Lower Senior Years

St Benedict's College

C S P B

In Omnibus Deus

2026

Subject Handbook

Year 10

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to the Year 10 Subject Handbook: Charting Student's Path

Dear Students, Parents, and Carers,

Year 10 marks an exciting juncture in student learning and direction towards post school opportunities. It is year designed to prepare them for the wide array of opportunities and pathways available to them in their final years of formal education.

Students can explore new experiences or continue to pursue an area of interest through a variety of year long electives that will compliment the compulsory subjects at this level.

Before students lock in their preferences, we recommend students speak to: teachers about elective choices, any older students who have done similar subjects, and of course, have conversations at home with parents and caregivers about the possibilities and direction they are interested in.

Compulsory Foundations:

- Religion, English, Mathematics, Science, History and HPE (Health and Physical Education):

Elective Pathways:

- 3 full year electives will complement the compulsory subjects.

During terms 2 and 3 of Year 10, students will begin exploring their senior schooling pathway and beyond through the SET Planning process. More information will be available early next year.

Preparing for Senior Schooling

Year 10 is about building stepping stones towards the opportunities for learning in Year 11 and 12; solidifying the study and work habits that will be needed for success in the direction they choose. The ability to spend more time investing in an area of interest or passion is designed to prepare students for the pathway they want to follow on with in Years 11 and 12.

