and complete work to a high standard. Participation in the Enrichment Class is not considered curriculum grounds for priority to attend the college.

There is a selection process that includes testing, an interview, and presentation of a portfolio. Details of the process and expression of interest forms will be sent to all parents/carers once a child's enrolment at the college has been confirmed in August. There is no selection of students for this class prior to the expressions of interest completed in September.

The Enrichment Class ensures that very able students are able, for a significant part of the school week, to work with others of a similar ability while remaining with their age peers. The aim is to ensure that these students are challenged and are offered opportunities to explore material in considerable depth. Students will be supported and extended through rich tasks and the application of higher order thinking skills.

The Enrichment Class will form a Home Group, studying as a class for English, Science, Music and Humanities. The students will have access to Enrichment Maths, if appropriate, through the current blocking process and will mix with other students in Year 7 in Physical Education and Health. It is widely understood that students at all year levels have diverse abilities and interests. The college policy ensures that the curriculum is differentiated to cater for diversity and there are many programs in place that provide opportunities for students with particular gifts or abilities to be extended.

In addition there is a comprehensive range of extra curricular sporting competitions, music ensembles and the college production. Students can study VCE subjects in Year 10 and have access to first year university subjects in Year 12.

Mount Waverley Secondary College is able to provide excellent resources for all our students. The Enrichment Class is in addition to the range of programs that enhance the diversity and interests of all students at the college. Students that are not chosen for the Enrichment Class will continue to be supported through these programs and quality teaching that have sustained the outstanding results at the college over many years.



## MUSIC PROGRAM

### Innovation in Music Curriculum

All Year 7 students at the college are involved in playing a musical instrument as part of classroom music. It is a great opportunity for students to learn the skills and discipline of playing a musical instrument, and belonging to a classroom ensemble. The main aim of the program is to teach the music curriculum in a practical and relevant way.

Features of the program include:

- students learn to play an instrument during class time
- instruments offered include flute, clarinet, violin, viola, cello, trumpet, french horn, percussion and trombone. These instruments are allocated to each home group in accordance to the timetable
- a specialist instrumental teacher is in attendance each week to support and aid the classroom teacher
- each student is provided with an instrument and is required to take it home in order to complete homework - 10 minutes per day.

### End of Program Concert

All students work towards a performance in the form of a concert at the end of the program. This performance is part of their final assessment and allows parents the opportunity to hear the students play.

Every student will belong to a bridging music ensemble that rehearses one lunchtime a week.

Please note that the college also has a large Instrumental Music Program (not compulsory) that allows students to learn an instrument of their choice, and attend private or small group lessons (for a fee). The Instrumental Music Program offers participations in 25 varied ensembles, festivals, competitions and music tours. There will be an information night concerning the Instrumental Music Program in Term Four.

# ENROLMENT POLICY

## JUNIOR CAMPUS - YEARS 7 & 8

### Right of Entry

A child residing permanently in the neighbourhood area has the right to attend Mount Waverley Secondary College unless already enrolled in a secondary school.

Mount Waverley Secondary College has a designated neighbourhood boundary, as defined by the Department of Education & Training. The student must be living with the parent or guardian/carer\* at the permanent address or spend a substantial part of their time at that address.

- The permanent residential address is defined as one where:
- the home is owned by the parent or guardian/carer
  - the home is under purchase
  - the home is leased from a registered real estate agent with a minimum leasing period of 12 months and must be concurrent to the year of enrolment.

Evidence of the above will be required to authenticate residence. Other evidence is also requested e.g. rates notice, utility bill, medicare card and relevant VISA documents (showing parent/legal guardian and child's name).

There is no automatic sibling claim, but 'wherever practical' a student should be enrolled at the same school as that attended by an older brother or sister who resides permanently at the same address.

### Priority Order for Enrolments

All applications are considered by Mount Waverley Secondary College in line with the Department of Education and Training placement policy's priority order as follows:

- Students for whom Mount Waverley Secondary College is the designated neighbourhood school. Please check the neighbourhood map at [www.findmyschool.vic.gov.au](http://www.findmyschool.vic.gov.au) to see if your home address falls within our area.
- Students who reside permanently at the same address as a brother or sister attending the school.
- Where the Regional Director has restricted the enrolment of students who reside nearest the school.

\*A guardian/carer is defined as one who has been legally appointed to take responsibility for the person making the application for enrolment.

