



HILLSIDE
CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Year 9 Handbook



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Introduction

The purpose of this handbook is to provide parents and students with information about the academic subjects offered at HillSide Christian College. This information will help students make informed decisions about their subject choices and future career goals. In Year 9, students will study a combination of subjects that align with the Australian Curriculum, as mandated by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (SCSA). These core subjects include English, Mathematics, Science and Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS). Additionally, all students will take Christian Studies, Health and Physical Education (Sport) along with a selection of elective courses in The Arts, Technologies, and Languages.

Students will choose four electives from a list of twenty-one possible offerings; each taught over two periods per week for the entire school year. It is important for students to choose their electives thoughtfully, as this year will serve as a critical stepping stone to help them prepare for future studies in senior school.

While Years 11 and 12 may still seem far away, it is important for students to start considering the prerequisites for Year 11 subjects now. For example, some courses in Year 11 require a minimum C grade, and others a B grade in Year 10. We have had students in the past who were disappointed because they did not adequately prepare in Year 9 or Year 10, which impacted their ability to select certain Year 11 subjects. Choosing subjects that align with your interests and abilities and committing to your studies will help set you up for success in future years.

Pathways Summary

Although Year 9 focuses on building foundational knowledge, it is never too early to start thinking about the future pathways you will have available to you in Years 11 and 12. At HillSide, we offer three main pathways for Senior Secondary students:

1. **ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admission Rank) Pathway:** This is for students who are aiming for direct university entrance after Year 12. It involves selecting academically challenging courses that will contribute to an ATAR score. However, it's important to note that ATAR is not the only way to enter university.
2. **General Pathway:** This pathway is for students who may not wish to go directly to university but are considering TAFE, vocational training, or entering the workforce. Students on this pathway may still pursue university studies through alternative routes such as bridging courses or portfolio entry.
3. **VET Pathway:** This pathway is suited to students who prefer hands-on learning and are looking to gain practical skills in specific industries. TAFE courses provide direct entry into the workforce or further vocational studies and are ideal for those aiming to enter trades, technical fields, or other hands-on professions.

Year 7 to Year 10 as a platform

All subjects from Year 7 through to Year 10 are designed to lay a firm foundation for Year 11 and Year 12 courses, with students gradually specialising as they progress.

Years 9 and 10

Students study all core subjects. The selected electives run for the whole year. Students have a choice to study electives from The Arts, Technologies, Health & Physical Education, and Languages.

Years 11 and 12

Students studying ATAR subjects may be offered direct entry into university by successfully completing a minimum of 4 ATAR subjects in both Years 11 and 12.

To achieve a WACE, students must attain a minimum of 14 'C' grades, or better and pass the required Literacy and Numeracy levels. Students may also qualify for university entrance with 4 ATAR and 2 General courses. It is possible to study a combination of General and ATAR courses to achieve a WACE.

Year 11 ATAR Courses currently on offer

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| • English | • Modern History |
| • Mathematics Applications | • Outdoor Education |
| • Mathematics Methods | • Physics |
| • Applied Information Technology | • Psychology |
| • Chemistry | • Visual Art |
| • Human Biology | |

Year 11 General Courses currently on offer

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • English | • Material Design Technology - Wood |
| • Mathematics Foundation | • Media Production & Analysis |
| • Mathematics Essentials | • Outdoor Education |
| • Applied Information Technology | • Psychology |
| • Human Biology | • Visual Art |

Students studying VET may also complete:

- Certificate II or III in Community Services
- Certificate III in Business.

Year 9 Subject Selection Process

At HillSide, we aim to provide students with a broad range of elective subjects to foster their interests and help prepare for future academic pathways. While the four core subjects – English, Mathematics, HASS, and Science – constitute approximately 50% of total instructional time, the remaining 50% is dedicated to electives chosen from The Arts, Technologies, Health and Physical Education, and Languages.

Compulsory Subjects

The core subjects that all Year 9 students will study include:

- Christian Studies, Chapel & Emerge
- English
- Science
- Mathematics
- Humanities & Social Sciences
- Physical Education
- Health

Elective Selection

Students will choose one elective from each of the four lines provided, ensuring a balanced and diverse learning experience across their subjects. These electives run for two periods per week for the entire year.