With anticipation and encouragement,

Tameika Grist

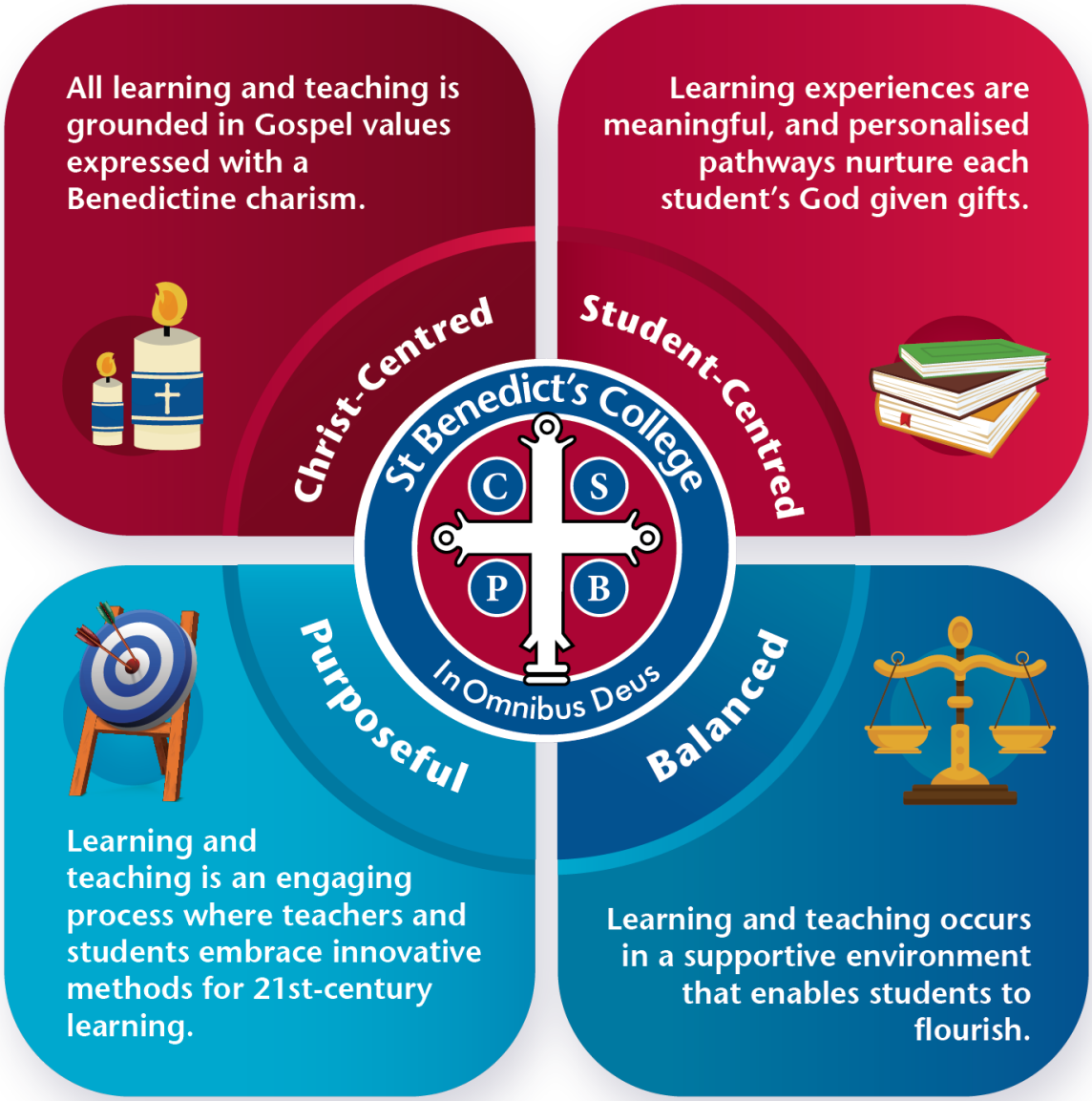
Principal

CONTENTS

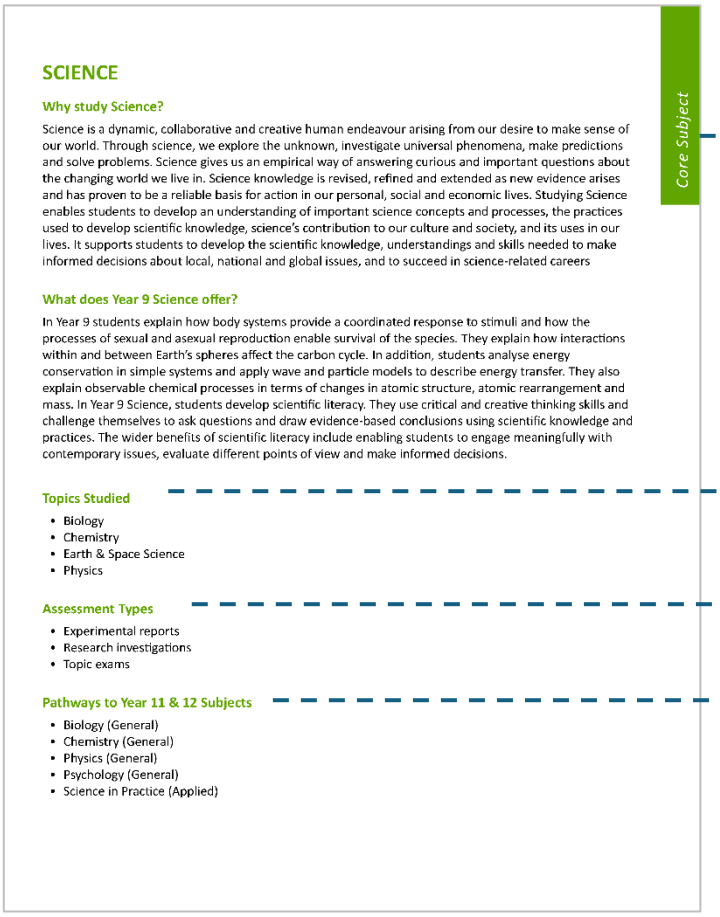
LEARNING & TEACHING FRAMEWORK

The St Benedict's College Learning and Teaching Framework establishes a shared understanding of how learning and teaching are approached within our community. It brings together the key elements that define and shape the learning culture of our College, guiding the planning, delivery, and evaluation of high-quality education for all students. The framework is intentionally named with "learning" first, reflecting our commitment to placing learners at the heart of everything we do.

Rather than prescribing specific methods or techniques, the framework embraces a holistic perspective on the dynamic processes of learning and teaching at St Benedict's College. Grounded in our College's Vision, Mission, and Values, the framework is further enriched by contemporary research on effective learning practices. It aligns with the Brisbane Catholic Education Strategy and the principles outlined in the Alice Springs Education Declaration (Mparntwe).



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE



SCIENCE

Why study Science?

Science is a dynamic, collaborative and creative human endeavour arising from our desire to make sense of our world. Through science, we explore the unknown, investigate universal phenomena, make predictions and solve problems. Science gives us an empirical way of answering curious and important questions about the changing world we live in. Science knowledge is revised, refined and extended as new evidence arises and has proven to be a reliable basis for action in our personal, social and economic lives. Studying Science enables students to develop an understanding of important science concepts and processes, the practices used to develop scientific knowledge, science's contribution to our culture and society, and its uses in our lives. It supports students to develop the scientific knowledge, understandings and skills needed to make informed decisions about local, national and global issues, and to succeed in science-related careers

What does Year 9 Science offer?

In Year 9 students explain how body systems provide a coordinated response to stimuli and how the processes of sexual and asexual reproduction enable survival of the species. They explain how interactions within and between Earth's spheres affect the carbon cycle. In addition, students analyse energy conservation in simple systems and apply wave and particle models to describe energy transfer. They also explain observable chemical processes in terms of changes in atomic structure, atomic rearrangement and mass. In Year 9 Science, students develop scientific literacy. They use critical and creative thinking skills and challenge themselves to ask questions and draw evidence-based conclusions using scientific knowledge and practices. The wider benefits of scientific literacy include enabling students to engage meaningfully with contemporary issues, evaluate different points of view and make informed decisions.

Topics Studied

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Earth & Space Science
- Physics

Assessment Types

- Experimental reports
- Research investigations
- Topic exams

Pathways to Year 11 & 12 Subjects

- Biology (General)
- Chemistry (General)
- Physics (General)
- Psychology (General)
- Science in Practice (Applied)

Core Subject

Subject Type
Core or Elective.

Topic Studied
What topics are included in this subject.

Assessment
How students will be assessed.

Pathways to Year 11 & 12
Each subject page contains a subject pathway into Senior Years. Year 11 and 12 subjects are indicative only and are subject to change due to student interest and changes in courses. They should not be read as the subjects that will be offered and are provided as a guide only to assist in subject progression and potential selection.

THE SUBJECT SELECTION PROCESS

Students have the opportunity to experience a broad range and rich curriculum through the wide range of subjects offered.

In Year 10 Students study core subjects of:

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

Students choose three elective subjects to study for the whole year. Students also need to choose two reserve electives in the event that their chosen elective does not run, there is a clash or classes are full.

When choosing subjects, students are encouraged to:

- Choose subjects they are good at
- Choose subjects that they enjoy and are interested in
- Choose subjects that will lead to subjects they may study in Years 10, 11 and 12
- Choose subjects they are willing to work hard in
- Read the subject overviews carefully. Once selections are made, changes may not be possible
- Talk to teachers about their subject choices
- Not to choose subjects based on the choices of their friends
- Not to choose subjects based on teachers
- Not to choose subjects they have struggled with in the past

HONORATUS EXTENSION & EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

Why Honoratus?

St Honoratus was an Italian Benedictine monk who lived in the 15th Century. He became the Abbot of the Benedictine monastery in Subiaco following St. Benedict.

St Honoratus was a teacher and lifelong learner. He used a revolutionary, integrated methodology of teaching that encompassed deep thinking and creativity. He inspired monks to go out and teach others these skills, to bring scholarly excellence across the region.

Overview

St Benedict's College teachers are passionate about offering gifted and talented rigorous, relevant and engaging learning opportunities to develop their individual learning needs, strengths, interests and goals. We have a variety of streams that are delivered by teachers who are enthusiastic about their curriculum area and have the skills to provide meaningful experiences for gifted and talented students that challenge them in new and creative ways.

Students are selected to participate in the extracurricular Honoratus streams by invitation or audition based on a variety of factors depending on the stream including overall academic excellence, high scores on a range of formal tests, their special interests, work ethic, teacher recommendation, and skills.

Each of the Honoratus streams provide students with access to specific activities – requiring critical and create thinking, problem solving, and the development of responses and dispositions in individual and collaborative contexts – aligned to and extending beyond the curriculum.

STREAMS

At different times throughout each year the College offers a range of programs in the following streams:

- Arts
- Humanities
- Mathematics
- STEM
- Sport
- Culture
- Business
- Design

The availability of these streams is dependent upon student interest and staff availability and as such can vary each year.

PATHWAYS

In Year 9 and 10, our Careers and Pathways Program is structured to assist both students and parents/carers as they navigate the complex and ever-evolving transition from junior secondary studies to senior studies, further education, training or employment.

Our program includes participation in the Career Tools Modules, which run in Year 8 and 9 during Pastoral Care lessons. This program aims to equip students with the skills they need for a lifetime of learning and career choices by providing exploration and aspiration tests while building student agency.

Additionally, Year 9 students will engage with the School Community Industry Partnership Service (SCIPS) to access employment readiness training and participate in careers days during which they will be learn about resume writing and be involved in mock interviews.

Year 10 students will use various Pathway resources to explore future career opportunities and be guided by teachers in creating their Senior Education and Training (SET) Plan.

