Middle School

Year 8

Students in Year 8 study subjects from the Australian Curriculum. They need to complete 14 units of study across the year. This equates to 7 units per semester (one semester equals two school terms).

The compulsory areas of study are: The Arts; Civics and Citizenship; Digital Technologies; Design and Technologies; Economics and Business; English or English as an Additional Language (EAL); Geography; Health and Physical Education or Gift Dance (audition only*); History; Languages; Mathematics; Science. Other areas of study include 2 units from the Choice Subjects.

**YEAR 8 CURRICULUM**

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**Choice Subjects: The Arts**

- Dance A
- Gift Dance A (audition only*)
- Drama A
- Music A
- Visual Arts – Art A

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| Total Units or Semesters | 14 |

Students are able to apply to join the Gift Academic Program and undertake specialised instruction in English, Geography, History, Mathematics and Science. Refer to the Enrolment Package.

Studying Gift Dance* requires an audition and is undertaken for 3 units or semesters with one unit replacing Health and Physical Education.


Students who learn an instrument through the school are expected to study Music for a minimum of one semester.

**Most subjects can be studied at Year 9 without having been studied in Year 8. Please check the desired background for individual subjects in this guide.**
Dance A

Subject Length: One Semester

Desired Background: Nil

Subject Description:
Students are involved in developing movement skills using physical strength, flexibility, coordination and balance through skill based sessions in Jazz technique. They experience creating their own movement compositions in collaboration with their peers, using the elements of dance guided by a specific theme. They evaluate how they and others from different cultures, times and places communicate meaning and intent through dance, exploring the reasons why people of various cultures dance. They develop confidence through performance opportunities and reflect on their own work and on the work of others.

Assessment:
Students are assessed on their movement skills, contribution to composition tasks, written work (including homework) and commitment and focus 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, following the guidelines provided. Students may be required to attend a dance performance during the semester. For performance, students must provide their own black leotard, footless tights and footwear as the basis for a costume provided by the school. These must be purchased at the beginning of the semester. Attendance at required performances is compulsory, they may take place in the evening.

Cost: Approximately $30.00, plus cost of leotard/tights/footwear

Subject Coordinator:
Ms Meredith Arnold
Dance B

**Subject Length:** One Semester

**Desired Background:** Nil

**Subject Description:**
Students are involved in developing movement skills using physical strength, flexibility, coordination and balance through skill based sessions in Jazz technique. They experience creating their own movement compositions in collaboration with their peers, using the elements of dance guided by a specific theme. Students undertake research on particular theoretical topics, starting with dance in Australia and including dance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. They develop confidence through performance opportunities, and reflect on their own work and on the work of others.

**Assessment:**
Students are assessed on their movement skills, contribution to composition tasks, written work (including homework) and commitment and focus 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, following the guidelines provided. Students may be required to attend a dance performance during the semester. For performance, students must provide their own black leotard, footless tights and footwear as the basis for a costume provided by the school. These must be purchased at the beginning of the semester. Attendance at required performances is compulsory, they may take place in the evening.

Cost: Approximately $30.00, plus cost of leotard/tights/footwear

**Subject Coordinator:**
Ms Meredith Arnold
**Gift Dance A**

**Subject Length:** One Semester

**Desired Background:** Significant previous dance experience or potential. Students are required to undertake an audition.

**Subject Description:**
Students are involved in developing movement skills using physical strength, flexibility, coordination and balance through skill based sessions in Jazz, Classical Ballet and Contemporary technique. They experience creating their own movement compositions individually and in collaboration with their peers, using the elements of dance guided by a specific theme. They study the anatomy as it applies to a dancer, including warm up, cool down and injury prevention.

Students investigate and evaluate how they and others from different cultures, times and places communicate meaning and intent through dance, exploring the reasons why people of various cultures dance. They are introduced to the pioneers of contemporary dance and principles of the genre they are studying at the time.

