



# Christ Church Grammar School

## Academic Handbook Year 9, 2022

### Overview

#### **The timetable**

The Senior School operates on a 10-day timetable cycle with six 50-minute periods a day. The 10 days are organised within a Week A / Week B structure. The timetable differs from Week A to Week B.

Students can access an electronic copy of their timetable on their Surface device through Nexus ([nexus.ccgswa.edu.au](http://nexus.ccgswa.edu.au)).

Where a day or days are missed for long weekends or public holidays, these are skipped in the timetable. A boy's timetable therefore completes a cycle every two weeks.

With the exception of Thursday, each day begins at 8.30am with a 20-minute tutorial prior to the first period of the day. On Thursdays the period from 8.30am until 9.45am includes Chapel, Assembly, House meetings etc. There are therefore only five periods on a Thursday.

#### **Academic Administration**

The Deputy Principal/Director of Studies is responsible for curriculum implementation and curriculum policy from Pre-Primary to Year 12. The Deputy Principal/Director of Studies and the Assistant Director of Studies organise the day-to-day and long-term academic program in the Senior School. In particular, the Assistant Director of Studies is responsible for the timetable.

Questions relating to a course of study should be directed initially to a boy's tutor or Head of House. However, where a boy is new to the School, such queries may be directed to the Assistant Director of Studies.

If there are any concerns, early in the semester, about the electives chosen by a boy, the matter should be discussed with the tutor or Head of House. The issue may then be referred to the Studies Office. If there are good reasons for a change of course, the School will try to accommodate this.

#### **Homework policy**

The School supports the view that homework is an integral part of a student's education. Homework encourages the skills and study habits that are essential for intellectual growth and academic achievement. It is developmental and therefore increases in amount and complexity as the student progresses through the Senior School. The nature of homework can vary from simple reading of text or reference material, formal written work and preparation for a test or classroom exercise, to involved research assignments that may take many weeks to complete. It is also expected that the student will

take some responsibility for the allocation of time for revision and review of subjects in the absence of homework that is specifically set. The School encourages the development of independence in determining the type and amount of homework necessary to sustain the day to day academic program.

While homework is set in all subjects, not all homework is due to be submitted in the following lesson. Teachers will give advice on the timing of homework. As such, there will be some days when more homework is required than others. It is therefore up to the student, teacher, tutor and parents to manage an organised program of homework time to meet the specific demands of the following day. Students are required to use their School diary as an organiser and planner for homework and similar activities. For many students, the development and management of such skills will be critical for future academic success.

More information can be found in the School's 'Guidelines for study and homework' available from CCGS World under Governance.

Students are often required to attach a bibliography to assignments and incorporate in-text referencing. The School uses the American Psychological Association (APA) Referencing System.

## **Assessment & reports**

Specific details about subject assessments can be found in the subject descriptions later in this booklet. The information gathered from the in-class assessment program is provided in reports to parents four times a year.

At the beginning of the academic year, parents will be given information about access to the Nexus. This portal enables parents to access boys' assessment results as they are entered by teachers over the course of year. Our recommendation is that parents can best utilise this facility by checking the marks summary once per fortnight with their son and aiming to be supportive and encouraging of his endeavours.

The reports provided for Terms 1, 2, 3 and 4 provide a broad overview of progress, including information about current grade, percentage and rating of a number of work practices. Academic grades are provided on an A - E scale. Each report represents the current status of the student in that subject.

Trimesterised subjects (Biology, Chemistry and Physics in Science) will be reported on in the term report in which the trimester is completed.

Separate reports are issued for Semester One subjects early in Term 3. This ensures that teachers are able to utilise the whole semester period for teaching and assessment.

Together with these formal reports, there is ongoing communication between the student's classroom teacher and tutor. Thus, tutors and the Head of House can provide parents with early warning of any problems or difficulties. Parents should direct any specific concerns or questions about class work to the tutor in the first instance.

## **Use of the School diary**

The School diary is a key link in the communication between school and home and encourages the development of sound organisational and planning skills. If used to record daily obligations, activities, homework and/or work requirements it will instil sound working habits for school and beyond. Parents and tutors are expected to monitor the diary each week.

## **Study Lab**

After-school academic support is available for all students. Study Lab is held in the CLC on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 3.15pm to 4.45pm. English and Mathematics specialist staff are available on some of these afternoons, while organisational support is provided for work in other

subjects. A number of current and former students also volunteer their assistance. Some boys attend these sessions simply to complete homework, knowing that help is available if they encounter difficulties. For other students, these sessions provide a time to go over work that may have been missed in class. Tutors can provide further details.

## **Information Technology**

The School actively encourages teachers and departments to integrate the use of information technologies into the curriculum. Students are exposed to a wide range of information technology experiences by applying the computing resources to subject-based tasks. These experiences range from simple uses such as access to the Internet, to more complex uses such as multimedia.

Year 9 students are expected to bring their Surface device to all their classes (except Physical Education). It will be utilised by teachers as a tool for connected learning in their classrooms. Students are provided with their own email account.

Students may be required to use information technology, particularly their Surface device, while at home. Parents are encouraged to monitor their son's use of the Surface device in the same way that they might monitor other homework. Parents should restrict access to the device if it is not being used in a suitable manner. There are also technical solutions to do this; in this case, the School recommends the use of OpenDNS.

All activities that engage students with information technology require the student to demonstrate appropriate responsibility. They need to plan to manage their time efficiently and to ensure that they are using technology in ways that assist their learning.

The use of the Internet, email, Surface device and other IT assets is governed by the School's IT Acceptable Use Policy available on each boy's computer.

## **Nexus**

Nexus ([nexus.ccgswa.edu.au](http://nexus.ccgswa.edu.au)) is the School's Learning Management System. In Nexus, students have access to their timetables, class learning resources and due dates for assessments as well as daily information about school activities.

## **Textbooks**

For subjects where a textbook is utilised, a hard copy textbook will be provided for students. Where possible, an electronic version of the textbook will also be made available to students through their Surface device.

## **Curriculum Policy**

The School's Curriculum Policy is available through the 'Policies' section of CCGS World (Governance). It gives further information about the way in which the curriculum is delivered.