The 2025 elective selection process will be conducted via an online portal, and login details will be provided to students separately. It is important to carefully read the subject descriptions in this handbook when making your selections.

Elective Line Structure

In designing the subject lines, we have done our best to separate options so that students with particular interests have multiple choices. For example, a student interested in Visual Arts will find Drawing on Line 1, Textiles on Line 2, Ceramics on Line 3 and Fibres and Printmaking on Line 4. This allows students to pursue a broad focus within their area of interest. However, due to staffing and resource limitations, it is not always possible to avoid clashes, and we understand that some students may be disappointed if two of their favourite subjects fall on the same line. Unfortunately, we are unable to change the structure of the lines, and students will need to make their selections based on their first preference.

Elective selections and core subjects need to be correlated with the Booklist for the year level. Students may need books for all subjects.

Elective Subjects

Line 1

- Design & Technology – Wood
- Digital Photography
- Outdoor Education
- Performing Arts – Drama
- Visual Arts – Drawing

Line 2

- Design & Technology – Alternative Energy
- Design & Technology – Textiles
- Languages - Spanish
- Music Performance
- Sport Science, Strength & Conditioning

Line 3

- Childcare
- Design & Technology – Small Engines
- Digital Technology
- Robotics
- Visual Arts – Ceramics

Line 4

- Design & Technology – Fibres & Print
- Design & Technology – Metal
- Food Technology
- Media Studies
- Physical Recreation
- STEAM

Prerequisites for Year 11/12 Courses

Below is a table outlining the minimum and recommended prerequisites for the Year 11 courses offered at HillSide. These prerequisites ensure that students have the necessary foundation to succeed in their chosen subjects.

ATAR Courses

Course Name	Prerequisites
Applied Information Technology	Minimum: 'C' grade in Year 10 English for Semester One Recommended: 'B' grade or higher in English for Semester One
Chemistry	Minimum: 'B' grade in Year 10 Maths and Science for Semester One Recommended: 'A' grade in Year 10 Maths Science for Semester One
English	Minimum: 'C' grade in Year 10 English for Semester One Recommended: 'B' grade or higher in English for Semester One
Human Biology	Minimum: 'B' grade or higher in Year 10 Science for Semester One
Modern History	Minimum: 'C' grade in HASS and English for Semester One Recommended: 'B' grade in HASS and English for Semester One.
Mathematics Applications	Minimum: 'C' grade in Year 10 mainstream Maths for Semester One Recommended: 'B' grade in Year 10 mainstream Maths for Semester One
Mathematics Methods	Minimum: 'B' grade in Year 10 mainstream Maths for Semester One Recommended: 'A' grade in Year 10 mainstream Maths for Semester One
Outdoor Education	Recommended: 'C' grade in either Year 9 or 10 OED. Reasonable fitness & swimming ability.
Physics	Minimum: 'B' grade in Maths and Science in Year 10 Semester One Recommended: 'A' grade in Maths and Science in Year 10 Semester One
Psychology	Minimum: 'C' grade in English and Science in Year 10 Semester One Recommended: 'B' grade in English and Science in Year 10 Semester One Notes: Passed OLNA Literacy and Numeracy. Sound writing and research skills required.
Visual Arts	Minimum: 'C' grade in Year 10 English for Semester One Recommended: 'B' grade in Drawing, Ceramics, Fibres & Print or Textiles

General Courses

Course Name	Prerequisites
Materials Design & Technology - Wood	Year 10 Woodwork
Music	'C' grade in Year 10 Music Performance. Preferably undertaking vocal or instrumental tuition.
Outdoor Education	'C' grade in either Year 9 or 10 OED. Reasonable fitness & swimming ability.
Visual Arts	C' grade in Year 9 or 10 Drawing, Ceramics, Print & Fibre or Textiles

Compulsory Subjects

CHRISTIAN STUDIES

Christian Education

At HillSide, students will be taught about Jesus Christ and guided to find meaning in walking with Him. The curriculum builds on Biblical Literacy, prayer, worship and moral instruction. The College uses CEP resources for its content. Students will have three periods per week involving Chapel, Emerge, and Christian Studies.