Students develop performance skills and confidence through performance opportunities and reflect on their own work and on the work of others.

**Assessment:**
Students are assessed on their movement skills of a specific genre, composition tasks, written work (including homework) and commitment, focus and presentation 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, following the guidelines provided. Students may be required to attend a dance performance during the semester. For performance, students must provide their own black leotard, footless tights and footwear as the basis for a costume provided by the school. These must be purchased at the beginning of the semester. Attendance at required performances is compulsory, they may take place in the evening. Relevant compulsory excursions will be scheduled.

Cost: Approximately $50.00, plus cost of leotard/tights/footwear (ballet and jazz shoes)

**Subject Coordinator:**
Ms Meredith Arnold
GifT Dance B

Subject Length: One Semester

Desired Background: Significant previous dance experience or potential or successful completion of Year 8 GifT Dance A or by teacher recommendation. Students new to the school undertake an audition.

Subject Description:
Students are involved in developing movement skills using physical strength, flexibility, coordination and balance through skill based sessions in Jazz, Classical Ballet and Contemporary technique. They experience creating their own movement compositions individually and in collaboration with their peers, using the elements of dance guided by a specific theme.

Students undertake studies in health related topics, relevant to dancers. They also undertake research on particular theoretical topics, starting with dance in Australia and including dance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. They study historical topics relevant to the genre they are studying at the time.

Students develop confidence through performance opportunities, and reflect on their own work and on the work of others.

Assessment:
Students are assessed on their movement skills, contribution to composition tasks, written work (including homework) and commitment and focus 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, following the guidelines provided. Students may be required to attend a dance performance during the semester. For performance, students must provide their own black leotard, footless tights and footwear as the basis for a costume provided by the school. These must be purchased at the beginning of the semester. Attendance at required performances is compulsory, they may take place in the evening. Relevant compulsory excursions will be scheduled.

Cost: Approximately $50.00, plus cost of leotard/tights/footwear (ballet and jazz shoes)

Subject Coordinator:
Ms Meredith Arnold
Design and Technologies (Food and Fibre)

Subject Length: One Semester

Desired Background: Nil

Subject Description:
Students progressively develop knowledge, skills and understanding about the production of food and materials.

In the food component students are introduced to the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating, which assists them in making informed food choices. They discover how to select food for good health and, in the process, develop management and problem solving skills and sound safety and hygiene practices through a variety of practical and theory lessons.

In the materials component students develop design solutions and use appropriate techniques and technologies to safely produce material products.

In their studies of food and materials students explore the concept of sustainability.

Assessment:
A combination of practical tasks (60%) and associated written assignment work (40%).

Special Subject Costs or Requirements:
Students may be required to supply some materials when completing major tasks in food and materials.

Students are required to provide their own Bernina bobbin and sewing kit.

Subject Coordinator:
Ms Sarah Gray
Digital Technologies and Design and Technologies

Subject Length: One Semester

 Desired Background: Nil

Subject Description:
Digital Technologies: Students use critical thinking, problem-solving and information systems to define, design and implement digital solutions. They use a range of software applications to improve their understanding and effective use of ICT. They consider and respond to issues arising from safety, moral and ethical concerns.

Design and Technologies: Students plan, develop, and refine design concepts. They select appropriate materials, make products and appraise the outcome. The course equips students with the skills and knowledge to apply a range of constructions methods, when working with materials such as wood.

Areas studied:

Digital Technologies
- Computer systems and network fundamentals
- File management and backup procedures
- Basic computer programming, e.g. Game Maker, Scratch, Python, etc.
- Website design and construction
- Game Development
- Basic Photoshop, Word Processing, Desktop Publishing, iPhoto and Power Point
- Cybersafety and Privacy
- Copyright – Creative Commons
- Multimedia including electronic presentation

Design and Technologies
- Workshop Practices and Safety
- Sustainability of materials and ethical research
- Design features of products
- Skills development practicals
- Investigate industry standards, practices and techniques
- Basic introduction to CAD
- Appropriate use of power and hand tools
- Joining techniques
- Construction concepts including structural issues
- Design and produce a product for a specific purpose
- Analyse how food and fibre are produced and issues of sustainability
- Characteristics and properties of food; presentation techniques; health issues

Assessment:
- Skills and Applications tasks
- Folio
- Product

Special Subject Costs or Requirements:
Digital Technologies: USB store drive, printing credit and folder.
Design and Technologies: Basic materials are provided. Any excess use may require payment.