# PATHWAYS AT MWSC

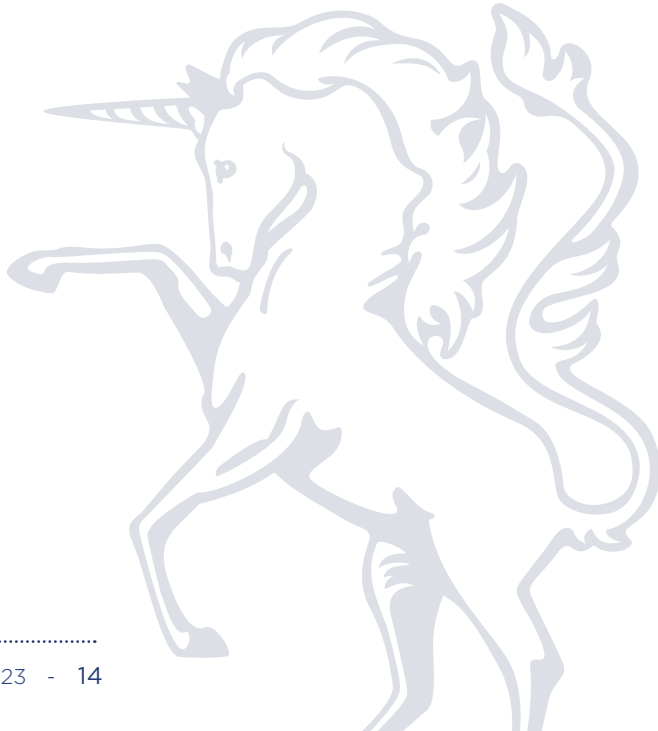
Our Senior Campus is a well equipped facility, incorporating the Unicorn Theatre, an industry standard Hospitality facility, separate VCE Study Centre, a modern café style canteen and state-of-the-art Science, Information Technology and general classrooms. A Music Centre with specialist recording facilities, practice rooms and performing areas enriches student life at the college. In early 2023 a purpose built STEAM Centre will also operate on the senior campus.

Catering for 1200 students, the campus is a vibrant place to learn with an array of extra-curricular opportunities for all students. This include:

- Tutor sessions offered by teachers
- Study program for senior students – above and beyond what is taught in the classroom
- University style silent study area for VCE students and a group discussion facility
- University Enhancement Program for high achieving students
- Enhancement and enrichment programs
- Competitions in English, Poetry, Debating, Mathematics, Chemistry, Science, IT and Public Speaking
- Lunchtime sporting, artistic and cultural activities
- Study Tours to Germany and Japan
- Leadership roles and responsibility throughout Years 9 - 12
- Year 9 Morrisby Profiling and Careers
- Year 10 Work Experience, careers and subject selections information sessions
- Annual college production
- Mentor Groups Years 10 - 12, focussing on pastoral care, educational pathways, vocational and careers advice
- Holiday Revision Program for students studying a Unit 3 & 4 subject
- Presentation Night and Graduation Night
- Year 11 Fancy Dress Ball
- Year 12 Formal
- Guardian Angels (Year 7 and Year 12 peer support program).

## Year 9 Subjects

<b>ARTS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Drama</li><li>Media</li><li>Journalism</li><li>Music</li><li>Visual Art</li><li>3D Art &amp; Ceramics</li><li>Visual Communication</li></ul>	<b>HEALTH &amp; PHYSICAL EDUCATION</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>PE - Core</li><li>Health - Core</li><li>Sports Performance &amp; Nutrition</li><li>Sports &amp; Recreation Leadership (Duke of Edinburgh)</li></ul>	<b>SCIENCE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Science</li></ul>
<b>ENGLISH / EAL</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Enhancement</li><li>Mainstream</li><li>EAL</li><li>Foundation English</li><li>Let's Talk</li></ul>	<b>HUMANITIES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Humanities</li></ul> <b>MATHEMATICS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Mainstream Support</li><li>Mainstream</li><li>Accelerated (Year 10 Progressive)</li></ul> <b>LANGUAGES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Japanese</li><li>German</li><li>Advanced (Year Long)</li></ul>	<b>TECHNOLOGY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Food Safari</li><li>Design, Create, Bake</li><li>Electronics</li><li>Designing for tomorrow</li><li>Programming &amp; Networking</li><li>Multimedia &amp; Web Design</li><li>Plastics</li><li>Wood</li></ul>