## **Reporting and Assessment Policy**

The School's Reporting and Assessment Policy is available through the 'Policies' section of CCGS World (Governance). It gives further information about the way in which information about student progress is reported to parents and protocols around assessment.

## **Rewarding academic achievement and endeavour Policy**

The School's Rewarding academic achievement and endeavour Policy is available through the 'Policies' section of CCGS World (Governance). It gives further information about the way in which Subject and Merit Prizes are awarded.

# Year 9 Curriculum

The Year 9 curriculum is made up of mandatory subjects and electives in the Languages, Technology & Enterprise and Arts Learning Areas. All mandatory and elective units are offered over the whole year and are listed below.

All boys will study the mandatory subjects of English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities, Health & Wellbeing and Physical Education & Health.

## Extension Classes

Extension classes run in the four core subject areas (English, Humanities, Mathematics and Science). These classes follow a significantly modified learning and assessment program and aim to provide students of high cognitive potential with appropriately challenging learning experiences. Selection criteria for these classes are outlined in the School's Curriculum Policy.

## Support Classes

Support classes are run in the four core subject areas (English, Humanities, Mathematics and Science). These classes have lower student numbers and are designed to cater for the needs of boys with specific learning challenges, needs or gaps. The programs in these classes are aligned to the mainstream West Australian Curriculum but the content differentiated, and assessment modified to meet the learning needs of individual students. Recommendations for student access of support classes is made by Heads of Department and classroom teachers. Further information around this process is outlined in the School's Curriculum Policy.

## Peter Moyes Centre (PMC)

The Senior Peter Moyes Centre (PMC) caters for students with diagnosed disabilities who are unable to access aspects of the mainstream curriculum. The PMC program covers core subject areas (English and Mathematics) as well as Health and Protective Behaviours, Life Skills (cooking and daily living skills), Community Access, Business Enterprise, Work Experience and ASDAN. All students access mainstream electives in Years 7 – 10.

The overarching vision of the Senior PMC is to prepare students for life after school through developing their independent work skills and increasing their ability to manage themselves in a variety of situations and contexts.

Each student works from an individually developed program called a Documented Plan (DP) which contains learning objectives specific to relevant subject areas. The DPs are developed in consultation with Senior PMC teaching staff, parents/guardians and other relevant stakeholders. The DPs are reviewed biannually.

Placement in the Senior PMC will be discussed upon enrolment or transition into the Senior School and the Co-ordinator of the Senior PMC will be in touch with parents/guardian to conduct a Needs Assessment before a decision regarding placement is made. Where appropriate, mainstream students will be invited to participate in some PMC programs (such as English, Mathematics and ASDAN) to facilitate learning development and enhancement of opportunities post-schooling.

Contact

Ms Taylor Marsh

Acting Co-ordinator of Peter Moyes Centre (PMC)

## Elective Subject Selection

The choice within the elective program represents a cross section of courses from the School Curriculum and Standards Authority learning areas that are not covered by the mandatory subjects.

Subject Selection for the Year 9 course is made by studying the Subject Outlines in the next section and then completing the online Subject Selection Form. A full list of elective subjects is provided on the next page.

Electives comprise a total of **five** units. One-unit subjects will be studied for one semester; two-unit subjects will be studied for the whole year. To ensure breadth of study, please note the following restrictions:

- Boys may select **at most two** units out of the five Computer Science subjects (Algorithmic Programming, Systems and Networking, Website Development, App Development or Bioinformatics)
- Boys may select **at most one** subject out of the two Drama options
- Boys may select **at most one** subject out of the two Music options
- Boys may select **at most one** subject out of the two Science options (Astrophysics and Psychology)
- Boys may select **at most two units** out of the three Art half-year subjects (Digital Photography, Graphic Design, Visual Art – Atelier (Half Year)). Visual Art – Atelier (Full Year) cannot be selected with any other Art subjects.
- Boys may select **at most two units** out of the three Design & Technology subjects (D&T Engineering, D&T Materials and D&T Mechatronics)

Subjects chosen in Year 9 do not direct what will be studied in Year 10 or later. We encourage boys to take the opportunity to explore their interests and try new things in Year 9.

Mandatory	Elective
English Humanities Mathematics Health and Wellbeing Physical Education Science - (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)	Algorithmic Programming (1 unit) App Development (1 unit) Astrophysics (1 unit) Bioinformatics (1 unit) Chinese (2 units) Creative Writing (1 unit) D & T – Engineering (1 unit) D & T – Materials (1 unit) D & T Mechatronics (1 unit) Digital Photography (1 unit) Drama – Full Year (2 units) Drama – Half Year (1 unit) French (2 units) Graphic Design (1 unit) Japanese (2 units) Music – Extension (2 units) Music – General (1 unit) Philosophy (1 unit) Psychology (1 unit) Systems and Networking (1 unit) Visual Art – Atelier (Half Year) (1 unit) Visual Art – Atelier (Full Year) (2 units) Website Development (1 unit)

# Mandatory Subjects

## English

The Year 9 English course aims to extend boys' understandings and skills by introducing them to more sophisticated texts with increasingly complex issues, structures and language. They begin with the study of contemporary persuasive texts and a major novel. In Term 2, a unit on electronic advertising enriches the boys' understanding of the media, and they also study drama, with some tackling their first Shakespearean play. The focus becomes increasingly analytical, with close reading and critical literacy emphasised consistently, and essay structure continues to develop and mature. Teacher-led discussions, group work and pair work encourage students to be active, thoughtful and curious readers and viewers.

All boys work to consolidate and extend their general and subject-specific vocabulary, including their spelling and grammar, with teachers using a range of strategies to assist them. Creative writing continues to feature prominently in the program, and the boys are also encouraged to enter a range of internal and external creative writing competitions, with a number having their work celebrated on the English noticeboard.

Most boys spend one period per fortnight in the Senior Library, where the Teacher Librarians assist them to choose additional reading material, promote texts that complement those being studied in class, and run Literature Circles. Library lessons are tailored to support and develop text types and themes that are covered in units of class work, with a particular focus on school values.

