
DAMASCUS COLLEGE

YEAR 9 - MY PATHWAYS



FOR STUDENTS GOING INTO YEAR 9

Core Subjects

In Year 9 you will continue to study the following core subjects:

- Religious Education
- English
- Mathematics and Digital Technology
- Humanities
- Science
- Physical Education/Health

Pathways Choices

In addition to your core subjects, you have the opportunity to choose to study subjects which you particularly enjoy and which will help you to achieve your long-term goals. You need to choose six subjects: three subjects for Semester One and three subjects for Semester Two. Note if you choose French, Indonesian or Arabic, you must take this subject in both semesters, therefore you will only need four other subject choices: two for Semester One and two for Semester Two. The subjects that you may choose from are listed on the following page.

You can also only choose up to two Health/ PE electives for the year.

Note: we cannot guarantee that all subjects will run, as this is dependent on timetabling and student numbers.

My Pathways Subject Choices

Please click on any of the subject headings in the list below to be taken to information specific to each subject.

SUBJECTS	SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2
Drama: From Page to Stage	•	
Drama: Acting Smart		•
Art: Art Influences	•	
Art: Art Reflections		•
Visual Communication: A-Z	•	
Visual Communication: Elements of Design		•
Music: Rock through History	•	
Music: Music in Film and the Musical		•
Mathematics and Digital Technology: Coding with Python	•	
Mathematics and Digital Technology: Data Analytics using Power BI		•
Mathematics and Digital Technology: Adobe Illustrator Graphics and In Design Publishing	•	
Mathematics and Digital Technology: Adobe Animation and Dreamweaver Web Design		•
Arabic *	•	•
French *	•	•
Indonesian *	•	•
Footy Codes**	•	•
Hoops and Nets**	•	•
Strength and Conditioning	•	•
Horticulture - Introduction to Horticultural Science	•	
Horticulture - Science meets Art		•
Science and Technology: Food and Consumer Science **	•	•
Food Technology: The Treasures of Food**	•	•
Wood: Design in Furniture	•	
Wood: Centre Turning and Design		•
Metal: Furniture in Metal	•	
Metal Craft		•
Electronics: Make Music Using Electronics	•	
Electronics: Communication Electronics		•
Textiles: Machine Madness	•	
Textiles: Creative Fashion		•

* Must be taken for two semesters, leaving four other pathways subjects

** May only be taken for one semester



Drama: From Page to Stage (Semester 1)

What's it about?

- Learning the skills and techniques of developing original plays and performances from oral and written stories
- Starting points or stimulus for play creation including personal stories, fables and contemporary newspaper articles
- Developing confidence in performance through collaborative playmaking, teamwork and trust

Activities students may engage in:

- Working in teams to develop, rehearse, refine and perform original dramatic pieces
- Written work and analytical reflections and evaluations associated with performance tasks

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Drama: Acting Smart (Semester 2)

What's it about?

- Developing creativity through game and exercises that encourage spontaneity, imagination and divergent thinking
- Exploring skills and clever techniques that make the presentation of original plays and performances more dynamic and interesting
- Creating a journey through the transformation of objects, soundscapes, conflict stories and scripted scene work
- Developing confidence in performance through collaborative playmaking, teamwork and trust
- Exploring stagecraft such as lighting, props and sound
- Learning to further skills in creating character through movement, voice and mime

Activities students may engage in:

- Working in teams to develop, rehearse, refine and perform original dramatic pieces
- Improvisation and mime
- Written work and analytical reflections and evaluations associated with performance tasks

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Art: Art Influences (Semester 1)

What's it about?

- Engaging in two and three dimensional activities which have been designed to develop skills and creativity while drawing on influences from other artists and styles

Activities students may engage in:

- Problem-solving and creative thinking
- Development of artistic responses
- Art appreciation activities
- Drawing, collage, sculpture and canvas painting

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Art: Art Reflections (Semester 2)

What's it about?

- Studying portraiture as a major theme
- Producing a realistic self-portrait on canvas and using Photoshop to help create both realistic and abstract works
- Producing works related to the theme

Activities students may engage in:

- Research portraiture
- Analysis, discussion and evaluation of artworks
- Drawing, painting, sculpture

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Visual Communication: A-Z (Semester 1)

What's it about?

