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, Humanities and Social Sciences, Languages, Mathematics and Science.

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

- English or English as a Second Language (ESL) Full Year
- Humanities and Social Sciences Full Year
- Mathematics Full Year
- Science Full Year

Compulsory Subjects Studied for 1 Semester

- Health Education and Home Economics 1 Semester
- Physical Education 1 Semester

Choice Subjects Studied for Full Year

- French A & B Full Year
- Italian A & B Full Year

Choice Subjects Studied for 1 Semester

- Art 1 Semester
- Dance 1 Semester
- Drama 1 Semester
- Fashion Technology 1 Semester
- Information Technology 1 Semester
- Music A 1 Semester
- Music B 1 Semester
- Photography 1 Semester
- Physical Education – Extension 1 Semester
- Technology Workshop 1 Semester

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, craft and design works. Students work with a variety of 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 their resolution of finished works of art and design. They are 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 movement skills using physical strength, flexibility, coordination, balance, elevation, sense of turn and awareness of space. Anatomy, injury prevention, movement composition, performance and reflection are 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 movement skills, contribution to composition tasks, written work and focus and energy in performance situations. They are 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 dance performances during the semester.

Cost: Approximately $20.00.

Subject Coordinator:
Ms Meredith Arnold
Drama

Subject Length:  One Semester

 Desired Background:  Nil

Subject Description:
Students develop skills in improvisation and developing 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 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:
Students are required to purchase a literacy workbook (Pearson English 9) which will be completed throughout the year.

Cost: Approximately $20.00 (available from Campion Education or MGHS booklist).

Participation in the National English competition is encouraged at an approximate cost of $7.00.

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

**Subject Length:** Full Year

**Desired Background:** English must be an additional language or dialect for the student

**Subject Description:**
Students are encouraged to improve their literacy skills and expand their vocabulary through their participation and involvement in the class.

Students study topics of interest and relevance to them, improving their English through participation in a range of structured learning activities, including social interaction, listening, speaking, reading, viewing and writing. As a result they develop an understanding of individual text types and learn to write and speak appropriately in a variety of contexts.

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

**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 Bernina bobbin and sewing kit. They are also required to provide their own fur fabric for their second article.

**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:
Ms Maria Ivey
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, 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
Humanities and Social Sciences

Subject Length:  Full Year

Desired Background:  Satisfactory completion of Year 8 History

Subject Description:
Students study one semester of History and one semester of Geography. Topics include:

History
- Progressive Ideas and Movements: Developments in Europe in the 18th and 19th centuries
- Indigenous Australians and European Settlement
- Australia 1850-1901: Gold Rush to Federation
- World War I and The Great Depression

Geography
- Environmental Characteristics: Weather and climate; regions/ecosystems; biodiversity; soil; food production
- Human Characteristics: Settlement; population; distribution; cities and towns; urbanisation; coastal settlement

Assessment:
Students are required to complete a range of tasks to develop:
- Historical knowledge, understanding and skills (worksheets, tests, presentations, research assignments, essays, source analysis)
- Geographical knowledge, understanding and the skills of geographical enquiry (worksheets, tests, research assignments, data collection, map work)

Special Subject Costs or Requirements:
Nil.

Subject Coordinator:
Ms Maria Ivey
**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 will further develop their skills and knowledge with a range of software such as word processors, presentation software and will work with a variety of multimedia. 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
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<th>Italian A &amp; B</th>
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**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, at an approximate cost of $12.00.

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

Cost: Approximately $30.00.

**Subject Coordinator:**
Ms Maria Ivey
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 a graphics calculator and mathematical software) to consolidate mathematical concepts and to provide opportunities to students to analyse and interpret real life mathematical models.

Topics include:
- Pythagoras’ Theorem
- Measurement
- Ratio
- Algebra
- Percentage and Consumer Mathematics
- Expansion and Factorisation
- Indices
- Geometry
- Coordinate Geometry
- Quadratics

Assessment:
Tasks include projects, assignments and tests.

Special Subject Costs or Requirements:
Students require a scientific calculator.

Subject Coordinator:
Mr Alex Bambrough
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 of hire in 2013 is $60.00 per semester. There is also a compulsory subject fee of $60.00 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 2013 is $60.00 per semester. There is also a compulsory subject fee of $60.00 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
### Physical Education - Extension

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<th>Subject Length:</th>
<th>One Semester</th>
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<td>Desired Background:</td>
<td>A commitment to being active and improving physical fitness and skills</td>
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**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, soft cross and Ultimate Frisbee. Emphasis is placed on initiative and developing the responsibilities of team leadership, coaching, peer teaching and officiating. Students will complete a series of fitness testing protocols.

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:
Using the Australian Curriculum students 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 include:
- Electricity
- Changing Earth
- Ecology and Nature’s Cycles
- Body Systems – Circulation and Respiration
- Acids and Bases
- Atoms and Nanotechnology
- Alternative Energy
- Coordination and Control

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

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