
DAMASCUS COLLEGE

YEAR 9 - MY PATHWAYS 2026





FOR STUDENTS GOING INTO YEAR 9

Core Subjects

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

- Religious Education
- English
- Mathematics
- 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 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. 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 with Individuality	•	
Art: Creation with Style		•
Visual Communications and Design: Communicate It!	•	
Visual Communications and Design: Design It!		•
Music: Rock through History	•	
Music: Music in Film and the Musical		•
Media: Produce It! **	•	•
Digital Technology: Data Analytics using Power BI	•	
Digital Technology: Coding with Python		•
Digital Technology: Adobe Illustrator Graphics and InDesign Publishing	•	
Digital Technology: Adobe Animation and Dreamweaver Web Design		•
French *	•	•
Indonesian *	•	•
Sports Skills **	•	•
Healthy Living **	•	•
Strength and Conditioning **	•	•
Horticulture – Introduction to Horticultural Science	•	
Horticulture – Science meets Art		•
Science and Technology: Creative STEAM Solutions **	•	•
Food Technology: The Treasures of Food **	•	•
Wood: Design in Furniture	•	
Wood: Centre Turning and Design		•
Metal: Designing – Twisting, Curling, Folding and Welding	•	
Metal Craft		•
Systems Engineering: Light 'em up	•	
Systems Engineering: eSports		•
Textiles: Sleepwear Sets	•	
Textiles: Lazy Loungewear		•

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

** May only be taken for one semester

YEAR 9 PATHWAY SUBJECTS



Drama: From Page to Stage (Semester 1)

What is it all about?

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

What will I learn?

- You will learn to work with others, use your imagination and creativity to explore and create characters and ideas through Drama
- Improve your skills as a performer and learn how to better create and present your own original theatrical presentations
- Play games, engage in activities and participate in practical workshops to develop your acting abilities

What type of activities will I do?

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

Why choose this subject?

The skills that are learnt by studying drama are invaluable in later life. For example, being able to speak and present confidently in front of people, and the skill of planning that is required in any solo or group-based performance is useful in most careers. Drama can be a good basis for a career not only in the theatre, but in advertising, the film industry, events planning, teaching and any workplace that thrives on interpersonal relationships and creative collaboration.

BACK TO SUBJECT CHOICES

Drama: Acting Smart (Semester 2)

What is it all 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 original performance 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, sound and learning to further skills in creating character through movement, voice and mime.

What will I learn?

- You will learn to work with others, use your imagination and creativity to explore and create characters and ideas through Drama
- Improve your skills as a performer and learn how to better create and present your own original theatrical presentations
- Play games, engage in activities and participate in practical workshops to develop your acting abilities

What type of activities will I do?

- Working in teams to develop, rehearse, refine, and perform original dramatic pieces
- Exploring improvisation, mime, transformation, and conflict through devised and scripted work
- Written work and analytical reflections and evaluations associated with performance task

Why choose this subject?

The skills of Drama are important to working in the entertainment industry but are also essential aspects to any workplace, these include: ability to think on one's feet and work under pressure and work alone or on a team. Being an active listener and able to accept feedback. The adaptability to work in different environments and time management with analytical skills, communication and interpersonal skills. If you are determined, disciplined, patient, possess excellent presentation skills and public speaking then Drama is a subject you may like to consider.

BACK TO SUBJECT CHOICES

Art: Art with Individuality (Semester 1)

What is it all about?

Studying portraiture as a major theme students experiment with creating portraits across variety of art forms, media and styles.

What will I learn?

- Skills in planning and developing artworks
- Skills to develop creative work in a variety of materials and techniques
- How to investigate and draw inspiration from a range of artists past and present
- How to develop your ideas from a concept to a final piece

What type of activities will I do?

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

Why choose this subject?

If you are an innovative student who loves to draw, design and generally be creative this subject is for you. You will learn how to communicate your ideas effectively and experiment with a range of materials and techniques with a focus on portraiture.

