WESTERN PORT
Secondary College

Principal | Chris Quinn

YEAR 9 STUDENT SUBJECT SELECTION & PATHWAYS

HANDBOOK

2027



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PRINCIPAL CLASS AND BUSINESS MANAGER

NAME	POSITION
Chris Quinn	Principal
Donna Geritz	Assistant Principal – Year 8
Kara Dunstan	Assistant Principal - Year 9
Rachael White	Assistant Principal – Year 10, 11 and 12
Robyn Chipperfield	Business Manager

YEAR 9 POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

Assistant Principal Year 9 **Kara Dunstan**	Year 9 Leading Teacher – Leader of Engagement **Matt Wright**	Coordinators **Chelsea Luke** **Lenita Engelke**	Year 9 Learning Specialist – Leader of Learning **Marley Collins**
	Director of ICT **Caleb Edwards**	Career and Pathways Practitioner **Rebecca Parker**	Junior School Attendance Officer **Sharon Robertson**

IMPORTANT DATES FOR COURSE CONVERSATIONS AND SUBJECT SELECTIONS

Elective Information – Term 3 Week 1

During iCARE, students will participate in a range of course information sessions that explore the elective options on offer in 2027.

Elective Selection Weeks – Term 3 Week 3 & 4

Students will select their electives for 2027 during iCARE. Preferences will be printed and sent home with students.

Elective Choices Due – 7th August

This is the final date for students to select their elective preferences for 2027. Any student who submits their selections late will not have their preferences taken into consideration until after those who submitted on time have been allocated.

Final Course Confirmation – End of Term 3

Students will receive their 2027 Course Confirmation by the end of Term 3. This confirmation will provide an overview of the program and subjects students have successfully selected for the year.

Students will be able to confirm this course automatically or attend a confirmation interview if required during these weeks to discuss options and subject choices (typically if a subject does not have the numbers to run, or choices clash, or if a student had not yet selected electives).

VISION STATEMENT	COLLEGE CARE VALUES
Western Port Secondary College empowers our community to grow and achieve together through CARE, innovation, and excellence.	Community Achievement Respect Engagement

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the following information is to provide students with an overview of Year 9 and the subjects that will be offered in 2027.

Term 3 is a big decision-making time for all Year 8 students. It is a time when we encourage students to focus on thinking more seriously about future careers and their upcoming years of education.

This handbook provides students with important information to assist with subject selection discussions.

The College's aim for students moving into Year 9 is to provide opportunities, so all students are continually challenged:

- to perform at their best
- are engaged in their work and
- supported to attend classes regularly

The College is committed to providing all students with access to suitable programs that cater for interests as well as navigating them towards their future goals. We strive to establish strong relationships with each student to maximise their growth, success and future pathways, in an engaging, relevant and robust teaching and learning program. Our courses cater to the learning needs of each student and allow flexibility and choice around the exploration of their future careers/pathways.

This subject selection process is the first opportunity students have to make informed choices that directly determine their course. Students have the opportunity and responsibility to have direct input into their own learning and make their own informed choices within their program via Electives. These choices will allow them to test interests and skills in preparation for Year 10 and beyond. Year 9 is the perfect opportunity to explore passions or interests before transitioning into the Senior Years.

The College has a comprehensive Careers and Pathways curriculum which is distributed across all year levels and follow the Victorian Careers Curriculum Framework.

Decisions about future pathways are a joint responsibility between the student, the parent/carer and the school. It is recommended that parents/carers take the time to discuss course direction and long-term goals with their child. This is an exciting and important process for students to go through, which provides them an opportunity to have choice in their subjects based on interest and their future goals. We look forward to working with you through this process and establishing your child's courses for 2027.

Chris Quinn
College Principal

STUDENTS USING THIS HANDBOOK

Read all sections of this handbook carefully and use it in the Elective Workshop sessions. Record any questions you may have so you can discuss these with your iCARE Teacher or other staff at school. Make sure you use the Key Contacts listed as they will be able to best answer your queries.

Parents and Carers

We want you to be involved and we encourage you to contact the College if you have concerns or wish to discuss any aspect of your child's education. All students need the active encouragement and support of parents and carers. We seek and welcome parents and carers into a partnership. Together we will assist students to set goals and work towards developing their futures outside of school. We look for your full support in implementing our College's policies.

