



Curriculum Guide 2026

YEAR 9



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Curriculum overview

Mansfield State High School's curriculum is organised within learning areas. As students move from Year 8 into Year 9 their course of study includes the following compulsory Core subjects:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Health and Physical Education (one semester only) and
- History (one semester only).

Students are provided with the opportunity to start considering their future learning pathways through the provision of a range of elective subjects. They will be able to study up to four elective subjects (two each Semester) from a range of options available.

Note: Program of Excellence Students in French Immersion and Music Accelerando have compulsory electives which must be selected in both semesters. Students who select French or Japanese will study these electives in both semesters.

program must study the French Immersion language elective in both semesters. Students in Music Accelerando must study Music Extension in both semesters.

Selecting subjects – guidelines

The selection of subjects has an important influence on happiness at school, success in studies and the range of options available for further study or for entry to a desired vocation.

- Students are encouraged to discuss subject choices with teachers and other members of staff. Staff understand student strengths and will be able to give them guidance on the appropriateness of their subject choice.
- Students are required to study two (2) elective subjects for Semester 1 and then study two (2) electives for Semester 2. Some electives can be studied in both semesters as the units offered are different, while others are only available for one semester. This is identified in the subject listing and must be considered when making selections.
- The four (4) electives for Year 9 will be selected in advance at the same time.
- In addition to their four (4) preferred electives, students will be required to identify an additional two (2) back-up electives which may be used if their first preferences are not available.

Selecting Subjects – advice

There are many important decisions you have to make at school. Subject choices are some of the most important decisions you will make due to the impact on your learning pathway and your wellbeing at school.

When making your selections, you should include subjects which:

- you are interested in
- you have experienced past success with
- may lead to your preferred career path
- optimise opportunities to reach your potential.

A student **SHOULD NOT** choose subjects for the following reasons.

- *'My friend is taking that subject.'* There are usually several classes in a subject, so even if you are doing the same subjects, you won't necessarily be in the same class.
- *'I do/don't really like the teacher.'* There is no guarantee that you will have any particular teacher.
- *'Someone told me that the subject is fun (or easy, or interesting).'* Just because a subject may be enjoyable/easy/interesting for someone else does not mean that it will be the same for you. Make your selection based on what you enjoy.
- *'Someone told me that the subject is boring.'* See point 3.
- *'Someone told me that I do/don't need that subject for the course I want to take in Year 12/at university.'* If you are planning this far ahead, speak with the relevant Head of Department/Head of Year, check tertiary prerequisites or talk to a Guidance Officer.

Important information

- Many subjects have identified prerequisites. Where prerequisites are stated, if students can demonstrate they already have similar knowledge and skills that would have been gained from completion of the prerequisite, they may select the subject after approval from the relevant Head of Department.
- Please be aware that the availability of a particular subject is dependant upon a number of important factors, including school staffing, physical resources such as specialist classrooms and class size. Subjects may not proceed if the minimum number of student enrolments is not met.

Selecting subjects – process

The following is a guide as to how to make the selection process a little easier.

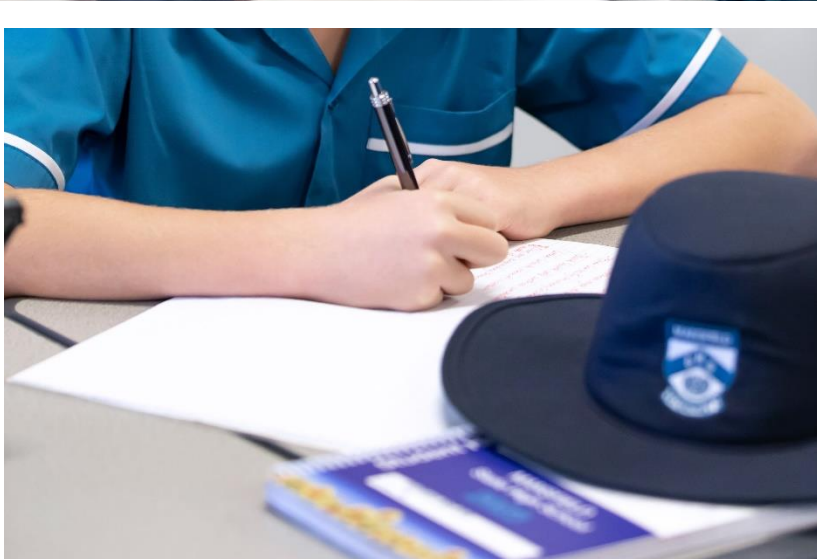
1. Ensure you understand the mix of core and elective subjects to be studied in Year 9.
2. Carefully read about the subjects you are considering in this curriculum guide, noting the content and assessment types.
3. Consider the Year 10 and Year 11-12 prerequisites when selecting subjects for Year 9 to ensure that you have a pathway to study subjects in the Senior school.
4. Students currently attending Mansfield State High School will participate in planning lessons during SDP to help prepare them for subject selections.
5. Students are encouraged to discuss their preferences and plans with their parents and caregivers.
6. Subject selections will be finalised during MyPath appointments in Term 3. During this appointment, the student will enter their final subject selections in OneSchool, including all Year electives and back-up elective options.