[BACK TO SUBJECT CHOICES](#)

Art: Creation with Style (Semester 2)

What is it all about?

Studying landscapes as a major theme students experiment with creating artworks across a variety of art forms and media while drawing on influences from other artists and styles.

What will I learn?

- Skills to develop creative work in a variety of materials and techniques
- How to communicate your ideas effectively
- How to investigate and analyse a range of artists and styles from both past and present
- The influence that past artists and cultures have on our lives and the world around us

What type of activities will I do?

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

Why choose this subject?

If you are an innovative student who loves to draw, design and generally be creative, this subject is for you. You will learn how to communicate your ideas effectively and experiment with a range of materials and techniques with a focus on landscapes.

[BACK TO SUBJECT CHOICES](#)

Visual Communication: Communicate It! (Semester 1)

What is it all about?

In this unit students will sharpen their drawing skills and master computer software like Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop. You will learn how to make creative visuals that speak to different audiences. By the end, you will have a bag of tricks for expressing yourself creatively.

What will I learn?

To use your imagination to solve design problems:

- How to create hyper realistic drawings
- To create designs using Adobe software
- How to create an advertisement

What type of activities will I do?

- Explore and analyse practising designers
- Learn how to create a folio and design solutions to a brief
- Create hyper-realistic drawings
- Create advertisements
- Enhance your digital skills in Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop

Why choose this subject?

Visual Communication Design is for students who love drawing and designing. This subject is for innovative students who want to learn how to communicate their ideas effectively. This subject is creative and a folio subject. If you are someone who loves art, but finds a blank canvas daunting, this is the subject for you.

[BACK TO SUBJECT CHOICES](#)

Visual Communication: Design It! (Semester 2)

What is it all about?

In this unit, you will work on real-world problems in Communication, Industrial, and Environmental design. From brainstorming solutions to putting your ideas into action, get ready to flex your creative muscles to make some serious design magic happen!

What will I learn?

- You will learn to understand how to make your own effective visual communication designs using the design process
- You will also develop your ability to work independently and purposefully on the set tasks and improve your communication skills
- You will begin to develop the skills of a designer
- How to create visual communications using the design process
- The different design fields designers work in
- How to create and market products
- To create design using Adobe software

What type of activities will I do?

- Work as a designer in the Environmental, Industrial and Communication design fields
- Design a shop front
- Design a product
- Design packaging

Why choose this subject?

Visual Communication Design is for students who love drawing and designing. This subject is for innovative students who want to learn how to communicate their ideas effectively. This subject is creative and a folio subject. If you are someone who loves art, but finds a blank canvas daunting, this is the subject for you.

[BACK TO SUBJECT CHOICES](#)

Music: Rock Through History (Semester 1)

What is it all about?

Learning the basics of music notation and aurally recognising melody and rhythm in music; exploring and researching the styles of popular music from the 1950s through to the 1990s; performing different styles of music from these decades as a group on a variety of instruments including voice.

What will I learn?

- To read, sing and play different rhythms and melodies
- To aurally identify differences in pitch and rhythm
- To play the basics of various styles of music in rock history in a group setting on a chosen instrument
- To listen to and identify the different elements of music and write about them using music language
- Discuss, research and write about the many influences of society and culture on the music of the decades 1950 - 1990

What type of activities will I do?

- Exploring the decades of popular music by rehearsing and performing as a group, completing research tasks and an assignment task
- Singing and playing activities related to pitch and rhythm using percussion and voice
- Notation tasks that develop skills in reading and writing music

Why choose this subject?

Music: Rock through History is a subject that you might choose if you like to listen to and analyse different music through discussion, research, writing, singing, and playing. It is a subject that will develop your ability to read music and play as a group. Music helps develop confidence and self-esteem and develop anxiety management strategies and work as part of a team in an enjoyable environment. You do not need to have experience on an instrument to do this subject but a willingness to participate.

[BACK TO SUBJECT CHOICES](#)

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

What is it all about?