We place a priority on providing regular, targeted exposure for our students to tertiary and vocational options through careers expos, university and TAFE immersion experiences, and other relevant activities.

We believe that with our comprehensive program, students can make informed decisions and feel confident in navigating their career pathways. We look forward to supporting both students and parents/carers throughout this exciting journey.

St Benedict's College Careers Website: St Benedict's College (stbenedictscollegecareers.com.au).

WHERE TO GO FOR HELP

Tamieka Grist
Principal

Peter Olley
Assistant Principal Catholic Identity & Formation

Anja Reust
Assistant Principal Teaching & Learning

Bonnie Towers
Guidance Counsellor

Geoffrey Young
VET Program Leader

Lavinia Affleck
Pastoral Leader Year 10

Tim Campbell
Deputy Principal

Chris Carlill
Assistant Principal Student Engagement

Dominique Sinclair
Guidance Counsellor

Louise Forbes
Guidance Counsellor

Sarah Meder
Pathways Program Leader

Sam Kittoli
Learning Enhancement Program Leader

Curriculum Leaders:

Shaun Manning
Design Technologies

Michael Addicott
Digital Technologies

Jemma Cecil
English

Mark Bennedick
Health and Physical Education

Branden Laurie
Humanities/ Languages

James Downey
Mathematics

Jacob Reust
Religious Education

Kate Buchanan
Science

Megan Davis
The Arts

SUBJECT SELECTION ONLINE (SSO) INFORMATION

Subject Selection Online (SSO) is a web application that allows students to enter their subject preferences online.

SSO Opens Monday, 4 August (Term 3, Week 5)

SSO Closes Monday, 11 August (Term 3, Week 6)

Step 1 - Accessing SSO

To use SSO, students must open their web browser to the College Portal and go to Student Workspaces.

Click the following icon to enter SSO:

Step 2 - Logging into SSO

Student's username is their BCE login name – example – gfrederick1
numbers – example - 8 January 2009 is required to be written as 08012009, 22 January 2009 is to be written as 22012009.

Step 3 - Selecting Preferences

Students need to list their electives **in order of preference**. They need to choose three (3) electives and two (2) reserves. Drag and drop them into place. The order of them is important as subjects are assigned according to this order.

NOTE: Students will not be able to choose the same subject twice OR choose it as a reserve if they have chosen it as your elected subject

Step 4 – Checking

The checking page allows students to check their selection in the 'Your Selections Summary' that appears on the right side of the page. There is a Generate Selection Report button at the bottom of this section.

Press this, to download the Selection Report. This is their copy. Students are to save it to their One Drive in a folder named 2026 Subject Selections Report.

Step 5 - Parent Approval

After students select their preferences, parents/carers must review and confirm the choices using the PIN emailed to them by 3:00pm Monday 11 August (Term 3, Week 6).

SUBJECTS OFFERED

	Core Subject Each student will study all of these subjects over the entire year or semester for HPE and History.	Elective Subject Each student will undertake three of these subjects for the entire year. Students must choose three electives and two reserves.
English	• English	
Mathematics	• Mathematics	
Religion	• Religious Education	
Science	• Science	
Health and Physical Education	• Health and Physical Education (Core)	• Health and Physical Education (Elective)
Humanities & Languages	• History (Core)	• Ancient History • Business And Economics • Chinese (Mandarin) • Civics And Citizenship • Geography
Design Technologies		• Food Specialisation • Materials and Technologies
Digital Technologies		• Digital Technologies
STEM		• STEM
The Arts		• Performing Arts – Dance • Performing Arts - Drama • Media Art • Performing Arts - Music • Visual Art

ENGLISH

Why study English?

Through the study of English, students learn to analyse, understand, communicate and build relationships with others and the world around them. It helps create confident communicators, imaginative and critical thinkers, and informed citizens. The study of English plays a key role in the development of literacy, which gives young people the knowledge and skills needed for education, training and the workplace. It helps them become ethical, informed, perceptive, innovative and active members of society.

The English curriculum plays an important part in developing the understanding, attitudes and capabilities of those who will take responsibility for Australia's future. English is organised into three interrelated strands that support learners' growing understanding and use of Standard Australian English. Together the three strands focus on developing learners' 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.

What does Year 10 English offer?

In English in Year 10, students can participate in, and design extension activities. This enables them to undertake deeper exploration of content, critically think about contexts, engage with more complex texts and genres, and demonstrate their knowledge and skills in differentiated tasks with varying degrees of challenge. The College also encourages learners in 10 English to participate in external reading and writing competitions.

Topics Studied

- Unit 1 – Media Study: Travel Texts
- Unit 2 - Shakespeare's Macbeth and Romeo & Juliet Play Study
- Unit 3 – *To Kill a Mockingbird and Lord of the Flies* Novel Study
- Unit 4 – Dystopian World's *The Giver* Film study

Assessment Types

- Unit 1 – Travel Feature Article
- Unit 2 – Imaginative narrative writing (Exam)
- Unit 3 – Analytical Essay (Exam)
- Unit 4 – Multi-modal presentations

Pathways to Year 11 & 12 Subjects

- English (General)
- Literature (General)
- Essential English (Applied)
- Short Course Literacy

MATHEMATICS

Why study Mathematics?

Mathematics is vital to the learning, development, and future opportunities of all young Australians. It equips students with essential knowledge, skills, procedures, and processes in areas such as number, algebra, measurement, space, statistics, and probability. By enhancing numeracy capabilities, mathematics prepares students for their personal, work, and civic lives and lays the groundwork for advanced mathematical studies and professional applications.

Mathematics offers students the chance to apply their understanding in creative and efficient ways. It supports teachers in fostering self-motivated, confident learners through practice, inquiry, and active engagement in relevant and challenging activities.

Mathematical processes encompass the thinking, reasoning, communication, problem-solving, and investigative skills needed for working with mathematics. These essential skills are integrated throughout the Mathematics curriculum, becoming more advanced as students progress through their schooling.

What does Year 10 Mathematics offer?

In 10 Mathematics students further develop their understanding and applications skills in geometry and trigonometry and apply Pythagoras' theorem to real life scenarios. Students continue to develop their understanding in measurements and algebra and apply their understanding of operations when problem solving. They are introduced to several data representations and statistical analysis and interpretation, including real life scenarios. Students further develop their understanding and interpretation of probability scenarios including two and three step chance experiments, both with and without replacements.

The College also encourages learners in 9 Mathematics and 10 Mathematics to participate in external problem solving and modelling competitions.

