MITCHAM GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL

CURRICULUM HANDBOOK 2012

YEAR 9
Middle School

SUBJECT SELECTION

Students in Year 9 study subjects from 8 curriculum areas. These 8 areas are Arts, Design and Technology, English, Health and Personal Development, Languages, Mathematics, Science and Society and Environment.

Year 9s choose 4 Choice Subjects to be studied during the year. Most Year 9 Choice Subjects are one semester in length. However, languages are studied for a full year and count as two out of the four Choice Subjects that students are able to select.

YEAR 9 CURRICULUM

Compulsory Subjects Studied for a Full Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English or English as a Second Language (ESL)</td>
<td>Full Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Full Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Full Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Society and Environment</td>
<td>Full Year</td>
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</tbody>
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Compulsory Subjects Studied for 1 Semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health Education and Home Economics</td>
<td>1 Semester</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>1 Semester</td>
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</tbody>
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Choice Subjects Studied for Full Year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>French A &amp; B</td>
<td>Full Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italian A &amp; B</td>
<td>Full Year</td>
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</tbody>
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Choice Subjects Studied for 1 Semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Duration</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art</td>
<td>1 Semester</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dance</td>
<td>1 Semester</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drama</td>
<td>1 Semester</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fashion Technology</td>
<td>1 Semester</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information Technology</td>
<td>1 Semester</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music A</td>
<td>1 Semester</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music B</td>
<td>1 Semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photography</td>
<td>1 Semester</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical Education – Extension</td>
<td>1 Semester</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technology Workshop</td>
<td>1 Semester</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Students who learn an instrument through the school are expected to study Music for at least one semester.

Most subjects can be studied at Year 10 without having studied them in Year 9. Please check the desired background for individual subjects in this handbook.
Art

Subject Length: One Semester
Desired Background: Nil

Subject Description:
The course builds on students’ experiences in the Visual Arts through Art, Craft and Design. Students learn to apply the artistic process to make art works. Students work with a variety of art materials and approaches that may include drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, fabrics, ceramics and design. Students reflect upon their own work, as well as develop skills in writing about art works.

Assessment:
Students are assessed on their skill development and commitment. They are also required to complete a variety of practical, written and research based tasks.

Special Subject Costs or Requirements:
Nil.

Subject Coordinator:
Ms Meredith Arnold

Dance

Subject Length: One Semester
Desired Background: Commitment to physical activity

Subject Description:
Students develop their physical strength, flexibility, coordination, balance, elevation, sense of turn and awareness of space. Anatomy, injury prevention, movement composition, performance and reflection are all included in the program. Students will also be introduced to a range of dance styles through practical and theoretical study.

Assessment:
Students are assessed on their physical skill, written assignment work, progress and commitment. They are also required to complete a variety of practical, written and research based tasks.

Special Subject Costs or Requirements:
Students are required to change into appropriate dance wear for each lesson. Students may have the opportunity to attend a dance performance during the semester.

Cost: Approximately $10.00.

Subject Coordinator:
Ms Meredith Arnold
Drama

**Subject Length:** One Semester

** Desired Background:** Nil

**Subject Description:**
Students develop skills in improvisation and building and communicating a character to an audience through a variety of workshops and practical tasks. Students learn on stage skills and off stage skills (such as lighting and sound) and will apply these skills in group performances. Students also learn to interpret selected play scripts and will practise review writing skills.

**Assessment:**
Students are assessed on their skill development and commitment. They are also required to complete a variety of practical, written and research based tasks.

**Special Subject Costs or Requirements:**
Students may have the opportunity to attend a drama performance during the semester.

Cost: Approximately $15.00.

**Subject Coordinator:**
Ms Meredith Arnold
English

Subject Length: Full Year
Desired Background: Satisfactory completion of Year 8 English

Subject Description:
Students continue to develop their language and literacy competence through:
• the study of a variety of shared class texts covering a range of genres and cultures
• the study of language through construction and analysis of oral, written and visual texts

Units of work on Drama, Poetry and the Media are also included.