Students who are new enrolments to the school and who have not participated in MyPath, will make their selection for Year 9 upon confirmation of their enrolment.

Curriculum snapshot

Core learning areas		Lessons
English		3 periods per week
Mathematics		3 periods per week
Science		3 periods per week
Health and Physical Education		3 periods per week for one (1) semester only
History		3 periods per week for one (1) semester only
Student Development Program (SDP)		one period per week
Elective learning areas		
Humanities	Economics and Business Studies Geography	<p>Electives are studied for 3 periods per week for a semester.</p> <p>* Students study these electives in both semesters.</p>
Languages	French* French Immersion* (Immersion students only) Japanese*	
Technologies	Design and Technology Digital Technology Engineering Principles and Systems Food Technology Materials and Technology Specialisations	
The Arts	Drama Media Arts Music Music Extension* (Accelerando students only) Visual Arts	

Year 9 Core Learning Areas



English

English (Australian Curriculum) is organised into three interrelated strands that support students' growing understanding and use of Standard Australian English. Together the three strands focus on developing students' knowledge, understanding and skills in listening, reading, viewing, speaking and writing.

The three strands are:

- Language - knowing about the English language
- Literature - understanding, appreciating, responding to, analysing and creating literature
- Literacy - expanding the repertoire of English usage.

English Core	
Course description	Unit 1 The pitch Unit 2 What if? Unit 3 Teen spirit Unit 4 Shall I compare thee?
Learning experiences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicating with peers, teachers, individuals, groups and community members in a range of face-to-face and online/virtual environments. • Engaging with a variety of texts for enjoyment. • Listening to, reading, viewing, interpreting, evaluating and performing a range of spoken, written and multimodal texts in which the primary purpose is aesthetic, as well as texts designed to inform and persuade. • Developing their understanding of how texts, including media texts, are influenced by context, purpose and audience.
Assessment types	Written assignments Multimodal presentations Class exams
Cost and materials	Classroom consumables are included in Student Resource Scheme (SRS) Refer to the Year 9 book list for required stationery and textbooks
Prerequisites	Nil
Learning pathways in Senior school	
Year 10 subject options Preparatory Essential English* Preparatory English Preparatory English as an Additional Language Preparatory Literature	Year 11 & 12 subject options Essential English English English as an Additional Language Literature

* By invitation from the Head of Department only.

Mathematics

Mathematics is a unique and powerful way of viewing the world to investigate patterns, order, generality and uncertainty. Mathematics assists individuals to make meaning of their world and empowers them to distil the essence of life experiences into universally true abstractions and, at the same time, apply these abstract ideas to interpret new situations in the real world.

Mathematical concepts and the processes of mathematical analysis and justification provide a unique and coherent framework for explaining a myriad of physical and social phenomena.

Mathematics has evolved within and across cultures, developing in response to cultural needs and ways of viewing and interpreting a range of life situations and providing a sense of order in the world. The diversity of thinking, reasoning and working mathematically in response to life situations has characterised, and will continue to characterise, the evolution of mathematics.

At the personal level, the most obvious use of mathematics is to assist in making informed decisions in areas as diverse as buying and selling, home maintenance, interpreting media presentations and forward planning. The mathematics involved in these activities includes analysis, financial calculation, data description, inference, number, qualification and spatial measurement. The generic skills developed by mathematics are also constantly used at the personal level.

Mathematics is compulsory for all students in Years 7-12 at Mansfield State High School. At the end of Year 8, some students who have Mathematics particularly difficult, will be offered the MFD Maths Foundation class in Year 9 and parents will be contacted by the Mathematics Head of Department. For all other students the core Mathematics subject will be studied.