Topics Studied

- Quadratic algebra
- Volume and surface area
- Probability
- Trigonometry and Pythagoras' theorem
- Univariate data
- Networks and proof

Assessment Types

- Topic exam
- Problem Solving and Modelling Task

Pathways to Year 11 & 12 Subjects

- Essential Mathematics (Applied)
- General Mathematics (General)
- Mathematical Methods (General)
- Specialist Mathematics (General)
- Short Course Numeracy

RELIGION

Why study Religion?

Religion is the core theme that underpins all learning and all aspects of relationships at the College and is a fundamental curriculum area for exploration and reflection by all students.

The Religion Curriculum involves four strands:

- Sacred Texts (Old Testament; New Testament; Spiritual Writings and Wisdom)
- Beliefs (God, Jesus, Spirit; Human Existence; Religions of the World)
- Church (Liturgy and Sacraments; Communion and Community; Church History)
- Christian Life (Moral Formation; Mission and Service; Prayer and Spirituality).

The study of Religion allows students to explore their role in forming their own faith through knowledge and experience of events in the Church's history. They learn about various sources of inspiration, strength and guidance for believers today and ways in which believers live their Christian vocation. Personal experiences and reflections on these events are a critical aspect of the courses.

What does Year 10 Religion offer?

Students explore how humans come to understand the mystery of God through creation, world religions, Scripture, spiritual writings, and prayer. They examine representations of God in both Old and New Testament texts and reflect on how personal and communal prayer deepens awareness of God's presence. Students study insights from Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, and Buddhism. They also develop a critical understanding of Catholic social teaching and the role of conscience in moral decision-making. Prayer remains a key focus, with continued exploration of Christian traditions and practices.

Assessment Types

- Designing products and presentations
- Multi-modal presentations
- Extended Response Exam
- Analytical Essays

Pathways to Year 11 & 12 Subjects

- Study of Religion (General)
- Religion and Ethics (Applied)
- Religion Meaning and Life (by application only)

Religious Life of the School Opportunities - Spirituality

The College's spirituality program offers students and staff meaningful opportunities to pause, reflect on their life journey, build positive relationships, and grow spiritually through prayer and liturgical experiences.

Year 10 – Courage to Step Out of the Crowd: This day challenges the students to follow Christ by being counter cultural.

SCIENCE

Why study Science?

Science is a dynamic, collaborative and creative human endeavour arising from our desire to make sense of our world. Through science, we explore the unknown, investigate universal phenomena, make predictions and solve problems. Science gives us an empirical way of answering curious and important questions about the changing world we live in. Science knowledge is revised, refined and extended as new evidence arises and has proven to be a reliable basis for action in our personal, social and economic lives.

Studying Science enables students to develop an understanding of important science concepts and processes, the practices used to develop scientific knowledge, science's contribution to our culture and society, and its uses in our lives. It supports students to develop the scientific knowledge, understandings and skills needed to make informed decisions about local, national and global issues, and to succeed in science-related careers.

What does Year 10 Science offer?

In Year 10 students explain the processes of heredity and genetic diversity and describe the theory of evolution by natural selection. They sequence key events in the evolution of the universe and describe the supporting evidence for the big bang theory. Students describe trends in patterns of global climate change. They also explain how Newton's laws describe motion and apply them to predict motion of objects in a system. Students explain patterns and trends in the periodic table and predict the products of reactions and the effect of changing reactant and reaction conditions. In developing scientific literacy, students use critical and creative thinking skills, and challenge themselves to ask questions and draw evidence-based conclusions using scientific knowledge and practices. The wider benefits of scientific literacy include enabling students to engage meaningfully with contemporary issues, evaluate different points of view and make informed decisions.

Topics Studied

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Earth & Space Science
- Physics

Assessment Types

- Experimental reports
- Research investigations
- Topic exams

Pathways to Year 11 & 12 Subjects

- Biology (General)
- Chemistry (General)
- Physics (General)
- Psychology (General)
- Science in Practice (Applied)

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION (Core)

Why study Health and Physical Education?

In Health and Physical Education, students develop the skills, knowledge, and understanding to strengthen their sense of self, and build and manage satisfying, respectful relationships. They learn to build on personal and community strengths and assets to enhance safety and wellbeing. They critique and challenge assumptions and stereotypes. Students learn to navigate a range of health-related sources, services and organisations. Integral to Health and Physical Education is the acquisition and application of movement skills, concepts and strategies across a range of physical activity contexts. This enables students to participate confidently and competently when moving. Movement is a powerful medium for learning through which students can acquire and practise personal, social and cognitive skills. When learning in movement contexts, students gain skills, understanding and dispositions that support lifelong physical activity participation and enhanced movement performance

What does Year 10 Health and Physical Education (Core) offer?

In Year 10, students will examine factors shaping personal identity and relationships, developing strategies to manage change, emotions and transitions. They will explore respectful relationships, consent, communication and the impact of gender equality, power and empathy in preventing violence and promoting inclusion. With a focus on safety, students will also explore first aid, road safety and party safety. They will learn to assess risks, respond in emergencies and evaluate strategies to manage hazardous situations. Students will build confidence in making informed, responsible decisions that protect their own and others' wellbeing in real-life contexts.

Students will be assessed on their ability to adapt and refine their own and others' movement skills in both Modified Games and Team Sports, demonstrating their ability to apply movement concepts in various contexts. They will be evaluated on their ability to transfer and adapt strategies to achieve success in new scenarios. Practical assessments will also focus on fair play, ethical behaviour and the development of leadership, teamwork and decision-making skills.

Topics Studied

- Safety
- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Relationships and Sexuality

Assessment Types

- Multi-modal presentations
- Practical performance demonstrations
- In class tasks

Pathways to Year 11 & 12 Subjects

- Physical Education (General)
- Certificate III in Fitness (VET)
- Food and Nutrition (General)
- Certificate III in Health Services Assistance (VET)
- Certificate III in Community Services (VET)

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION (Elective)

Why study Health and Physical Education?

In Health and Physical Education, students develop the skills, knowledge, and understanding to strengthen their sense of self, and build and manage satisfying, respectful relationships. They learn to build on personal and community strengths and assets to enhance safety and wellbeing. They critique and challenge assumptions and stereotypes. Students learn to navigate a range of health-related sources, services and organisations.

What does Year 10 Health and Physical Education (Elective) offer?

The Year 10 Health and Physical Education Elective provides a strong foundation for students intending to study Senior Physical Education as part of the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) pathway. This academically rigorous course consists of 80% theoretical assessment and 20% practical demonstration. Students will develop a deep understanding of key concepts including ethics and integrity in sport, traditional and contemporary motor learning approaches, and the relationship between fitness and training. The course also introduces students to the assessment techniques used in the senior program: an investigation report, a multimodal presentation, a combination response exam and a physical performance video. Students considering Physical Education in Year 11 are strongly encouraged to undertake this elective in Year 10.