Emerge

HillSide's "Emerge" program is a unique, high school initiative that supports students' spiritual, personal, and social growth from Years 7-12. Running as a weekly class, 'Emerge' offers a developmental journey that helps students deepen their understanding of themselves, their faith, and their role in the community. Starting with self-identity and personal growth in Christ in the early years, the program gradually encourages students to look beyond themselves, emphasising the value of service and community engagement. In the senior years, students are equipped with skills and insights for life beyond school, reflecting on their faith in a mature, applied way. Each year level follows a tailored curriculum, blending meaningful content with hands-on service experiences, from helping within the school to connecting with local community members. By exploring topics relevant to their developmental stage, students grow in resilience, empathy, and purpose.

The Year 9 "Emerge" program is designed to cultivate a deeper understanding of oneself and one's place in the world through a Christian lens. The course is divided into two parts: learning topics that challenge students' perspectives and a 'service learning' component that puts their faith into action.

Learning topics cover 'Self', 'Others and the World', and 'God and His Word', aiming to expand students' awareness and understanding of their identity in Christ. These subjects are explored through various activities that promote reflection and discussion, reinforcing the program's focus on personal growth and spiritual development.

Service learning is a hands-on application of the program's principles, where students can step out of the classroom and into various service roles within the school community. Here, they can tangibly express their faith through service, from aiding younger students in primary school to supporting the school's office and property staff. Students document their service activities in a 'logbook', tracking their 'service hours'. These hours accrue towards a 'service award', recognising their commitment and the impact of their contributions. This aspect of the program not only encourages a spirit of service but also gives students a sense of achievement and the joy of fulfilling their service-oriented Christian values.

Together, these components of the Year 9 "Emerge" program intertwines knowledge with action, guiding students to not only learn about but also live out their faith, preparing them to be conscientious, service-oriented individuals.

ENGLISH

The Year 9 English course is designed to help students explore the power, enjoyment, aesthetics and appreciation of language, communication and storytelling. Through a variety of text types- novels, poetry, film, and digital media- students will engage with topics that reflect values such as empathy, justice and compassion. The course provides students with opportunities to analyse and respond to works like *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* by John Boyne and *Once* by Morris Gleitzman, examining themes of racism, war and human suffering through a Christian lens. Additionally, students will study Slam Poetry as a means of expressing personal voice and addressing social justice issues.

Assessment tasks will include creative writing, essays, oral presentations, and other assignments that span both practical and analytical components. These tasks will encourage students to apply their understanding of English language conventions and critical thinking.

By the end of the course, students will have strengthened their literacy skills across three strands: Language, Literature and Literacy. They will develop a deeper understanding of how to communicate effectively, both in creative projects and in more formal analytical tasks. The course also encourages independent learning and critical reflection, preparing students for senior secondary English.

SCIENCE

The Year 9 Science course explores the wonders of God's creation through hands-on practical learning. Across the year, students will engage with four key scientific areas: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Earth and Space Science. Throughout the year, students will deepen their understanding of how scientific concepts relate to the world around them, while reflecting on how science reveals God's handiwork in creation.

In Biology, students will study human systems and ecosystems, learning about the interdependence of living things and how humans interact with their environment. Chemistry focuses on the building blocks of matter, exploring elements, compounds, and chemical reactions. Physics focuses on energy transfer, investigating topics such as simple machines, forces, and electricity. Earth and Space Science introduces students to plate tectonics and the structure of the Earth, providing a greater understanding of geological processes and our planet's place in the universe.

Students will be assessed through a variety of tasks, including experiments, classwork, topic tests, and an exam. The course also emphasises Science Inquiry Skills, where students will conduct experiments and investigations, develop hypotheses, and analyse data to form conclusions.

MATHEMATICS

The Year 9 Mathematics course covers three key content areas: Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. Students will develop their understanding and skills in topics such as algebraic expressions, geometry probability, and financial mathematics. Throughout the course, students will focus on applying mathematical concepts to real-world problems, encouraging both practical and critical thinking.

The course assessment structure includes both tests and investigative tasks, as well as exams. A Christian perspective is woven throughout the course, emphasising values like stewardship in financial mathematics and exploring God's order through shapes and geometry.

By the end of the year, students will have developed stronger problem-solving skills, an understanding of mathematical reasoning, and the ability to analyse data and statistics.

