



ST EDMUND'S COLLEGE

CANBERRA · EST 1954

Year 8 Course Guide 2018

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SUBJECT SELECTION OVERVIEW

YEAR 8 2018

CORE SUBJECTS

The core subjects all students will study in Year 8 are:

Religious Education

English

Mathematics

Health and Physical Education (HPE)

Science

**Social Science: History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship and
Economics and Business**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The purpose of Religious Education at St Edmund's College is to allow young people to learn about the person and teachings of Jesus Christ, as well as understanding the world and literature of sacred scripture. Religious Education attempts to make accessible the traditions of the Catholic and broader religious community and to assist students in becoming aware of the connection between sources of tradition, diverse expressions of faith, Church teaching and mission. Students are also invited to engage in the broader Church community in studying principles of Catholic social teaching, community service and sacraments, as well as the historical and spiritual understandings of Jesus Christ.

Religious Education in Year 8 is mainly built upon the *Stage 4 Treasures New and Old guidelines* followed by all Catholic schools in the Canberra Goulburn Archdiocese, as well as using *To Know, Worship and Love* as a text resource. A combination of the Archdiocese Learning Achievements as well as cross curriculum priorities are implemented into Religious Education programming and assessment. Written and religious literacy are fostered in each year group to enable students to access and utilise skills that are applicable and relevant to a range of subject areas and contexts.

For further information, please contact Mrs Carmela Wilson Head of Religious Education: cwilson@stedmunds.act.edu.au

ENGLISH

The three main strands of English study are: Language, Literature and Literacy. Students learn about Language, Literature and Literacy through study and production of fiction and non-fiction texts.

In Year 8, students will produce creative responses to Literature, both written and digital. They will demonstrate critical reading skills through annotated bibliography as well as through participation in group debate. They will also learn how to utilise appropriate paragraph structure for effective analytical response.

In line with the Australian Curriculum and the mission of the College, the goal for the study of English is to produce students who have the skills and contextual awareness to be critical, but compassionate thinkers, articulate and precise in the expression of their thoughts.

For further information, please contact Mr Tim Bibbens Head of English:
tbibbens@stedmunds.act.edu.au

MATHEMATICS

In Year 8 Mathematics, all students study the same content as prescribed by the Australian Curriculum.

There will be one class that will be called Year 8 Accelerated rather than Year 8 Mainstream. This class will be for students who are not challenged by Mainstream Mathematics and who need enrichment opportunities to maintain their interest in the subject.

The composition of the class will be based on grades obtained in Year 7, as well as results from standardised tests. It can be expected that there will be some movement between Mainstream and Accelerated classes through the year, particularly in Term 1.

For further information, please contact Mr Ed Mickleburgh Head of Mathematics: emickleburgh@stedmunds.act.edu.au

HEALTH and PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Year 8 curriculum supports students to refine a range of specialised knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to their health, safety, wellbeing and movement competence and confidence.

Health and Physical Education has two strands: Personal, Social and Community Health (Health) and Movement and Physical Activity (Physical Education). Both are interrelated and inform and support each other.

For further information, please contact Mr Joel Richardson Head of Health and Physical Education: jrichardson@stedmunds.act.edu.au

SCIENCE

Science provides an empirical way of answering interesting and important questions about the biological, physical and technological world. Science is a dynamic, collaborative and creative human endeavour, arising from our desire to make sense of our world through exploring the unknown, investigating universal mysteries, making predictions and solving problems.

The Australian Curriculum: Science provides opportunities for students to develop an understanding of important Science concepts and processes, the practices used to develop scientific knowledge of Science's contribution to our culture and society and its implications in our lives.

The Science curriculum promotes six overarching ideas that highlight certain common approaches to a scientific view of the world and which can be applied to many of the areas of Science understanding. These overarching ideas are patterns, order and organisation, form and function, stability and changes, systems, scale and measurement and matter and energy.

Science aims to ensure that students develop:

- an interest in Science
- an understanding of the vision that Science provides
- an understanding of the nature of scientific inquiry
- an ability to communicate scientific understanding and findings
- an ability to solve problems and make informed evidence based decisions
- an understanding of historical and cultural contributions to Science
- a solid foundation of knowledge of the biological, chemical,, physical, earth and space sciences.