The formal assessment program is reviewed on an annual basis but is likely to approximate the following schedule. Common Assessment Tasks, which require the whole cohort to sit the same in-class assessment on the same day, are set twice a year and cross-marked by Year 9 teachers or external markers to assist grading comparability.

### Assessment schedule

#### SEMESTER ONE

Persuasive writing (opinion piece)  
Vocabulary, spelling, grammar test  
Novel essay (CAT)  
NAPLAN  
Analysis (advertising)

#### SEMESTER TWO

Script writing (drama)  
Oral analysis (poetry)  
Film Essay  
Summative vodcast (oral presentation)

In addition there will be a number of opportunities for formative assessment during the year.

#### Contact

Mrs Melanie Hastie  
Year 9 Coordinator and Assistant Head of English

Mr Spencer Davies  
Head of English

## **English as an Additional Language Dialect (EALD)**

English as an Additional Language/Dialect (EALD) is run through the Languages Department. Students recommended for, or eligible to study EALD, are taught by a specialist who will cover the genres, processes and strategies studied in other English classes, using resources geared to EALD students and at a suitable pace for the needs of these students. Some students will also study English, to maximise their exposure to the language.

Contact

Mr Vinko Shain

Head of Languages

## **Health and Wellbeing**

The Health and Wellbeing course aims to develop students' knowledge, skills, values, and processes to care for themselves and others, and to take an active role in extending important life skills, making healthy decisions, evolving individual self-awareness and embracing leadership. Each student in Year 9 studies it for one semester; it covers health, religion, positive psychology and well-being. Students will be exposed to information to positively influence them in mind, body and spirit.

### **Health**

At Christ Church the underlying focus in the Health area is health maximisation. The course covers three major standards

- Students identify and apply relevant criteria to determine reliability of online health information and whether it is suitable for use in a particular context.
- Students evaluate a range of characteristics of respectful relationships, such as showing respect for self and others, and personal differences and opinions.
- They describe and apply appropriate skills and strategies to resolve and manage conflict within different environments.

### **Positive Psychology**

Positive Education brings together the science of Positive Psychology with best-practice teaching to encourage individuals within their communities to flourish. (Geelong Grammar School, 2011)

Positive Psychology is an umbrella term for work that investigates happiness, well-being, human strength, and flourishing. (Gable & Haidt, 2005)

The program of work is derived from a 'Well-Being Curriculum' based on the principles and findings of positive psychology. The emphasis is on positive interventions, targeting areas that have a substantial evidence base such as happiness, positive emotions, flow, resilience, achievement, positive relationships and meaning. The specific units of work that are covered through the timetable cycle are outlined below.

- Men's Health
- Stress
- Mental Health
- Staying Active
- Issues in Society



- Personal Identity
- Relationships Risks and Sexual Behaviours
- Religion
- Protective Behaviours
- Leadership and Teamwork
- Social Awareness
- Character Strengths
- Introducing Mindfulness
- Well-being practices

## **Religion**

As an Anglican school, Christ Church is committed to Religious Education in its curriculum. At the same time it is sensitive to the varied backgrounds of its students, who are drawn from every major Christian denomination and every major world faith. In addition to attending Chapel services, each boy in the school will participate in the Religious Education unit, which provides an introduction to the origins, history, beliefs, practices, diversity and relevance of the Christian faith. Whilst boys are encouraged to develop their own personal faith, the School acknowledges that the boy's parents and his place of worship will also play a central role in his religious education.

### Contacts

Mr Liam Casson  
Director of the Wynne Centre for Boys' Health and Wellbeing

Reverend Nicholas Russell  
School Chaplain

## **Humanities**

The Year 9 Humanities course seeks to develop growing sophistication on the part of the boys in the ways that they investigate, present and analyse their learning. Building on the skills and experiences of Year 8, boys investigate many aspects of Australian society, including examining our democratic rights, our experiences in WWI and the interconnectedness of our economy and society and comparing these with many cultures.

Through the subjects of Civics and Citizenship, Economics and Business, Geography and History, students will have the opportunity to develop 21<sup>st</sup> Century global skills. These skills are essential to prepare students for an increasingly globalised economy and include questioning and research, analysing, evaluating, communicating and reflecting.

### **Civics and Citizenship**

Students continue to build on their understanding of the concepts of the Westminster system, democracy, democratic values, justice and participation. They examine the role of key players in the political system, the way citizens' decisions are shaped during an election campaign and how a government is formed. Students investigate how Australia's court system works in support of a democratic and just society. Students also consider the impact of social media on our democracy and analyse the ways different platforms can influence the outcome of elections.

## **Economics and Business**

The Year 9 course introduces students to the notion of a global economy by looking at Australia's interdependence with many economies around the world, with a focus on trade and globalism. In response to this, students will examine how jobs and job roles are evolving and the role of innovation in ensuring that Australian businesses can maintain competitive advantage.

## **Geography**

The focus of Year 9 is initially on the biotic environment and its place in food and fibre production. Boys then investigate how societies and cities are connected around the globe. Students investigate the physical and economic factors involved and the way these factors have influenced the lifestyles of selected communities. A detailed study is undertaken of one Asian and one European city of worldwide significance. Practical skills and geographical investigation are emphasised throughout.

The following themes are covered in Year 9

- Biomes and Food Security
- Navigating Global Connections.

## **History**

The Year 9 History course is designed to further develop the skills of history, particularly in the interpretation of sources as well as developing writing skills. In line with the Western Australian Curriculum, the focus for this year of school is the period 1750 – 1918. This is done through three major studies: a focus on the Industrial Revolution in England and the change this brought to the world; and an in-depth study of World War I and the Australian experience of that conflict.

Contact

Mr Patrick Parker

Head of Humanities

## **Mathematics**

This Year 9 Mathematics course is taught for eight periods in each 10-day cycle. All boys are required to own a scientific calculator and a Casio ClassPad, both of which are available from the bookroom. The use of these calculators is integrated into almost all topics in the course, and they may both be used up to and including the ATAR Mathematics examinations.