Making Sensible Choices

Students should review the information in this Handbook which outlines the subject choices and links to potential career pathways. While the subject selections allow students to follow an area of interest, it is important to maintain balance in the course. Not selecting any unit in Year 9 does not lock students out of further study in that area later on, but it would be useful to think about future pathways and areas of interest beyond Year 9. Students should ensure their selections are based on what is best for them. Please discourage students from simply picking the units their friends are choosing!

How to Choose

When choosing and confirming subjects think about; What interests you and what you are good at?

Unsure?

Keep your program broad. This is the best option to take if you are not sure what you would like to do once you finish school. Select subjects across the areas you are interested in and are good at.

- Research prerequisite subjects and consider complementary subjects.
- Do not choose studies if you do not like them or are not good at them.
- Not making informed decisions and ending up having to settle for what is available.
- Be an active participant in conversations with your iCARE teacher. It is all about YOU.

We will do our best to be able to offer students their first choices, however this is not always possible so students will need to choose reserve electives within their selections.

How Not to Choose Studies?

Do not choose studies if you do not like them or are not good at them, or because your friends are choosing it.

COLLEGE CONTRIBUTIONS

This section provides information about voluntary contributions you can make to support Western Port Secondary College 2027 and other payments you can choose to make.

Victorian government schools provide free instruction. This means all students have free access to all items, activities and services that schools use to deliver the curriculum, including reasonable adjustments to support students with disability.

Some families choose to make a voluntary financial contribution to support the school, and we are very grateful for this support. Making a voluntary contribution is your choice. There is no expectation or pressure for families to contribute.

Western Port Secondary College offers a range of items and activities that are additional to the free instruction provided to all students at our school. Financial help is available for extra-curricular items and activities if you are experiencing financial hardship (see further details under Financial Help for Families in the attached information). For a confidential discussion about how to access the financial help available, please contact:

- Nicole Simmonds Nicole.Simmonds@education.vic.gov.au or
- Robyn Chipperfield Robyn.chipperfield@education.vic.gov.au

If you need an interpreter, please contact 03 9605 3053 and give our school's phone number (03)5979 1577. An interpreter can help you speak with us. This service is free. For more information, please see How to use an interpreter to contact your school.

For more information on the Department of Education's Parent Contributions policy please see the information attached. You can read the full policy at Parent Contributions: Policy | education.vic.gov.au.

Western Port Secondary College Parent/Carer Contribution Arrangements

If you are the carer of a student in out-of-home care or hold a financially means-tested card (such as a healthcare card), please ignore the invitation to make voluntary contributions.

We encourage any family experiencing financial hardship to contact the school for information about the financial help available for extra-curricular activities like camps and excursions.

Voluntary Contributions – 2027	Suggested Amount – Parents/Carers can contribute more or less	Amount Parent/Carer to complete
Curriculum Contributions: To enhance our school's range of programs, resources supplied by Western Port Secondary College	$250.00	$
Student Wellbeing Contribution: At Western Port Secondary College, we support students' wellbeing at an individualised level, this includes the engagement of external professionals on a need basis. This support assists in developing staff knowledge, and at times, individual students, and families. The aim is to provide individual and group support.	$40.00	$
First Aid Contribution: The school provides first aid consumables required to treat students and to meet student health needs when at school and offsite. Staff also undertake professional development in first aid, CPR, welfare, asthma, anaphylaxis and diabetes management on a regular basis.	$30.00	$
ICT Contribution: Software and equipment required to sustain and enhance our ICT program.	$50.00	$
Grounds/Equipment and Maintenance Contribution: To assist in redevelopment of recreational and sustainable environmental areas for students use including the upkeep of the College ovals.	$40.00	$
Tax-Deductible Voluntary Contributions	**Suggested Amount – Parents/Carers can contribute more or less**	**Amount Parent/Carer to complete**
Building fund: a tax-deductible contribution to support renovations and upgrades of school infrastructure	$60.00	$

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	Confirmed cost
Western Port Secondary College offers a range of optional items and activities that are additional to the free instruction provided to all students at our school. Accessing these items and activities does require payment, but financial support is available Extra-curricular items and activities confirmed for 2027 include:	
Year 7 Camp	$462.00
Year 9 – 12 Electives • Art • VCD • Product Design/Build Your Future • Cooking/Food Studies • Cafe	Each elective charge is $30.00 per semester
Instrumental Music Lessons: Years 8 - 12	$150.00
Year 7 Introduction to instrumental music lessons	$90.00
Other extra-curricular items will be invoiced proximately 4 weeks prior to the activity and will appear on your Compass Portal. To view, consent or pay for these activities, please log in using your unique family credentials. You can process the invoice through the Payment Centre banner or via the notification on your home page.	