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

What will I learn?

- To read, sing and play different rhythms and melodies
- To aurally identify differences in pitch and rhythm
- To play the basics of various music from films and musicals in a group setting on a chosen instrument
- To listen to and identify the different elements of music and write about them
- To research, discuss and write about the music found in films and in musicals

What type of activities will I do?

- Analysing the development of the musical and music in film through research and analysis tasks
- Composing a short piece of music to a film sequence using a variety of instruments
- Rehearsing and performing the music of film and the musical as a group
- Singing and playing activities related to pitch and rhythm using percussion and voice
- Notation tasks that develop skills in reading and writing music

Why choose this subject?

Music in Film and The Musical is a subject that you might choose if you like to listen to and analyse the music of film and musicals via discussion, research, writing, composing, singing and playing. It is a subject that will develop your ability to read and write music and play as a group on an instrument of your choice. Music helps develop confidence and self-esteem and develop anxiety management strategies and work as part of a team in an enjoyable environment. You do not need to have experience on an instrument to do this subject but a willingness to participate.

[BACK TO SUBJECT CHOICES](#)



Media: Produce It!

May only be taken for one semester

What is it all about?

In this introductory course, you will learn essential media vocabulary, techniques, and technologies to create your own media projects. A key focus will be on photography and film, where you'll explore the art of visual storytelling. You will discover how to capture images that convey messages, emotions, and narratives, and understand the principles of crafting and manipulating images to communicate effectively in different media contexts.

What will I learn?

- The pre-production process, how to write intentions, shot list, scripts and storyboards
- The production process, developing and experimenting with photography and filming techniques to tell unique and individual stories
- The post-production process, sound, editing techniques and software to bring your story to life.
- Hands-on projects and assignments to apply knowledge and creativity

What type of activities will I do?

- Writing film scripts and storyboards
- Learn to use different cameras: DSLRs, smartphones and associated equipment
- Learn to use editing software
- Excursion/s to the local galleries, cinemas, as well as the Australian Centre of Moving Image (ACMI) in Melbourne

Why choose this subject?

Media would suit students who have an interest in photography and moving image, with a passion for sharing stories. The subject is about learning and developing skills to produce innovative moving images, skills that link directly to VCE Media, Visual Communication Design, Art and a career in a range of media fields.

BACK TO SUBJECT CHOICES

Digital Technology: Coding with Python (Semester 1)

What is it all 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.

What will I learn?

- To design algorithms and code using Python to solve real-world problems and describing algorithms using flow charts and structured English, for example START, END, IF and UNTIL

What type of activities will I do?

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

Why choose this subject?

Everyone is talking about Python, and for good reason. With an exponentially growing community around data science, machine learning, AI, web dev and more, Python is a language that opens programming access to the world.

[BACK TO SUBJECT CHOICES](#)

Digital Technology: Data Analytics with Power BI (Semester 2)

What is it all 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.

What will I learn?

- Analyse and visualise data to create information and address problems using Excel and Power BI
- Use Power BI tools to identify patterns and relationships between sets of data and information, e.g. representing data using histograms
- Summarise data using advanced filtering and grouping techniques, for example pivot tables in spreadsheets and aggregation functions in databases
- Use structured query language (SQL) SELECT statements

What type of activities will I do?

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

Why choose this subject?

Excel is a powerful, flexible tool used in business for everyday analytics activity. It can be combined with Power BI to get broad data analytics and visualisation capabilities.

[BACK TO SUBJECT CHOICES](#)

Digital Technology: Adobe Illustrator Graphics and InDesign Publishing (Semester 1)

What is it all about?

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

What will I learn?

- Introductory technical terminology of computing and networking basics as well as introduction to some social issues involving information technology
- How to create and edit graphics in Adobe Illustrator and to publish graphical documents in Adobe InDesign

What type of activities will I do?

- 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

Why choose this subject?

To increase understanding of computers, both from a technical point of view and from an impact-on-our-world point of view. To develop skills in creating and editing computer graphics and desktop publishing.