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

In Year 9, Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS) consists of Civics and Citizenship, Economics and Business, Geography, and History. Students will engage with these subjects through a Christian lens, focusing on values such as justice, stewardship, and community participation. The course encourages students to think critically about historical events, contemporary issues, and the interconnectedness of people and places in a globalised world.

In Civics and Citizenship, students will learn about Australia's political system, elections, and the court system. Economics and Business explore concepts like trade, markets, and the relationships between consumers, businesses, and the government, with a focus on ethical decision-making and responsible citizenship. Geography covers topics such as the production of food, environmental sustainability, and the connections between people and places. In History, students will study significant events from the modern world (1750-1918), including the Industrial Revolution and World War 1, considering how these developments shaped contemporary society.

Students will be assessed through tests, exams, research assignments, presentations and a combination of practical and theoretical tasks. Throughout the year, emphasis will be placed on building inquiry skills, interpreting sources, and improving communication through essays and reports, with a focus on ethical perspectives in understanding the past and the world today.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH

The Year 9 Physical Education and Health courses focus on helping students develop healthy, active lifestyles through physical activity and informed decision-making. The program combines 2 periods of Physical Education and one period of Health each week, ensuring that students build physical skills while also learning how to make responsible choices regarding their health and well-being.

In Physical Education, students will participate in a variety of activities, including team sports like handball and netball, fitness testing, and individual sports such as athletics. The course emphasises developing movement skills, teamwork, and leadership abilities. Students will also explore biomechanical concepts to analyse and improve their performance.

In Health, students will explore topics like personal identity, mental health, respectful relationships, and strategies for making healthy life choices. Discussions around physical and mental well-being are framed with a biblical worldview, promoting self-care as a reflection of honouring God's creation. Students will engage in activities and lessons designed to help them build resilience, manage conflict, and make informed decisions about issues such as sexuality, alcohol, and drug use.

Students will be assessed through practical tasks, participation in Physical Education and classwork and formal tests in Health.

Elective Subjects

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY - WOOD

Elective Line 1

Students will develop practical skills in woodworking while exploring the design process. This course focuses on creativity, innovation, and problem-solving as students design and create wood-based projects. Through hands-on experience, students will gain a deeper understanding of materials, tools, and construction techniques used in woodworking.

Students will learn essential skills such as cutting, shaping, and finishing wood, while also building their ability to generate detailed production plans. Using both two-dimensional and three-dimensional drawing techniques – including perspective, scale, orthogonal, and exploded views – students will bring their designs to life. Collaboration and independent work will be encouraged as students develop solutions to real-world needs or opportunities.

By the end of the course, students will have gained confidence in using tools and technologies while applying creative thinking to design projects. This course provides students with the opportunity to turn ideas into tangible products and prepares them for further studies in design and technologies.

Year 11 Courses this subject leads to

- Materials, Design and Technology - General

Contact information

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DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Elective Line 1

Digital Photography introduces students to the fundamentals of photography, with a focus on capturing and editing digital images. Throughout the course, students will learn how to take striking photographs using different techniques such as angles, focus, and lighting. They will also develop skills in using Adobe Photoshop to enhance their images and create a digital portfolio that showcases their creativity.

The course emphasises both individual and group work, encouraging collaboration and teamwork while also considering the ethical implications of image manipulation and the importance of integrity when using editing software.

By the end of the course, students will have a strong foundation in photography and image editing, preparing them for further studies in the creative arts or media production. Assessments will include practical photography projects, research tasks, and a final portfolio that demonstrates the skills they have acquired.

Year 11 Courses this subject leads to

- Media Production & Analysis - General
- Applied Information Technology - ATAR
- Applied Information Technology - General

Further information

Mr Matthew Skipworth

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OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Elective Line 1

This course provides students with the opportunity to explore and experience God's creation through a mix of practical outdoor activities and theory-based learning. The course focuses on developing outdoor skills such as canoeing, team building and navigation, with a special emphasis on personal growth, leadership, teamwork, and environmental stewardship. Throughout the year, students will participate in a variety of excursions and camps designed to build confidence and resilience in real outdoor settings through structured challenges.

Students will learn essential skills like water safety, first aid, and camp preparation while also developing their ability to work effectively with others. The course encourages students to reflect on their relationships with the environment, exploring how humans are caretakers of God's creation.