Payment Methods

Please note the following payment options are available:

- Compass Pay – this is the preferred payment option
- CASH
- EFTPOS
- Credit Card
- Bpay

Booklist Items

Items on the booklist can be purchased from Campion or other suppliers of your choice. Details on how to access the year level booklist will be available on the WPSC website during Term 4.

Help is Available

Western Port Secondary College understands families can experience financial difficulty. Help is available, including:

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund – this program provides funding for eligible students, including those in out of home care, and holders of eligible financially means-tested cards (such as health care cards), to attend activities like camps, sporting activities, excursions and incursions that are offered on a user-pays basis. Applications for support from the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and State Schools Relief are submitted by the school - please contact us to discuss these and other financial help.

Affordable School Uniforms - delivered by State Schools Relief, this program helps cover costs such as school uniforms, shoes, and other essential school items where families are experiencing financial hardship or short-term crisis.

Western Port Secondary College Sustainable School Shop – buying and selling second-hand items via the Sustainable School Shop website. This is a new service and very accessible; it preferences our school first and then provides access to buy and sell items with families attending other schools. Many schools use this service. Access to second-hand textbooks, uniforms, calculators etc is available throughout the entire year. Please refer the links provided below and for further information.

Second-hand uniform items for sale:
https://www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au/stocktake/western-port-secondary-college

Second-hand textbooks for sale:
https://www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au/booklist/western-port-secondary-college

Refunds

Parent requests for refunds are subject to the discretion of the school and made on a case-by-case basis. Refunds will be provided where the school deems it is reasonable and fair to do so, taking into consideration whether a cost has been incurred, the Department of Education's Parent Contributions policy and guidance, Financial Help for Families policy, and any other relevant information.

VICTORIA State Government | Department of Education

Parent Contributions policy

Information for families



FREE INSTRUCTION

Schools give students free instruction in the curriculum. This includes:

- Free access to all items, activities and services that schools use to deliver the curriculum, including reasonable adjustments to support students with disability.
- The Victorian Curriculum F-10, the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) including the VCE Vocational Major, and the Victorian Pathways Certificate.
- Free access to all subjects, including elective subjects.
- Free access to select-entry and accelerated programs.



FAMILIES CAN CHOOSE TO CONTRIBUTE

Schools can invite 2 types of voluntary contributions:

Voluntary contributions	Tax deductible contributions
Used towards enhanced educational programs and school environment, and additional resources and opportunities offered by schools	Used towards building and/or library fund (for those schools who have such funds)

Schools must advise the carers of students in out-of-home care and parents and carers who hold a financially means-tested card (such as a healthcare card) that the invitation to make voluntary contributions does not apply to them.

In addition, schools can invite parents and carers to pay for optional:

- Extra-curricular items and activities that go beyond the curriculum - for example, school photos, some excursions and some camps.
- Learning materials for students to individually use and own - for example, textbooks, stationery, and in secondary schools only, digital devices. If these items are not bought or provided from home, schools will provide students with free access to what they need for curriculum delivery.



FINANCIAL HELP FOR FAMILIES

Each school has a contact person who can discuss with parents and carers the financial supports that are available.

Schools must publish their Parent Contributions arrangements on their school website, along with a link to the department's Parent Contributions policy.

Year 9 Curriculum

The Structure

In Year 9 subjects are split into two categories - CORE Subjects and Electives. CORE is defined as compulsory studies which must be undertaken by each student. Electives are subject offerings that students can select from to continue to explore new subjects, passion and interest to complement the remainder of their week.

	SUBJECTS	PERIODS		SUBJECTS	PERIODS
SEMESTER ONE	English	4	SEMESTER TWO	English	4
	Math	4		Math	4
	iCARE	2		iCARE	2
	Core Science	3		Core Science	4
	Core Humanities	4		Core Humanities	3
	Core Health & PE	2		Elective 4 Health & PE Choice	2
	Elective 1 Arts Choice	2		Elective 5 Tech Choice	2
	Elective 2 Free Choice	2		Elective 6 Free Choice	2
	Elective 3 Free Choice	2		Elective 6 Free Choice	2

It should be noted that the above table is a reflection on how many elective and core options there are. Some students will have more electives in Sem 1, some in Sem 2 – dependent on their preferences and availability in classes. Electives will only run if there is enough interest in the subject.