# PATHWAYS AT MWSC, *continued...*

## Year 10 Subjects

### ARTS / PERFORMING ARTS

- 2D Art
- 3D Art
- Visual Communication
- Media & Animation
- Journalism
- Music
- Theatre Production

### ENGLISH / EAL

- Enhancement
- Mainstream
- EAL
- English Literature
- How Language works\*

### HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Intro to VCE Health
- Intro to VCE PE
- Sport & Rec Management
- PE & Health for Life
- Outdoor Education (VCE)

### HUMANITIES

- Geography
- Philosophy
- Law & Order
- Rights and Freedoms
- Issues in Economics
- History - Tyrants
- Finance & Accounting

### MATHEMATICS

- Foundation
- General
- Progressive

### LANGUAGES

- German
- Japanese

### SCIENCE

- Reactive Chemistry
- Universal Physics
- Psychology
- Evolution & Genetics
- Environmental Science

### TECHNOLOGY

- Multimedia & Web design
- Computer Programming
- Systems Engineering
- 3D design & Prototyping
- Design - Wood
- Designing for tomorrow
- Intro to Food Studies
- Secrets of the Kitchen

\* Year 10 students also have access to a range of VCE subjects

## Year 11 and 12 Subjects

### ARTS

- Drama
- Media
- Music
- Art
- Visual Communication

### ENGLISH

- English
- EAL
- Bridging EAL (Units 1 & 2)
- English Language
- English Literature

### HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Health and Human Development
- Physical Education
- Outdoor Education

### HUMANITIES

- Accounting
- Global Politics
- Business Management
- Classical Studies
- Economics
- Geography
- History
- Legal Studies
- Philosophy

### MATHEMATICS

- Foundation Mathematics (Units 1 - 4)
- General Mathematics (Units 1 - 4)
- Mathematic Methods (Units 1 - 4)
- Specialist Mathematics (Units 3 & 4)

### LANGUAGES

- Japanese - Second Language
- German - Second Language

### SCIENCE

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Environmental Science
- Physics
- Psychology

### TECHNOLOGY

- Food Studies
- IT - Computing
- Product Design - Wood
- Systems Engineering

### VOCATIONAL MAJOR

- Literacy
- Numeracy/Foundation Mathematics
- Work Related Skills
- Personal Development Skills

# SUBJECT DESCRIPTIONS

## English

CORE Five periods per week for the year

### SUBJECT DESCRIPTION:

This unit is designed to develop the ability to speak, listen, read, view and write with enjoyment, purpose, effect and confidence in a wide range of contexts.

### CLASSROOM FOCUS:

- Speaking and listening activities, including oral presentations
- Writing tasks focusing on a range of styles and written expression
- Responses to print and non-print texts, including short and extended responses
- Language exercises done both in-class and as homework activities

### ASSESSMENT:

Students will be assessed in the following areas:

- Oral presentations
- Creative responses
- Text responses
- Text reviews
- Class tests

There will be an incursion charge.  
The cost will be confirmed

## English as an Additional Language

CORE Three periods per week for the year

\* Eligibility requirements exist

### SUBJECT DESCRIPTION:

EAL supports students in their mainstream English class, by developing their competence in English and their understanding of the learning styles and expectations of the Australian school system.

### CLASSROOM FOCUS

- Speaking and listening activities, including group and class discussion
- Listening tasks to develop student understanding of their class texts and current events
- Writing tasks focusing on a range of styles and written expression
- Responses to print and non-print texts, including short and extended responses
- Language exercises done both in-class and as homework activities

### ASSESSMENT:

Students will be assessed in the following areas:

- Listening Tasks
- Writing tasks
- Text Responses
- Class tests



# SUBJECT DESCRIPTIONS

Literacy

COREThree periods per week

\* Eligibility requirements exist

**SUBJECT DESCRIPTION:**

This unit provides students with support to develop the literacy skills required to access the curriculum and express their knowledge and ideas. Students are provided with the opportunity to develop their writing, reading and comprehension skills to help them to better connect and engage with all of their subjects at school.