Mathematics Core	
Course description	Topics covered include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number• Algebra• Measurement• Space• Probability• Statistics
Assessment types	Examinations Problem Solving and Modelling Task (PSMT)
Cost and materials	Classroom consumables are included in Student Resource Scheme (SRS) Refer to the Year 9 book list for required stationery and textbooks
Prerequisites	Nil
Learning pathways in Senior school	
Year 10 subject options Preparatory Essential Mathematics* Preparatory General Mathematics Preparatory Mathematical Methods Preparatory Specialist Mathematics	Year 11 and 12 subject options Essential Mathematics General Mathematics Mathematical Methods Specialist Mathematics

* By invitation from the Head of Department only.

Science

Humans are innately curious about their world. Science, as a 'way of knowing', is used by people to explore and explain their experiences of phenomena of the universe. It is a process for constructing new knowledge. Science is a part of the human quest for understanding and wisdom and reflects human wonder about the world. The study of science as a 'way of knowing' and a 'way of doing' can help students reach deeper understandings of the world.

Science education involves students and teachers working together as each constructs new understandings and compares their current ideas with those of the scientific community. Such collaboration challenges students, contributes to a sense of personal success as lifelong learners, and can generate a passion for learning and seeking new insights.

Science is compulsory for all students in Years 7, 8 and 9. By the end of Year 9, students will examine, inquire and explain chemical processes in terms of atoms and energy transfers and describe the importance of chemical reactions as well learning to form hypotheses and investigate data. They will explain global features and events in terms of geological processes and timescales and analyse how biological systems function and respond to external changes by evaluating explanations using scientific knowledge.

In Year 10, students have the choice of science electives including Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Science in Practice. Each elective is studied for a semester and is a pathway to science subjects in Year 11/12.

Science Core	
Course description	Unit 1 Physical and chemical sciences Unit 2 Earth and environmental science Unit 3 Biological science Unit 4 Chemical Science
Assessment types	Student experiment report Research investigation In-class exams Multi modal
Cost and materials	Classroom consumables are included in Student Resource Scheme (SRS) Refer to the Year 9 book list for required stationery and textbooks
Prerequisites	Nil
Learning pathways in Senior school	
Year 10 subject options Preparatory Science in Practice Preparatory Biology Preparatory Chemistry Preparatory Physics	Year 11 and 12 subject options Science in Practice Biology Chemistry Physics

History

The Year 9 curriculum provides a study of the history of the making of the modern world from 1750 to 1918. This was a period of industrialisation and rapid change in the ways people lived, worked and thought. It was an era of nationalism and imperialism, and expansion of European power, which had significant effects on First Nations Peoples globally. The period culminated in World War I (1914–1918), the “war to end all wars”.

An overview of the study of the making of the modern world requires students to develop an understanding of the context and chronology of the period, and the broad patterns of historical continuity and change from 1750 to 1918, such as European imperial expansion and the movement of peoples within and between countries, and the impact this had on the Australian continent. This includes being introduced to the significant economic, social and political ideas that developed and caused change in groups and in societies, and some of the significant individuals and groups who promoted these ideas.

History is a core subject for Year 9 and is studied for one semester (alternating with Health and Physical Education). Students can select additional Humanities electives in Year 9. These options are included in the electives section of this curriculum guide.

History Core (one semester)	
Course description	Unit 1 Making and transforming the Australian nation (1750-1914) Unit 2 Investigating WW1 and the ANZAC legend
Assessment types	Short response test Research investigation assignment
Cost and materials	Classroom consumables are included in Student Resource Scheme (SRS) Refer to the Year 9 book list for required stationery and textbooks
Prerequisites	Nil
Learning pathways in Senior school	
Year 10 subject options Preparatory Religion & Ethics Preparatory Social & Community Studies Ancient History Preparatory Modern History	Year 11 and 12 subject options Social & Community Studies Ancient History Modern History

Health and Physical Education (HPE)

Health and Physical Education reflects the dynamic and multi-dimensional nature of health and recognises the significance of physical activity in the lives of individuals and groups in contemporary Australian society. Active engagement in physical activity is a major emphasis in this learning area.

Students are challenged to develop knowledge, processes, skills and attitudes necessary for making informed decisions about:

- promoting the health of individuals and communities
- developing concepts and skills for physical activity
- enhancing personal development.

Health and Physical Education is a one semester, compulsory core subject in Year 9 (alternating with History).