All electives are semester length modules. The modules offered by each of these disciplines are varied and give students the chance to select areas of interest. When selecting electives, students must have at least one Art, one Technology and one Health & PE elective in their final course with the remaining selections open to personal preference and interests from any elective subject area. Students will complete seven electives across the year.

Whilst every effort will be made to give students as many of their preferences as possible, timetable constraints sometimes mean that compromises need to be made. Students' best chance of securing their place in the electives they have chosen is to submit their preferences on time.

Year 9 Subject Offerings

Arts	• Art (Elective) • Drama (Elective) • Photography (Elective) • Music (Elective) • Visual Communication and Design (Elective)
English and Languages	• English (CORE) • Epic Wordsmiths: Mastering the Craft of Myths & Legends (Elective) • LOTE Indonesian (Elective)
Health and Physical Education	• Health and Physical Education (CORE) • Health & Human Development (Elective) • Sport & Exercise Science (Elective) • Outdoor Education (Elective)
Humanities	• Humanities (CORE) • Planet Savers (Elective) • Criminal Law (Elective) • Economics – Dollars & Decisions (Elective) • History – Echoes of the Past (Elective)
Mathematics	• Maths (CORE) • Accelerated Maths (Elective)
Science	• Science (CORE) • Forensic Psychology (Elective) • Saltwater Science (Elective)
Technology	• Product Design (Elective) • Cooking with Skill (Elective) • Café (Elective) • Robots in Our World (Elective) • The Third Dimension (Elective) • 'Building Your Future' (Elective)
Programs and Pathways	• iCARE (CORE) • Ahead of the Curve (Elective)

THE ARTS

Art - Elective

Course Description

If you are interested in exploring and creating artworks, then this course is for you! Students will showcase their creative skills by producing several final artworks that will contribute to their practical folio. Students will develop their skills in the Elements and Principles of Art, showcasing their understanding through a range of creative activities. Students will be introduced to annotation skills through reflection and will research and respond to cultural and historical art movements.

Students will have the opportunity to expand on their ability using materials such as;

- Water colour
- Paint
- Ceramics / Air dry clay

Visual Communication and Design - Elective

Course Description

If you enjoy art but prefer to flex your creative skills in more of a real-life setting, then this subject is for you! Students will develop awareness of how art is communicated in our environments, such as advertisement and product design. Students will learn freehand drawing skills to produce commercial designs and expand their technical drawing skills through formal and three-dimensional drawing to produce one and two-point perspective drawings.

Students will have the opportunity to expand their ability using materials and drawing tools such as T-squares, set squares, and rulers to produce their technical drawings.

Music - Elective

Course Description

Students will develop and enhance musical skills on their chosen instrument through solo and ensemble performance as well as the exploration of various compositional techniques. They will make use of standard and unconventional notation and develop rehearsal and time management strategies using technology where appropriate. Students will develop critical, analytical listening skills and musical knowledge relevant to today's social and cultural contexts.

The course includes:

- Working with technology in performance
- Solo and ensemble performances
- Music analysis

Drama - Elective

Course Description

Drama gives students a chance to express themselves, develop confidence, and build production skills in fun and creative ways. Drama helps by providing a space where students can explore emotions, ideas, and different perspectives in a supportive environment, developing skills in empathy and collaboration. Drama teaches important skills like communication, teamwork, and problem-solving. Students learn how to create, rehearse, and perform scenes, and they also reflect on what they see and do, developing critical thinking skills in the process.

In Drama, students explore stories from different contexts, such as those of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, helping them appreciate different cultures and viewpoints. They also learn protocols around exploring and performing First Nations stories, giving them a deeper understanding of complexities when telling other people's stories.

WPSC has established relationships with MTC and the Arts Centre Melbourne which provides opportunities for our students to engage with industry expertise through workshops, performances and programs. There is also an opportunity to participate in The Malthouse Theatre's 'The Suitcase Series', which is a program that encourages the exploration of important issues such as the environment and sustainable theatre practices, aligning with cross curriculum priorities.

Photography - Elective

Course Description

The Year 9 Photography elective offers students an opportunity to explore visual storytelling through the lens of a camera. This course fosters creativity, technical skill, and visual literacy—key competencies in many modern fields. Students will learn to use phone cameras and editing software on their laptops to develop an understanding of composition, lighting, and visual design principles.

This elective promotes critical thinking and problem-solving as students plan, shoot, and refine their photographic work. It also provides an entry point into creative industries such as media, design, advertising, and film. It allows students to build a portfolio of work they can be proud of, as well as introduces them to potential pathways in both the arts, media and technology sectors.