Science Curriculum Focus

As students investigate the Science phenomena outlines in these years, they begin to learn about major theories that underpin Science, including genetics and evolution, atomic theory, chemical bonding and the Periodic Table, laws of motion and the Big Bang Theory.

Science is studied at two levels in Year 8, Extended and Mainstream. Students are allocated to levels by the Head of Science on the basis of their demonstrated academic potential and learning needs. Internal and external assessment results, advice from Science teachers and consultation with students and their parents all bear equal weighting in the course allocation process. Student placements are reviewed twice a year at the end of each semester.

For further information, please contact Mr Ross Bristow (Acting Head of Science): rbristow@stedmunds.act.edu.au

SOCIAL SCIENCE

In Year 8, students will study one semester of History and one semester of Geography.

Semester One:

The Ancient to the Modern World:

Students study History, from the end of the ancient period to the beginning of the modern period, c650 – 1750AD(CE). This was when the major civilisations around the world came into contact with each other. Social, economic, religious and political beliefs were often challenged and significantly changed. Students study three in depth civilisations: The Viking World, Shogunate Japan and the Collapse of the Aztec Empire.

Economics and Business

Students are given a further opportunity to develop their understanding of economics and business concepts by exploring the ways markets, including traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander markets work within Australia. The participants in the market system and the ways they may influence the markets operation. The rights, responsibilities and opportunities that arise for businesses, consumers and governments are considered along with the influences on the ways individuals work now and into the future. The emphasis in Year 8 is on national and regional issues with opportunities for the concepts to also be considered in relation to local community or global issues where appropriate.

Semester Two:

Landforms and Landscapes and Changing Nations:

There are two units of study in the Year 8 curriculum for Geography: Landforms and Landscapes and Changing Nations.

Landforms and Landscapes examines the processes that shape individual landforms, the values and meanings placed on landforms and landscapes by diverse cultures, hazards associated with landscapes and management of landscapes.

Changing Nations explores the process of urbanisation and draws on a study of a country of the Asia region to show how urbanisation changes the economies and societies of low and middle income countries.

Civics and Citizenship

Students study the responsibilities and freedoms of citizens and how Australians can actively participate in their democracy. Students consider how laws are made and the types of laws used in Australia. Students also examine what it means to be Australian by identifying the reasons for and influences that shape national identity.

For further information, please contact Mr Matthew Calder (Acting Head of SOSE): mcald@stedmunds.act.edu.au

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

Students have **two (2)** lines in their timetable available for elective subjects, however, all students must select from languages that run for the full academic year and then from Technology and Arts subjects that run for one semester. The options are laid out on the selection form but can be summarised as follows.

Year long subjects available are: **Japanese or French**. Semester long subjects available are **Food Technology, Technology, Visual Art, Music, Drama and Computer Studies**.

LANGUAGES

All students will have studied six months of French and six months of Japanese in Year 7.

In Year 8, all students will choose one of these languages to study in more detail for a full year.

Both languages focus on Communication Skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing) and Intercultural Understanding with an emphasis on improving students' overall literacy.

Students have the opportunity to improve their general knowledge and independent learning skills when using online language website

For further information, please contact Mr Andrew Taylor Head of Languages: ataylor@stedmunds.act.edu.au

FOOD Technology

Food Technology provides opportunities for students to:

- become informed and responsible in making decisions about food
- develop a comprehensive range of food preparation skills
- evaluate relationships between food, nutrition and quality of life
- design solutions in response to specific food needs.

The Food Technology Course provides for the development of relevant and meaningful learning experiences, inclusive of life experiences, values and learning styles.

For further information, please contact Ms Paula Moeller Head of Food Technology: pmoeller@stedmunds.act.edu.au

TECHNOLOGY

The Year 8 Technology course focuses on designing and resistant materials such as timber, metal and plastics. Students are given a number of design briefs that require them to design, make and appraise two major projects.

Students will use the computer drawing software to design a cam toy with moving parts and then use the Laser Cutter to make the components. The final project is a compressed CO2 canister Dragster. Students are required to design a Dragster that will travel 20 metres unaided. This is to be made to specifications.