Assessments will include practical skill demonstrations, logbooks, and project-based tasks like creating safety posters and researching camp logistics. This course is a great opportunity for students to not only enjoy outdoor adventures but also to develop life skills that will benefit them beyond the classroom.

Year 11 Courses this subject leads to

- Outdoor Education ATAR
- Outdoor Education General

Time off campus

Please note that students will spend time off campus weekly as well as participate in one 2-night and one 3-night camp across the year and need to be able to keep up with their other studies.

Contact information

Mr Sean Murphy

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PERFORMING ARTS - DRAMA

Elective Line 1

In Drama, students will engage in practical activities to sharpen their acting skills and deepen their understanding of theatre. The course offers opportunities to explore various approaches to performance, including acting in character roles from published scripts, creating original group performances, and taking on behind-the-scenes creative roles such as directing, set design, and costume design.

Drama lessons focus on fostering creativity and teamwork, with an emphasis on creating a supportive and encouraging environment. Students will explore techniques for developing characters and working as a team to bring performances to life. Whether through solo performances or group work, students will build their confidence in front of live audiences, including their peers and the wider school community.

Students selecting Drama will also have the opportunity to perform for others, showcasing their creative work through presentations or school productions. With a blend of performance, design, and technical skills, the course provides a well-rounded foundation for those interested in theatre and creative arts.

Further information

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VISUAL ARTS - DRAWING

Elective Line 1

The Drawing course is a hands-on, creative subject designed to introduce students to a wide range of artistic mediums and techniques. This course encourages students to explore their creativity, develop their unique artistic voice, and express their personal perspectives through a variety of projects.

A strong emphasis is placed on building drawing skills, which are then applied across other mediums. Students will also explore various art styles and techniques throughout the year, preparing them for future studies in Visual Arts through the ATAR or General pathways. This course can be taken alongside specialised streams such as Ceramics or Fibres and Printmaking or as a stand-alone option.

Throughout the course, students will create art projects that reflect their individual creativity while also studying the works of established artists. The course integrates both practical production and critical analysis, helping students to develop both their technical skills and their ability to interpret and respond to artistic works.

Year 11 Courses this subject leads to

- Visual Arts ATAR
- Visual Arts General

Further information

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DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY – ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

Elective Line 2

The Alternative Energy course introduces students to various sustainable energy systems, including hydroelectric, solar power, wind power, and hydrogen fuel cells. Students will explore how these energy sources generate electricity and the importance of transitioning away from fossil fuels to more environmentally friendly alternatives. The course highlights the role of Christians as stewards of God's creation, promoting sustainability and responsible management of the Earth's resources.

Students will learn the fundamentals of electricity, including safety protocols for handling electrical systems. Through hands-on group projects, they will design and build working models based on one of the alternative energy systems studied. The practical components of the course will allow students to apply their understanding of electricity and engineering principles while also considering the environmental and ethical implications of energy use.

Assessments will include research tasks, safety poster production, and the construction of a project focused on one of the four energy systems. The course encourages innovation, problem-solving, and critical thinking, preparing students for future studies in design and technology.

Year 11 Courses this subject leads to

- Materials, Design & Technology – General

Further information

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DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY - TEXTILES

Elective Line 2

Textiles offers students the opportunity to develop hands-on skills in sewing, design, and problem-solving. Throughout the course, students will work with a variety of fabrics – woven, felt, knits, and recycled materials – to create unique and functional items such as toys, educational games, and everyday objects. With an emphasis on creativity and practicality, students will plan, design, and bring their ideas to life through projects that reflect their personal style and meet specific needs.

Students will also explore the importance of sustainability by incorporating recycled materials into their projects. The course will encourage students to think critically and work collaboratively, developing skills in design thinking, sewing techniques, and creative problem-solving. Projects will include designing and creating embroidered panels, as well as functional items that reflect their growing proficiency in textiles.

This course provides a strong foundation for students who are interested in pursuing future studies in Visual Arts.

Year 11 Courses this subject leads to

- Visual Arts ATAR
- Visual Arts General

Further information

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LANGUAGES - SPANISH

Elective Line 2

Our Advanced Spanish Language Program for Years 9-10 is designed to challenge and inspire students as they build on their existing knowledge to reach new levels of fluency and cultural understanding. This dynamic curriculum includes immersive activities, real-world applications, and excursions that provide authentic opportunities to use Spanish in meaningful contexts. Through advanced grammar and vocabulary, students deepen their language skills while studying the unique cultures, histories, and traditions of the 21 Spanish-speaking countries.