[BACK TO SUBJECT CHOICES](#)

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

What is it all about?

This subject is your launchpad into the world of digital creativity and design. You'll explore how to build engaging websites and create dynamic animations using professional-grade tools: Adobe Dreamweaver for web design and Adobe Animate for 2D animation. You'll also learn how to use technology responsibly, understanding safe online behaviours and the basics of how digital systems operate in a connected world.

What will I learn?

- Design and build multi-page websites using HTML and CSS in Adobe Dreamweaver
- Create interactive 2D animations using Adobe Animate
- Apply visual design principles including layout, colour, typography, and motion
- Develop basic coding skills in a creative context
- Understand ethical and responsible use of digital technologies

What type of activities will I do?

- Storyboard and produce short animated sequences using Adobe Animate
- Develop personal or themed websites with navigation, images, and embedded media
- Explore design thinking and iterative improvement through peer feedback
- Learn to manage digital files and publish content

Why choose this subject?

If you're a creative thinker who enjoys designing, drawing, coding, or storytelling, this subject gives you the tools to bring your ideas to life. You'll build a portfolio of real-world digital projects, giving you a head start in fields like web development, animation, graphic design, or media production.

[BACK TO SUBJECT CHOICES](#)

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 and science as well as enhancing opportunities in government, business, medicine, law, technology, military, industry and marketing.

French (Must be taken for two semesters)

What is it all about?

Discussing the house and home, where you live and helping with housework. Talking about your daily routine and planning a holiday at a French-speaking destination. You will talk about activities in the past and increase awareness of French-speaking countries and their cultural aspects. This subject will forge links with overseas students and establishing relationships with native French-speakers.

What will I learn?

- You will learn how to communicate in French using the present, past and immediate future tenses
- You will begin to write longer texts and learn how to construct more complex sentences
- French culture and daily activities will be contrasted with Australian culture. This will include comparing French and Australian leisure activities, part time jobs and living conditions

What type of activities will I do?

- 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

Why choose this subject?

Choosing this subject will open many doors. It will provide you with an opportunity to travel and make contact at a deeper level with people around the world. There are many French speaking countries, apart from France where your travel experience will be enhanced by being able to speak the language. You will be offered opportunities to engage with French speaking students either by correspondence or even participating on an international trip.

BACK TO SUBJECT CHOICES

Indonesian (Must be taken for two semesters)

What is it all 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 and naming body parts; learning to bargain in the market and studying cultural traditions like puppetry and traditional songs.

What will I learn?

- Students will learn how to piece together a range of vocabulary on a variety of topics, to enable them to build conversations and comprehend the language of Bahasa Indonesia
- There is the opportunity in Year 9 for students to delve into cultural aspects of life in Indonesia and to understand what cultural differences exist between life in the Archipelago and here in Australia
- In Year 9 Indonesian, students focus on creating a Personal Profile and being able to showcase their oral speaking
- Across a number of learning activities like roleplays, making voice recordings and through learning Indonesian songs, students will have the chance to see, in practice, how their language comes to life

What type of activities will I do?

- 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
- 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

Why choose this subject?

Students of Year 9 Indonesian build the skills to demonstrate a broadened understanding of Indonesian culture and they become confident in communicating in another language. This study of Indonesian allows students to develop high level skills in recall, comprehension, cultural understanding and how diversity works in practice in other places of the world. Year 9 Indonesian is a chance to have fun in the learning about another culture and its language. Be a part of this fascinating study and join us in the fun of communicating in another language!

BACK TO SUBJECT CHOICES



Sports Skills (Offered Semester 1 and Semester 2)

May only be taken for one semester

What is it all about?

Exploring and executing movement skills from a games-based approach, investigate the influences on movement including individual, task and environmental constraints on motor skill development for the team and individual sports. You will analyse the various sports to review the importance of skill frequencies, movement patterns, heart rates and work to rest ratios. There will also be the opportunity to view sport from a sports nutrition perspective and its importance for athletic performance.