The following units are studied during the year:

1. Reviewing number and financial mathematics
2. Linear equations
3. Pythagoras' theorem and right angled trigonometry
4. Linear relations
5. Measurement
6. Indices
7. Geometric reasoning
8. Algebraic techniques
9. Probability and statistics

## 10. Introduction to quadratic equations and graphs.

Class work and formal testing will be used to assess learning. Students will be assessed by tests, investigations, applications and a final examination. Students' level of achievement will inform decisions about whether they study the Mainstream or Advanced West Australian Curriculum course in Year 10.

Students wishing to study Mathematics Methods and/or Mathematics Specialist in Year 11 must study the Year 10 Advanced course. Boys need to achieve a B grade in the Year 9 course to be selected to study the Year 10 Advanced Course.

Contact

Mr Khiem Ly (Term 2 only)  
Acting Head of Mathematics

Ms Megan West  
Head of Mathematics

## Physical Education

The Physical Education program in Year 9 focuses on the acquisition of skills in a variety of activities that include throwing, catching, hitting, kicking, running and swimming, in addition to developing each component of fitness and the basics of team play and tactics. The course also covers the basic principles of weight training and familiarisation with the variety of equipment in our facility. The course is both theoretical and practical and covers, equipment, program design and lifting techniques.

Students experience an array of individual and team pursuits including swimming, volleyball, rowing, fitness testing and athletics. Opportunities are provided to develop self-management and interpersonal skills that help students to engage in social interaction within the family, school and community environments.

The course operates over the whole year for six periods per 10-day cycle. Aspects such as skill, game performance, fitness, attitude and behaviour, dress and punctuality will be assessed.

## Health Education

The Health Education component of this course is taught as a part of the Health and Wellbeing Development Program (see p. 8 and 9).

Contact

Mr Luke Farmer  
Head of Health and Physical Education

## Science

The Year 9 Science courses have a strong emphasis on practical work. Students will develop a scientific view and recognition of how science understanding can be applied to their lives and the lives of others. The course aims to stimulate curiosity and promote logical and analytical thinking. Students will build on their understanding through the science inquiry process, which involves making observations, constructing and testing hypotheses and evaluating data. During Year 9, classes study Biology, Chemistry and Physics separately, with specialist teachers.

There are various assessments built into the Year 9 Science courses. These may include

- homework tasks

- formal written tests
- written plans and reports of scientific investigations
- practical laboratory assessments

### **Science Inquiry Skills**

Skills involved in working as a scientist are learnt in the context of the three main subject areas of Physics, Biology and Chemistry. Students will develop the skills to carry out investigations that require them to plan experiments, collect, process and interpret data and to draw conclusions, evaluate and communicate their findings. Students will assess risk within their planning for investigations and address ethical issues associated with their methods.

### **Biology**

The Year 9 Biology course focuses on multi-cellular organisms and how they rely on co-ordinated and interdependent internal systems to respond to changes to their environment. Students study the nervous system, endocrine system and the processes of maintaining homeostasis. Technology plays a significant part in some of these systems and students have the opportunity to use this technology to investigate and manipulate plant growth in the plant tissue culture section of the course. Students set up sterile environments and manipulate tissue with different hormones. They also have the opportunity to carry out experiments such as brain dissections and nerve reflex investigations.

### **Chemistry**

Virtually every aspect of life today owes a great deal to the discoveries and work of chemists. They are involved in developing new medicines, manufacturing new materials and researching better ways to make existing ones. Many of the environmental challenges that we presently face will be solved by the inventiveness of chemists.

In Year 9 students will study a variety of topics in Chemistry including atomic structure, elements and compounds, formulae and equations, acids and bases and rates of reaction. Through a practical, laboratory-centred approach students will develop skills and understanding of reactions and equation writing. They will gain an appreciation of the structure of the periodic table in the understanding of Chemistry and examine the role of acids and bases in our everyday lives. Finally they will study collision theory and examine, through investigation, the factors that make chemical reactions fast or slow.

### **Physics**

The study of Physics is concerned with understanding the nature of forces and motion, and matter and energy. In the Year 9 Physics course, students will focus on developing an understanding of the transfer of energy through different mediums. Through use of wave and particle models, students will investigate the transfer of energy by light, sound and heat. Students will examine the electromagnetic spectrum and how the different parts of the spectrum are used in our everyday lives, and also apply their knowledge of the physical and thermal properties of materials and how they are used in various applications. There will be a strong emphasis on discovery through practical work and investigation and students will use both qualitative and quantitative techniques. Contexts covered may include energy efficient design and factors affecting heat transfer.

### **Contact**

Mr Edward Hogg  
Head of Science

Ms Sharyn Bana  
Head of Biology

Mr Jacob Marai  
Head of Physics

Mrs Megan Caporn  
Head of Chemistry

# Elective Subjects

All electives run for 6 periods per 2-week cycle.

Some electives run for a whole year (2 units), other electives run for a single semester (1 unit). Students each complete 5 units worth of electives.

## Algorithmic Programming (1 unit)

The creation of efficient and elegant algorithms is integral to all aspects of modern Computer Science. In this course students will explore and use greedy algorithms and dynamic programming to solve real-life problems, including how to find the shortest path in a network and how to solve the backpack problem.

Students will implement each of the algorithms using the Python language, and then use that implementation to solve a range of interesting problems. For each algorithm students will determine the time complexity as a measure of how efficient it is, allowing different solutions to be compared. Students participating in this course will get to understand and use a wide range of famous algorithms as well as learning new ways of representing data, such as linked lists and matrices.

This course will assume that students are comfortable with using the Python language and will cover a number of advanced programming techniques. For this reason, it is **highly recommended** that students who choose this course **achieved an A or B grade in Digital Thinking in Year 8**. Students who did not achieve an A or B grade are advised to select App Development as an appropriate alternative.

Although not required, students are encouraged to take this course in combination with either Bioinformatics or App Development.

Contact

Mr Graham Nolan (Term 2 only)  
Acting Head of Computer Science

Mr Chris Anderson  
Head of Computer Science

## App Development (1 unit)

In this course students will have the opportunity to develop their problem-solving skills by developing a range of interactive apps using the Python programming language, including Arcade Games and applications with engaging Graphical User Interfaces.