Spanish is the second most spoken language in the world by native speakers, enabling communication with over 460 million people worldwide. Mastering Spanish not only fosters a richer understanding of global perspectives but also opens doors to international career opportunities and life-changing experiences abroad.

This comprehensive approach ensures that students develop high proficiency in Spanish, preparing them to converse confidently with native speakers, understand nuanced cultural contexts, and navigate practical situations with ease. Whether discussing social issues, exploring arts and literature, or preparing for overseas travel, students emerge from this program with both linguistic fluency and a broad appreciation of the Spanish-speaking world.

Further information

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Music Performance

Elective Line 2

The Music Performance course is designed for students passionate about music, whether they specialise in instrumental or vocal performance. The course offers experience that immerses students in the world of music through practical learning, group collaboration, and individual performance. Students will focus on developing their musical techniques while building a solid foundation in music theory, composition, and aural skills.

In-class sessions will include both solo performances and group activities, where students collaborate on small ensembles and develop their ability to play or sing in harmony with others. The course encourages creativity and confidence, with regular opportunities for students to showcase their skills in a supportive environment.

This course provides an important foundation for students aiming to continue their musical studies into senior school and beyond.

Year 11 Courses this subject leads to

- Music - General

Further information

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SPORT SCIENCE, STRENGTH & CONDITIONING

Elective Line 2

The Sports Science and Strength and Conditioning elective introduces foundational concepts in human biology and physical education, combining theory and practical applications to deepen students' understanding of body mechanics, fitness, and athletic performance. The course provides an introduction to human biology, focusing on anatomy and physiology to explore body structure and the musculoskeletal system. Students will examine essential principles of physical training, including strength, endurance, and flexibility, while hands-on activities reveal the physiological effects of exercise. This immersive approach enhances students' knowledge and skills in health and fitness.

In addition, students gain insight into coaching philosophies and learn effective techniques for communication, motivation, and strategy development. A section on injury prevention covers the importance of safe exercise practices, recognising common sports injuries, and implementing preventive techniques. The course encourages students to apply scientific principles to real-world training scenarios, fostering an appreciation for structured workout programs and personalised training plans. It builds a solid foundation for further study in sports science, physical education, or fitness coaching, equipping students with skills and knowledge essential for lifelong health and fitness.

Further information

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CHILDCARE

Elective Line 3

The Year 9 Childcare course provides students with foundational knowledge and practical skills to understand child development and care. The course explores important aspects of family life, pregnancy, and early childhood, focusing on the physical, emotional, and developmental needs of children. Students will learn about the different types of families, the qualities of good parenting, and essential health guidelines during pregnancy. Additionally, they will explore various methods of feeding, dressing, and caring for newborns and young children.

Practical components of the course include creating baby clothing items, such as beanies and track pants, and designing baby mobiles. Students will also delve into the basics of childcare equipment and safety, understand the developmental milestones of infants, and learn how to care for a sick child. Through hands-on activities, students will engage in tasks such as planning nutritious meals for pregnant mothers, investigating essential nursery equipment, and making toys for toddlers.

This course also emphasises the importance of creating a safe and nurturing environment for children, including lessons on hazards around the home, as well as strategies for managing common health issues in children. The knowledge and skills gained in this course prepare students for future responsibilities in childcare and parenthood, with opportunities for continued learning in related fields.

Year 11 Courses this subject leads to

- Certificate II or III in Community Services

Further information

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DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY – SMALL ENGINES

Elective Line 3

Small Engines introduces students to the theory and practical workings of internal combustion engines. Students will explore how fuel is converted into mechanical energy and gain an understanding of the components and mechanisms that allow engines to function efficiently. This course offers a unique blend of practical skills and theoretical knowledge, helping students develop their technical abilities in a workshop setting.

Students will learn to safely use tools, handle materials such as oils and fuels, and follow workshop safety protocols while working on small engine projects. The course will cover engine assembly, maintenance, and troubleshooting, with opportunities for mechanical repairs. Students will also be introduced to the basics of electrical systems, which are crucial for engine operation.