What will I learn?

- The rules, skills, strategy and game-sense of various sports through practical activities
- How to analyse motor skills and provide feedback on technique
- How to analyse a game and level of performance
- The benefits of nutrition before, during and after athletic performance

What type of activities will I do?

- Team Sports: examples: soccer, basketball, football, hockey and volleyball
- Individual Sports: examples: tennis, golf, track and field events.
- Racquet Sports: examples: tennis, badminton, squash

Why choose this subject?

You should choose this subject if you are willing to participate in practical classes and analyse performance during theory. You should also choose this subject if you are interested in applying yourself to develop skills and how to improve your performance through physical training, game sense, analysis and recovery.

[BACK TO SUBJECT CHOICES](#)

Healthy Living (Offered Semester 1 and Semester 2)

****May only be taken for one semester****

What is it all about?

Unit Overview: the Year 9 Healthy Living unit is designed to empower students with the knowledge and skills necessary to make informed decisions about their physical, mental and emotional wellbeing. Through a comprehensive exploration of various aspects of health, students will develop strategies to lead healthier and more fulfilling lives. The unit will cover topics such as nutrition, physical activity, mental health, relationships, and decision making, providing a holistic approach to personal health and wellbeing.

What will I learn?

Nutrition and Diet:

- Understanding the importance of a balanced diet
- Exploring food groups, portion sizes and nutritional requirements
- Analysing food labels and making healthy food choices

Physical Activity and Exercise:

- Recognising the benefits of regular physical activity
- Exploring different types of exercise and their impact on health
- Developing personal fitness goals and creating exercise plans

Mental Health and Wellbeing:

- Identifying factors that contribute to mental health and wellbeing
- Recognising signs of mental health disorders and seeking help when needed
- Practising strategies for stress management and resilience-building

Relationships and Communication:

- Understanding the importance of healthy relationships
- Exploring effective communication skills and conflict resolution strategies
- Recognising and addressing issues related to peer pressure, bullying and consent

What type of activities will I do?

- Pilates
- Yoga
- Breathing and meditation exercises

Why choose this subject?

Students will gain a deeper understanding of the factors that contribute to overall health and wellbeing and will be equipped with practical strategies to lead healthier and more fulfilling lives both now and in the future.

BACK TO SUBJECT CHOICES

Strength and Conditioning (Offered Semester 1 and Semester 2)

****May only be taken for one semester****

What is it all about?

This is a practical based subject and you will learn by doing. You **MUST** be willing to actively participate in all fitness based practical activities. It focuses on practical work, not written theory work.

You will visit the Federation University Sports Precinct and work with the strength and conditioning coaches, to enhance your chosen sporting pursuits and work with the coaches to design an individual training program that the students will complete each week. You will learn to use the gym equipment safely and the correct technique to complete an individual session each week.

Students will discover the need for specific flexibility and core-strengthening program to improve their personal sporting performance and evaluate and understand the role of specific running programs in enhancing the athlete's chosen sport.

What will I learn?

- You will learn how to design warm-ups, conditioning phases and warm-downs of a training session
- You will learn how to design training sessions and training programs
- You will learn correct gym etiquette
- You will also learn the correct technique to perform movements in the gym successfully such as squats, deadlifts, bench press and core exercises
- You will learn how to design conditioning sessions to improve strength, speed, power and cardiovascular fitness

What type of activities will I do?

- Weight training
- Plyometrics
- Interval training
- Core training, mobility training and flexibility work
- Cardio and flexibility training
- Understand the role of and complete an athlete-training diary
- Fitness testing at Federation University and at school
- You will attend Federation University for your double lessons to work with a number of strength and conditioning coaches. During your lessons at school you will participate in a range of fitness-based activities

Why choose this subject?

You should choose this subject if you are interested in health and fitness and you want to learn how to improve your health and fitness. It will also give you the skills to improve your strength, body composition and cardiovascular fitness. The content learnt can be applied to any athlete regarding improving their performance.

