2017 Year 9 Subject Descriptions

- In Year 9, all students will study both core and elective subjects. Core subjects are compulsory and are explained below.
- Students will also select and study two elective subjects. These are also explained below.

Year 9 Core Subjects

**Commerce**

Course Content: The course provides an introduction into the Australian economy and teaches students the basics of budgeting, banking and credit awareness, as well as their and legal rights and responsibilities. Basic economic concepts such as scarcity, needs and wants and also explored. Assessment includes a research task, testing and bookwork.

Future Prospects: VCE Business Management, Accounting, Legal Studies.

**Digital Technologies**

Course Content: in Year 9 aims to develop students’ Information Technology skills. In an environment in which it is no longer enough to be “not good with computers” students need to be confident with a range of software and know how to learn to use software independently. In Year 9, students work with common office applications such as word processing and spread sheet software; they learn skills with digital imaging and design software; they learn about animation software and audio editing software. Throughout the course, the focus is on creating products to meet the needs of an audience or client, and on fostering independent learning.

**English**

Course Content: The course covers the three modes of language: writing, speaking and listening, and reading and viewing. Students study a variety of texts which may include novels, poetry, short stories and non-print texts. Responses to texts are creative, persuasive analytical and comparative. Students write for a variety of purposes and audiences. Students are expected to demonstrate a mastery of the writing process, through the presentation of refined and well drafted pieces. Oral activities and presentations, both group and individual, are integrated into all parts of the course. Students are encouraged to develop collaborative learning and higher order thinking skills through their participation in the City Experience Program. The students participate in a wider reading program which enables them to develop and extend their literacy skills.
**Geography**

Course Content: The course covers the topics of a range of geographic and environmental issues. These topics include biomes and food security, trade, tourism and interconnection, Asia and cities (including participation in the five day City Experience Program).

A range of geographical skills including map interpretation and analysis of data, will be also covered.

Future Prospects: Geography is part of an elective subject, 'It's Your World' at Year 10. It is a VCE subject and leads to many exciting career opportunities, such as town planning, work in environmental areas, meteorology, tourism and climatic studies.

**Health Education**

Course Content: Health Education examines a range of factors that affect health and development in individuals and the community. It develops the knowledge and skills that promote healthy growth, effective relationships and the safety and wellbeing of individuals. Students will participate in discussion, analysis, decision making and evaluation of various health issues including:

- Risk Taking - including Drugs and Alcohol, Body Image and Self-esteem
- Physical, Social and Mental health
- Sexual Health
- The Australian Healthcare System
- Lifestyle Diseases

Future Prospects: Years 10-12 Food Technology and Food Studies/Years 10-12 Health and Human Development/Years 11-12 Hospitality

**History**

Course Content: A study of Australian History, beginning with Indigenous Australian History prior to European settlement. The course also examines the Industrial Revolution, convicts, Federation and World War One. Students develop skills such as source analysis and interpretation, close reading of various types of texts, historical research and writing. Assessment includes an extended research task, testing and bookwork.

Future Prospects: History is studied as a core subject in Year 10 and is offered at VCE level from Units 1 to 4. It is a subject which can be studied in a variety of tertiary courses leading to a range of interesting and rewarding careers in fields such as law, media, teaching and many others.
Mathematics

Course Content: This course will cover the following areas:

- Trigonometry/Number Measurement/Pythagoras Theory/Algebra
- Statistics and Probability Linear Graphs

Other Information: Students must have a scientific calculator with a fraction key to do this subject.

Physical Education

Course Content: Depending on the elective chosen by the class, students will measure their own fitness level and will maintain regular participation in moderate to vigorous physical activity. They will combine motor skills, strategic thinking and tactical knowledge to improve individual and team performance.

Students choose two units from those listed below. Each unit runs for one semester.

FITNESS: Activities may include a fitness assessment, aerobics, power walking, cycling, weight and circuit training.

COURT SPORTS: Sports such as Netball, Basketball, European Handball, Volleyball and a range of other sports played on a Court. Students will cover basic skills and rules and spend a majority of lesson time on participating in game situations.

BATS AND STICKS: Sports such as Bat Tennis, Lacrosse, Hockey, Softball, Cricket and Badminton. Students will cover basic skills and rules and spend a majority of lesson time on participating in game situations.