**CLASSROOM FOCUS:**

- Speaking and listening activities, including oral presentations, group and class discussion
- Writing tasks focusing on a range of styles and written expression
- Responses to print and non-print texts, including short and extended responses
- Language exercises

**ASSESSMENT:**

Students will be assessed in the following areas:

- Oral Presentations
- Writing Tasks
- Text Responses

Mathematics

COREFive periods per week

**SUBJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Mathematics is offered at different levels to cater for various levels of competency in all areas of the Year 7 and 8 curriculum. An accelerated Mathematics course is offered to students at Year 7 who are identified as working above the expected level at the commencement of secondary school. The accelerated stream will complete both the Year 7 and 8 course in one year. In Year 8 students complete the Year 9 curriculum, Year 10 Mathematics in Year 9 and can then possibly study a VCE Mathematics subject in Year 10.

\* See Mathematics pathway diagram.

**CLASSROOM FOCUS:**

- Measurement - Length area and volume
- Probability - Basic probability
- Statistics - Mean, median, and mode, histograms
- Algebra - Linear Equations, expand and solve for the unknown

**ASSESSMENT:**

Students will be assessed in the following areas:

- Basic skills
- Application
- Assignments

# SUBJECT DESCRIPTIONS

Science

COREFour periods per week

**SUBJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The Year 7 and 8 Science curriculum equips students with skills to think like a scientist. While exploring the disciplines of Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Earth Sciences, students learn how to create investigative questions and predictions, plan and conduct experiments, record and represent scientific data, and analysis and evaluate the relationships between variables. In Year 9 our students will have one more year of science as a core subject before they can start following the disciplines they are the most interested in, all of which are pathways to VCE science subjects.

**CLASSROOM FOCUS:**

- Science Skills; experiments and specialised equipment
- Biology - Food webs, classification, cells and systems of the body
- Chemistry - Matter, mixtures and chemical changes
- Physics - Forces, energy, light and sound
- Earth Science - Phenomena on Earth including seasons and eclipses
- Studies in Science also link to the Monash Tech School programs including future innovations.

**ASSESSMENT:**

Students will be assessed in the following areas:

- Topic Tests
- Practical Reports
- Research Investigations
- Assignments





# SUBJECT DESCRIPTIONS

## Languages

Choice of Japanese or German

### German

CORE      Three periods per week for the year

**SUBJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Year 7 and 8 German introduces students to basic German language skills and cultural understanding. Speaking, listening, reading and writing tasks are practical and reflect everyday situations and real-life needs. By the end of Year 8 German, students are able to hold conversations describing themselves; their school; family; lives; as well as about a range of cultural topics regarding traditions, festivals, regional differences and more.

**CLASSROOM FOCUS:**

- Reading and understanding German texts
- Understanding spoken German and responding appropriately
- Writing passages in German about a range of topics such as: school, hobbies, clothing, animals, family and cultural components

**ASSESSMENT:**

Students will be assessed in the following areas:

- Assignment and classwork
- Vocabulary quizzes and unit tests
- Roleplay activities and listening tasks
- Reading and grammar activities

**OPTIONAL PATHWAY:**

- Students may continue with German as an elective in Years 9 to 12.
- Students may have the opportunity to take part in the school’s Study Tour/Exchange Program (offered in either Year 9 or Year 10)
- Students that show significant advancement or have a native speaking background can apply to take part in the advanced languages program in the senior years.

### Japanese

CORE      Three periods per week for the year

**SUBJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Year 7 and 8 Japanese introduces students to basic Japanese language skills and cultural understanding. The five key areas of study are: listening and reading comprehension; spoken and written communication and intercultural knowledge.

By the end of Year 8 Japanese, students are able to introduce and talk about themselves, their family and their everyday lives. They are also able to read and write both the Hiragana and Katakana alphabets fluently.

**CLASSROOM FOCUS:**

- Reading and understanding texts in Japanese
- Understanding spoken Japanese and responding appropriately
- Writing words, sentences and simple passages in Japanese about a range of topics such as family, pets/animals, food, events, hobbies and daily routines

**ASSESSMENT:**

Students will be assessed in the following areas:

- Production of effectively spoken Japanese
- Comprehension of spoken and written Japanese
- Exhibit knowledge and understanding of cultural nuance either explicitly and or implicitly in all assessment situations

**OPTIONAL PATHWAY:**

- Students may continue with Japanese as an elective in Years 9 to 12 .
- Students may have the opportunity to take part in the school’s Study Tour/Exchange Program (offered in either Year 9, Year 10 or Year 11)
- Students that show significant advancement or have a native speaking background can apply to take part in the advanced languages program in the senior years.