Health and Physical Education (HPE) Core (one semester)	
Course description	<p>In theoretical lessons, students will examine training methods and personal harm minimisation techniques.</p> <p>During practical lessons they will focus on “fun, fitness and skill,” through a variety of sports.</p>
Assessment types	<p>Reflective essay</p> <p>Research report</p> <p>Ongoing practical assessment</p>
Cost and materials	<p>Classroom consumables are included in Student Resource Scheme (SRS)</p> <p>Refer to the Year 9 book list for required stationery and textbooks</p> <p>Sport uniform including socks, cap and suitable footwear</p>
Prerequisites	Nil
Learning pathways in Senior school	
Year 10 subject options Preparatory Early Childhood Studies Preparatory Fitness Preparatory Sport & Recreation Preparatory Health Preparatory Physical Education	Year 11 and 12 subject options Early Childhood Studies Sport & Recreation Health Physical Education Certificate III in Fitness

Year 9 Elective Learning Areas



Humanities

Humanities subjects involve the investigations of controversial and challenging issues. The Humanities subjects promote critical thinking skills, which lie at the core of the problem-solving skills required in the 21st century. This learning area encourages young people to be active participants in their world. Students develop abilities to respond to local as well as global issues, and to apply strategies for making informed decisions.

The range of concepts, values and processes that underpin the Humanities subjects are drawn from disciplines including history, geography, accounting, business, economics, politics, sociology, anthropology, law, psychology and ethics. Consequently, these subjects provide opportunities for students to develop the understanding and skills necessary for the study of these subjects in Senior school.

History is a core subject in Year 9 and all students will complete this subject for one Semester. Economics and Business Studies and Geography are electives that may be selected for either Semester 1 or Semester 2.

Economics and Business Studies

Economics and Business Studies Elective (one semester)	
Course description	<p>Students further develop these skills and knowledge and apply to business scenarios. They begin developing analytical and evaluative skills to determine the strengths and weaknesses of a product/business idea and analyse data and information to identify opportunities or threats. They further build on the skills and knowledge required to run successful businesses, and how entrepreneurial behaviour contributes to business success.</p> <p>Students apply a range of knowledge and skills to plan and run a business venture in teams for Market Day (there is one Market Day each semester). Students who have demonstrated the prerequisite qualities (ability to work in teams, responsibility and reliability) will participate in the team project for Market Day. Students who have not demonstrated the prerequisite qualities may be given an alternative, individual project.</p>
Prerequisites	<p>Nil</p> <p>Market Day project requires a demonstration of reliability, effort, attitude and regular attendance.</p>
Assessment types	<p>Examination</p> <p>Assignment</p>
Cost and materials	<p>Classroom consumables are included in Student Resource Scheme (SRS)</p> <p>Refer to the Year 9 book list for required stationery and textbooks</p>
Learning pathways in Senior school	
Year 10 subject options Preparatory Accounting Preparatory Business	Year 11 and 12 subject options Accounting Business Diploma of Business

Geography

Geography Elective (one semester)	
Course description	<p>Students will focus on geographical issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biomes • Food security • Global interconnections • Interconnections using public spaces.
Prerequisites	Year 8 Humanities
Assessment types	<p>Combination exam</p> <p>Research project – field report</p>
Cost and materials	<p>Classroom consumables are included in Student Resource Scheme (SRS)</p> <p>Refer to the Year 9 book list for required stationery and textbooks</p>
Learning pathways in Senior school	
Year 10 subject options Preparatory Geography	Year 11 and 12 subject options Geography

Languages

The need to communicate is the foundation for all language development. People use language to achieve their personal communicative needs; to express, exchange, interpret and negotiate meaning, and to understand the world around them. Students do not simply learn a language; they participate in a range of interactions in which they exchange meaning and become active participants in understanding and constructing written, spoken and visual texts.

Additional language acquisition contributes to and enriches intellectual, educational, linguistic, metacognitive, personal, social and cultural development. It requires intellectual discipline and systematic approaches to learning, which are characterised by effective planning and organisation, incorporating processes of self-management and self-monitoring.

French and Japanese are subjects suited to students who have studied these subjects in Year 8 and who are interested in pathways beyond school that lead to tertiary studies, vocational education or work. A language elective can establish a basis for further education and employment in many professions and industries.

In Year 9, students must select a language elective in Semester 1 to meet the pre-requisite to continuing studying it for Semester 2.

French

French is the living and working language of over 300 million of the world's people. It is the official language of the United Nations and is used widely in international law, business and diplomacy. Students who continue to study French beyond the Junior school have an opportunity to participate in our established exchange program with France.