LANGUAGES

English - CORE

Course Description

In English, students engage with a variety of texts for enjoyment. Students will interpret, create, evaluate, discuss, and perform a wide range of tasks related to the texts explored. The primary purpose is to connect to the wider world, understand key messages, and learn how to write to persuade. These include various types of media texts, including newspapers, film and digital texts, fiction, non-fiction, poetry, dramatic performances, and multimodal texts, with themes and issues involving levels of abstraction, higher order reasoning and intertextual references. Students develop a critical understanding of contemporary media.

Texts that are studied in Year 9 are drawn from a range of genres and involve complex, challenging, and unpredictable plot sequences and structures. These texts explore themes of human experience and cultural significance, interpersonal relationships, and ethical and global dilemmas within real-world and fictional settings and represent a variety of perspectives. Informative texts represent a wide range of topics and themes. Students develop their knowledge and understanding of complex sentences with technical vocabulary, figurative and rhetorical language, and dense information supported by various types of graphics presented in visual form.

Students create a range of imaginative, informative, and persuasive types of texts including narratives, procedures, reports, discussions, literary analyses, and reviews.

Epic Wordsmiths: Mastering the Craft of Myths and Legends - Elective

Course Description

Love writing creatively? Wish you had more opportunities to write stories? Want to improve your ideas, vocabulary, figurative language, use of dialogue? This subject is for you! Students will engage in a semester long subject that explores all aspects of English curriculum: reading and viewing, speaking and listening, and writing, but particularly focusses on creative writing. This subject is designed for students who are strong in any or all of these areas and are looking to extend their creative writing skills. We will focus on how the structures and ideas of myths and legends influence storytelling and how you can use these concepts to create your own narratives.

LOTE - Elective

Course Description

Indonesian consolidates and builds upon the skills developed in Years 7 and 8. Students will study topics related to their lives and will begin to learn about grammatical characteristics of the language. This elective allows students to explore the subject and help determine if they could undertake a senior LOTE program. The course includes cooking and tasting

HUMANITIES

Humanities - CORE

Course Description

In Semester One, students begin with the study of Geography. They investigate the different biomes that comprise our planet such as tropical rainforests, deserts, grassland, and the Arctic tundra. Students then look at the issue of food scarcity and investigate how different cultures in different parts of the world deal with the challenges of ensuring their population has physical, social, and economic access to nutritious food. In Term Two, students study Civics and Citizenship which develops students' knowledge of political and legal institutions and explores the nature of citizenship in a democracy. Students explored several issues relating to Australian society and investigated different viewpoints before presenting their own thoughts and opinions about each issue. Students then learn about our political system and explored the different political parties in Australia and for what they stand. Students ultimately create their own political parties and campaign for a class election by promoting their views on an issue of their choice.

Semester Two begins with History. Students investigate the Industrial Revolution, beginning in Britain and moving through to other parts of the world including Australia. They look at the inventions that changed our daily lives and explore the different effects and consequences that industrialisation has had for human society. Students also study the nature of warfare in World War 1 including causes and consequences and the Galipolli Campaign. In Term Four, students study Economics and Business. They investigate relevant consumer issues such as car finance, rights and responsibilities for teenagers at work, online scams, budgeting, renting, the expense of owning a pet and credit schemes such as AfterPay. The unit culminates with the Game of Life, where students choose a preferred career and create a weekly budget based on a realistic salary and real-world prices.

Plant Savers - Elective

Course Description

Planet Savers is for students who want to be involved in practical solutions tackling climate change and sustainability. Students will learn about the importance of biodiversity, climate change, water management and other issues. This subject may involve 'hands on' sustainability initiatives around the school. Students will learn about impacts on the natural environment and how to help prevent the destruction of our planet. Planet Savers is great for students who love healthy environments but is particularly useful for those who want to experience leadership roles or work outdoors for a sustainable future.

Criminal Law - Elective

Course Description

Criminal Law is for students who want to understand why people commit heinous crimes. With a focus on serial killers, students explore the foundations of criminal law including police investigations, court proceedings and sentencing. They learn to explain the elements of and defences to murder. Students examine infamous case studies including Jack the Ripper, The Monster House Killer & Paul Denyer. Students learn to define and use legal terminology and discuss the ability of sanctions to achieve their purposes. Students engage in a mock trial in which they role play court personnel and apply the skills and knowledge they have studied throughout the unit. Criminal Law prepares students for Year 10 Business and Law and Year 10 Geography and Sociology as students will develop skills in analysing cases and exploring why people behave the way they do. It also relates to Psychology as criminal motivations and mindsets are studied.