Subject Coordinator:
Mr Peter Cottle
Drama A

Subject Length: One Semester

Desired Background: Nil

Subject Description:
Students work to develop a wide variety of drama skills including group devised and scripted performances, improvisation, review writing and research tasks. They may also develop skills in basic stagecraft including lighting, make-up and costume design. Students make and respond to drama independently, and with their classmates, learn how to use the elements of drama to enhance dramatic action on stage. Students build an awareness of how and why actors, playwrights and stage designers express their ideas through their work.

Assessment:
Students are assessed progressively on their knowledge and skills in making and responding to drama, as well as their participation. 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
Drama B

**Subject Length:** One Semester

**Desired Background:** Nil

**Subject Description:**
Students work to develop a wide variety of drama skills including group devised and scripted performances, improvisation, review writing and research tasks. They may also develop skills in basic stagecraft including lighting, make-up and costume design. Students make and respond to drama independently, and with their classmates, learn how to use the elements of drama to enhance dramatic action on stage. Students build an awareness of how and why actors, playwrights and stage designers express their ideas through their work.

Students are given the opportunity to explore different performance genres to Drama A.

**Assessment:**
Students are assessed progressively on their knowledge and skills in making and responding to drama, as well as their participation. 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 A & B

Subject Length: Full Year
Desired Background: Nil

Subject Description:
The English course is built around the three interrelated strands of Language, Literature and Literacy set out in the Australian Curriculum. Together the strands focus on developing students’ knowledge, understanding and skills in listening, reading, viewing, speaking, writing and creating.

Students engage with a variety of texts for enjoyment. They listen to, read, view, interpret, evaluate and perform a range of spoken, written and multimodal texts in which the primary purpose is aesthetic, as well as texts designed to inform and persuade. Students develop their understanding of how texts, including media texts, are influenced by context, purpose and audience.

Assessment:
Students are required to complete a range of assessments in written, spoken and multimedia forms. Over the course of the year, students create a range of imaginative, informative and persuasive types of texts. In addition, they complete comprehension exercises, research tasks, group work, and other in-class activities designed to deepen their learning.

Special Subject Costs or Requirements:
Students are required to purchase a literacy workbook (Pearson English 8), focusing on grammar and language, which is completed throughout the year.

Cost: Approximately $20.95 (available from Campion Education or MGHS booklist).

Students are encouraged to participate in the ICAS English competition.

Cost: Approximately $8.80

There may be an opportunity to attend a play or film as part of study in this course.

Subject Coordinator:
Ms Laura Harvey
English as an Additional Language (EAL) A & B

**Subject Length:** Full Year

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

**Subject Description:**
Students study both fiction and non-fiction texts, acquiring skills in listening, reading, viewing and analysis. They participate in structured activities, learning to speak, interact, create, and write more effectively. As a result they develop an understanding of individual text types and learn to use language to communicate in a variety of contexts. This course is designed using the Australian Curriculum: English documents, with EAL teaching and learning strategies in mind.

**Assessment:**
Students are required to complete a range of assessments, including: written, spoken and creative tasks; comprehension exercises; research tasks; group work; in-class activities; presentations to the class. Learning and assessment are designed to promote the use of ICT.

**Special Subject Costs or Requirements:**
Students are required to purchase a literacy workbook (Pearson English 8), focusing on grammar and language, which is completed throughout the year.