- Students develop their skills in observational drawing
- They deepen their understanding of the design element of Type
- They explore different mediums, themes and methods using Type as the central theme

Activities students may engage in:

- They will explore the commercial world of advertisement focusing on using effective type and layout in advertising design with manual and digital manipulation
- Analysing and researching the rich history on the design element of Type
- They will utilise drawing instruments to explore perspective and other forms of technical drawing

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Visual Communication: Elements of Design (Semester 2)

What's it about?

- Students work through a design brief that requires them to come up with solutions to a variety of design problems.
- They will cover all three design fields such as Communication, Industrial and Environmental.

Activities students may engage in:

- Working in the role of designer to create a product design folio
- Using freehand or instruments to draw from observation
- Create a three-dimensional representation of a product
- Design packaging

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Music: Rock Through History (Semester 1)

What's it about?

- Learning the basics of music notation and aurally recognising melody and rhythm in music
- Exploring the styles of popular music from the 1950's through to the 1990's
- Performing different styles of music from these decades as a group on a variety of instruments including voice

Activities students may engage in:

- Using the instruments and voice to identify and develop different elements of music
- Developing music notation and aural skills through completion of written and aural tasks
- Exploring the decades of popular music by rehearsing and performing as a group and completing research tasks and an assignment task

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Music: Music in Film and The Musical (Semester 2)

What's it about?

- Learning the basics of music notation and aurally recognising melody and rhythm in music
- Exploring the musical elements of film music and the music through written and performance based activities
- Working as a group to develop musical pieces on a variety of instruments

Activities students may engage in:

- Analysing the development of the musical and music in film through performance, research and analysis tasks
- Composing a short piece of music to a film sequence within a given structure using a variety of instruments
- Rehearsing and performing the music of film and the musical as a group on a variety of instruments including voice

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Mathematics and Digital Technology: Coding with Python

What's it about?

- Developing an understanding of the concept of an algorithm; a well-defined set of instructions designed to perform a particular task or solve a type of problem.
- Exploring coding and its applications in algorithmics

Activities students may engage in:

- Familiarisation with common algorithms in number and decision mathematics
- Coding with Edgy and Python

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Mathematics and Digital Technology: Data Analytics with Power BI

What's it about?

- Power BI is a business analytics service by Microsoft. It aims to provide interactive visualisations and business intelligence capabilities with an interface simple enough for end users to create their own reports and dashboards. It is part of the Microsoft Power Platform.

Activities students may engage in:

- Use excel for calculations and analysis of data
- Find and share meaningful insights with hundreds of data visualisations, using Power BI

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Mathematics and Digital Technology: Adobe Illustrator Graphics and In Design Publishing (Semester 1)

What's it about?

- Students will develop an understanding of responsible use of computers and the internet in a networked environment, basic technology terms and concepts (data/information, information system)
- Exploring complex design environments (Adobe Illustrator and Adobe InDesign) to create and manipulate computer-aided graphics and desktop publishing

Activities students may engage in:

- Designing and creating graphics in Adobe Illustrator's design studio, including a project of the student's choice
- Designing and publishing flyers and posters in Adobe InDesign's design studio
- Research and analysis of theory work

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Mathematics and Digital Technology: Adobe Animation and Dreamweaver Web Design (Semester 2)

What's it about?

- Students will develop an understanding of responsible use of computers and the internet in a networked environment, basic technology terms and concepts (data/information, information system)
- Exploring complex design environments (Adobe Flash and Adobe Dreamweaver) to create flash animations and websites

Activities students may engage in:

- Designing and creating flash animation in Adobe Flash's design studio, including a project of a student's choice
- Designing and creating a website in Adobe Dreamweaver's design studio
- Research and analysis of theory work

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LANGUAGES

Learning a foreign language isn't just about being able to travel the world more easily. It's an opportunity to gain deep insight into another culture which fosters tolerance and understanding between people. As our cities become more diverse, we are in a far stronger position to communicate with others which allows us to appreciate our own culture just as much.