French Elective (Semester 1 continuing to Semester 2)	
Course description	<p>In Semester 1 students will learn about home life and routines as well as weekend activities.</p> <p>Students who continue onto Semester 2 will build upon their Semester 1 knowledge and food and shopping and places to visit in town.</p>
Prerequisites	<p>Semester 1: Year 7 and 8 French</p> <p>Semester 2: Year 7 and 8 French, and Semester 1 Year 9 French</p>
Assessment types	<p>Students are assessed in four skills; listening, speaking, reading and writing.</p> <p>Students are assessed on a range of communicative tasks at least once per semester for each skill.</p>
Cost and materials	<p>Classroom consumables are included in Student Resource Scheme (SRS)</p> <p>Refer to the Year 9 book list for required stationery and textbooks</p>
Learning pathways in Senior school	
Year 10 subject options Preparatory French	Year 11 and 12 subject options French

French Immersion

This language elective is only for students enrolled in the French Immersion Program of Excellence. The French Immersion program is a 3-year commitment and students in the program must chose this elective for both semesters.

French Immersion Compulsory elective (for French Immersion Semester 1 and 2)	
Course description	Students will learn about home life and routines and weekend activities.
Prerequisites	Year 7 and 8 French Immersion
Assessment types	Students are assessed through short and combination response tasks that cover all four macro skills; listening, speaking, reading, and writing.
Cost and materials	Classroom consumables are included in Student Resource Scheme (SRS) Refer to the Year 9 French Immersion book list for required stationery and textbooks
Learning pathways in Senior school	
Year 10 subject options Preparatory French Immersion	Year 11 and 12 subject options Year 11 Advanced French Year 12 French Extension

Japanese

Learning Japanese provides students with not only the ability to communicate with visitors from Japan, but it is a gateway language to other Asian languages. Japanese will help students to unlock future study and career opportunities as well as to develop a deeper appreciation of Japanese culture and values. Students who continue to study Japanese beyond the Junior school have an opportunity to participate in our established exchange program with Japan and scholarship opportunities offered by the Department of Education.

Japanese Elective (Semester 1 continuing to Semester 2)	
Course description	In Semester 1 students learn about shopping, milestones and family culture. Semester 2 is centred on fast food and health, leisure and friends and rural versus urban lifestyles.
Prerequisites	Semester 1: Year 7 and 8 Japanese Semester 2: Year 7 and 8 Japanese, and Semester 1, Year 9 Japanese
Assessment types	Students are assessed in four skills; listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students are assessed on a range of communicative tasks.
Cost and materials	Classroom consumables are included in Student Resource Scheme (SRS) Refer to the Year 9 book list for required stationery and textbooks
Learning pathways in Senior school	
Year 10 subject options Preparatory Japanese	Year 11 and 12 subject options Japanese

Technologies Electives

The content and learning experiences in Technologies electives are designed to provide students with an understanding of materials, systems and technological practice through active investigation and participation.

Technologies encompasses learning in the areas of Design, Digital Solutions, Engineering Principles, Industrial Technology and Food. All electives are offered for a single semester.

Design Technology

Students will develop skills in spatial conceptualisation and the representation of information in a graphical format. Solutions and responses will be developed through hand sketches and software-based drafting. Units from this strand form the basis of skill and knowledge development that will assist students wishing to study Graphics Skills or Design either as a Preparatory subject in Year 10 or in Year 11 and 12.

Design Technology Elective (one semester)	
Course description	<p>The unit has been developed to give students a basic understanding of Design and Graphical Communication, through the application of design thinking principles, elements and principles of design and CAD software.</p> <p>Students will utilise learned drafting techniques to devise 3D models virtually and practically, as solutions to authentic problems. They will also interact with their environment to propose these solutions, including undertaking live presentations. Emerging technologies will be used to realise their solutions.</p> <p>Content will include hand and digital sketching, orthographic (2D) and pictorial (3D), drawing diagrams and charts, plane geometry, and presentation graphics.</p>
Prerequisites	Nil
Assessment types	Folio presentations
Cost and materials	Classroom consumables are included in Student Resource Scheme (SRS) Refer to the Year 9 book list for required stationery and textbooks
Learning pathways in Senior school	
Year 10 subject options Preparatory Industrial Graphics Skills Preparatory Engineering Preparatory Design	Year 11 and 12 subject options Industrial Graphics Skills Design Engineering

Digital Solutions

Digital Solutions equips students with essential problem-solving, computational thinking, and digital communication skills. It fosters an understanding of the ethical and responsible use of digital systems while engaging students in hands-on learning experiences.

Through project-based learning in areas such as robotics and games development using Python, students explore key concepts in programming, automation and interactive media.