Students will start by deepening their understanding of programming concepts from previous years, such as altering the flow of a program using selection and iteration. They will then learn how to use external libraries and frameworks to quickly and easily incorporate complex features into their programs.

Later, students will develop their understanding of lists and functions to make their programs more efficient and allow them to produce more elegant solutions to complex problems. As the course progresses, students will make use of more advanced data structures such as dictionaries and objects. By combining these with different external libraries and frameworks students will create complex apps with Graphical User Interfaces, such as interactive games.

This course is designed to build upon the skills developed in Year 8, so it is highly recommended that students who choose this course achieved **at least a C grade in Digital Thinking in Year 8**.

Contact

Mr Graham Nolan (Term 2 only)  
Acting Head of Computer Science

Mr Chris Anderson  
Head of Computer Science

## **Astrophysics (1 unit)**

Astronomy and astrophysics are at the forefront of scientific discovery, with Western Australia becoming a centre of excellence throughout the world in this field. Students will gain an understanding of several astrophysical theories and practices. The history of astronomy and its cultural impacts are also explored. At the same time, students will improve their research and analytical skills, and develop an understanding of recent advances made within astronomy and astrophysics.

The one-unit course will cover the terrestrial to the extraterrestrial – the Earth, the Moon and Sun, stars, galaxies, black holes, quasars, pulsars, space exploration and rocketry. Students will be particularly looking at radio astronomy from the Parkes Telescope to the SKA project which is currently underway.

Contact

Mr Edward Hogg  
Head of Science

## **Bioinformatics (1 unit)**

Bioinformatics involves using computer analysis to solve information problems in the life sciences. The field largely involves using the power of computers to analyse biological datasets to develop cures and propose solutions in the biological and environmental sciences. Some common applications of Bioinformatics include sequencing of DNA, modelling of biomolecules and examining the evolutionary relationships of biological systems.

Throughout the semester students will learn to implement a variety of algorithms designed to aid in the analysis of data to find patterns and relationships within that data. Techniques commonly used range from the use of applied mathematics and statistics to dynamic programming and artificial intelligence.

This course is designed to provide students with opportunities in Computer Science at an advanced level, beyond what is usually offered in Year 9. For this reason, it is **highly recommended** that students who choose this course **achieved an A or B grade in Digital Thinking in Year 8**. Students who did not achieve an A or B grade are advised to select App Development as an appropriate alternative.

Although not required, students are encouraged to take this course in combination with Algorithmic Programming.

Contact

Mr Graham Nolan (Term 2 only)  
Acting Head of Computer Science

Mr Chris Anderson  
Head of Computer Science

## **Chinese (2 units)**

In Chinese, boys will acquire more advanced competencies in Speaking, Reading, Listening and Writing. Through topics of particular interest to boys, students will improve competency in their own language and how it functions. Students will

- gain a deeper understanding of linguistic conventions
- critically reflect on their own and other cultures and values
- and prepare themselves for the Year 11 and 12 courses

Boys are assessed in the four outcomes of Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing each semester as well as in an end of year test. Chapter tests of new grammar, characters and vocabulary are set at least twice a term. Continuous, less formal assessment is carried out during the year. We incorporate a cross-curricular unit within the course where the immersive language environment becomes a Geography classroom for a short period of time.

The Languages Department also offers a bi-annual China tour for students interested in immersing themselves in the language and culture.

### **Homework**

Regular practice reviewing words and grammatical concepts learned is fundamental in the acquisition of a language and as such, forms an integral part of the course. In Year 9, we expect boys to spend 15-20 minutes each evening reviewing words and grammatical concepts covered in class in addition to any specific homework set by the teacher. Using their Education Perfect platform, students will find it easy to consolidate their learning and build proficiency in their target language.

Contact

Mr Vinko Shain

Head of Languages

## **Creative Writing (1 unit)**

Year 9 Creative Writing gives students the opportunity to engage with language and ideas on a personal level through the production and exploration of fiction and non-fiction texts.

The elective is based around four project pieces which give students the opportunity to experiment with a range of language structures as well as focusing on refining their written expression. The course gives talented writers an additional avenue to have their talents recognised through competitions such as *The West Australian's* Young Writers and Young Photojournalist competitions. The diversity of assessment and text types covered in our study of travel writing, urban legends, personal memoirs and poetry allows for each of the boys to find their own niche within the broader field of creative writing.

The course would be suitable for budding creative writers as well as those seeking to consolidate their fundamental English skills.

Contact

Mr Spencer Davies

Head of English

## **Design & Technology – Engineering (1 unit)**

Design and Technology – Engineering provides students with the opportunity to develop skills in the use of technology in a practical setting. This course aims at developing in students an understanding of the **materials, information** and **systems** that are appropriate to the design and manufacture of products to meet human needs. The underlying focus is the **technology process**, of which the elements of investigating, devising, producing and evaluating are fundamental components. These outcomes (shown in bold type above) are achieved through two courses of study, each of one semester's duration. Students can select both courses.

This subject is suited to those students who are interested in and enjoy working with engineering type projects. Students can expect to build upon their knowledge and skills acquired in Year 7 and Year 8 Design and Technology, particularly in the area of computer-aided drawing and learning how to use sophisticated software in 3D modelling and computer-aided manufacturing. Students are also introduced to electronics and robotics.

**Assessment** of achievement of the outcomes for these subjects takes the following forms

- Design development (20%) - development of design folios using IT and including freehand and computer-aided drawing
- Practical project production (70%) - manufacture of practical projects in resistant materials using numerically controlled machinery
- Response (10%) – completion of theoretical assignments and written testing of understanding.

Contact

Mr Alec Barbour

Head of Design & Technology

## **Design & Technology – Materials (1 unit)**

Design and Technology – Materials provides students with the opportunity to develop skills in the use of technology in a practical setting. This course aims at developing in students an understanding of the **materials, information** and **systems** that are appropriate to the design and manufacture of products to meet human needs. The underlying focus is the **technology process**, of which the elements of investigating, devising, producing and evaluating are fundamental components. These outcomes (shown in bold type above) are achieved through two courses of study, each of one semester's duration. Students can select both courses.