Cost: Approximately $20.95 (available from Campion Education or MGHS booklist)

**Subject Coordinator:**
Ms Laura Harvey
French A & B

Subject Length: Full Year

Desired Background: Nil

Subject Description:
This course is designed to develop students’ interest in and enjoyment of the French language and culture. Students learn to use the French language by developing the skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking in French. To enrich their understanding of French life and culture, students explore a range of texts, plays, songs, stories and poems.

Students make use of an online vocabulary building program called Language Perfect.

Assessment:
Student assessment includes role plays, conversations, language tests, written tasks, listening activities and presentations. Many of these tasks include the use of Information and Communication Technology.

Special Subject Costs or Requirements:
Students have the opportunity to participate in a range of relevant activities, including Pétanque competitions and excursions to cafés and markets.

Students are required to purchase a language workbook.

Cost: Approximately $30.00

Subject Coordinator:
Ms Maria Ivey
Geography

Subject Length: One Semester

Desired Background: Nil

Subject Description:
Students develop geographical knowledge, understanding and skills through the study of two units:
- Landforms and Landscapes - different types, their value to different people, the processes that produce them, causes and effects of landscape degradation, causes, impacts and responses to a geomorphic hazard.
- Changing Nations - causes and consequences of urbanisation, settlement patterns in Australia and the USA, reasons for and effects of internal migration in Australia and China, reasons for and effects of international migration in Australia.

Students develop understanding of economics and business concepts, such as:
- The way markets work, as well as traditional markets
- Rights and responsibilities of consumers and businesses in Australia
- Types of businesses in Australia
- Influences on the way people work and factors that might influence future work options

Assessment:
Assessment will be continuous and based on students’ demonstration of the Geography and Economics and Business Achievement Standards in the Australian Curriculum. It will include a wide range of class activities and exercises, field work, data collection and analysis, research, and presentations in a range of forms.

Special Subject Costs or Requirements:
There may be excursion and field trip costs.

Subject Coordinator:
Ms Maria Ivey
Health and Physical Education

Subject Length: One Semester
Desired Background: Nil

Subject Description:
Students develop their skills and fitness levels in a range of activities including swimming and lifesaving, gymnastics, aerobics, soccer and badminton.

Health components include the health benefits of physical activity, aquatics safety, nutrition, mental health and personal wellbeing. These are integrated into both the practical and theoretical assignments.

Assessment:
Students are required to complete a variety of assignment tasks and are also assessed on their skill level, effort and participation in practical topics against the Achievement Standards of the Australian Curriculum.

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

Subject Coordinator:
Ms Dana Thomas
**History**

**Subject Length:** One Semester

**Desired Background:** Nil

**Subject Description:**
Students develop knowledge, understanding and historical skills by studying the ancient to modern world (c.650 CE – c.1750). An overview is used to introduce the period, identify important features, develop a chronology and to provide a broader context for depth studies.

Students study three electives, one from each of the depth studies:
- The Western and Islamic World - The Vikings or Renaissance Italy or Medieval World or The Ottoman Empire
- The Asia-Pacific World - Angkor/Khmer Empire or Shogunate Japan or The Polynesian Expansion across the Pacific
- Expanding Contacts - Mongol Expansion or The Spanish Conquest of the Americas or The Black Death in Asia, Europe and Africa

**Assessment:**
Assessment will be continuous and based on students’ demonstration of the History Achievement Standards in the Australian Curriculum.

It includes a range of tasks, historical knowledge, understanding and skills worksheets, presentations, research assignments and source analysis.

**Special Subject Costs or Requirements:**
Nil

**Subject Coordinator:**
Ms Maria Ivey
Italian A & B

Subject Length: Full Year
Desired Background: Nil

Subject Description:
This course is designed to develop students’ interest in and enjoyment of the Italian language. Students learn to use the Italian language by developing the skills of reading, writing and speaking in Italian. To enrich their understanding of Italian life and culture, students explore a range of texts, plays, songs, stories and poems.