Assessment:
Students are assessed in a variety of forms including written tasks, group work, research assignments, tests, ICT and oral presentations.

An independent reading program is a required part of this course.

Special Subject Costs or Requirements:
Participation in the National English competition is encouraged at an approximate cost of $7.00.

Students need to purchase a literacy workbook (Pearson English 9), which will be completed throughout the year.

Cost: Approximately $18.00 (available from Campion Education or MGHS booklist).

Subject Coordinator:
Ms Zinta Ozolins
**English as a Second Language**

**Subject Length:** Full Year  
**Desired Background:** English must be a second language for the student  
**Subject Description:**  
Students are encouraged to improve their literacy skills by their participation and involvement in a smaller class, ensuring more one-on-one support.  

Students study topics of interest, developing their English skills through participation in a range of structured learning activities including social interaction, listening, speaking, reading, viewing and writing.  

**Assessment:**  
Students are required to complete a range of tasks including worksheets, tests, oral presentations, research assignments and listening and written comprehensions.  

**Special Subject Costs or Requirements:**  
Nil.  

**Subject Coordinator:**  
Ms Zinta Ozolins

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**Fashion**

**Subject Length:** One Semester  
**Desired Background:** Nil  
**Subject Description:**  
Students learn to use a sewing machine safely in order to construct a number of articles for themselves. They are introduced to fabric types, basic pattern layout, cutting and design. Basic sewing techniques covered include seams, neatening, decorative zip application and appliqué.  

**Assessment:**  
Course work includes skill orientated tasks, practical and written research assignments.  

**Special Subject Costs or Requirements:**  
Students are required to provide their own sewing kit. They are also required to provide their own fabric for the simple garment and fun cushion.  

**Subject Coordinator:**  
Ms Sandy Alston
French A & B

Subject Length: Full Year
Desired Background: Satisfactory completion of Year 8 French

Subject Description:
Students learn to use the French language by developing the skills of speaking, reading, writing and responding to French life and culture. Students study a range of texts including conversations, plays, songs, poems and stories and engage in learning activities based on fashion, health and nutrition, home and family and festivals. There is also a focus on the cultural life of a French speaking country.

Assessment:
Spoken language tasks, tests, quizzes, creative tasks in groups, assignments and listening and written comprehensions.

Special Subject Costs or Requirements:
Students are required to purchase two workbooks both of which include a CD (approximate cost $35.00 for both). Students have the opportunity to participate in a range of relevant excursions to cafés and markets. They also have the opportunity to participate in the ACER Language Competition at an approximate cost of $12.00.

Subject Coordinator:
Mr Alex Bambrough
Health Education and Home Economics

**Subject Length:** One Semester

**Desired Background:** Nil

**Subject Description:**
The Health program focuses on the impact of advertising on body image, relationships and human sexuality and alcohol. In Home Economics the students are introduced to the Australian Dietary Guidelines and the role of nutrients in the diet. Students also analyse a range of influences on personal food intake. Students apply their knowledge in the preparation of meals.

**Assessment:**
A combination of practical tasks (60%) and associated written assignment work (40%). Students are required to complete a range of tasks including written and practical assignments and research assignments using ICT.

**Special Subject Costs or Requirements:**
Students may be required to supply some ingredients when completing practical tasks in Home Economics.

**Subject Coordinator:**
Ms Sandy Alston
Information Technology

**Subject Length:** One Semester

**Desired Background:** Nil

**Subject Description:**
Students explore the parts of a computer system and develop skills in computer operations. They learn how to use editing software to animate, capture and process sound and video and develop skills in the use of Webpage authoring software. Students design and make a podcast, a short movie and a website.