SPORTS BAG: Students will be involved in a number of modified minor games eg. Bench Ball, War Ball, Bomber and Flyers, Run the Gauntlet and many more. Students may also get the opportunity to make up their own game and introduce this to their classmates.

FOOTBALL CODES: A variety of football codes such as Soccer, Rugby, Touch Football and AFL rules will be covered. Skill practices and fitness activities relating to that code of football will also be covered.

MOVE AND GROOVE: Students will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of performance based units such as, Aerobics, Dance, Gymnastics and Cheerleading. Students will learn basic moves and choreograph their own performances. Students must be willing to perform in front of their peers.

Clothing Required: College sports jacket; College tracksuit pants, College shorts College polo shirt, college rugby top, white socks, good supportive runners (not street shoes),

Future Prospects: VCE P.E. leads to jobs in the ever-growing sport and leisure fields such as administration, sport medicine, sports technology and recreation.
Science

Course Content: Year 9 Science encompasses such diverse ideas as:

Biological Sciences: Multi-cellular organisms rely on coordinated and interdependent internal systems to respond to changes to their environment. Ecosystems consist of communities of interdependent organisms and abiotic components of the environment; matter and energy flow through these systems.

Chemical Sciences: All matter is made of atoms which are composed of protons, neutrons and electrons; natural radioactivity arises from the decay of nuclei in atoms. Chemical reactions involve rearranging atoms to form new substances; during a chemical reaction mass is not created or destroyed. Chemical reactions, including combustion and the reactions of acids, are important in both non-living and living systems and involve energy transfer.


Physical Sciences: Energy transfer through different mediums can be explained using wave and particle models.

Future Prospects: VCE Sciences – Biology, Chemistry, Physics and/or Psychology.

Year 9 Electives

Arabic

Prerequisites: Year 8 Arabic

Course Content: Further development of reading, writing, listening and speaking Arabic. Insights into Arabic culture are gained through the activities and materials used. Development and practice of grammar in all four disciplines.

Art

Course Description: A broad range of subjects are offered within the context of creativity and design. Emphasis is on the importance of art and design within the lives of our students as citizens of the local and global community.

Students experiment, explore and manipulate different materials and techniques in order to create original art works. They learn to use techniques and skills appropriate to both two dimensional and three dimensional art works. They learn to develop their ideas and communicate these using visual forms, images and design principles.
Students continue to learn how artists create art works and use a range of materials and techniques to communicate different ideas. Traditional and contemporary art works are investigated in order to gain an appreciation of how we see art and why art is so important.

Students select two units from the following list. Each runs for one semester.

**Ceramics and Sculpture – 3D Creations**
- Different clay-forming and hand building techniques;
- Understanding firing procedures - Green ware and bisque;
- Three dimensional construction and assemblage techniques.

**Draw It, Paint It - Two Dimensional Studies**
- Exploring tone, line and form
- Investigate structure and transformation of natural forms, and colour relationships
- Realism to abstraction.

**Visual Communication and Design**
- Drawing for a target audience
- Different rendering and drawing techniques
- Basic two dimensional and three dimensional drawing skills

**Printers Studio - Different Printmaking Processes**
- Mono prints
- Lino-printing – relief printing dry point etching – intaglio silk-screen – stencils

**Fabric Fun - Dyeing, Printing and Manipulating Fabric**
- Procion Dyes – Immersion dyeing
- Silk-screen – stencils and printing on fabric
- Manipulating fabric using stitch applique and cutting to create 3D effects

**Mosaic Madness - Making Mosaic Objects**
- Design for 3D objects and direct application method

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**Computer Studies (Technology Systems)**

Course Content: Information Technology is at the heart of much of what we do on a day to day basis. Computer Studies aims to enable students to control computers and create information products by programming. Students develop an understanding of a variety of programming environments. These include environments designed for use in education, such as Lego Mindstorms and Scratch, as well as “real-world”
programming languages such as HTML. Students write programs to control robots, or create information products such as web pages or mobile apps. Computer Studies is an excellent option for students who are interested in working in the Information Technology field, and is a great introduction to VCE Computing.