Learning a foreign language allows us to develop many skills which are relevant for our other subjects too: analytical skills, problem-solving skills, creativity, listening and communication skills, as well as enhancing memory. We learn more about English when we study a foreign language.

Learning a foreign language makes you much more employable in the future. Business skills and foreign language skills go hand in hand; you are at a distinct advantage in the global market if you are able to speak another language. An employee is much more valuable if able to communicate in another language.

Foreign languages open the door to art, music, dance, fashion, cuisine, film, philosophy, science as well as enhancing opportunities in government, business, medicine, law, technology, military, industry and marketing.

Arabic for Beginners

What's it about?

- Suitable for absolute beginners
- An introduction to the Arabic alphabet
- Reading & writing Arabic script
- Basic conversation – greetings, sharing personal information
- Developing a basic knowledge of vocabulary – classroom objects, numbers, food, colours
- Cultural awareness – the geography of Arabic-speaking countries, music, food, festivals, news items

Activities students may engage in:

- Learning the different shapes of the letters of the Arabic alphabet, practising writing and reading
- Listening to authentic Arabic recordings in order to elicit information
- Engaging in role-plays in Arabic, scripted and unscripted
- Creating an Arabic playlist
- Researching traditional Arabic dishes, cooking & sharing them
- Producing a presentation on an Arabic-speaking country
- Games
- Developing IT skills – using interactive software, collaborating on shared documents

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French

What's it about?

- Discussing the house and home, where you live and helping with housework.
- Talking about your daily routine
- Planning a holiday at a French-speaking destination
- Talking about activities in the past
- Increasing awareness of French-speaking countries and their cultural aspects
- Forging links with overseas students and establishing relationships with native French-speakers

Activities students may engage in:

- Developing speaking skills, enabling students to communicate more confidently and accurately in French
- Extending grammatical knowledge by learning new tenses in the past and the future
- Extending responses to give more detail, opinion and justification.
- Writing longer pieces, working towards extended writing towards the end of Year 9 in specific text types
- Developing listening skills through longer extracts with more complex vocabulary, eliciting finer details
- Researching topics and producing presentations in different formats
- Comprehension of, and response to, short written material and aural texts
- Participation in short role-plays using scripted and unscripted materials
- Completing cloze grammar exercises
- Applying new and recycled grammar rules to construct sentences and short paragraphs
- Developing IT skills, sharing collaborative documents and using interactive software

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Indonesian

What's it about?

- Establishing and maintaining a spoken and written exchange related to daily routines and sporting activities
- Listening and reading to obtain information from spoken and written texts
- Identifying animals and their habitat
- Naming body parts
- Bargaining in the market

Activities students may engage in:

- The production and performance of a role play: 'A Visit to a Restaurant'
- Creation of a house plan
- Make and perform a Wayang Kulit puppet play
- Taking part in bargaining situations at a market
- Developing speaking skills, enabling students to communicate more confidently and accurately in Indonesian
- Extending grammatical knowledge by learning new tenses in the past and the future
- Extending responses to give more detail, opinion and justification.
- Writing longer pieces, working towards extended writing towards the end of Year 9 in specific text types
- Developing listening skills through longer extracts with more complex vocabulary, eliciting finer details
- Researching topics and producing presentations in different formats
- Comprehension of, and response to, short written material and aural texts
- Participation in short role-plays using scripted and unscripted materials
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Footy Codes

What's it about?

- Exploring and executing movement skills from a games based approach
- Exploring influences on movement including individual, task and environmental constraints on motor skill development for the football code activities
- Analysing the various football codes to review the importance of skill frequencies, movement patterns, heart rates and work to rest ratios
- Exploring the football codes from a skill acquisition perspective
- Sports nutrition and its importance for athletic performance

Activities students may engage in:

- Touch football
- American football
- Soccer
- Australian/International Rules Football

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Hoops and Nets

What's it about?