**Assessment:**
Course work includes assignments, skill orientated tasks and design tasks.

**Special Subject Costs or Requirements:**
USB Store Drive, Internet Access and Printing Credit.

**Subject Coordinator:**
Mr Peter Cottle
Italian A & B

Subject Length: Full Year
Desired Background: Satisfactory completion of Year 8 Italian

Subject Description:
Students learn to use the Italian language by developing the skills of speaking, listening, reading, writing and responding to Italian life and culture. Students study a range of texts including conversations, plays, songs, poems and stories and engage in learning activities based on topics, which may include fashion, TV and cinema, leisure activities, food, shopping and holidays. There is also a focus on the cultural life of the country.

Assessment:
Spoken language tasks, tests, quizzes, assignments, various written tasks and listening and written comprehensions.

Special Subject Costs or Requirements:
Students have the opportunity to participate in a range of relevant excursions to cafés and markets. They also have the opportunity to participate in the ACER Language Competition.

Students are encouraged to purchase an English/Italian dictionary (Collins Pocket Italian Dictionary is suitable).

Cost: Approximately $30.00.

Subject Coordinator:
Mr Alex Bambrough
Mathematics

Subject Length: Full Year

Desired Background: Satisfactory completion of Year 8 Mathematics

Subject Description: This course provides a basis for continued studies in Mathematics by developing students’ ability to interpret and translate information to solve problems. The program incorporates developing technology skills (using graphics calculators and mathematical software) to consolidate mathematical concepts and to provide opportunities for students to analyse and interpret real life mathematical models.

Topics include:
- Pythagoras and Ratio
- Transformations, Parallelism, Angles and Congruency
- Perimeter, Area and Volume
- Coordinate Geometry
- Algebra
- Networks and Loci
- Percentage and Consumer Mathematics
- Quadratics
- Expansion and Factorisation
- Indices
- Quadratics

Assessment: Tasks include projects, assignments and tests.

Special Subject Costs or Requirements:
Students are required to purchase a scientific calculator.

Cost: Approximately $20.00.

Subject Coordinator:
Mr Terry Dalkos
Music A

**Subject Length:** One Semester

**Desired Background:** One semester of Year 8 Music or the ability to play a musical instrument or voice

**Subject Description:**
Students study the following:
- **Performance:** Attend weekly instrumental lessons, either at school or taken privately and participate in the class ensemble.
- **Music Theory:** An introduction to composition and basic arranging using keyboards.
- **History/Analysis:** A study of instruments and music of different cultures and periods.
- **Composition:** Creative skills are developed in rhythm and melody.

**Assessment:**
Students undertake a variety of practical and theory tasks as well as a research project.

**Special Subject Costs or Requirements:**
Students who do not have their own instrument can hire one from the school. The cost in 2012 is $60.00 per semester. There is also a compulsory subject fee of $50.00 per semester.

**Subject Coordinator:**
Ms Meredith Arnold
Music B

Subject Length: One Semester

Desired Background: One semester of Year 8 Music or Year 9 Music A. The ability to play a musical instrument or voice.

Subject Description:
Students will study the following:

- Performance: Attend weekly instrumental lessons, either at school or taken privately and participate in the class ensemble and a school ensemble group.

- Music Theory: Music composition and basic arranging using keyboards.


- Composition: Rhythmic and melodic composition skills are further developed.

Assessment:
Students are required to complete a variety of practical and theory tasks as well as a research project.

Special Subject Costs or Requirements:
Students who do not have their own instrument can hire one from the school. The cost of hire in 2012 is $60.00 per semester. There is also a compulsory subject fee of $50.00 per semester.

Subject Coordinator:
Ms Meredith Arnold
Photography

Subject Length: One Semester
Desired Background: Nil

Subject Description:
This course is an introduction to digital and traditional photography. Students will learn how to operate safely and efficiently in the darkroom environment. They are introduced to the SLR camera and capture black and white images. Students process their own black and white films and learn how to print photographs.