By the end of the course, students will have developed a strong foundation in mechanical systems and practical skills, preparing them for future pathways in design and technology.

Year 11 Courses this subject leads to

- Materials, Design & Technology – General

Further information

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DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Elective Line 3

Learning in Digital Technologies focuses on further developing understanding and skills in computational thinking and problem-solving skills. Students will work with a range of hardware and software tools to explore how digital technologies can be used to solve real-world problems. Through hands-on projects, students will design, implement, and evaluate solutions to various challenges using coding, databases, networking, and website development.

Students will gain practical skills in areas such as PC building, networking, and coding, with an introduction to advanced software like the Adobe Suite and Microsoft Office applications. Topics covered include building and maintaining computers, developing database-driven websites, and using artificial intelligence engines and simulations. In addition to technical skills, students will learn to work independently and collaboratively, improving their ability to think logically, plan projects, and communicate their ideas effectively.

This course not only prepares students for future vocational training or senior secondary studies but also emphasises responsible use of technology. Throughout the course, students will explore the ethical implications of digital advancements, learning to approach technology from a biblical worldview that values integrity, creativity, and stewardship.

Year 11 Courses this subject leads to

- Applied Information Technology – General
- Applied Information Technology – ATAR

Further information

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ROBOTICS

Elective Line 3

The Year 9 Robotics course equips students with essential STEM skills to navigate and contribute to a world increasingly driven by automation. Using Lego Mindstorms EV3 kits, students will design, build, and program robots to solve real-world problems. The course is project-based, allowing students to apply problem-solving, design thinking, and coding skills in hands-on scenarios that bring their creations to life.

Throughout the course, students will develop a strong foundation in coding, enabling them to program robotic movement and automated tasks. They will tackle challenges that require precision, logical thinking, and creativity, working both independently and collaboratively. In addition to technical skills, students will learn the importance of perseverance and innovation as they test, troubleshoot, and refine their robotic solutions.

Further information

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VISUAL ARTS - CERAMICS

Elective Line 3

Ceramics offers students practical experience in creating 3D artworks using clay, with an emphasis on creativity, skill development, and personal expression. Throughout the course, students will learn foundational techniques in hand-building and wheel-throwing and explore a variety of glazing and decorating methods to create both functional and decorative ceramic pieces. Each project is designed to encourage students to think critically about art.

Assessment in this course will include design journals, studio pieces, artist research, and critical analysis tasks. By the end of the course, students will have gained a solid foundation in ceramics, preparing them for further studies in Visual Arts through both the ATAR and General pathways.

Year 11 Courses this subject leads to

- Visual Arts ATAR
- Visual Arts General

Further information

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DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY – FIBRES & PRINT

Elective Line 4

Fibres & Printmaking develops student knowledge, skills and appreciation of contemporary Australian art, artists, and crafts people. The Fibres learning area focuses on the basic elements of fabric and textile structure both natural and synthetic. The Printmaking learning area promotes the understanding of an impression being made by any method involving transfer from one surface to another.

The elective explores Art Deco and Art Nouveau themes, exploration of different fibres, printing methods, techniques, and processes to create unique works of art. Printing methods range from lino printing, screen printing, collography and etching.

Developing responsible stewards of the planet in using materials is promoted throughout the elective. In Fibres, students study ways to use printed fabrics and fibre to create new items alongside refreshing old fabrics. New creations will range from home décor including table runners, cushion covers, reupholstered items to shopping bags and printed t-shirts. The usage of recycled fabrics, to create new products, will include fibre basket weaving, rugmaking and felting.

Studying either Fibres & Printmaking, Textiles or a visual arts subject in Year 10 is a prerequisite of studying Visual Art in Year 11.

Year 11 Courses this subject leads to

- Visual Arts ATAR
- Visual Arts General

Further information

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DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY - METAL

Elective Line 4

The Year 9 Metalwork course introduces students to the basics of metallurgy and the skills needed to shape and manipulate metal safely and effectively. Through projects, students will learn how metal responds to processes such as heating, cooling, drilling, and bending. Safety is a top priority, with students gaining a solid understanding of tool use, care, and workshop safety protocols when working with materials like oils and industrial cleaners.