BACK TO SUBJECT CHOICES

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 Horticulture (Semester 1)

What is it all about?

Skills in taxonomy – naming and identifying plants scientifically; learning how to propagate plants, using seed, bulbs, layering and other vegetative methods; using the principles of marketing to sell produce that has been grown in the Horticulture Garden; identifying the signs and symptoms of garden pests and diseases, and recognising the animals that help us in the garden.

What will I learn?

- Naming and identifying plants scientifically
- The principles of marketing and how to use them to promote a product
- How to propagate, grow and care for plants in the optimum conditions
- Identifying diseases, pests and allies in the garden, and choosing appropriate strategies to manage them.

What type of activities will I do?

- Compiling a photographic weed herbarium
- Sowing seeds in pots and in the garden beds
- Caring for summer crops, harvesting the produce from the garden, and selling it using marketing strategies
- Propagating winter vegetables in preparation for the autumn planting season

Why choose this subject?

You enjoy Science and would like to learn more about its applications in Horticulture. You would like to develop skills that you can use in your garden at home. You enjoy practical work and gardening and would like to apply scientific tests to real-life situations. You can see links to farming, landscaping, horticulture or land management career opportunities.

[BACK TO SUBJECT CHOICES](#)

Horticulture - Science meets Art (Semester 2)

What is it all about?

Skills in taxonomy – further levels of plant naming and study of plant families; propagating plants from seed, and vegetative methods including stem and leaf cuttings; applying plant training theory to the pruning of fruit trees and vines; natural and artificial growing media – how to maximise productivity using knowledge of soil; and garden designing by applying graphic skills to presenting garden plans.

What will I learn?

- Naming and identifying plants scientifically
- How to prune plants to maximise productivity
- How to propagate, grow and care for plants in the optimum conditions
- Carrying out scientific tests, including soil and pH testing

What type of activities will I do?

- Winter pruning of fruit trees, shrubs, espalier trees and vines
- Growing summer vegetables from seed and creating an instructional video on how to do so
- Taking cuttings and propagating common garden plants by grafting
- Creating a garden design to meet the needs of a family or organisation
- Fieldwork in the garden – growing summer crops and harvesting winter & spring crops

Why choose this subject?

You enjoy Science and would like to learn more about its applications in Horticulture. You enjoy gardening and working productively outdoors and would like to develop skills that you can use in your garden at home. You like to use your creative design skills.

[BACK TO SUBJECT CHOICES](#)

Science and Technology: Creative STEAM Solutions (Offered Semester 1 and Semester 2)

May only be taken for one semester

What is it all about?

This STEAM elective brings together Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics to solve real-world problems in a creative and contextual manner. Students will explore the design, development, and implementation of innovative solutions, utilising interdisciplinary knowledge and skills. This course will foster a deeper understanding of how these fields interconnect and are applied in various industries, encouraging students to be creative, passionate, and resilient in the face of challenges.

What will I learn?

- How to integrate scientific principles, engineering concepts, artistic creativity, and mathematical reasoning to solve complex problems
- The role of digital technologies in the design and development of innovative solutions
- Techniques for creative problem-solving and critical thinking
- The importance of resilience and iterative processes in achieving success
- Occupational roles that combine elements of STEAM in the workforce

What type of activities will I do?

- Engaging in hands-on projects that require designing, prototyping, and testing solutions to real-world problems
- Collaborating in teams to brainstorm and develop creative ideas
- Using digital tools and technologies to create and refine prototypes
- Presenting and evaluating projects, incorporating feedback to improve outcomes
- Exploring case studies of successful STEAM innovations and their impact

Why choose this subject?

You are passionate about Science, Mathematics, Digital Technologies, the Arts, and Engineering, and you thrive on creative challenges. You enjoy working on projects that require a blend of theoretical knowledge and practical application. This subject will allow you to develop a multi-faceted approach to problem-solving, preparing you for future studies and careers in STEAM-related fields. You are ready to embrace failure as part of the learning process and are motivated by the journey to eventual success.