Students are instructed on Workplace Health and Safety and the use of tools and equipment. They will learn about time/project management, evaluation techniques and how to document thoughts and ideas in a portfolio

For further information, please contact Mr Joel Richardson Head of

VISUAL ART

Year 8 Art classes explore the study and critique of Art History, looking at how Palaeolithic peoples made marks to create meaning. This also includes the exploration of Aboriginal culture and spirituality in relation to ancient art making techniques.

The historical exploration of the art timeline also covers ancient Egypt and Greece, where students study the human figure as an idealised and distorted image, to create cultural meanings to their historical audience.

Students become more sophisticated in their art making as they manipulate three dimensional works in stone and acrylic painting techniques.

This course is an ideal grounding before a Year Nine elective that takes a more critical look at making and responding to art forms.

For further information, please contact Mr Andrew Jones Head of Visual Art:
ajones@stedmunds.act.edu.au

MUSIC

Music in Year 8 has a deeper focus and style to it than in Year 7. Classes strive to find a balance between learning music and learning about music with lessons being relaxed and enjoyable.

The curriculum consists of a varied mix of practical, composition, theory, music history and aural development.

Students studying elective Music in Year 8 have some autonomy in working in a band or group in their practical playing as well as solo work. As such, the boys are encouraged to take private lessons on an instrument of their choice to further enhance their skills.

For further information, please contact Ms Margaret Thomas (Acting Head of Music): mthomas@stedmunds.act.edu.au

DRAMA

Drama in Year 8 builds on the introduction to Drama Course in Year 7. We continue to use improvisation as the main source of creating and presenting Drama, however, we introduce elements of Drama such as sound and lighting, set and props to enhance the theatre experience.

The use of stimuli as a starting point to build the drama, ranges from the play, Treasure Island to Orwell's 1984 to Edgar Allen Poe's The Tell Tale Heart. The use of theatrical lighting, use of shadow puppets, music and costume help the students create atmospheric, engaging and entertaining pieces of Drama, culminating in a self-devised piece at the end of the semester course.

The skills and techniques the students learn throughout Year 8 will provide a solid base for the Drama Courses in Year 9 and beyond.

For further information, please contact Mr Nigel Palfreman Head of Drama: npalfreman@stedmunds.act.edu.au

COMPUTER STUDIES

This unit provides students with opportunities to develop and extend their knowledge of basic programming principles. Students use a range of object orientated platforms to create solutions for simple problems.

Students learn how to use Scratch to create computer games, and they learn how to use Photoshop to digitally edit images.

For further information, please contact Ms Margie Maher Head of Computer Studies: mmaher@stedmunds.act.edu.au

PATTERNS OF STUDY

Students can select one year long Language subject with semester long subjects of Technology and Arts. Students must rank their selections. The options and ranking procedure are also explained on the selection form. The College contact list can also be used by parents for clarification about selections or further subject information with the relevant Department Head.

CHOOSING SUBJECTS

Students are encouraged to choose subjects that will both extend their interests and suit their abilities. They should not choose subjects based on what their friends are doing or the teachers they assume will be taking the classes. Students must have at least one Technology and one Arts subject in their selections.

Students will attend a year level meeting during school time where further information will be provided. Students are advised to select wisely and seek further information from Heads of Department as opportunity to change subjects once the timetable has been finalised is limited and subject to a process of validation in accordance to the College policy.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Drama contains assessable performance elements. Students undertaking this subject will be required to perform either in class or in events such as the College musical, College assemblies and Drama festivals.

Music students are required to play an instrument and attend either private or College facilitated music lessons. Students are encouraged to involve themselves in the College's Co Curricula Music program.

SELECTION OF STUDENTS INTO SUBJECTS

As places in some subjects are limited, if there is excess demand, final selection of students will be based on a combination of the following criteria:

A) Application Grade Average

Each student's Application Grade Average based on their Semester One Academic report may be used to assess a student's entry into courses where there is high demand.

B) Lodgement of Subject Selection Forms:

Complete Subject Selection online by June 16 2017. Selections that are submitted after this period will have lower priority when determining the final placement of students in classes.

The Studies Office endeavours to accommodate the selections of every student to the best of its ability, whilst working with the resources of the College.