Digital Solutions Elective (one semester)	
Course description	<p>Unit 1 Robotics Students will develop foundational robotics skills including developing drag and drop coding skills and solve practical robotic based problems.</p> <p>Unit 2: Text based adventure game with Python Students will develop foundational coding skills through user centred problem solving and develop text-based Python coding skills and develop a text-based adventure game.</p>
Prerequisites	Nil
Assessment types	One project per unit
Cost and materials	Classroom consumables are included in Student Resource Scheme (SRS) Refer to the Year 9 book list for required stationery and textbooks
Learning pathways in Senior school	
Year 10 subject options Preparatory Digital Solutions	Year 11 and 12 subject options Digital Solutions Information & Communication Technology

Engineering Principles and Systems

This subject allows for students to engage and learn skills that span the Industrial Skills and Engineering subjects. Units are developed around coursework in sheet metal, electronics and associated engineering applications.

Engineering Principals and Systems Elective (one semester)	
Course description	This an introductory Engineering technology subject. Emphasis will be placed on the development of hand skills and understanding through the following applications and processes; fabrication using sheet metal, fitting processes, basic low voltage electrical systems and introductory engineering principles.
Prerequisites	Nil
Assessment types	Continuous class work/folio of work
Cost and materials	Classroom consumables are included in Student Resource Scheme (SRS) Refer to the Year 9 book list for required stationery and textbooks
Learning pathways in Senior school	
Year 10 subject options Preparatory Industrial Technology Skills Preparatory Engineering	Year 11 and 12 subject options Industrial Technology Skills Engineering

Food Specialisations

Food Specialisations includes the application of nutrition principles and knowledge about the characteristics and properties of food selection and preparation and contemporary technology-related food issues. Students need to understand the importance of a variety of foods, sound nutrition principles and food preparation skills when making food decisions to help better prepare them for their future lives. Students will progressively develop knowledge and understanding about the nature of food and food safety, and how to make informed and appropriate food preparation choices when experimenting with and preparing food in a sustainable manner.

Food Specialisations Elective (one semester)	
Course description	<p>Students will learn about the role of nutrition in promoting health and preventing chronic diet related conditions. They will explore the environmental, economic and ethical implications of food choices including sustainability.</p> <p>Students will investigate strategies to reduce food waste in the home through better planning, storage and creative use and analyse and communicate the value of food sustainability through engaging, social media content.</p> <p>Students will develop and refine food preparation and presentation skills through practical cookery sessions and apply the design process to create a nutritious meal tailored to meet specific practical cookery sessions. They will evaluate the nutritional content and sensory qualities of recipes and justify design choices.</p>
Assessment types	Project design folio
Cost and materials	Classroom consumables are included in Student Resource Scheme (SRS) Refer to the Year 9 book list for required stationery and textbooks
Learning pathways in Senior school	
Year 10 subject options Preparatory Hospitality Practices	Year 11 and 12 subject options Certificate II/III Hospitality

Materials and Technologies Specialisations

Students will develop hand and machine skills and an awareness of associated theory in the production of predominately time artefacts. They will be introduced to and examine design principles as part of the process of manufacture.

Materials and Technologies Specialisations Elective (one semester)	
Course description	<p>This is an introductory subject where the emphasis is placed on the development of hand skills and an understanding of media/materials through the following applications and processes; basic framing joints, carcase joints, edge treatment and surface preparation of timber-based projects.</p> <p>Students will investigate and utilise the design process to fully investigate possible solutions to elementary design briefs.</p>
Assessment types	Continuous classwork/folio of work
Cost and materials	<p>Classroom consumables are included in Student Resource Scheme (SRS)</p> <p>Refer to the Year 9 book list for required stationery and textbooks</p>
Learning pathways in Senior school	
Year 10 subject options Preparatory Furnishing Skills Preparatory Design Preparatory Industrial Skills	Year 11 and 12 subject options Furnishing Skills Design Industrial Skills

The Arts

The Arts are widely recognised as powerful tools that contribute to the overall development of a student's personal social and cultural identity. They are a means of expression and as such, give students the opportunity to learn about themselves and the world through the arts. Students develop the knowledge, skills, processes and attitudes necessary to communicate their ideas, feelings and experiences.

Study and the appreciation of The Arts contributes to a balanced education, providing students with a rewarding and creative pathway of self-development and expression.

The Arts learning area includes Drama, Media Arts and Visual Arts as well as the learning areas of Music.

Drama

Drama is more than just performance – it's a powerful tool for shaping confident, capable and creative individuals. In Drama, students actively build vital 21st century skills such as creative and critical thinking, collaboration, communication and digital literacy. Students learn the value of teamwork and empathy, while developing expressive and performance techniques that boost confidence and self-awareness.

By creating, shaping and reflecting on dramatic action and meaning, they learn to listen, adapt, take initiative and solve problems creatively. These attributes and skills are essential for students to prepare them for higher education, work and engagement in a complex and rapidly changing world.