Throughout the course, students will design and create small to medium-sized projects, focusing on hand skills such as cutting, shaping, filing, drilling, and riveting. Some projects may also involve welding, giving students a taste of more advanced metalworking techniques. These practical skills will be supported by theoretical knowledge about metal properties and the science behind metalworking.

This course provides an excellent foundation for students interested in pursuing further studies in Design and Technology, particularly in fields related to automotive work. Due to the nature of the projects, students are required to bring a suitable change of clothes for workshop sessions.

Year 11 Courses this subject leads to

- Materials, Design & Technology – General

Further information

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FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Elective Line 4

The Food Technology course provides opportunities for students to experience roles in food preparation while fostering an appreciation for the role of food in maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Students will explore essential topics such as nutrition, kitchen safety, and hygiene, with a focus on creating balanced meals that support overall well-being. The course emphasises the importance of food as a gift from God, encouraging gratitude, stewardship, and the joy of sharing meals with others.

Throughout the course, students will develop practical skills by preparing a variety of recipes using different cooking methods, including baking, grilling, and frying. Projects such as creating “fakeaway” meals allow students to apply their skills creatively, while learning about international cuisines introduces them to diverse cultural food practices. Assignments include meal planning, designing travel brochures for international cooking schools, and exploring food preservation techniques and studying café culture in Australia.

Assessment in this course includes practical cooking evaluations, design tasks, and meal plans, which allow students to demonstrate both their practical abilities and understanding of nutrition. Students are encouraged to try new foods, expand their palates, and approach cooking as a means of caring for themselves and others, reflecting Christian values of service and gratitude.

Year 11 Courses this subject leads to

- Food Science Technology General

Further information

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MEDIA STUDIES

Elective Line 4

Media Studies is designed to help students understand the media they consume and the impact it has on society. Through both theoretical study and practical projects, students will explore a variety of media formats, including social media videos, advertisements, short films, and video games. They will learn how media texts are constructed, the messages they convey, and the techniques used to influence audiences.

Students will develop essential skills such as filming, editing, and media production using software tools like Adobe Premiere Pro and iMovie. Throughout the course, they will create their own media projects, including videos and advertisements, with a focus on the second semester's practical project of developing a video game. Additionally, students will critically analyse media texts, exploring ethical considerations and the power of media in shaping public opinion.

This course provides a strong foundation for students interested in continuing their studies in Media courses in Years 11 and 12. It also helps to enhance skills that are valuable in English and other subjects requiring analysis and critical thinking.

Year 11 Courses this subject leads to

- Media Production & Analysis General
- Applied Information Technology General
- Applied Information Technology ATAR

Further information

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PHYSICAL RECREATION

Elective Line 4

The Year 9 Physical Recreation elective uses the Sport Education in Physical Education Program (SEPEP) model, where students take on roles such as officiating, coaching, scorekeeping, and team management. This approach allows students to be more than just participants; they become active contributors, gaining responsibility in organising teams and managing gameplay. SEPEP promotes leadership, teamwork, and decision-making, creating a richer understanding of each sport while encouraging students to take ownership of their learning and involvement.

Our aim for this unit is to create a positive, supportive environment where students build confidence, improve skills, and develop respect and responsibility through teamwork. By blending athletic development with roles and responsibilities, the Physical Recreation elective promotes sportsmanship, accountability, and collaboration. These values help students grow not only in sport but also in personal character, preparing them for life beyond the classroom.

Further information

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STEAM

Elective Line 4

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math), is a class where you get to solve problems using technology, logic, creativity, and collaboration. You will develop and use problem solving skills to investigate and solve problems that are not simply in the science area. You will use Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths, along with creative and artistic skills, to create projects, both individually and collaboratively.

The course is project-based where the focus is not just the result, but the process of getting there. The journey is as important as the destination. Think about a building. The planning and construction matter as much as the finished result. How we get somewhere is important and the STEAM course will focus on the journey. You might think, "I'm not creative, I'm not good at building stuff, I can't solve problems!" but you can ask questions. The STEAM course will help take those questions and facilitate your journey to answering some of them.

If you like thinking things through, creatively working things out, asking the "what if" questions, then this is the elective for you. Just think, 2 periods a week to brainstorm, be creative and solve problems. STEAM in action!

Year 11 Courses this subject leads to

- This course will prepare students for studies in Science, Mathematics, The Arts and Technologies.

Further information

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