Topics Studied

- Ethics and Integrity in Sport
- Motor Learning
- Fitness and Training

Assessment Types

- Investigation Report
- Project Folio
- Combination Response Examination
- Physical Performance Video

Pathways to Year 11 & 12 Subjects

- Physical Education (General)
- Certificate III in Fitness (VET)
- Food and Nutrition (General)
- Certificate III in Health Services Assistance (VET)
- Certificate III in Community Services (VET)

HISTORY (Core)

Why study History?

History is a disciplined process of inquiry that encourages students to explore and make sense of the past, fostering curiosity, imagination, and a deeper understanding of the world. Through the study of significant societies, events, movements, and ideas, students learn how humanity has evolved over time and how past developments continue to influence the present. History plays a vital role in shaping a community's shared identity and helps students appreciate both the changes and continuities that have shaped people, cultures, and environments throughout time. Studying history equips students with the knowledge and skills to think critically, engage with evidence, and understand the forces that continue to influence our present and future.

What does Year 10 History offer?

In Year 10 History, students will delve into the profound impacts of World War II and the key developments that have shaped modern Australia since 1950. This course will cover two main topics: World War II and Building Modern Australia, with a focus on rights movements, migration, and the changing role of women. Throughout this course, they will develop critical inquiry and analysis skills essential for senior studies and beyond. Students will be encouraged to consider the origins and motives behind historical sources, evaluate their usefulness, accuracy, and reliability, and make connections between these concepts and the perspectives discussed. These skills will not only enhance their understanding of history but also prepare students for informed and thoughtful engagement with the world in their future endeavours.

Topics Studied World War II

- Building Modern Australia

Assessment Types

- Short and Extended Response Exam
- Analytical Essay

Pathways to Year 11 & 12 Subjects

- Ancient History (General)
- Modern History (General)

ANCIENT HISTORY

Why study History?

History is a disciplined process of inquiry that encourages students to explore and make sense of the past, fostering curiosity, imagination, and a deeper understanding of the world. Through the study of significant societies, events, movements, and ideas, students learn how humanity has evolved over time and how past developments continue to influence the present. History plays a vital role in shaping a community's shared identity and helps students appreciate both the changes and continuities that have shaped people, cultures, and environments throughout time. Studying history equips students with the knowledge and skills to think critically, engage with evidence, and understand the forces that continue to influence our present and future.

How does Ancient History (Elective) differ from Core History?

Our Year 10 History (Elective) is designed to complement the core history curriculum by offering a deep dive into some of the most transformative periods and figures in human history. Unlike the core Year 10 History, which provides a broad overview of historical events since the 1930s, this elective focuses on detailed case studies from a range of world ancient history. This approach allows students to engage with previously unstudied topics in greater depth and detail than what is offered in the core history subject. This elective is ideal for students with a keen interest in history, providing opportunities to further their critical analysis, evaluation, and understanding of the past in a way to extend them in preparation for senior history.

Topics Studied

- Alexander the Great (Ancient Greece)
- Gladiators, Bloodsports and Warfare (Ancient Rome)
- Japan under the Shoguns
- The Spanish Conquest of the Americas

Assessment Types

- Short and Extended Response Exam
- Research Investigation
- Analytical Essay

Pathways to Year 11 & 12 Subjects

- Ancient History (General)
- Modern History (General)

BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

Why study Business and Economics?

Economics and Business develops the knowledge, understanding and skills that will equip students to shape their social and economic futures. It also aids in the development of prosperous, sustainable and equitable Australian and global economies. Through studying economics and business, students learn to make informed decisions and to appreciate the effects of these decisions on individuals, businesses, and environmental and social systems. Economics and Business develops a range of skills that foster enterprising individuals who can effectively embrace change; seek innovation; work with others; show initiative, flexibility and leadership; plan, organise and manage risk; and use resources efficiently.

What does Year 10 Business and Economics offer?

Why is Australia called 'The Lucky Country'? Why do we have to pay tax? Have you ever wondered how businesses make money with the government constantly changing things? This course gives students the opportunity to learn why Australia has such a high standard of living and how it compares to other countries. During the course students will explore how unemployment, taxation, and inflation can affect how successful a country is and how governments manage these different elements to improve living standards. Students examine how governments and businesses intervene to reflect the availability and scarcity of resources and meet the ever-changing needs of society.

Topics Studied

- Economic Growth
- Living Standards
- Productivity
- Decision Making

Assessment Types

- Short and Extended Response Exam
- Research Report

Pathways to Year 11 & 12 Subjects

- Business (General)
- Certificate III in Business with Certificate II in Tourism embedded (VET)

CHINESE (MANDARIN)

Why study Chinese?

Chinese (Mandarin) has a long and growing history in Australian schools, first introduced in the 1950s and expanding rapidly during China's economic reform era in the 1980s. Today, it stands as one of the most valuable languages for young Australians to learn, as Australia's trade, tourism, and cultural ties with Asia continue to strengthen. Chinese is spoken by over a billion people worldwide and is the language of vibrant, diverse communities found across South-East Asia, North America, Europe, and Australia. In fact, the Chinese community in Australia dates back to the mid-1800s, and migration in recent decades has seen it become one of the fastest-growing language groups in the country. Studying Chinese opens the door to global connections, rich cultural traditions, and exciting opportunities for the future.

What does Year 10 Chinese offer?

In Year 10 Chinese, students explore the themes of My House, My School, Travel, and Future Plans. In My House, students learn vocabulary to describe homes and household items, express opinions, and explore aspects of Chinese teenage life and culture. In My School, they learn language related to school environments and compare schooling in China and Australia. The Travel unit allows students to plan trips and create travel brochures promoting Queensland to Chinese tourists, applying persuasive language in a real-world context. Finally, in Future Plans, students discuss career aspirations and life after Year 10, considering how Chinese language skills can support future pathways. The course builds practical communication skills while deepening cultural understanding and preparing students for continued language study.

Topics Studied

- My House
- My School
- Travel
- Future Plans

Assessment Types

- Listening Exam
- Reading Exam
- Writing Assessment
- Speaking Assessment

Pathways to Year 11 & 12 Subjects

- Chinese (Mandarin) (General)

CIVICS AND CITIZENSHIP

Why study Civics and Citizenship?