Economics: Dollars and Decisions - Elective

Course Description

This subject explores how economies operate, with a focus on the interconnected roles of government, the Reserve Bank of Australia, and businesses. Students will develop an understanding of how these institutions influence the economy, while also recognising that they themselves are active participants who make economic choices every day. This subject encourages students to make informed, thoughtful decisions that can impact their personal and financial futures.

History: Echoes of the Past - Elective

Course Description

This elective is for students interested in studying the history of Australia and an Asian country (China, India, Vietnam, Indonesia and / or Japan) over the past 300 years. The Australian component may focus on specific events and individuals such as colonisation, Bennelong and Pemulwuy, the Castle Hill Convict Rebellion, Ned Kelly, the Emu Wars and the Eureka Stockade. We also focus on the globalising world from 1945 to the present which may cover areas such as popular culture, the environmental movement, global conflicts, political crises and Australian immigration. There will also be a student-directed component involving an historical inquiry on an area of history of their choice, (such as the Salem Witch Trials, the sinking of the Titanic, Henry VIII and his 6 wives, or any other topic of interest).

MATHEMATICS

Mathematical - CORE

Course Description

Students develop familiarity with a broader range of non-linear and linear functions and relations, and related algebra and graphs.

Students apply index laws with integer indices to a range of numerical expressions and extend this to algebraic expressions involving numbers and pro-numerals. They use indices to express exceptionally large and very small numbers in scientific notation and apply this in measurement contexts. Students solve problems involving direct proportion and rates, and simple interest. They apply coordinate geometry to finding the distance between two points in the Cartesian plane, and the midpoint and gradient of a line segment joining two points. Students graph linear relations and solve linear equations, using tables of values, graphs, and algebra. They graph simple non-linear relations such as parabolas, the reciprocal function, and circles at the origin, and solve simple related equations with and without the use of digital technology.

Students find areas of composite shapes and the surface area and volumes of right prisms and cylinders. They solve problems involving very small and very large time scales and intervals and use scientific notation in this context. Students use similarity, enlargement transformations and apply geometric reasoning to solve problems involving ratio and scale factors. They use Pythagoras theorem and trigonometry ratios to solve problems in the plane involving right angles triangles and develop an understanding that these involve irrational real numbers, which are generally represented by rational approximations specified to a given accuracy.

Students list outcomes for two-step experiments involving selections with and without replacement, using arrays and tree diagrams, and determine related probabilities. They use Venn diagrams and two-way tables to calculate probabilities and relative frequencies from collected or given data to estimate probabilities

Year 9 Accelerated Mathematics - Elective

Course Description

Accelerated Mathematics is an elective to prepare students for VCE Mathematics. Students will build on the skills and understandings required for Mathematical Methods as well as Specialist Mathematics, including the necessary 21st century technology skills involving the graphics calculators. Students will be exposed to mathematical concepts, such as linear and quadratic functions and graphical transformations, and can further develop their skills in such concepts prior to the commencement of the VCE program in Year 11 or an accelerated mathematics pathway in Year 10.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH

Health and Physical Education - CORE

Course Description

Core Health and Physical Education is a mandatory aspect of the year 9 curriculum. This course will introduce students to health and wellbeing, respectful relationships, safety and the benefits of physical activity. Students will participate in practical classes (in which they will practice a variety of sporting and movement skills) as well as theoretical classes each week.

Core HPE is aimed at increasing engagement in physical activity and teaching important lifelong lessons about individual health, development and wellbeing.

Key Learning Areas of this subject include:

- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Respectful Relationships and Safety
- Minor Games
- Major Games
- Cultural Games

Please Note: Each HPE elective correlates directly with the VCE subject of the same name. Choosing these electives will provide great insight into future pathways choices.

Health and Human Development - Elective

Course Description

The Health and Human Development elective aims to educate students about wholistic health, including mental health and wellbeing, physical health, social and emotional health. Students will learn about the role the food plays in overall health and health promotion in Australia. They will investigate disease and risk factors of disease as well as impact of the Australian health care system.

Students who choose this elective will gain insight into industry pathways in health promotion, care and education.

Key Learning Areas of this subject include:

- Food and Nutrition
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Disease and risk factors
- Health Care in Australia
- Health Promotion

Sport and Exercise Science - Elective

Course Description

This year 9 elective will go beyond the practice of participating in games; through the exploration of game modifications, students will develop the knowledge of how to promote inclusion, challenge, and skill development in games. Students will investigate constructive coaching and feedback techniques to mentor, to teach new skills, to motivate players, and to encourage the pursuit of higher performance.