This subject is suited to those students who are interested in and enjoy working with resistant materials, particularly wood and metal. Students can expect to build upon the knowledge and skills acquired in Year 7 and Year 8 Design and Technology, learning how to use a range of new hand tools, power tools and machinery. The underlying focus of this course is the technology process, with particular emphasis on the design and construction of the CO2 Dragster.

**Assessment** of achievement of the outcomes for these subjects takes the following forms

- Design development (20%) - development of design folios using IT and including freehand and computer aided drawing



- Practical project production (70%) - manufacture of practical projects in resistant materials using numerically controlled machinery.
- Response (10%) – completion of theoretical assignments and written testing of understanding.

Contact

Mr Alec Barbour

Head of Design & Technology

## **Design & Technology - Mechatronics (1 unit)**

This course is designed for students who have enjoyed the Digital Thinking course and would like to extend their skills to controlling electrical components – Physical Computing.

Students will design, assemble and develop control strategies for an autonomous guided vehicle, a MazeBot, that can find its way through a physical maze. Students will be introduced to techniques for CAD/CAM production, assembly and operation of electronic/electrical circuits, developing control strategies for an Arduino microcontroller, and testing and refining the operation of the MazeBot.

Students will be involved with various mechanical, electrical and programming tasks, including

- Designing in 3D using the Catia software suite
- Preparing files for, and operating rapid prototyping equipment such as 3D printer and laser cutter
- Assembly and testing of reduction gearboxes
- Assembly and testing of electrical and electronic circuits, infra-red detectors, switching, power supplies, DC motors, etc
- Introduction to Flowol software to program an Arduino microcontroller, to regulate the function and timing of these circuits
- Refining the performance of mechatronic devices to achieve set tasks

Contact

Mr Alec Barbour

Head of Design & Technology

## **Digital Photography (1 unit)**

Digital Photography has become a core medium for artists and designers and is integrated into this art course, which involves the specialisation, exploration and development of digital photography techniques. Students discover the creative potential of the digital camera by applying traditional photographic values to filmless image capture. This course is designed to develop technical and visual skills by completing short challenging briefs across a range of subjects: portrait and landscape. There will be an introduction to the 'digital darkroom' - editing and managing images using Adobe Photoshop software and uploading work to photo management and sharing applications.

This course will inform the skills needed to develop design language and communication projects that are both studio-based and site-specific. Students are encouraged to have their own digital camera to complete coursework outside of the classroom. Site-specific workshops and practising artists may enrich this course.

The courses of Digital Photography and Graphic Design complement each other. Boys who are

particularly interested in Digital Art should consider studying both options, although it is possible to just study one. Digital Photography places greater emphasis on editing and managing images, whereas Graphic Design places greater emphasis on the creation of graphics and illustrations.

The course will be devised from several studio areas covering a mixture of genres and themes using Adobe Photoshop in 2D and 2.5D formats.

One of the following art styles will be explored: Ancient art, Modernism (Impressionism, Expressionism, Cubism, Art Nouveau, Art Deco, Op Art, Pop Art), Australian art, contemporary craftspeople, designers and photographers, urban art.

### **Assessment**

The course will be assessed with an emphasis on

- Art Making – body of work through inquiry, art practice and presentation
- Art Responding – analysis, interpretative reflection and personal response

Contact

Ms Pam Yordanoff

Head of Art

### **Drama – Full Year (2 units)**

In Drama, boys develop confidence and self-esteem to explore, depict and celebrate human experience, take risks and challenge their own creativity through a collaborative experience. Students are assessed through a variety of exciting and challenging activities of creation, performance and reflection. They experiment with techniques in movement, voice and characterisation, to shape and focus theatrical effect for an audience. They reflect, respond and evaluate drama and become critical, informed audiences.

Boys are assessed through the key activities of rehearsal and co-operation, performance and reflection. They explore and communicate ideas and learn particular processes and skills to enable them to work with drama forms, styles, conventions and technologies. They reflect, respond and evaluate drama and become critical, informed audiences.

The year concludes with boys showcasing their skills in a fully realised scripted play in Semester Two.

The Year 9 Full Year course explores

- Acting for the stage
- Designing Sets and Costumes,
- Mask and commedia dell'arte
- Improvisation
- Stage combat
- Shakespearean scripted scenes
- Group devised theatre
- Australian drama
- Performing in fully realised scripted production in Semester Two

Being involved in the making and creating of drama is a unique and exciting way for students to better understand themselves and their world.

Contact

Mr Gregory Jones

Head of Drama

## **Drama – Half Year (1 unit)**

In Drama, boys develop confidence and self-esteem to explore, depict and celebrate human experience, take risks and challenge their own creativity through a collaborative experience. Students are assessed through a variety of exciting and challenging activities of creation, performance and reflection. They experiment with techniques in movement, voice and characterisation, to shape and focus theatrical effect for an audience. They reflect, respond and evaluate drama and become critical, informed audiences.

The Year 9 Drama – Half Year course is designed to extend their performance skills in theatrical styles and contexts. Students work independently and collaboratively, learning time management skills, showing initiative and demonstrating leadership and interpersonal skills.

The course explores

- Acting
- Mask and commedia dell'arte
- Improvisation
- Stage combat
- Shakespearean scripted scenes
- Group devised theatre
- Australian drama
- Designing Sets and Costume for the stage

Being involved in the making and creating of drama is a unique and exciting way for students to better understand themselves and their world.

Contact

Mr Gregory Jones

Head of Drama

## **French (2 units)**

In French, boys will acquire more advanced competencies in Speaking, Reading, Listening and Writing. Through topics of particular interest to boys, students will improve competency in their own language and how it functions. Students will

- gain a deeper understanding of linguistic conventions
- critically reflect on their own and other cultures and values
- and prepare themselves for the Year 11 and 12 courses

Boys are assessed in Speaking, Reading, Listening and Writing each term as well as in an end of year test.