Drama Elective (one semester)	
Course description	<p>What if the stage could become a dream or a digital illusion?</p> <p>Students will enter the bold and boundary pushing world of visual theatre and Australian gothic theatre – where stories are told not just with words, but through images, movement, sound and stunning stage craft. They will explore how performers, designers and directors use projection, multimedia and physical storytelling to craft performances that speak beyond the script. From building tension with lighting and sound to using your body as a visual tool.</p> <p>Students will explore how performers, designers and directors use projection, multimedia and physical storytelling to craft performances that speak beyond the script. Through practical workshops they will develop acting techniques and creative design skills that bring ideas to life. Students will devise their own original performance that merges traditional theatre with the digital and visual.</p>
Prerequisites	Nil
Assessment types	Making - presentation of a scene from a published play script Responding - short response Making – a collage drama that highlights a message
Cost and materials	Classroom consumables are included in Student Resource Scheme (SRS) Refer to the Year 9 book list for required stationery and textbooks
Learning pathways in Senior school	
Year 10 subject options Preparatory Drama	Year 11 and 12 subject options Drama

Media Arts

All public information in the 21st century is mediated through channels of mass communication and non-linear media. They are an integral part of modern life and students come to school with a wide range of experiences with these texts. Opinion, argument, entertainment and 'social information' are all carried by the media, and through this course, students will develop critical thinking skills that are essential to negotiating the complex media landscape. Creative and digital-literacy skills enable students to think, question, create and communicate by designing, producing and critiquing film, TV and new media products.

Media Arts Elective (one semester)	
Course description	<p>Blast off into the thrilling world of science fiction and film technology!</p> <p>Do you love futuristic films, epic battles and mind minding plots? Students explore the history of science fiction and how special effects have revolutionised the way we experience movies. From classic films to the latest blockbusters, students will discover how sci-fi uses film languages to transport audiences to other worlds, creating unforgettable stories.</p> <p>Students will develop their own short film. They will master the art of treatment writing, learn how to use cameras and dive into the world of green screen compositing to bring their futuristic visions to life using our industry standard green room.</p> <p>This subject is perfect for students who dream of working behind the scenes or creating their own visual effects with an interest in storytelling, technology and the magic of movie making.</p>
Prerequisites	Nil
Assessment types	<p>Responding – case study of science fiction conventions</p> <p>Project – pre-production of a short film</p> <p>Project – production (film and edit a short film sequence with green screen effects)</p>
Cost and materials	<p>Classroom consumables are included in Student Resource Scheme (SRS)</p> <p>Refer to the Year 9 book list for required stationery and textbooks</p>
Learning pathways in Senior school	
Year 10 subject options Preparatory Media in Practice Preparatory Film, TV and News Media	Year 11 and 12 subject options Film, TV and New Media Media Arts in Practice

Music

Music is a unique art form that uses sound and silence as a means of personal expression. It is a rewarding and creative endeavour which provides students with opportunities to develop their intellect and personal growth through a variety of meaningful experiences. The study of Music encourages self-reliance, promotes independent learning and fosters teamwork, all of which are important transferable skills in today's world. Students gain confidence in performance and enhance their presentation skills, as well as acquiring a life-long leisure activity. Students are involved in presenting / performing music both as singers and instrumentalists. They create music compositions using online digital composition programs and respond to music through analysis, reflecting on what they have learnt.

Students who are part of the Program of Excellence Music Accelerando class must choose Music Extension as an elective for both semester one and two.

Music Elective (one semester – not available to Music Accelerando students)	
Course description	<p>Students will explore examples of music created for film, including the role and power of music in film and media. They will look at how the elements of music are used by composers to create mood and narrative with a film.</p> <p>Students will perform instrumental and/or vocal music both individually and in a group. They will work collaboratively to create music and compose music.</p>
Prerequisites	C or above in Year 8 English Year 7 and/or Year 8 Music
Assessment types	<p>Composing - individual composition tasks both vocal and instrumental</p> <p>Performing – students perform vocal and instrumental music from folk, art, contemporary and film music</p> <p>Responding - students will complete an exam relating to the analysis of repertoire</p>
Cost and materials	<p>Classroom consumables are included in Student Resource Scheme (SRS)</p> <p>Refer to the Year 9 book list for required stationery and textbooks</p>
Learning pathways in Senior school	
Year 10 subject options Preparatory Music Preparatory Music in Practice Preparatory Music Extension	Year 11 and 12 subject options Music Music Extension (Year 12 only)

Music Extension (Music Accelerando)

This is a compulsory elective for students in the Music Accelerando program. Music Accelerando is a 3-year commitment and students in Year 9 must choose this elective as one of their choices in both Semester 1 and Semester 2.