Civics and Citizenship provides students with opportunities to investigate political and legal systems, and explore the nature of citizenship, diversity and identity in contemporary society. Emphasis is placed on the federal system of government, derived from the Westminster and Washington systems, and the liberal democratic values that underpin it, such as freedom, equality and the rule of law. The curriculum explores how the people, as citizens, choose their governments; how the system safeguards democracy by vesting people with civic rights and responsibilities; how laws and the legal system protect people's rights; and how individuals and groups can influence civic life.

What does Year 10 Civics and Citizenship offer?

In Year 10 Civics and Citizenship, students explore Australia's federal system of government and compare it with a system in an Asian country. They examine Australia's role on the global stage, including its involvement in the United Nations and responses to international issues. The course also covers the purpose and functions of the High Court, how rights are protected under the Constitution, and the values that sustain a democratic society. Students reflect on their responsibilities as active citizens and investigate laws relevant to adult life, such as those concerning driving, alcohol and drugs, and rental agreements.

Topics Studied

- Governance
- High Court of Australia and The Constitution
- Criminal Law: Sentencing, Penalties and Law Reform
- Consumer Law

Assessment Types

- Research Report
- Response to Stimulus Exam
- Short and Extended Response Exam

Pathways to Year 11 & 12 Subjects

- Legal Studies (General)

GEOGRAPHY

Why study Geography?

Geography inspires curiosity and wonders about the diversity of the world's people, places and environments. Geography features a structured way of exploring, analysing and understanding the characteristics of the places that make up our world. This enables students to question why the world is the way it is and reflect on their relationships with and responsibilities for the world. Through the study of Geography, students become informed and responsible members of their local and global communities. They learn to act ethically to sustain and improve natural and social environments and engage in the global community.

What does Year 10 Geography offer?

In Year 10 Geography, students explore environmental change, coastal management, human wellbeing, and community interconnections. They examine the effects of climate change on Pacific Island communities and air quality issues in developing countries. They also consider issues impacting Australian coastlines, such as beach and dune erosion, and evaluate the effectiveness of coastal management strategies. In the human wellbeing unit, students explore how wellbeing is defined and measured in Asian, Pacific, and Middle Eastern communities, and analyse global disparities. The course also highlights how communities and organisations work together to achieve positive outcomes. Students develop geographical inquiry skills as they critically assess real-world challenges and consider solutions for a sustainable and equitable future.

Topics Studied

- Environmental Change and Management
- Coastal Change and Management
- Human Wellbeing
- Interconnections with Community

Assessment Types

- Geographical Report
- Short and Extended Response Exam

Pathways to Year 11 & 12 Subjects

- Biology (General)
- Legal Studies (General)
- Design (General)

FOOD SPECIALISATION

Why study Design Technologies: Food Specialisation?

Design and Technologies – Food Specialisation empowers students to become innovative and responsible designers by exploring how food impacts health, society, and the environment. Students apply design and systems thinking to investigate, generate, and refine ideas, managing projects from concept to completion. They examine ethical, legal, aesthetic, and functional factors, and consider the economic, environmental, and social impacts of food-related technological change. Through hands-on experiences, students develop production skills and take pride in creating sustainable, real-world food solutions. This subject fosters curiosity, creativity, persistence, and collaboration, preparing students to respond confidently to design challenges, including those related to a circular economy. It also builds transferable skills relevant to home, community, and future work pathways in food, hospitality, and health industries.

What does Year 10 Food Specialisation offer?

In Year 10 Food Specialisation, students will take part in a series of creative and practical projects that explore how food can promote sustainability, health, and innovation. They will investigate the global issue of food waste and design solutions using surplus ingredients to create nutritious meals. Students will also explore food service by planning and delivering a high tea event, building their skills in teamwork, presentation, and hospitality. In the Superfoods project, students will research teenage nutrition and design healthy canteen options, using food science and sensory evaluation to refine their recipes. Across all projects, students will apply design thinking, manage production processes, and grow their culinary and problem-solving skills—empowering students to make informed food choices and contribute to a more sustainable food future.

Topics Studied

- Food Event Planning
- Food Waste and Sustainability
- Healthy Food Design

Assessment Types

- Folio
- Essay

Pathways to Year 11 & 12 Subjects

- Food and Nutrition (General)
- Certificate II in Hospitality (VET)
- Design (General)

MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGIES

Why study Design Technologies: Materials and Technologies?

In an increasingly complex and technological world, students need the confidence and capability to respond creatively to design challenges, including those related to a circular economy. Design Technologies – Materials and Technologies equips students with the knowledge, understanding and skills to design, produce and evaluate solutions that enrich and transform our natural, managed and built environments. Students explore ethical, legal, aesthetic and functional factors, and consider the economic, environmental and social impacts of technological change. They apply design and systems thinking to investigate, generate and refine ideas, and manage projects from concept to completion. Through hands-on experiences with a range of materials and tools, students develop production skills and take pride in creating innovative products and environments. This subject fosters curiosity, creativity, persistence and collaboration, preparing students for real-world challenges and future pathways in design, engineering, construction and manufacturing.

What does Year 10 Materials and Technologies offer?

In Materials and Technologies, students will take on a series of creative and practical projects that combine traditional craftsmanship with modern design practices. Students will start by designing a shipping container house in virtual reality, where they will explore architectural concepts through immersive simulations. Students will also design and construct a full-size veneer skateboard, using advanced techniques like laser cutting and vacuum forming to create their own unique, personalised patterns. To round out students experience, they will build a breakfast table using traditional woodworking methods, showcasing their craftsmanship. These projects will help students apply design thinking, develop hands-on production skills, and explore how creativity and technology come together in real-world construction challenges.

Topics Studied

- Architectural Engineering
- Materials and Technologies
- The Design Process

Assessment Types

- Project – Folio

Pathways to Year 11 & 12 Subjects

- Design (General)
- Industrial Technology Skills (Applied)

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

Why study Digital Technologies?

In a world that is increasingly digitised and automated, it is critical to the wellbeing and sustainability of the economy, the environment and society, that the benefits of information systems are exploited ethically. This requires deep knowledge and understanding of digital systems (a component of an information system) and how to manage risks. Ubiquitous digital systems such as mobile and desktop devices and networks are transforming learning, recreational activities, home life and work. Digital systems support new ways of collaborating and communicating and require new skills such as computational and systems thinking. These technologies are an essential problem-solving toolset in our knowledge-based society.

What does Year 10 Digital Technologies offer?

In Year 10, students learn Structured Query Language (SQL), where students create, insert, update, delete, and query data. Students learn information system theory, including normalisation to Third Normal Form (3NF), to ensure efficient and accurate data storage. Students develop modular and efficient web applications using Python and Flask, integrating them with front-end technologies including HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. Responsive media queries are utilised to ensure device compatibility.