# SUBJECT DESCRIPTIONS

### Health

CORE      One period per week

**SUBJECT DESCRIPTION:**

This unit is designed to develop students’ skills and awareness in the areas of personal decision making, self-esteem, and overall health, so that they are more able to make sensible and informed choices about a range of health issues they may encounter across their lifespan.

**CLASSROOM FOCUS:**

- Nutrition and food energy
- Sexual health
- Strategies to maintain positive mental health
- Respectful relationships

**ASSESSMENT:**

Students will be assessed in the following areas:

- Investigations/projects
- Class activities/workbooks & participation
- Investigations/projects

### Physical Education

CORE      Two periods per week

**SUBJECT DESCRIPTION:**

This unit is designed to provide students with a broad program that encourages them to improve their level of participation in physical activities and their fitness level. This course is primarily practical and includes a broad range of physical activities environments including swimming, gymnastics, self defence and sports based activities.

**CLASSROOM FOCUS:**

- Participating in sports drills to improve skill level and fitness
- Identify different components of fitness, and how to improve upon fitness components
- Develop understanding and application of movement strategies in varied situations
- Helping others to improve their skill level, including giving and receiving feedback

**ASSESSMENT:**

Students will be assessed in the following areas:

- Participation
- Theory
- Performance



# SUBJECT DESCRIPTIONS

## Humanities

CORE Four periods per week for one semester at both Year 7 & 8

SUBJECT DESCRIPTION:

Junior School Humanities takes students on a journey to investigate the origins of the modern world through exploration of Ancient and Medieval civilisations. Students compare and contrast civilisations technological development, social and economic structures and forms of government. They study a range of Humanities subjects including History, Geography, Economics and Business and Civics. As part of their studies they examine and analyse historical sources, and learn to make meaning of the past through critical examination of artefacts. Students also develop their understanding of the natural world’s landscapes, and how humans interact with and affect these environments. Students complete field work outside the classroom to deepen their understanding of the interconnected nature of local and regional communities. The study of Economics and Business introduces students to economic concepts such as supply and demand, as well as examining business ethics, rights and responsibilities.

CLASSROOM FOCUS:

- Analysing and comparing ancient civilizations
- Analysis of primary and secondary historical sources
- Developing an understanding of interconnection and human impact on the natural environment
- Undertaking field work outside the classroom and reporting on findings

ASSESSMENT:

Students will be assessed in the following areas:

- Museum exhibit an ancient civilisations created for ‘Night at the Museum’
- Analysis of primary and secondary sources
- Fieldwork report
- Task on Economic understanding and business goals and ethics

## Drama (Year 8)

CORE Two periods per week for one semester

SUBJECT DESCRIPTION:

Students plan, rehearse and perform devised and scripted drama. They experiment with expressive skills of voice, movement and facial expression to present characters that communicate ideas and dramatic action in different performance styles. They describe and analyse their performance work and evaluate how their choices have impacted dramatic meaning.

CLASSROOM FOCUS:

- **Explore and Express Ideas** - responding to stimuli, creating characters and narrative
- **Drama Practices** - drama conventions and dramatic elements
- **Present and Perform** - presenting characters with expressive and performance skills
- **Respond and Interpret** - describe, reflect and analyse student work

ASSESSMENT:

Students will be assessed in the following areas:

- Formative and Summative assessment
- Ensemble performances: devised and scripted
- Written reflections and analysis



# SUBJECT DESCRIPTIONS

## Music

CORE Two periods per week in Year 7, two periods per week for one semester in Year 8

SUBJECT DESCRIPTION:

Music aims to encourage a practical knowledge of playing a musical instrument/singing and voice by exploring listening, composing, performing, reporting and analysis. Students participate in the Training Band program, where students learn basic instrumental and theoretical skills on their chosen instrument. Students participate in Bridging Bands that develop their ensemble skills and performance skills. Students also develop the ability to critically analyse and explore the music that interest them, whilst also researching how music from previous generations has influenced more contemporary styles.

