

Middle Sub School

Year 8 into 9

Subject Selection

Handbook for Students



For any questions, please reach out to:

Catherine Mears - catherine.mears@education.vic.gov.au

Kieran McQueen - kieran.mcqueen@education.vic.gov.au

Peter Maragoulas - peter.maragoulas@education.vic.gov.au

Subject Overview

Arts	Media	Design and Communication (VCD)	Visual Arts	Music
Technology	Digital Technologies	Food Technology	Construction and Furnishing	Textiles
Physical Education and Health	Sports Coaching			
Languages	Auslan			
Science	Science Extension			

In Year 9, students have the opportunity to engage in a range of elective options that provide an insight into the possible pathways they will engage with in future years.

Students will complete four elective subjects across the year, two in Semester 1 and two in Semester 2. Please see information on each subject in this booklet.

Arts Electives

Design Communication (VCD)

Students use the design process to communicate ideas visually through a portfolio and a final design. Students design across four key fields: Object (product design such as furniture, packaging, or a stepping stool), Message (graphic design such as logos, posters, or t-shirt designs), Environment (architectural and interior design such as bedrooms, tiny houses, or cafés), and Experience (digital and interactive design such as apps, websites, or game interfaces). Through these projects, students learn to combine creativity, technical skills, and design thinking to solve real-world problems.

What you will learn:

- Isometric and Orthographic drawing
- Problem Solving Skills
- Explore methods and materials
- Respond to design briefs
- Document and evaluate use of design processes



Assessments:

- Design Brief Project
- Classwork:

Senior Pathway: VCE Visual Communication & Design, VCE VET Creative Digital Media (Screen & Media)

Visual Arts

Visual Arts is designed to prepare you for a creative arts pathway in Years 11 and 12. Running over one semester, it offers a practical introduction to what you can expect in year 10 Visual Arts.

Students will develop and use their own Visual Art journal to explore materials, experiment with techniques, and document ideas in preparation for resolved artworks. Through visual language and the design process, you'll bring your own stories, experiences, and sense of place into your work.

This subject encourages creativity, experimentation, and collaboration, giving you the opportunity to learn alongside your teacher and classmates while building confidence and developing your artistic practice.

What you will learn:

- Explore sculpture techniques through hands-on experimentation with form, texture, and construction
- Develop and maintain a Visual Art folio to document ideas, artist research, material testing, and creative development
- Create a self-portrait project exploring the theme “What it Means to Be Australian” through personal identity, culture, and storytelling
- Investigate activism and the role of art in creating social commentary through lino cutting and printmaking techniques
- Build skills in visual language, composition, and conceptual thinking across a range of art forms
- Experiment with materials and processes including textiles, painting, drawing, and sculptures
- Develop a self-directed body of work that reflects individual interests, ideas, and artistic strengths
- Participate in class discussions, critiques, and collaborative learning experiences to support artistic growth and confidence

Assessments:

- Sculpture Exploration C.A.T
- Visual Art Folio Development
- Self-Portrait: What it Means to Be Australian
- Activism Printmaking C.A.T
- Self-Directed C.A.T



Senior Pathway: VET Visual Arts, VCE Art Making & Exhibiting

Media

Students will explore how media shapes the way we communicate, entertain, and share ideas in everyday life. Through hands-on projects, students will create their own media products such as short films, photography, digital content, or social media campaigns while developing skills in planning, filming, editing, and analysing media texts. The elective encourages creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking, helping students understand how media influences audiences and contemporary culture.

What you will learn:

- Storytelling, visual communication, and creative thinking
- How to analyse and reflect on media messages and representations
- Film and video production
- Social media and digital communication

Assessments:

- Short film production
- Media analysis responses
- Class discussions and peer feedback



Senior Pathway: VCE Media, VET Creative Digital Media

Music

Join a band and perform LIVE! This is a practical class where students will develop instrumental or production skills and rehearse in bands/ duos / solos with a focus on playing live in our live music space “The Rey”. Students will work with members of our instrumental music team to develop technical skills on either Guitar, Bass Guitar, Voice, Drums, Keyboard and Ableton Push2. They will form bands and rehearse the music they are interested in and perform live. Students will also develop skills using mixing consoles, lighting design and video production.

What you will learn:

- Join a Band
- Rehearse and Gig Regularly
- Multitrack record and produce your band / music
- Participate in technical production including camera ops, video switching, lighting design, VJing, live sound mixing

Assessments:

- Performance portfolio
- Live recording of band / music
- Live performance



Senior Pathway: VET Music Performance, VET Sound Production

Technology Electives

Construction and Furnishing

This course prepares students for future pathways in VET Construction or Furniture Making and an aptitude for learning with your hands would be an advantage. Students will develop practical skills through individual and collaborative projects integrating essential fabrication processes, and safe working habits with various hand tools, power tools and machinery. This subject will equip students with foundational industrial knowledge, problem-solving abilities, and hands-on experiences. Projects are geared towards industry standards to plan and design projects, manually produce components, assemble, and complete the finishing stages.

What you will learn:

- Planning/ Designing
- Measurement/Layout & Calculations
- Safe use of Handtools, Powertools & Plant Machinery
- Timber Machining
- Product Assembly
- Furniture Finishing

Assessments:

- Practical Skill Assessment
- Demonstrations/ Observations
- Project Portfolio: -Written Questions: Short answers
- Sketches/ Drawings
- Calculations
- Planning chart



Senior Pathway: VET Construction, VET Furniture Making

Textiles

The focus of this elective is to learn basic pattern making and sewing machine skills and conventional sewing and decorating techniques. Students will learn various ways of decorating fabric including embroidery and applique techniques. Students will learn to upcycling clothing and fabric and will trial processes, such as knitting, crocheting, macrame and weaving, to analyse their

suitability for a product. Students will make two products including a sustainable shopping bag or cushion cover, scrunchie, headband, pair of pyjama pants or sleep shorts.