[BACK TO SUBJECT CHOICES](#)

Food Technology: The Treasures of Food (Offered Semester 1 and Semester 2)

May only be taken for one semester

What is it all about?

Identifying, researching and developing confidence when cooking the key foods, e.g. fruit, cereal grains; researching and discussion regarding nutrition and healthy eating and gaining knowledge using a range of cooking techniques appropriate for a selected key food. We will be practising kitchen organisation, safety and hygiene principles and the further development of skills using tools and equipment.

What will I learn?

- The ethical issues around food
- Food science
- Cooking processes
- Sensory evaluation of food products

What type of activities will I do?

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

Why choose this subject?

Food is a major part of our lives and its consumption has major impacts on the world around us. To be a healthy, informed and confident food consumer.

[BACK TO SUBJECT CHOICES](#)

Wood: Design in Furniture (Semester 1)

What is it all about?

This course offers an exciting opportunity to learn the art of woodworking while creating a small bedside unit. Students will delve into the design process, hone their carpentry skills and master the safe use of power tools.

What will I learn?

- The design process to design, produce and evaluate a bedside unit.
- Build on carpentry hand skills, developed in Years 7 and 8 Woodwork
- Safe use and correct techniques in using power tools including trimmers and sanders.
- Evaluation and analysing techniques.

What type of activities will I do?

- Design task - designing, analysing similar products, technical drawings, developing cutting lists, production plans
- Producing - learning the safe use of hand and power tools including chisels and trimmers
- Evaluating - recalling critical steps of the production through production journals, recording modifications to the preferred option, analysing the completed product
- Onguard safety
- Numerous practical activities

Why choose this subject?

If you have a passion for hands-on learning and aspire to pursue a career in Product Design, Furniture Construction, Architecture or the Building and Construction industry, then this subject is a perfect choice for you.

[BACK TO SUBJECT CHOICES](#)

Wood: Centre Turning and Design (Semester 2)

What is it all about?

This course offers a compelling opportunity to master woodworking through a creation of a pedestal table. Students will fully engage in the design process, hone their carpentry skills and achieve proficiency in the safe use of power tools.

What will I learn?

- The design process to design, produce and evaluate a pedestal table
- Continue the development of carpentry hand skills developed in Years 7 and 8 Woodwork
- Safe and correct techniques in using the wood lathe and power tools including trimmers and the jigsaw
- Evaluation and analysing techniques

What type of activities will I do?

- Design task - designing, analysing similar products, technical drawings, developing cutting lists, production plans
- Producing - learning the safe use of hand and power tools including biscuit joiner, jigsaw and wood lathe
- Evaluating - recalling critical steps of the production through production journals, recording modifications to the preferred option, analysing completed product
- Onguard Safety
- Numerous practical activities

Why choose this subject?

If you are committed to hands-on learning and aspire to a career in product design, furniture construction, architecture or the building and construction industry, then this subject is the ideal choice for you.

[BACK TO SUBJECT CHOICES](#)

Metal: Designing – Twisting, Curling, Folding and Welding (Semester 1)

What is it all about?

Students construct a range of metal products using manual hand tools, twisting and curving machines, folders learn basic welding techniques.

What will I learn?

- Students will be required to design a product, following design principles
- Students will be required to draw designs of the product they are making
- Students will submit a design brief outlining the purpose of the product and the solution for their client
- Students will evaluate their product detailing how it was constructed and problems and solutions to design issues

What type of activities will I do?

- Safety lessons
- Designing
- Producing
- Working in teams
- Finishing
- Evaluating

Why choose this subject?

Metal is a major part of the construction and manufacturing industries and is a pathway to metallurgical sciences.

[BACK TO SUBJECT CHOICES](#)

Metal Craft (Semester 2)

What is it all about?

Learning to safely use hand tools and power tools to design and produce a product in aluminium.