Boys will complete regular vocabulary and pronunciation tests throughout the term and will have an assessment in Listening, Reading, Writing, and Grammar at the end of each unit. Boys will also prepare for brief oral tests and learn a few lines of French poetry off by heart. We incorporate a cross-curricular unit within the course where the immersive language environment becomes a Geography classroom for a short period of time.

The Languages Department currently offers a bi-annual French tour and exchange program for students interested in immersing themselves in the language and culture.

### **Homework**

Regular practice reviewing words and grammatical concepts learned is fundamental in the acquisition of a language, and as such, this forms an integral part of the course. In Year 9, we expect boys to spend 15-20 minutes each evening reviewing words and grammatical concepts covered in class in addition to any specific homework set by the teacher. Using their Education Perfect platform, students will find it easy to consolidate their learning and build proficiency in their target language.

Contact

Mr Vinko Shain

Head of Languages

### **Graphic Design (1 unit)**

Graphic Design is designed for boys interested in Art and Computing with an aspect of Enterprise. There will be an introduction to the 'digital darkroom' - editing and managing images using the Adobe Creative Suite with Photoshop, Illustrator and possibly Flash and Premier film making software. Boys are encouraged to use their imagination, practise creative teamwork and develop lateral thinking abilities - all skills essential in the workforce. Students will discover the creative potential through hand-made and computer-generated imagery.

The course is designed to develop technical and visual skills by completing short challenging briefs across a range of subjects: product, portrait, still life, documentary and abstraction. Hand drawing is encouraged in the development of ideas and the construction of contemporary graphics and illustrations. Site-specific workshops and practising artists may enrich this course.

The courses of Digital Photography and Graphic Design complement each other. Boys who are particularly interested in Digital Art should consider studying both options, although it is possible to study only one. Digital Photography places greater emphasis on editing and managing images, whereas Graphic Design places greater emphasis on the creation of graphics and illustrations.

The course will be devised from several studio areas covering a mixture of genres and themes using hand drawn, Photoshop and Illustrator tools.

One of the following art styles will be explored: Ancient art, Modernism (Impressionism, Expressionism, Cubism, Art Nouveau, Art Deco, Op Art, Pop Art), Australian art, contemporary craftspeople, designers and photographers, urban art.

## **Assessment**

The course will be assessed with an emphasis on

- Art Making – body of work through inquiry, art practice and presentation
- Art Responding – analysis, interpretative reflection and personal response

Contact

Ms Pam Yordanoff

Head of Art

## **Japanese (2 units)**

In Japanese, boys will acquire more advanced competencies in Speaking, Reading, Listening and Writing. Through topics of particular interest to boys, students will improve competency in their own language and how it functions. Students will

- gain a deeper understanding of linguistic conventions
- critically reflect on their own and other cultures and values
- and prepare themselves for the Year 11 and 12 courses

Students will be assessed in Reading and Writing each term, as well as in Listening and Speaking each semester. Boys will participate in a range of activities and have the opportunity to use modern technology to further strengthen their competency in the Japanese language. We incorporate a cross-curricular unit within the course where the immersive language environment becomes a Geography classroom for a short period of time.

The Languages Department currently offers a bi-annual tour and exchange program to Japan for students interested in immersing themselves in the language and culture.

## **Homework**

Regular practice reviewing words and grammatical concepts learned is fundamental in the acquisition of a language and as such, forms an integral part of the course. In Year 9, we expect boys to spend 15-20 minutes each evening reviewing words and grammatical concepts covered in class in addition to any specific homework set by the teacher. Using their Education Perfect platform, students will find it easy to consolidate their learning and build proficiency in their target language.

Contact

Mr Vinko Shain

Head of Languages

## **Music – Extension (2 units)**

It is very important that our talented musicians are given the opportunity to develop their potential, both individually and with the support of their fellow musicians. This course, in conjunction with the co-curricular Music Program, is designed to increase musical awareness, develop musicianship and provide stimulating and challenging creative and performance activities. It is assumed that students enrolling in this specialist course are already learning a musical instrument and have some prior musical background. All current holders of either a Music Bursary or Scholarship are expected to enrol. Membership of co-

curricular music ensembles and the senior choir is a requirement.

During the course, students will

- Work towards AMEB examinations in Theory or Musicianship at their appropriate Grade (External examinations are held in August).
- Engage in creative listening and learn basic score reading and analysis in a wide variety of styles
- Study the instruments of the Symphony Orchestra
- Develop aural perception skills
- Develop arranging and composing skills
- Develop keyboard skills
- Learn the use of IT and Music Software (composition, arranging, sequencing, score production, aural work)
- Attend selected public concerts e.g. West Australian Symphony, WA Youth Jazz Orchestra, Australian Chamber Orchestra
- Participate in concerts, musical productions, and services
- Give solo (with accompanist) and ensemble performances in class
- Research and produce written assignments on composers, music periods etc.

### **Assessment**

Students will be assessed in the following course areas

- Aural
- Theory and basic music knowledge
- Performance (solo and group contexts)
- Composition.

Contact

Mr Kevin Gillam

Director of Music

## **Music – General (1 unit)**

This course is designed to provide exciting experiences in creating, listening to and learning about contemporary (popular) music. Students do not need a prior background in music to join this course.

The three main components of this course are:

- **The History of Rock/Popular Music**  
The study of the development of Rock/ Pop Music from the 1950s to the present.
- **Composition**  
The creation of contemporary music tracks (Rock, House, Rap etc) through the use of software such as Garage Band.

- **Basic Theory**

Learning more about how music works through the study of basic music theory; advancing music reading and performing skills in the keyboard laboratory.

Contact

Mr Kevin Gillam

Director of Music

## **Philosophy (1 unit)**

Humans often ponder over why *things* are the way they are, what *things* mean, how we come to know about *things*, and how this influences the way we ought to live our lives. When we study Philosophy we train our minds to think about these issues from an objective standpoint, using reason. Boys who study this elective will explore philosophical responses to a range of thought-provoking questions such as:

- What makes right and wrong actually 'right' or 'wrong'?
- Is it always wrong to torture people?
- What is justice?
- Is it ever possible to do a truly selfless act?
- Do refugees have a right to seek asylum in Australia?
- How should society be run?
- Do we possess free will or are our actions determined?
- What, if anything, happens when we die?

