Middle School

Year 9

Students in Year 9 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: English or English as an Additional Language (EAL); Health and Physical Education or Gift Dance; History; Humanities; Mathematics; Science. Other areas of study include 5 units from the Choice Subjects.

**YEAR 9 CURRICULUM**

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**Total Units or Semesters** 14

Students are able to apply to join, or continue, the Gift Academic Program and undertake specialised instruction in English, History, Humanities, Mathematics and Science.

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

*Some subjects can be studied at Year 10 without having been studied in Year 9. Please check the desired background for individual subjects in this guide.*
Dance A

Subject Length: One Semester
Desired Background: Nil

Subject Description:
Students develop their movement skills using physical strength, flexibility, coordination, balance, elevation, turns and spatial awareness through skill based sessions in Jazz and Contemporary technique. They experience creating their own movement compositions in collaboration with their peers, using the elements of dance guided by a specific theme. Students study the requirements of safe dance practice, basic anatomy as it applies to a dancer, injury prevention, and dance specific injuries. Australian indigenous dance is studied to gain an appreciation of how the dance of a specific community is influenced by its histories, cultures and environments.

Research and homework tasks are included in the theoretical component. 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.

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 develop their movement skills using physical strength, flexibility, coordination, balance, elevation, turns and spatial awareness through skill based sessions in Jazz and Contemporary technique. They experience creating their own movement compositions in collaboration with their peers, using the elements of dance guided by a specific theme. Students consider dance in international contexts through the study of the historical beginnings of various dance genres, and how they have developed and changed through time, along with individual research based on a dance genre chosen by the student. 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 or successful completion of Year 8 GifT Dance. Students new to the school undertake an audition.

Subject Description: Students develop their movement skills using physical strength, flexibility, coordination, balance, elevation, turns and spatial awareness through skill based sessions in Jazz, Classical Ballet and Contemporary technique. They create their own movement compositions individually and in collaboration with their peers, using the elements of dance guided by a specific theme.

Students study the requirements of safe dance practice, cross-training options, e.g. Pilates, Yoga, anatomy as it applies to a dancer (extension of work covered in Year 8 GifT), injury prevention, stretch/strength training, and dance specific injuries. Australian indigenous dance is studied to gain an appreciation of how the dance of a specific community is influenced by its histories, cultures and environments. Specific pioneers of contemporary dance, identifying their principles and contribution to the development of the art form are also studied.

Research and homework tasks are included in the theoretical component. 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.

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 9 Gift Dance A or by teacher recommendation. Students new to the school undertake an audition.

**Subject Description:**
Students develop their movement skills using physical strength, flexibility, coordination, balance, elevation, turns and spatial awareness through skill-based sessions in Jazz, Classical Ballet and Contemporary technique. They create 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, as they apply to dancers. Students consider dance in international contexts through the study of the historical beginnings of various dance genres, and how they have developed and changed through time, along with individual research based on a dance genre chosen by the student. They study historical topics relevant to the genre they are studying at the time. Where possible, guest instructors will visit to provide an experience class in dance from a different culture. 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.

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

**Subject Coordinator:**
Ms Meredith Arnold
Design and Technologies (Engineering and Materials)

Subject Length: One Semester

Desired Background: Nil

Subject Description:
Students develop skills and knowledge acquired in Year 8. They focus on properties of wood materials and how to work with them, focusing specifically on joining techniques, as well as the use of technology in wood based manufacturing.

Studies in Design and Technologies provide students with the opportunities to develop technological capabilities, through planning, developing and refining design concepts, selecting appropriate materials, analysing designs, making products with resistant materials such as wood and appraising the outcome.

Students experience a range of manufacturing technologies such as tools, machines, power tools, equipment and/or systems to convert materials into products. Students engage in various construction methods used in line with the wider community when working with materials such as wood, fibre and food. Renewable resources and their impact on the environment are addressed throughout the course.

Students study a range of topics including:
- Workshop practices and safety
- Types of joinery used in a wide range of products
- Social and Ethical Issue research task
- Design features of specific structures such as Table
- Skills development tasks
- Investigation (multimedia presentation)
- Computer aided design 2D and 3D – Sketchup
- Project design and construction
- Basic engineering principles
- Analyse and investigate how motion, force and energy are used to manipulate electromechanical systems
- Analyse, investigate and make judgements on ethical and sustainable production of food and fibre
- Characteristics and properties of food and look at presentation techniques and healthy issues regarding food

Assessment:
- Skills and Applications tasks
- Folio
- Product

Special Subject Costs or Requirements:
Basic materials are provided. Any excess use may require payment.