Students will also participate in theoretical lessons where they will learn information relevant to peak performance in sports. They will learn about key body systems (muscles and bones), coaching and feedback, tactical/performance analysis and skill development. They will also discuss motivations and barriers for participation in physical activity.

Key Learning Areas of this elective unit include:

- Introduction to the National Physical Activity Guidelines (NPAGS)
- Motivations for Physical Activity
- Performance analysis
- Coaching and feedback
- Game modifications
- Game strategies and tactics
- Introduction to Body Systems (Muscles and Bones)
- Introduction to Sport Science

Outdoor Education - Elective

Course Description

Students electing to study Outdoor Education will gain substantial knowledge surrounding the relationships between play, physical activity and outdoor recreation learnt through participating in various leisure and recreational activities. They will also study natural environments and human impact on such environments.

Students will participate in a vast range of recreational activities and develop skills essential for ethical participation in outdoor environments. They will also learn about connection to various environments and how we can sustain them into the future.

Key Learning Areas for this unit include:

- Outdoor Environments
- Sustainability
- Recreational activities
- Minimal Impact Strategies
- Practical Skills
- Accessibility
- Investigating cooperation, leadership, and fair play across a range of movement contexts
- Designing and applying solutions to movement challenges Investigating ways to enhance individual and community health, safety, and wellbeing

SCIENCE

Science - CORE

Course Description

Learning in Science classes develops students' understanding of the world around them, helps them develop critical thinking, problem solving and teamwork skills. These skills are considered 21st Century skills and are shown to be essential for success in any future pathway. Learning in Science progressively develops skills for senior science, while building the foundations for success in subjects from other domains:

- VCE Health and Human Development draws on biological understandings.
- VCE Physical Education draws on biological and physical understandings.
- VCE Outdoor & Environmental Studies draws on biological and earth science understandings.
- VCE Food Studies draws on chemical and biological science understandings.
- VCE and VET Technology subjects draw on chemical and physical science understandings.

The curriculum focus in Science is on explaining phenomena involving science and its applications. Students consider both classic and contemporary science contexts to explain the operation of systems at a range of scales:

At a microscopic scale, they consider the atom as a system of protons, electrons, and neutrons, and understand how this system can change through nuclear decay.
At a macroscopic scale, they explore ways in which the human body as a system responds to its external environment, and investigate the interdependencies between biotic and abiotic components of ecosystems

Students explore the biological, chemical, geological, and physical evidence for different theories, including the theories of energy flow though ecosystems and the Big Bang theory. Students understand that motion and forces are related by applying physical laws. Relationships between aspects of the living, physical and chemical world are applied to systems on a local and global scale.

Forensic Psychology: A Look into the Criminal Mind - Elective

Course Description

Step into the shoes of a Forensic Psychologist and understand the criminal mind!

Students will conduct investigations, experiments and develop new understandings about:

- What a forensic psychologist is and how criminal profiling can help apprehend an offender.
- What it means to be an expert witness in the courtroom and ascertain whether a person is of sound mind.
- Psychological tests and understand their limitations.

- How a forensic psychologist helps to retrieve eyewitness memories and the purpose of line ups, mug shots and facial composites.
- Deception, guilt and lies.
- Serial killers and blood splatter evidence.

This subject is an excellent choice for students who enjoy science and learning how the mind works. Especially if students are interested in studying science in their future pathways, accelerating into VCE, and beyond.

Saltwater Science - Elective

Course Description

Dive into the dynamic forces that shape our planet with this captivating science elective exploring the intersection of oceanography, marine biology, and geology. Students will journey from the seafloor to the shoreline—and into the vibrant world of marine life—uncovering how plate tectonics sculpt ocean basins and drive volcanic activity, earthquakes, and the formation of marine landscapes. Through hands-on experiments, interactive models, and case studies, learners will also investigate topics such as seafloor spreading, deep-sea hydrothermal vents, and coastal erosion, alongside the incredible organisms that inhabit these environments.

This subject also highlights the profound impact oceans have on Earth's climate, ecosystems, and geological cycles. Students will examine how sediments accumulate on the seafloor, how tsunamis are triggered by undersea quakes, and how rising sea levels shape coastlines. Current research and emerging technologies—like deep-sea mapping and remote sensing—will be woven into the course, encouraging students to think critically about sustainability and our role in protecting these vital systems.