What will I learn?

- Technical and design drawing
- Working in teams and groups and individually
- Safe use of tools and machines
- Problem solving
- Cleaning the room at the end of class

What type of activities will I do?

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

Why choose this subject?

To learn marking out and measuring, develop better mathematical skills in a practical setting and if you enjoy working with your hands then this is a subject you may enjoy. Also, to work with peers and develop interpersonal relationship skills and teamwork.

[BACK TO SUBJECT CHOICES](#)

Systems Engineering: Light 'em up (Semester 1)

What is it all about?

Students will design and produce their own LED light display, which will also play tunes. This will be done with a PICAXE Microcontroller that the students will solder together and program themselves. They will also use CAD drawing to design, and laser cut their own display board to arrange their LEDs.

What will I learn?

- Students will learn how to follow the design process as they design, produce and evaluate their LED light display
- Students will learn how a basic electronic system functions, by using a microcontroller to operate input and output components

What type of activities will I do?

- Soldering of electronic circuit boards and components
- 3D printing
- Laser cutting
- Computer Aided Design (CAD) drawing
- Programming

Why choose this subject?

If you are interested in STEM learning activities such as 3D printing, laser cutting, programming or have an interest in creating electronic systems

[BACK TO SUBJECT CHOICES](#)

Systems Engineering: eSports (Semester 2)

What is it all about?

Students will design and produce their own Basketball or Netball Hoop, which will play tunes and count your score via a 7-segment display. This will be done with a PICAXE microcontroller that the students will solder together and program themselves. They will also use CAD drawing to design and 3D print their own personalised hoop and laser cut a personalised backboard.

What will I learn?

- Students will learn how to follow the design process as they design, produce and evaluate their Basketball or Netball Hoop
- Students will learn how a basic electronic system functions by using a microcontroller to operate input and output components

What type of activities will I do?

- Soldering of electronic circuit boards and components
- 3D printing
- Laser cutting
- Computer Aided Design (CAD) drawing
- Programming

Why choose this subject?

If you are interested in STEM learning activities such as 3D printing, laser cutting, programming or have an interest in creating electronic systems.

[BACK TO SUBJECT CHOICES](#)



Textiles: Sleepwear Sets (Semester 1)

What is it all about?

Producing a variety of articles through machine construction, using commercial patterns. Students will evaluate their completed articles and identify ways of improving or modifying their work.

What will I learn?

- Students will increase their fashion illustration skills and knowledge of fabrics to design a calico bag and pair of pyjamas
- Year 9 Textiles will enable students to follow the design process to design, create and evaluate their own textiles products using a range of hand and machine sewing techniques and fabrics.

What type of activities will I do?

Learning basic construction skills using a commercial pattern:

- Refresher of sewing machine skills.
- Use of woven fabrics.

Why choose this subject?

You will learn to design and make your own items using a sewing machine.

[BACK TO SUBJECT CHOICES](#)

Textiles: Lazy Loungewear (Semester 2)

What is it all about?

Further developing the skills and knowledge previously learned at Year 7 – 9. Students will follow the design process to produce a piece of loungewear following a commercial pattern and using a sewing machine. Students will evaluate their completed articles and identify ways of improving or modifying work.

What will I learn?

- Students will increase their fashion illustration skills and knowledge of fabrics, to design a zippered pouch and piece of loungewear
- Year 9 Textiles will enable students to follow the design process to design, create and evaluate their own textiles products using a range of hand and machine sewing techniques and fabrics.

What type of activities will I do?

- Refresher of sewing machine skills
- Use of woven fabrics and non-woven fabrics

Why choose this subject?

Students will learn to design and make their own items using a sewing machine.

[BACK TO SUBJECT CHOICES](#)

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 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.

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 Questions

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.

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?

Complete the draft subject selection form prior to your TA interview in Term 3. This will give you the opportunity to discuss your preferences with your TA and family.

Following this, you will attend an interview in the DEC where you will formally submit your subject preferences.



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