The strong emphasis on reasoning in this course will provide boys with valuable transferable skills. The ability to analyse, clarify, evaluate and advance a rational argument will aid their progress in other subjects and equip them for future study.

Boys are assessed on their ability to advance convincing, rational arguments within the context of the philosophical themes studied. Ordinarily this will involve extended argument responses, though problem-solving and project-based work will also be incorporated into assessments.

Students need an open mind and a willingness to apply reason to enduring philosophical themes.

Contact

Mr Patrick Parker

Head of Humanities

## **Psychology (1 unit)**

Psychology is the scientific study of how people think, feel and act. It is a systematic exploration into the complexities of human behaviour based on evidence gathered through experimental research.

This semester long course introduces students to a breadth of knowledge focusing on the psychology of self and others. We will study cognition, or the way we think; personality, the enduring traits that distinguish individuals and the factors that influence relationships and socialisation.

Assessment of achievement of the outcomes for this subject takes the following forms

- Short answer and extended answer response tests
- Students plan and conduct a study on human subjects to answer a research question. This will include hypothesising, designing, controlling variables, gathering and organising data, and interpreting and evaluating research findings.

Contact

Mr Edward Hogg

Head of Science

## **Systems and Networking (1 unit)**

How does a computer system work? How does one computer talk to another computer? These are just some of the questions that we will investigate in this course.

Systems and Networking will give you the chance to learn more about the different components inside your computer and how they work. Once you have learnt what all the different parts are you will be given the opportunity to build your own computer. After building their own computer systems, students will learn how to install an operating system on their computer and set that system up. Once everyone has built a computer, students will look at how computers are able to communicate and what devices are needed to set up a network. Students will then have the opportunity to set up a small network together and diagnose and solve various network issues.

Students are able to choose up to two Computer Science courses, including this course. The other recommended Computer Science courses are App Development and Website Development.

Contact

Mr Graham Nolan (Term 2 only)  
Acting Head of Computer Science

Mr Chris Anderson  
Head of Computer Science

## **Visual Art – Atelier (Half Year) (1 unit)**

A 'hands on' focus will apply to this Year 9 Visual Arts - Atelier (Half Year) course to develop bespoke studio projects in both 2D and 3D artforms. Each project will incorporate research and drawing to develop designs. Projects will be selected to build and refine skills in illustration, painting, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking and/or design forms – architectural, photographic or digital, based upon a genre or theme.

**Art Making:** Students will document their ideas applying an understanding of compositional structure to create a unique personal response, while representing either a theme/concept or subject matter. They will experience, adapt and manipulate materials, techniques, art styles/processes when producing 2D and 3D artworks which communicate artistic intention, applying knowledge of techniques used by other artists, in the production of their own work. Resolved artworks are displayed and evaluated, with consideration to personal expression. Students extend their knowledge and use of safe visual arts practice.

**Art Responding:** Students experience a growing awareness of how and why artists are influenced by other artists, their environment and the global contexts of culture, time and place. They are required to critically analyse traditional and/or contemporary artworks using various analysis frameworks,



incorporating appropriate visual language, art terminology and conventions.

One of the following art styles will be explored: Ancient art, Modernism (Impressionism, Expressionism, Cubism, Art Nouveau, Art Deco, Op Art, Pop Art), Australian art, contemporary craftspeople, designers and photographers, urban art.

### **Assessment**

The course will be assessed with an emphasis on

- Art Making – body of work through inquiry, art practice and presentation
- Art Responding – analysis, interpretive reflection and personal response

Contact

Ms Pam Yordanoff

Head of Art

## **Visual Art – Atelier (Full Year) (2 units)**

This Year 9 Visual Art - Atelier (Full Year) course extends students to use visual language and artistic conventions of greater complexity during their design and production process. Students are challenged to create visual meaning through Art by developing expressive responses to a personal context while developing their art practice.

**Art Making:** Students will document their ideas applying an understanding of compositional structure to create a unique personal response, while representing either a theme/concept or subject matter. They will experience, adapt and manipulate materials, techniques, art styles/processes when producing 2D and 3D artworks which communicate artistic intention, applying knowledge of techniques used by other artists, in the production of their own work. Resolved artworks are displayed and evaluated, with consideration to personal expression. Students extend their knowledge and use of safe visual arts practice.

**Art Responding:** Students experience a growing awareness of how and why artists are influenced by other artists, their environment and the global contexts of culture, time and place. They are required to critically analyse traditional and/or contemporary artworks using various analysis frameworks, incorporating appropriate visual language, art terminology and conventions.

The course includes 2D and 3D projects that develop and extend skills painting/mixed media, printmaking, sculpture, illustration, installation, ceramics, architectural design and/or digital media based around a genre, theme/concept or subject matter.

The breadth of studio work in the Full Year course, builds a cumulative skill set that assists in preparation for the Visual Arts course offerings in Year 10, 11 and Year 12. Students may have a different teacher in each semester of this course.

One of the following art styles will be explored: Ancient art, Modernism (Impressionism, Expressionism, Cubism, Art Nouveau, Art Deco, Op Art, Pop Art), Australian art, contemporary craftspeople, designers and photographers, urban art.

## **Assessment**

The course will be assessed with an emphasis on

- Art Making – body of work through inquiry, art practice and presentation
- Art Responding – analysis, interpretive reflection and personal response

Contact

Ms Pam Yordanoff

Head of Art

## **Website Development (1 unit)**

In this course students will develop their understanding of the Internet and how it works by creating their own websites and hosting those websites on a webserver so they can be accessed over the Internet.

Students will learn how to use HTML5 to structure the content of a webpage, and then apply CSS3 to add visual styling to their pages. They will then learn how to use the JavaScript programming language to create dynamic websites that allow for user interaction with their websites. Once their websites have been created, students will learn how to set up a webserver to allow other people to view their website on the Internet.

Contact

Mr Graham Nolan (Term 2 only)  
Acting Head of Computer Science

Mr Chris Anderson  
Head of Computer Science

# Studies Office Contacts

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