What you will learn:

- Create, adapt and refine design ideas
- Design a product for an end user
- Hands on experience with a range of materials and equipment.

Assessments:

- Written questions
- Reflection journal
- Practice joining and decorating techniques
- Use machines and equipment
- Design, make and reflect on final projects



Senior Pathway: VET Apparel, Fashion & Textiles, VCE Product Design & Technology

Food Technology

During Semester 1 in Year 9 Food Technology, students engage in learning experiences related to the topic of cultural foods and discovering new cuisines, as well as sustainability. They are challenged to master kitchen basics and learn new skills such as piping, pastry making and deep frying. Students respond to design briefs and create solutions that meet dietary, cultural, sustainability and ethical requirements. They build the knowledge, skills and capacity to source, prepare, cook and share food in a sustainable manner to promote a healthy and balanced lifestyle. Recipes include French Crepes, Chocolate & Wattleseed self-saucing pudding, Rice Paper Rolls and Spaghetti Bolognese.

What you will learn:

- Multicultural Food
- Sustainability
- Food Trends
- Time Management
- Budgeting
- Safe Use of Kitchen tools and Equipment

Assessments:

- Multicultural CAT (*research report*)
- Participation in Practical Classes



Senior Pathway: VET Cookery, VET Hospitality

Digital Technology

Students will have the opportunity to design and build their own digital solutions, such as games or interactive programs. They develop skills in planning ideas using algorithms, flowcharts, and pseudocode, and then bring those ideas to life through basic programming. This hands-on component of the elective focuses on problem-solving, creativity, and testing and improving designs, while also building practical digital skills that support further study and real-world applications in technology.

What you will learn:

- Design and build simple games and interactive programs
- Create algorithms, flowcharts, and pseudocode
- Learn basic programming skills
- Test, debug, and improve programs

Assessments:

- Planning and Algorithms CAT
- Digital Solution Project (Game or Program)



Senior Pathway: VCE Applied Computing, VET Information & Communications Technology

Language Electives

Auslan

In Year 9 Auslan class, students will develop respect for different ways of communicating while they learn about Deaf culture and community, including the history of Auslan and how it can vary across regions.

They develop their confidence and fluency in communicating using Australian Sign Language focusing on conversation skills and to hold longer, more natural signed conversations, share ideas and opinions, and tell more detailed stories using a range of visual communication skills such as facial expressions, body language, and signing space.

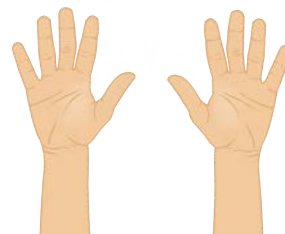
Students also build their understanding of how Auslan works as a language, exploring how meaning is created through movement and expression

What you will learn:

- How to hold longer, more natural signed conversations.
- Auslan storytelling skills
- Visual communication skills, including facial expressions, body language and signing space.
- Deaf culture and community.
- The history of Auslan and regional variations.

Assessments:

- Written knowledge questions
- Practical assessment tasks
- Research assignments
- Participation in practical presentations
- Research tasks



Senior Pathway: VCE Auslan, VET Auslan

Physical Education Electives

Sport Coaching

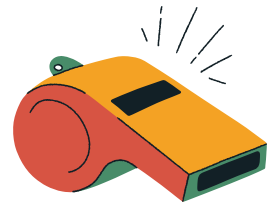
Students will develop their understanding of coaching, leadership, and officiating through a range of practical sporting experiences. They will participate in a variety of sports and physical activities while learning how to lead drills, aspects of coaching teams, officiate games, and improve performance through feedback. This hands-on elective focuses on communication, teamwork, leadership, and movement skills, while providing a pathway into Year 10 Sports Coaching and senior Sport and Recreation studies.

What you will learn:

- Aspects of leading and coaching teams in a variety of sports
- How to plan and deliver drills, activities, and training sessions
- Umpire and officiate games using rules and scoring systems
- Provide feedback to improve performance and participation
- Develop leadership, communication, and teamwork skills through sport and physical activity

Assessments:

- SEPEP Assessment
- Design your own coaching session (1 x 30 minute session)



Senior Pathway: VCE VET Sport & Recreation

Science Elective Pathways

Science Extension

Science Extension is an advanced enrichment program that provides motivated students with the opportunity to explore science in greater depth and complexity. Science extension will run in addition to the three periods a week of mainstream Year 9 science. Students will engage in challenging experiments, develop advanced scientific skills, and build strong foundational knowledge across core scientific disciplines. From Year 9 Science Extension, students can transition to Year 10 Science Extension and then VCE Chemistry, Psychology, or Biology in Year 11 and 12.

What you will learn:

- Develop key science skills including experimental design, data analysis, scientific communication, and critical thinking
- Strengthen foundational knowledge in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Psychology
- Participate in hands-on experiments, inquiry-based investigations, and real-world science challenges
- Build skills that support success in year 11 and 12 science subjects and tertiary science pathways
- Work collaboratively with like-minded peers who share a passion for science

Assessments:

- Student-designed experiments
- Scientific Reports and Posters
- Case Study Analysis
- Problem solving involving scientific concepts/skills



Senior Pathway: VCE Chemistry, VCE Biology, VCE Psychology