Subject Coordinator:
Mr Peter Cottle
Design and Technologies (Food and Fibre)

Subject Length: One Semester
Desired Background: Nil

Subject Description:
In the food component students investigate the principles of food safety, preparation and presentation. Solutions for healthy eating are explored including dietary requirements such as vegetarian and gluten free options as well as specific nutritional needs of adolescent girls.

In the materials component students investigate, produce and evaluate materials products using appropriate techniques and technologies.

Assessment:
Students are required to complete a range of tasks including written and practical assignments and research assignments using Information and Communication Technology.

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 practical tasks.

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

Subject Coordinator:
Ms Sarah Gray
Digital Technologies

Subject Length: One Semester

Desired Background: Nil

Subject Description:
Students use critical thinking and information systems to define, design and implement digital solutions.

Students are provided with a balance of practical experiences through a problem solving approach and fundamental knowledge for coping in today's technology driven society.

Students explore in more detail the areas covered in the Year 8 course.

Students explore the parts of a computer system, a computer network and other devices. They further develop their critical thinking skills in computer operations; broaden their skills and knowledge in a range of software for simple audio and video creation and editing; look at the use of different devices; computer fundamentals; management techniques and computer programming.

Students produce short movie trailers, a website, multimedia presentations and individualised projects. They research technology based issues such as privacy, cybersafety and copyright.

Students study a range of concepts including:
- Computer systems and network fundamentals – Binary Code
- Different operating systems, e.g. Mac based and PC based
- Device analysis
- Computer Information Life Cycle
- File management and backup procedures
- Basic computer programming, e.g. Game Maker, Scratch, Phone App Development, etc.
- Website design
- Software includes: Photoshop, Word Processing, Desktop Publishing, iMovie, iWeb, Dreamweaver Audacity and Power Point
- Cybersafety and Privacy
- Copyright – Creative Commons
- Multimedia including electronic presentation
- Video development, e.g. iMovie
- Basic Audio and Video editing
- Podcast and Vodcast construction
- Safe and effective use of the Internet in environments such as Social Media

Assessment:
- Skills and Application tasks
- Folio
- Product

Special Subject Costs or Requirements:
USB store drive, printing credit and folder.

Subject Coordinator:
Mr Peter Cottle
Drama

Subject Length: One Semester

Desired Background: Nil

Subject Description:
Students develop skills in improvisation and learn to develop and communicate a character to an audience through a variety of workshops and practical tasks. Students make and respond to drama whilst learning on stage skills and off stage skills (such as lighting and sound) and apply these skills in group performances. Students also learn to interpret selected play scripts and further develop review writing skills.

Assessment:
Students are assessed progressively on their knowledge and skill development and commitment in making and responding to drama. 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 interpret, create, evaluate, discuss and perform a wide range of literary texts in which the primary purpose is aesthetic, as well as texts designed to inform and persuade. Students develop a critical understanding of the contemporary media, and the differences between media texts.

Literary texts that support and extend students in Year 9 as independent readers are drawn from a range of genres and involve complex, challenging and unpredictable plot sequences.

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, which may include narratives, procedures, performances, reports, discussions, literary analyses, transformations of texts and reviews. 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 9), 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:**
This course is designed using the Australian Curriculum: English documents, with EAL teaching and learning strategies in mind. 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 increasingly unfamiliar contexts.

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

**Special Subject Costs or Requirements:**
Students are required to purchase a literacy workbook (Pearson English 9), 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: Satisfactory completion of Year 8 French A & B

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.

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

Assessment:
Students are assessed on spoken language tasks, tests, quizzes, creative group tasks, assignments, presentations, various written tasks and listening and written comprehensions. Many of these tasks include the use of Information and Communication Technology.

Special Subject Costs or Requirements:
Students are required to purchase two workbooks.

Cost: Approximately $40.00

Students have the opportunity to participate in a range of relevant excursions. They also have the opportunity to participate in the ACER Language Competition.

Cost: Approximately $10.00

Subject Coordinator:
Ms Maria Ivey
Health and Physical Education

**Subject Length:** One Semester

**Desired Background:** Nil

**Subject Description:**
Students develop their skills and fitness in a range of activities including swimming, basketball and gaelic football.

Health components include the health benefits of physical activity, aquatics safety, preventative health strategies and developing positive relationships. These are integrated into both practical and theoretical assignments.

**Assessment:**
Students are required to complete a variety of assignments 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: Satisfactory completion of Year 8 History and Geography

Subject Description:
This course follows the Australian Curriculum and topics include:

History - The Making of the Modern World
- An overview of the period 1750 – 1918, including the significance of the Industrial Revolution, the nature and extent of the movement of peoples, European imperial expansion and emergence of significant ideas

Three Depth Studies
- Making a Better World – The Industrial Revolution or Progressive Ideas and Movements or Movement of Peoples
- Australia and Asia – Asia and the World or Making a Nation
- World War I

Assessment:
Students are required to complete a range of tasks to develop historical knowledge, understanding, skills and concepts through worksheets, tests, presentations, research assignments, essays and source analysis.