The course further covers computer networking theory, explaining how data moves through local and wide area networks. In cyber security, students investigate threats such as SQL injection, phishing attacks, brute force, malware (rootkits / kernel access), and learn about encryption, hashing, and supply chain risks. Students study Australian Privacy Principles, gaining awareness of legal responsibilities and ethical data use. Successful completion of this course will better enable students as full stack developers for future computer science studies.

Topics Studied

- Information Systems
- Data Security – Confidentiality, Integrity, Availability
- Computer Networking
- Web Applications

Assessment Types

All assessments will use the Project assessment technique as per QCAA ACiQ.

- written responses that may include annotated graphical representations 400–600 words
- desktop recording of application functionality with voiceover 3–4 minutes
- digital solution as negotiated
- practical as negotiated

Pathways to Year 11 & 12 Subjects

- Digital Solutions (General)
- Information and Communication Technology (Applied)

STEM

Why study STEM?

STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics – is a critical area of education that equips students with essential skills for the future. By studying STEM, students develop a foundation of knowledge, analytical thinking, and problem-solving abilities that are applicable in a multitude of careers and everyday life situations. STEM fosters curiosity and innovation, encouraging students to question the world around them and seek evidence-based answers. It prepares them for a rapidly evolving technological landscape, where adaptability and proficiency in digital tools are paramount.

A thorough understanding of scientific principles and technological advancements empowers students to contribute effectively to society and make informed decisions about global challenges. Students learn the interconnectedness of science, mathematics, technology, and design, transferring knowledge between these disciplines.

What does Year 10 STEM offer?

In Year 10, the STEM curriculum offers a comprehensive and integrated learning experience. Students learn about modelling situations and patterns, learning how to report assumptions, methods, and findings from investigations. They use deductive reasoning, design, and conduct investigations to explain processes and describe the evidence supporting theories. Additionally, students analyse the importance of peer review, select and construct effective representations, and summarise data and information to identify and explain patterns, trends, relationships, and anomalies.

Students consider how people impact design decisions and create designed solutions based on analysis. They learn to create, adapt, and refine ideas, processes, and solutions, effectively communicating these to various audiences. The curriculum also focuses on deconstructing real-world problems, critically evaluating alternative solutions, and creating interactive content. Students gain experience in planning, collaborating on, and managing agile projects, thereby preparing them for the complexities of the modern world.

NOTE: Selection of the subject must be accompanied by an application form available on the student portal.

Topics Studied (Subject to change based on student interest)

- Kaboom: How do students safely store something that could blow everything up?
- Impact: Can students design something to survive a crash before it even happens?
- Outbreak: What if you could see a virus spreading—on your wrist?
- Re:form: What would nature design if it had a 3D printer?

Assessment Types

- Projects

Pathways to Year 11 & 12 Subjects

- Biology (General)
- Chemistry (General)
- Design (General)
- Digital Solutions (General)
- Mathematics Methods (General)
- Physics (General)
- Specialist Mathematics (General)

PERFORMING ARTS: DANCE

Why study Dance?

Dance is all about movement, expression, and bringing stories to life! In this subject students will use their body to communicate and express meaning through purposeful movement. Dance practice integrates choreography, performance, and responding to dance. Students will experience and explore dance created and performed across diverse contexts, styles, and forms, and build understanding of how dancers use the body and movement to communicate ideas and meaning. In Year 10 Dance, students will refine technical and expressive skills, exploring contemporary, classical, and cultural dance styles. They will engage in creative choreography, developing movement sequences that convey emotion, story, and theme. Through performance and analysis, students will deepen their understanding of how dance influences and reflects society, gaining insight into historical and contemporary dance. Studying Dance fosters physical strength, creativity, and confidence—essential skills in the performing arts and beyond. Whether pursuing professional performance, choreography, or careers in fitness, media, or education, students will develop the ability to innovate, collaborate, and inspire through movement.

What does Year 10 Dance offer?

In Year 10 Dance, students will refine their technique and expressive skills across exciting styles like Contemporary, Lyrical, Musical Theatre, Hip Hop, Jazz, and Ballet. Students will master movement techniques that enhance control, flexibility, and artistry. Through choreography, they'll craft solo and group routines, learning to fuse dance styles to tell meaningful stories. Dive into the world of professional dance, exploring how culture and history shape performance styles. Students will master choreography, perform dynamic routines, and critically respond to dance works. By the end of the year, they will confidently create, perform, and evaluate stunning routines, with a strong understanding of technique and artistic expression. If a student loves rhythm, creativity, and movement, this is their chance to shine.

Topics Studied

- Fusion Dance Styles
- Historical Dance Genres
- Safe Dance Practice

Assessment Types

- Individual Performance
- Group Performance
- Choreography
- Responding to Dance, including analysis, evaluation and reflection.

Pathways to Year 11 & 12 Subjects

- Arts in Practice (Applied)
- Drama (General)

PERFORMING ARTS: DRAMA

Why study Drama?

Drama is all about performance, storytelling, and stepping into new roles! In this subject, students will create, perform, and respond to drama as both artist and audience. Students will learn to use, manage, and manipulate the elements and conventions of drama across a range of dramatic forms and styles. They will learn about drama by creating dramatic action and communicating dramatic meaning. In Year 10, students will refine their performance and analytical skills, exploring characterisation, movement, voice, and storytelling across various genres and traditions. Students will collaborate in ensemble work, developing confidence, creativity, and expressive techniques while deepening their understanding of dramatic conventions and audience engagement. Drama fosters communication, leadership, and problem-solving skills—valuable for careers in theatre, film, media, and beyond. Whether pursuing acting, directing, or using drama in creative industries, students will develop adaptability and emotional intelligence to inspire, entertain, and make a lasting impact through performance and storytelling.

What does Year 10 Drama offer?

In Year 10 Drama, students will build confidence, creativity, and performance skills across engaging theatrical styles. In Australian Landscapes, explore how land, history, and culture shape Australian drama, engaging with texts that reflect national identity and First Nations perspectives. Students will create video diaries, extending popular texts in new and exciting ways. The Gothic unit immerses them in dark, atmospheric storytelling—experimenting with tension, mood, and dramatic action as they work together on a whole-class performance, using sound and light technologies to create spine-tingling moments. With Verbatim and Collage Theatre, students will craft powerful performances using real-life stories and layered narratives, building empathy and collaboration. Across these units, students will express themselves, interpret complex themes, and develop key communication and problem-solving skills—preparing for both the stage and beyond. If a student loves performing, storytelling, and creative expression, this is the subject for them!