CLASSROOM FOCUS:

- **Solo performance** on chosen instrument
- **Composition/arranging/improvisation** - create and perform musical works which explore themes, issues and ideas
- **Listening** - listen to music providing discussion and analysis of the musical elements and genre specific format
- **Aural and theory** – tests and weekly classwork - developing skills in analysis, listening and transcription exercises - musicology: essay/project/ presentation on topics covered
- **Technology** - use music software for composition, scoring and performance

ASSESSMENT:

Students will be assessed in the following areas:

- Prepared concerts
- Transcription and workbook
- Concert report
- Performance
- Composition and arrangement

## Art

CORE Two periods per week for one semester

SUBJECT DESCRIPTION:

Students experience a range of mediums, themes, and have opportunities to respond to artworks using appropriate terminology. Students are encouraged to develop their practical skills, respond to themes imaginatively and to consider aesthetics. An emphasis is placed on students having a good working understanding of the art elements and other basic art terminology. This forms the basis for their developing ability to respond to and analyse artworks.

CLASSROOM FOCUS:

- Drawing
- Painting
- Sculpture (ceramics)

ASSESSMENT:

Students will be assessed in the following areas:

- Folio of selected works
- Visual analysis





# SUBJECT DESCRIPTIONS

## Visual Communication (Year 8)

CORE Two periods per week for one semester

**SUBJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Year 8 Visual Communication students are introduced to industrial design, communication design and environmental design. Students complete a range of short tasks, focussing on skills that are necessary for success in future years. This includes drawing and design skills. Students encouraged to document their processes and submit their finished work digitally. Visual Communication skills and knowledge is transferable to other disciplines.

**CLASSROOM FOCUS:**

- Drawing Systems
- Using creative computer programs
- Drawing skills 2D and 3D
- Understanding design elements and principles

**ASSESSMENT:**

Students will be assessed in the following areas:

- Folio of developmental work
- Drawings and finished work

## DigiTech (Years 7 & 8)

CORE Two periods per week for one semester

**SUBJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Students are introduced to basic skills and knowledge surrounding the digital technologies area. Students complete a range of introductory tasks. This includes the exploration of basic computer concepts, students learn how a desktop computer works, for example. Students also complete a network investigation, learning basic networking knowledge. Students are taught how to code, students code a simple game using scratch. Students are also taught to use computers in a socially responsible way.

**CLASSROOM FOCUS:**

- Collaboration
- Software such as Google Apps, OneNote and Canva
- Virtual Technologies
- Coding
- Game Creation
- Responsible use of technology

**ASSESSMENT:**

Students will be assessed in the following areas:

- **Investigations** - including home networks
- **Interactive experiences** - including Google certificate courses
- **Careers in technology** - interactive course

# SUBJECT DESCRIPTIONS

## Food Technology (Years 7 & 8)

CORE Two periods per week for one semester

**SUBJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Students are introduced to basic skills and knowledge surrounding Food and technology. They learn safety and hygiene when working in a kitchen focusing on both personal and kitchen safety and hygiene. They then focus on accurately measuring ingredients and the effects of inaccurate measuring on the outcome of a product design. Safe knife skills and the use of different knives for different products are practiced. An introduction to the stove and oven use through various productions focusing again on safety and hygiene is practiced. Nutrition and making healthier choices is investigated and modifying recipes is a task that the students engage in. Sustainability and indigenous foods are introduced to the students, including tasting food from the land. The content is taught with a focus on investigation and generation of ideas, product design, evaluation and enhancement. Design briefs are taught throughout Year 7 and 8 Food Technology.

**CLASSROOM FOCUS:**

- Skills and knowledge of utensils and tools
- Theory and practical classes - product design, investigation and evaluation
- Design processes

**ASSESSMENT:**

Students will be assessed in the following areas:

- Safety - the ability to work safely in a workshop environment
- Production - practical skills producing a number of different products using several cooking techniques.
- Evaluation of the products produced each week

## Wood (Year 7)

CORE Two periods per week for one semester

**SUBJECT DESCRIPTION:**

Students learn the very basics of working safely in a workshop. Students are taught how to use basic tools. At completion of the unit, students will have gained valuable skills and knowledge in being able to plan, implement and complete a practical unit of work. This includes the completion of two practical common assessment tasks.

**CLASSROOM FOCUS:**

- Experimenting with a range of materials
- Designing, planning and constructing
- Technology including laser cutting
- Computer aided design
- Software including Tinkercad and Adobe
- Design process

**ASSESSMENT:**

Students will be assessed in the following areas:

- Safety - the ability to work safely in a workshop environment
- Production - practical skills producing a negotiated product using wood within the constraints of the design brief
- Evaluation of the product produced



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