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

Subject Coordinator:
Ms Maria Ivey
Humanities

**Subject Length:** One Semester

**Desired Background:** Satisfactory completion of Year 8 History and Geography

**Subject Description:**
This course follows the Australian Curriculum and topics include: Geography, Civics and Citizenship and Economics and Business.

**Geography**
- Biomes and Food Security - distribution and characteristics of biomes, human alteration of biomes to produce food and other materials, challenges to food production, food security
- Geographies of interconnections - connections between different places, transport and communication, trade, effects of production and consumption, effects of people’s travel, information and communication technology

**Civics and Citizenship**
- Australian Government and democracy
- Political parties, elections, influence of media
- Australia’s court and justice systems
- Citizenship, diversity and identity
- Global connectedness and internationalism

**Economics and Business**
- The concept of an ‘economy’
- Interactions within the global economy
- Australia as part of the Asian region and the global economy
- The interdependence of participants in the global economy
- Implications of decisions made by individuals, businesses and governments
- Responsibilities of participants operating in a global workplace

**Assessment:**
Students are required to complete a range of tasks to develop subject specific and economic knowledge, understanding, skills and concepts through worksheets, tests, presentations, research assignments, essays, source analysis, data collection and map work.

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

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

**Subject Length:** Full Year

**Desired Background:** Satisfactory completion of Year 8 Italian A & B

**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.

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

**Assessment:**
Students are assessed on spoken language tasks, tests, quizzes, creative group tasks, assignments, presentations, various written tasks and listening and written comprehensions. 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. They also have the opportunity to participate in the ACER Language Competition.

Cost: Approximately $10.00

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

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 for students to analyse and interpret real life mathematical models.

The course follows the Australian Curriculum and includes the topics:
• Pythagoras’ Theorem
• Measurement
• Algebra
• Consumer Mathematics
• Trigonometry
• Expansion and Factorisation
• Indices
• Geometry and Transformation
• Coordinate Geometry
• Statistics and Probability

Assessment:
Tasks include investigations and tests.

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

Subject Coordinator:
Mr Paul Wise
Media Arts (Photography)

Subject Length: One Semester
Desired Background: Nil

Subject Description:
This course is an introduction to digital and traditional photography. Students learn how to operate safely and efficiently in the darkroom environment. Students learn how to use an SLR and DSLR and other digital camera devices. They process their own black and white films and learn how to print photographs.

Students are exposed to a variety of software used to capture, manipulate and enhance images. They also learn to present their photographs in different formats using digital multimedia presentation software. Students gain an understanding of camera settings and how to adjust them and use the built in features of the camera. Students experiment with important fundamental control features built into the camera such as Image Quality settings, Flash settings, Portrait, Sports, Macro, Auto settings and move on to setting up the camera, e.g. Aperture and Shutter Speed.

Assessment:
- Skills and Applications tasks
- Folio
- Product

Special Subject Costs or Requirements:
USB store drive, printing credit and folder.

Subject Coordinator:
Mr Peter Cottle
Music A

Subject Length: One Semester

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

 Subject Description:
 Students study the following:

 Performance
 • Attend weekly instrumental lessons, either at school or taken privately
 • Participate in the class ensemble and solo performance

 Music Theory
 • 1st/2nd grade theory and aural
 • An introduction to composition and basic arranging using the composing software Sibelius

 History/Analysis
 • A study of instruments and music of different cultures and periods

 Composition
 • Creative skills 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 2016 is $80.00 per semester. There is also a compulsory subject fee of $80.00 per semester.

 Subject Coordinator:
 Ms Meredith Arnold
**Subject Length:** One Semester

**Desired Background:** One semester of Year 8 Music or Year 9 Music A or the ability to play a musical instrument (including voice)

**Subject Description:**
Students study the following:

**Performance**
- Attend weekly instrumental lessons, either at school or taken privately
- Participate in the class ensemble, solo performance and a school ensemble group

**Music Theory**
- 2nd/3rd grade theory and aural
- Music composition and basic arranging using the composing software Sibelius.

**History/Analysis**
- A study of contemporary Aboriginal Music, Australian Music and Rock Music genres

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

**Subject Coordinator:**
Ms Meredith Arnold
Science A & B

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 develop practical skills to design scientific investigations.

Topics studied include:
- Electromagnetic Spectrum
- 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 include practical skills, 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 Marussinzky
Visual Arts - 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. They 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 finished works of art and design. They are required to complete practical, written and research based tasks.

Special Subject Costs or Requirements:
Nil

Subject Coordinator:
Ms Meredith Arnold