- Exploring, understanding and executing movement skills from a biomechanics perspective – examples include Newton's Laws of motion, force, levers and projectile motion. How can we use biomechanical principles to improve sport performance and technique when performing certain skills?
- Exploring the role of sports psychology – in particular stress, anxiety and arousal. How do these factors affect athletic performance?
- Understanding the importance of injury prevention in sport – including the skeletal and muscular systems. What strategies can we put in place to ensure our bodies are well prepared for physical activity?

Activities students may engage in:

- Netball, basketball, volleyball, tennis, badminton
- Lab tasks linked to sports psychology topics
- Peer coaching and drill development

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Strength and Conditioning

What's it about?

- Will visit Federation University Sports Precinct and work with the strength and conditioning coaches, to enhance their chosen sporting pursuits.
- Work with coaches to design an individual training program that the students will complete each week
- Learn to use the gym equipment safely, and taught the correct technique to complete their individual session each week.
- Understand the need for specific flexibility and core strengthening program to improve their personal sporting performance
- Evaluate an understanding the role of specific running programs in enhancing the athlete's chosen sport.
- Students will need to complete an application form and fitness testing component to be considered for this elective.

Activities students may engage in:

- Weight training, Plyometric, Cardio and Flexibility training.
- Understand the role of and complete an athlete-training diary
- Skill analysis and individual performance review.

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HORTICULTURE

Students can select each semester as a stand-alone subject; or they may elect to take both units, and study Horticulture for the entire year.

Horticulture - Introduction to Horticultural Science (Semester 1)

What's it about?

- Skills in taxonomy – naming and identifying plants scientifically
- Learning how to propagate plants, using seed, bulbs, layering and other vegetative methods
- The theory of plant growth and its practical application in training crop plants
- Describing and analysing natural soils
- Identifying the signs and symptoms of garden pests and diseases, and recognising the animals that help us in the garden

Activities students may engage in:

- Compiling a weed herbarium
- Sowing seeds in pots and in the garden beds
- Setting up plant husbandry trials in the garden
- Pruning and shaping plants to maximise production
- Carrying out scientific tests, including soil and pH testing
- Caring for summer crops, and harvesting the produce from the garden

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Horticulture - Science meets Art (Semester 2)

What's it about?

- Skills in taxonomy – further levels of plant naming and study of plant families
- Propagating plants by more artificial methods, including stem and leaf cuttings
- Applying plant training theory to the pruning of fruit trees and vines
- Artificial growing media – what we can use where we don't want to grow plants in soil
- Garden design – applying graphic skills to presenting garden plans

Activities students may engage in:

- Compiling a weed herbarium
- Sowing seeds in pots and in the garden beds
- Setting up plant husbandry trials in the garden
- Pruning and shaping plants to maximise production
- Carrying out scientific tests, including soil and pH testing
- Caring for summer crops, and harvesting the produce from the garden

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Science and Technology: Food and Consumer Science

What's it about?

This STEM course will investigate the Science involved in:

- The design, manufacture and analysis (microbiological, chemical and sensory) of food and other consumer products
- Introducing students to an area of study that connects Science and Food Studies
- Allowing a practical application of Science techniques to the manufacture of products used and consumed by the general public.
- Introducing students to the varied occupational roles in the Food and Consumer industries

Activities students may engage in:

The subject will be a balance between practical and theory; with students:

- Researching and developing their own new product (in the food kitchen) which will then be analysed (in the Science laboratories)
- Studying the course for one semester, helping to prepare them for further studies in VCE Science subjects and VCE Food & Technology

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Food Technology: The Treasures of Food

What's it about?

- Identifying, researching and developing confidence when cooking the key foods, eg fruit, cereal grains, etc
- Gaining knowledge using a range of cooking techniques appropriate for a selected key food
- Practising kitchen organisation, safety and hygiene principles and the further development of skills using tools and equipment
- Continuing to develop greater complexity and knowledge of the design process

Activities students may engage in:

- Production tasks
- Designing some of their own meals/dishes
- Researching basic processes and cooking techniques

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Wood: Design in Furniture (Semester 1)

What's it about?

- Learning the correct and safe use of hand tools and basic power tools while designing and constructing a small bedside table
- Investigating, designing, producing and evaluating a small bedside table

Activities students may engage in:

- Developing proficiency in woodworking
- Using tools and machinery safely

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Wood: Centre Turning and Design (Semester 2)

What's it about?