**Creations**

**Course Description:** This course focuses on using visual interest in creativity and in using a range of materials to create original art works. Creations offers students a unique opportunity to experiment and explore a range of materials, techniques and processes to create innovative and creative art works such as:

- Wire Sculptures incorporating different gauges and colours of wire.
- Jewellery making incorporating wire, beads, ribbons and related materials.
- Relief Work incorporating paper, wire, paint and related materials.
- Students use a range of starting points including observation, experience and research to develop and create art works of their own choice which demonstrate a development of their individual design process.

**Food Technology**

**Course content:** Year 9 Food Technology studies the safe and hygienic preparation of food, as well as provides opportunity for ongoing practical skill development. This is achieved by learning about the following topics:

- Food production - simple and complex processes
- Nutrition
- Multi-cultural foods
- Convenience foods
- Labelling and marketing of foods
- Bush Foods

**Future prospects:** Years 10-12 Food Technology and Food Studies/Years 11-12 Hospitality studies/Years 10-12 Health and Human Development

**Other Information:** Students will require two tea-towels and a food container. There is a levy to pay for food purchased for this subject.

**French**

**Prerequisites:** Year 8 French

**Course Content:** Further development of reading, writing, listening and speaking French. Insights into French culture are gained through the activities and materials used. Development of the use of language in cultural contexts.
Italian

Prerequisites: Year 8 Italian

Course Content: Further development of reading, writing, listening and speaking Italian. Insights into Italian culture are gained through the activities and materials used. Development of the use of language in cultural contexts.

Japanese

Prerequisites: Year 8 Japanese

Course Content: Further development of reading, writing, listening and speaking Japanese. Insights into Japanese culture are gained through the activities and materials used. Development of the use of language in cultural contexts.

Materials - Fabrics

Course content: In Fabrics, students are able to design and produce textiles products, and then self-evaluate the effectiveness of their work. Students investigate the strengths and limitations of a variety of tools, processes and materials. They learn to prepare detailed design proposals, and then use tools and processes to develop their products. Students create products such as pin cushions, boxer-shorts and decorative cushions. The course culminates with the design and production of a product chosen by the student. Self-motivated, creative and practical students will find a great outlet for their abilities in Fabrics.

Music

Prerequisites: Year 8 Classroom Music or Instrumental Studies for one year.

Course Content: Music aims to engage students in music making and musical appreciation. Year 9 Music builds on the skills and knowledge covered in the previous years of study. Students work in small groups to develop the skill of working together to play music. Songs are chosen in collaboration with the teacher and students engage in a public performance of completed songs. Music covered during the year includes pop, blues, rock, funk, world music, jazz alternative as well as classical. Students focus their learning on the following areas during the Semester:

- Vocal and instrumental performance
- The study of past and present musical styles
- Music technology
- Music theory and general musicianship
- Analytical listening and music appreciation
- Collaboration with other musicians in a group

Future Prospects: An appreciation of different music styles that could lead to the study of VCE music.
Other Information: Students who elect to study V.C.E. Music should study Music in Years 9 and 10 through the Music Electives. Students who select Music should study an instrument as part of the College's Instrumental Music Program. Students may also become a member of the College music ensembles or choir and are provided with the opportunity to perform in lunchtime concerts, the College Gala Music Concert, the End-of-Year Concert and in various competitions.

Performance Studies

Course Content: Performance Studies aims to nurture students' imagination, creativity and knowledge of themselves and the world in which we live. It further extends students' confidence in themselves and an appreciation of the contributions made and the talents of others. Students develop their work through constructive criticism, aesthetic appreciation and responses to each other's contribution, ideas and performance work.

The Year 9 Drama component of the Performance Studies Course involves two main areas of study: Drama and Dance/Movement.

In Semester 1, students study the following areas:

- Ensemble Work: Caricature and Stereotype based on the theme of ‘comedy’
- Solo Performance: This area gives the students an opportunity to practice solo performance skills and gain confidence in performing outside a group situation
- Melodrama: This unit of work looks at melodrama and its characters

In Semester 2, students study the following areas:

- Interpretive Movement: Students create pieces of dance and drama that are performed to the class.
- Ensemble Work: Theme or Issue based group work. This unit of work enables the student to use a contemporary theme or issue to create a short piece suitable for a group performance.
- Audition Performance: In this unit students create their own audition piece, which may include song, music, dance or melodrama. Students may perform a scripted audition piece.