Students make use of an online vocabulary building program called Language Perfect.

Assessment:
Student assessment includes role plays, conversations, language tests, written tasks, listening activities and presentations. Many of these tasks include the use of Information and Communication Technology.

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

Students are required to purchase a language workbook.

Cost: Approximately $20.00

Subject Coordinator:
Ms Maria Ivey
Mathematics A & B

Subject Length: Full Year
Desired Background: Nil

Subject Description:
This course aims to develop student interest in Mathematics while providing a basis for further studies by consolidating basic skills developing the student's confidence and ability to read, understand and translate information to solve problems. Many opportunities are presented for students to explore and use mathematics in a variety of contexts and real life applications.

This course follows the Australian Curriculum and includes the topics:
- Numbers and Fractions
- Statistics
- Measurement
- Ratio
- Directed Numbers
- Algebra
- Percentages
- Extended Algebra
- Probability
- Solving Equations
- Geometry
- Coordinate Geometry

Assessment:
Tasks include investigations and tests.

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

Subject Coordinator:
Mr Paul Wise
Music A

Subject Length: One Semester
Desired Background: The ability to play a musical instrument is an advantage

Subject Description: Students learn the basics of reading and writing music and attend weekly instrumental lessons on the instrument of their choice. Students learn basic keyboard skills and they participate in a class ensemble. Music of other cultures, rock music and instruments will be studied. Students explore technology as a tool for composition. Students make and respond to music, building an awareness of how and why musicians express their ideas through their work.

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 2016 is $80.00 per semester. There is also a compulsory subject fee of $80.00 per semester.

Subject Coordinator: Ms Meredith Arnold

Music B

Subject Length: One Semester
Desired Background: Completion of Music A or the ability to play a musical instrument

Subject Description: Students extend their knowledge of the basics of reading and writing music and continue weekly instrumental lessons on the instrument of their choice. They participate in a class ensemble and study the music of famous composers. Students explore technology as a tool for composition. Students make and respond to music, building an awareness of how and why musicians express their ideas through their work.

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 2016 is $80.00 per semester. There is also a compulsory subject fee of $80.00 per semester.

Subject Coordinator: Ms Meredith Arnold
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 play principles and tactics in a range of activities including tennis, softball, ultimate frisbee, netball, floor hockey, team handball, volleyball, AFL and table tennis. Emphasis is placed on initiative and developing the responsibilities of team leadership, coaching, peer instruction and officiating. Students complete a series of fitness test 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 are also assessed on their skill level, effort and participation in practical topics against the Achievement Standards of the Australian Curriculum.

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 Dana Thomas
Science A & B

Subject Length: Full Year
Desired Background: Nil

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

Areas studied include:
- Chemical Change
- Planet Earth
- Energy Transformation
- Matter
- Living Connections
- Cells
- Science Investigations
- Human Endeavour

Assessment:
Assessment includes practicals, reports, investigations, formal testing, assignments, research and problem solving exercises.

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

Cost: Approximately $10.00

Subject Coordinator:
Ms Helen Marussinszky
Visual Arts - Art A

Subject Length: One Semester

Desired Background: Nil

Subject Description:
Students work with a wide variety of art materials. Approaches may include drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, fabrics, ceramics and design. Students make and respond to art works, building an awareness of how and why artists, craftspeople and designers express their ideas through their work.

Assessment:
Students are assessed on their knowledge and skills in making and responding to Visual Arts. 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

Visual Arts - Art B

Subject Length: One Semester

Desired Background: Nil

Subject Description:
Students work with a wide variety of art materials. Approaches may include drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, fabrics, ceramics and design. Students make and respond to art works, building an awareness of how and why artists, craftspeople and designers express their ideas through their work.

The media, methods and technologies will vary from Year 8 Visual Arts - Art A.

Assessment:
Students are assessed on their knowledge and skills in making and responding to Visual Arts. 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