- Designing, producing and evaluating a pedestal table
- Learning to safely use a wood lathe
- Investigating a variety of jointing techniques

Activities students may engage in:

- Production
- Research
- Practising wood lathe skills and other techniques

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Metal: Furniture in Metal (Semester 1)

What's it about?

- Learning to safely use hand tools and power tools including saws, grinders and MIG Welder to design and produce a product

Activities students may engage in:

- Designing (sketching and drawing)
- Production techniques
- Finishing techniques
- Working in teams and evaluating

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Metal Craft (Semester 2)

What's it about?

- Learning to safely use hand tools and power tools to design and produce a product in Aluminium

Activities students may engage in:

- Designing (sketching and drawing)
- Production techniques
- Finishing techniques
- Working in teams and evaluating

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Electronics: Make Music Using Electronics (Semester 1)

What's it about?

- Developing skills in the design and manufacturing of integrated electronic components that produce and amplify music
- Developing skills in design work and assembly techniques
- Learning how to find faults in systems using testing equipment

Activities students may engage in:

- Making circuit boards and other systems

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Electronics: Communication Electronics (Semester 2)

What's it about?

- Exploring the world of electronics through the construction of small projects
- Learning about electronic components and how to construct circuits/minor projects safely
- Identifying basic components and their role in systems

Activities students may engage in:

- Designing and producing simple electronic systems

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Textiles: Machine Madness (Semester 1)

What's it about?

- Producing a variety of articles through machine construction using commercial patterns
- Self-evaluation of completed articles, including ways of improving or modifying work

Activities students may engage in:

- Learning basic construction skills using a commercial pattern e.g. pyjamas, boxers and natural fibre fabric

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Textiles: Creative Fashion (Semester 2)

What's it about?

- Further developing the skills and knowledge previously learnt
- Developing skills and processes to incorporate into clothing articles e.g. zips, buttons/buttonholes, facings, collars and bindings
- Self-evaluation of completed articles, including ways of improving or modifying work

Activities students may engage in:

- Using natural or natural blend woven fabrics to make a fashionable zippered garment of own choice using commercial patterns

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YEAR 9 SUBJECT SELECTION FORM

Name:	
TA:	

How many subjects do I choose?

In addition to your core subjects (see table below), you have the opportunity to study subjects that you particularly enjoy or find interesting. These subjects may help you achieve your long-term goals.

In the table below you will need to choose a total of six subjects: three subjects for semester one and three subjects for semester two.

Note 1: If you choose French, Indonesian or Arabic, you must take this subject in both semesters; therefore, you will only need four other subject choices: two for semester one and two for semester two.

Note 2: You will need to indicate two reserves for each semester, in case there is a clash with the electives you have chosen. Your reserves must be different from the elective choices you have placed in the table below.

SUBJECTS	SEMESTER 1	SEMESTER 2
Religious Education		
English		
Mathematics		
Humanities		
Science		
Physical Education/Health		
Elective Choice 1		
Elective Choice 2		
Elective Choice 3		
Different from those listed already for Semester 1 and Semester 2		
Elective Reserve 1		
Elective Reserve 2		

Parent Signature:	
Student Signature:	
TA Signature:	

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Frequently Asked Question

Year 8 into Year 9

What electives are offered in Year 9?

Students and parents can see the electives offered in Year 9 on page 3.

What are the core subjects for Year 9?

- Religious Education
- English
- Mathematics
- Humanities
- Science
- Physical Education/Health

How many subjects do I choose?

In addition to your core subjects, you have the opportunity to choose three study subjects which you particularly enjoy and which will help you to achieve your long term goals.

You need to choose six subjects: three subjects for Semester One and three subjects for Semester Two.

Note: if you choose French or Indonesian, you must take this subject in both semesters, therefore you will only need four other subject choices: two for semester one and two for semester two.

What do I need to do in Year 8?

Fill out the draft subject selection form for Year 9 prior to your TA interviews. Subjects need to be signed by your parents and TAs prior to entering your preferences online in Term 3.

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