Topics Studied

- Australian Drama
- Gothic Theatre
- Collage Drama
- Verbatim Theatre

Assessment Types

- Group performance
- Devise original drama, including script writing
- Individual performance, such as monologues or video diary entries
- Responding to drama, such as analysis or reflection

Pathways to Year 11 & 12 Subjects

- Drama (General)
- Arts in Practice (Applied)

MEDIA ART

Why study Media Art?

Media Arts is all about storytelling, creativity, and bringing ideas to life on screen! In this subject students will use images, sound, text, interactive elements, and technologies to creatively explore, produce, and interpret stories about people, ideas, and the world. Students will examine cultural, social, and organisational influences on media practices, using this understanding to create and respond to media artworks. In Year 10, students will refine production and analytical skills, experimenting with film, photography, animation, and digital tools to communicate ideas. They will explore ethical, historical, and contemporary perspectives, gaining insight into audience engagement with media. Studying Media Arts unlocks opportunities in film, design, advertising, gaming, and digital storytelling. It fosters creativity, critical thinking, and technical expertise—highly valued skills in today's media-driven world. Whether shaping narratives, producing compelling visuals, or innovating new media forms, students will develop the ability to influence and create the future of storytelling and digital communication.

What does Year 10 Media Art offer?

In Year 10 Media Arts, students will explore the foundations of filmmaking, dive into genre analysis, and learn from iconic filmmakers. Students will dream up bold ideas through brainstorming, develop compelling stories with screenwriting, and craft unforgettable characters using the three-act structure. Learn how to plan, rehearse, block, and cast their film like a pro before stepping onto set to direct, frame shots, design sound, and edit their masterpiece. Discover on-set roles, career pathways, and how new media is reshaping the industry. And when the final cut is done, students will uncover the secrets behind post-production, streaming, and content delivery. If a student loves movies, creativity, and bringing ideas to life, this is the subject for them!

Topics Studied

- Foundations of Filmmaking, Genre Analysis and Iconic Filmmakers
- Ideation, Brainstorming and Refinement of Concepts
- Screenwriting and Film Treatments
- Character Development, Three-Act Structure and Plot Development
- Pre-Production Processes, Planning Rehearsal, Blocking and Casting
- Directing, Cinematography, Sound Design, Editing and Distribution
- On-Set Roles, Careers in Film and New Media and Pathways
- Post-Production Processes, Distribution, Streaming and Content Delivery

Assessment Types

- Screenplay and Creative Brief
- Pre-Production Paperwork
- Practical Skills Assessment and Production Diary
- Post-Production Diary and Practical Skills Assessment

Pathways to Year 11 & 12 Subjects

- Film, Television and New Media (General)
- Arts in Practice (Applied)
- Drama (General)

PERFORMING ARTS: MUSIC

Why study Music?

Music is all about rhythm, melody, and making sound come alive! In this subject, students will listen to, compose, and perform music from a variety of styles, cultures, and traditions. They will create, organise, and manipulate sound, developing technical skills while exploring how music connects with emotion and meaning. Music is an aural experience, built on engagement and skill development. In Year 10, students will refine their abilities through composition, performance, and analysis, experimenting with melody, harmony, rhythm, and texture across contemporary and classical genres. Students will strengthen their understanding of notation, digital production, and ensemble performance, improving both musical literacy and creativity. Through active listening and discussion, they will gain insight into how music reflects cultural identity and storytelling. Studying Music nurtures creativity, discipline, and collaboration—valuable skills whether they're pursuing performance, production, or music technology. Music will develop student's sound, inspire others, and shape the future of music!

What does Year 10 Music offer?

In Year 10 Music, students will form practical groups to refine their skills as a musician or singer, choosing a greatest hit from the past 50 years for their performance. They will work towards a group showcase in class, with the option to take the stage at a lunchtime concert. While perfecting their performance skills, students will compose their own electronic piece, using GarageBand on iPad to experiment with sound and creativity. As the year progresses, students will deepen their understanding of music theory, enhancing their ability to perform and compose. Students will also analyse and evaluate a piece of music in a written assessment. To wrap up the year, they will take part in the legendary St Benedict's game show*, Spicks and Specks*, where student's final group performance will be part of the fun! If a student loves music, performance, and creativity, this is their moment to shine!

Topics Studied

- Developments in Music Technology
- Electronic Music and Song Writing

Assessment Types

- Group or individual Performance
- Composition in GarageBand with Supporting Statement
- Responding to Music, including analysis, evaluation and reflection

Pathways to Year 11 & 12 Subjects

- 11 and 12 Music (General)
- Music Extension (General, Year 12 Only)
- Arts in Practice (Applied)

VISUAL ART

Why study Visual Art?

Visual Art is all about creativity, expression, and seeing the world in new ways! In this subject, students will learn about visual arts practices, across the fields of art, craft, and design. Student's will explore visual artworks created by artists working in diverse contexts, styles, and forms, and build an understanding of the impact of visual arts practice and culture within local and global communities. In Year 10 Visual Art, students will refine their creative and technical skills through drawing, painting, sculpture, digital media, and mixed media techniques. They will experiment with composition, colour theory, and perspective, developing their personal artistic style. By exploring contemporary artists, students will analyse how visual art conveys meaning and reflects cultural identities. Through practical projects, students will learn to communicate ideas visually, responding to different themes and social issues. Studying Visual Arts fosters creativity, wellbeing, critical thinking, and problem-solving—valuable skills in design, architecture, film, advertising and creative industries. Whether pursuing art professionally or as personal expression, students will develop the ability to shape ideas, challenge perspectives, and create meaningful works that inspire and engage.

What does Year 10 Visual Art offer?

In Year 10 Visual Art, students will explore colour, symbolism, nature, and architecture, learning how artists communicate meaning through colour theory and refining their painting techniques. Dive into natural forms, discovering the beauty of patterns in nature and organic shapes as they experiment with drawing, photography, assemblage, sculpture, and printmaking using charcoal, clay, and ink. Then shift focus to built forms, exploring architecture and manmade objects through drawing, sculpture, printmaking, and digital art inspired by structural design in their local surroundings. Throughout the course, students will develop their own artistic style through personal expression and experimentation, leading to a showcase of their work in exhibitions and displays. If students love creating, exploring, and expressing themselves through art, this subject will inspire them to see the world in new ways!

Topics Studied

- Colour Theory
- Natural Patterns and Organic Forms in Art
- Built Forms and Architecture in Art

Assessment Types

- Folio – Visual Journal Documentation
- Folio – Experimental Artworks
- Display - Resolved Artwork and Statement
- Responding to Visual Art, including analysis, evaluation, artist studies, and reflection

Pathways to Year 11 & 12 Subjects

- Visual Art (General)
- Arts in Practice (Applied)

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