This subject is not available to students who are not in Music Accelerando – they must select the Music elective.

Music Extension (Music Accelerando) Compulsory elective (for Music Accelerando Semester 1 and 2)	
Course description	<p>In Semester 1 students will explore the world of song writing. Styles will include pop, blues, folk and jazz with a focus on vocal techniques and arranging suitable accompaniments.</p> <p>In Semester 2 students will explore examples of music created for film, including the role and power of music in film and media. They will look at how the elements of music are used by composers to create mood and narrative with a film.</p> <p>Students will perform instrumental and/or vocal music both individually and in a group. They will work collaboratively to create music and compose music.</p>
Prerequisites	C or above in Year 8 English Year 7 and Year 8 Music Accelerando
Assessment types	<p>Composing - individual composition tasks both vocal and instrumental</p> <p>Performing – students perform vocal and instrumental music from folk, art, contemporary and film music</p> <p>Responding - students will complete an exam relating to the analysis of repertoire</p>
Cost and materials	<p>Classroom consumables are included in Student Resource Scheme (SRS)</p> <p>Refer to the Year 9 book list for required stationery and textbooks</p>
Learning pathways in Senior school	
Year 10 subject options Preparatory Music Preparatory Music in Practice Preparatory Music Extension	Year 11 and 12 subject options Music Music Extension (Year 12 only)

Visual Arts

Visual Art conveys meaning and knowledge about the world – history, culture, experience, and expression. Art education develops critical thinking and creative problem solving in an increasingly globalised society, where an understanding of visual literacy enables students to be able to make sense of their environment. In Visual Arts students transform their visual perception and ideas into expression in a material form, via making experiences with a variety of media in two and three dimensions and digital experiences. Visual Arts supports students to view the world through various lenses and contexts. Students recognise the significance of visual arts histories, theories and practices, exploring and responding to artists, craftspeople, designers, and their artworks.

Visual Arts Elective (one semester)	
Course description	<p>Students will focus on deconstruction, reconstruction and the idea of bio-mechanical creatures to create a sculptural piece using both ceramic and assemblage techniques.</p> <p>Students will create an acrylic painting on canvas using sophisticated colour mixing and compositional techniques. Media areas covered can include drawing, collage, ceramics, assemblage, digital manipulation and painting. Students will examine the works of traditional and contemporary artists in these units.</p> <p>Gallery visits to current exhibitions may occur as part of the course.</p>
Assessment types	<p>Making – sculpture and painting</p> <p>Responding – a written research assignment</p> <p>Making/responding – process work in a visual diary associated with research, ideas, developmental work and reflections</p>
Cost and materials	<p>Classroom consumables are included in Student Resource Scheme (SRS)</p> <p>Refer to the Year 9 book list for required stationery and textbooks</p>
Learning pathways in Senior school	
Year 10 subject options Preparatory Visual Arts in Practice Preparatory Visual Art	Year 11 and 12 subject options Visual Arts in Practice Visual Art

Year 9 fees

Please note: Until our fees for 2026 are finalised and released, our 2025 fees can be used as an indication of what can be expected for our 2026 fees.

Student Resource Scheme

All students are asked to pay the Student Resource Scheme (SRS) fee to cover the cost for classroom consumables to support learning. The SRS in 2025 is \$80. Further information about the SRS and what is included and the cost if you do not participate is included on the [school website](#).

Please refer to the individual subject page in this guide for information on any additional charges and the [Year 9 booklist](#) for stationery and textbook requirements.

Program of Excellence fees

Technology Integrated Curriculum (TIC)	2025
Year 9 program fee	\$205
Student Resource Scheme (SRS)	\$80
Refer to Year 9 book list for stationery and textbook requirements	

Classroom Music (Accelerando)	2025
Year 9 program fee	n/a
Student Resource Scheme (SRS)	\$80
Instrumental Music annual program fee	\$250
Choral annual program fee	\$70
Refer to Year 9 book list for stationery and textbook requirements	

Instrumental Music Excellence	2025
Year 9 program fee	n/a
Student Resource Scheme (SRS)	\$80
Instrumental Music annual program fee	\$250
Choral annual program fee	\$70
Refer to Year 9 book list for stationery and textbook requirements	

French Immersion	2025
Year 9 program fee	\$400
Student Resource Scheme (SRS)	\$80
Refer to Year 9 book list for stationery and textbook requirements	