Ideal for students fascinated by Earth sciences and marine environments, this elective provides a solid foundation for further study in environmental sciences or marine biology pathways. Whether aspiring scientist or curious explorer, students will leave with a deeper understanding of the planet's hidden underwater world and the geological processes that shape it.

TECHNOLOGY

Product Design - Elective

Course Description

If you can see the problems in modern design and have some ideas on how to solve them, step into the world of creativity, problem-solving, and innovation with Product Design! This course empowers you to design solutions to real-world challenges by combining creativity with practical skills. Students will work towards manufacturing core pieces of work to understand the manufacturing techniques, processes and procedures. Students will learn by using the design process of investigation, design, production and evaluation; and provides applied learning skills for future career pathways.

Cooking with Skill - Elective

Course Description

Students will further enhance their cooking skills and use a wider range of ingredients and equipment to prepare a broad range of recipes. They will design recipes and have a vast selection of ingredients to choose from. Students will learn about the different varieties of food we eat and how these foods change when they are used in recipes.

- Cooking with skill includes: Adolescent nutrition
- Using our senses to judge food Methods of cooking
- New and futuristic foods Introduction to reading food labels

Café - Elective

Course Description

Students will develop their abilities in the hospitality field. They will learn key skills relating to food preparation and display, hot and cold beverages production and serving, and financial transactions and customer service. Students will be taught barista skills coffee making on an industry approved coffee machine. “Café” prepares students for a pathway in VCE, VCE-VM or VET Hospitality. Students may later become eligible for a School Based Apprenticeship or Traineeship (SBAT).

Café includes:

- Coffee making
- Basic food handling and hygiene
- Baking, cooking, and decorating for sale and promotion Interpersonal skills
- Employability skills

Robots in Our World - Elective

Course Description

This subject is a fantastic opportunity for students to learn about automation and develop STEM skills in robotics. Suitable for beginners through to experienced coders to continue to develop their knowledge in coding with Python as well as creating block instruction sets for the Lego EV3 Mindstorm robots using EV3 Software.

Students will learn:

- Coding in python
- Coding for LEGO EV3 robots

The Third Dimension - Elective

Course Description

In this elective course, students will develop the ability to use computer aided design (CAD) applications to digitally design products in 3D that can be 3D printed or laser cut/etched. Students will use industry standard CAD platforms to develop skills in 3D design that can be applied to many real-world contexts, including automated additive manufacturing such as 3D Printing or reductive manufacturing such laser cutting/etching. This subject is great for students interested in Product Design, Construction, Engineering, and 3D modelling.

Students will learn:

- Use the industry accepted CAD programs.
- Design three-dimensional (3D) products
- 3D Print student designs.
- Laser cut/etch designs

'Building Your Future' - Elective

Course Description

If you have ever wanted to learn applied skills of woodworking and design, then look no further than Building your Future! Whether you're a beginner or have some experience, Building your Future offers a hands-on opportunity to learn practical skills, work with professional tools, and turn raw materials into impressive creations. Students will learn through the use of the design process of investigation, design, production and evaluation; and provides foundational skills for future pathways in trades such as carpentry and building. Students considering future VET pathways in Multi-Trade and Building & Construction are recommended to take the Building your Future elective.

PROGRAMS AND PATHWAYS

iCARE – CORE

Course Description

Year 9 iCARE is a subject where students delve into the heart of their surroundings and beyond. This innovative program places a strong emphasis on four key pillars: Community, Careers, Conservation, and Culture. Discover the power of community engagement, chart promising career paths, advocate for environmental conservation, and celebrate the richness of diverse cultures.

Opportunities:

- Career Exploration
- Conservation Programs Community Service Projects
- City Experience Activities

Ahead of the Curve – Elective

Course Description

This elective is designed for students to be extended so that they can work above the expected level in a range of subjects, as well as developing their leadership and communication skills. It will ensure students are using higher order thinking skills in a specialised and personalised learning program and prepare them for further study as well as life beyond their academic career.

Students who select this elective would be considering a VCE and university pathway. Students will gain the skills and study habits necessary for success in these fields, including access to guest speakers and an invite to participate in an entrepreneurial team challenge and other events. Benefits include excursions, programs that target goal setting and comprehensive monitoring and tracking of learning data.

Opportunities:

- Continued support to achieve excellence and academic success Access to extra-curricular learning activities
- Targeted careers and pathways counselling VCE taster sessions
- University and other further education experiences stress management