Students also work in the world of digital imagery using digital cameras, scanners and appropriate software to capture, manipulate and enhance images.

A series of tasks are completed to introduce students to a range of different techniques and presentations.

Assessment:
This course includes practical tasks, design tasks and a research assignment.

Special Subject Costs or Requirements:
USB Store Drive, Internet Access and Printing Credit.

Subject Coordinator:
Mr Peter Cottle
Physical Education

Subject Length: One Semester

Desired Background: Nil

Subject Description:
Students develop their skills and fitness in a range of activities including volleyball, swimming and lifesaving, basketball, Gaelic football and a fitness unit.

Students use the Sport Education in Physical Education Program (SEPEP) to develop leadership, umpiring, coaching and administration skills. They also develop knowledge, skills and fitness in the sports covered.

Assessment:
Students are required to complete a variety of assignments and are assessed on their skill level, effort and participation in practical topics.

Special Subject Costs or Requirements:
Students are expected to change into the sports uniform and appropriate footwear for all lessons.

Subject Coordinator:
Ms Sandy Alston
Curriculum Handbook 2012

Physical Education - Extension

Subject Length: One Semester

Desired Background: A commitment to being active and improving physical fitness and skills

Subject Description:
Students further develop their physical skills, personal fitness and understanding of game playing principles and tactics in a range of activities including the football codes (Gaelic, Flag, Touch and Australian Rules), indoor floor hockey, European handball, badminton and soft cross. Emphasis is placed on initiative and developing the responsibilities of team leadership, coaching, peer teaching and officiating. Students complete fitness testing protocols and study sporting injuries and first aid.

Theory components of the course are covered in one theory lesson per week.

Assessment:
Students are required to complete a variety of assessment tasks and will be assessed on their skill level, effort and participation in practical topics.

Special Subject Costs or Requirements:
Students are expected to change into the sports uniform and appropriate footwear for all lessons. There may be transport and equipment costs for some negotiated activities.

Subject Coordinator:
Ms Sandy Alston
Science

Subject Length: Full Year

Desired Background: Satisfactory completion of Year 8 Science

Subject Description:
Students will continue to develop their understanding of scientific theories and concepts used in a real world context. Using an inquiry approach, students will develop practical skills to design scientific investigations.

Topics studied may include:
- Electricity
- Changing Earth
- Ecology and Nature’s Cycles
- Body Systems – Circulation & Respiration
- Acids and Bases
- Atoms
- Alternative Energy
- Nanotechnology

Assessment:
Assessment tasks will include practical skills, reports, investigations, formal testing, assignments, research and problem solving exercises.

Special Subject Costs or Requirements:
Excursion costs and competition fees.

Subject Coordinator:
Ms Helen Marussinszky
Society & Environment

Subject Length: Full Year
Desired Background: Year 8 Society & Environment

Subject Description:
This course involves students learning about people and their cultures, both past and present. Students will also examine features of our natural environment on a global, national and local scale. Topics include:

- Mapping (extension)
- Rainforests
- Weather and Climate
- Extreme Environments
- Indigenous Australia & European Settlement
- Australia 1850-1901: Gold Rush to Federation
- World War I and The Great Depression
- World War II

Assessment:
Students will be required to complete a range of tasks including worksheets, tests, oral presentations, research assignments and visual presentations.

Special Subject Costs or Requirements:
Nil.

Subject Coordinator:
Mr Alex Bambrough
## Technology Workshop

**Subject Length:** One Semester

**Desired Background:** Nil

**Subject Description:**
Students will engage in design and construction techniques to make products. Tasks undertaken will include making a CO₂ powered model drag racer and making a table or another small piece of furniture.

**Assessment:**
Assessment will include practical tasks, research assignments and design tasks that may be assessed individually or as a group.

**Special Subject Costs or Requirements:**
Nil.

**Subject Coordinator:**
Mr Peter Cottle