**Strathfield South High School**

Stage 5 Subject Selection Handbook



*Information for students and parents*

Year 9 2022 – Year 10 2023

*Many Cultures, Common Values, One School*

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Introduction

Inside this booklet you will find information regarding subjects offered in Year 9 (2022) and Year 10 (2023). Some courses are mandatory while other courses, called elective courses, are chosen by students to suit their learning needs.

This booklet has been designed to assist Year 8 students and parents/carers make an informed decision in their choices of electives for Years 9 and 10 (Stage 5).

A meeting of Year 8 students has been held to explain the selection procedure and answer any initial questions. This book provides details for each course on offer, including information about the content, student learning outcomes and any specific requirements and fees involved.

You are encouraged to read this information carefully before you select your Stage 5 elective preferences.

Students should think about their choices carefully and make your choice after deciding if the subject interests you. Students should not allow the choices of others to influence their decisions.

The Curriculum

Years 9 and 10 are very important years that provide the grounding for senior studies. As such, students will be expected to complete assessment tasks and work diligently in all of their subjects.

The mandatory courses for Stage 5 (Years 9 and 10) are:

* English
* History and Geography
* Mathematics
* PD/H/PE
* Science

Students will also receive careers lessons at different stages throughout Year 10. Please note that sport is also a compulsory part of the curriculum.

In Years 9 and 10 **ALL** students **MUST** satisfactorily complete the mandatory courses.

Stage 5 must be completed satisfactorily and all NESA requirements met before a student is eligible to proceed to Stage 6. Students who fail to meet course requirements may be deemed non-serious students and may be required to repeat Year 10.

**Satisfactory Completion Requirements**

Satisfactory completion of a course depends upon a student’s attendance, level of effort and participation in class activities, the completion of assessments and the level of achievement (a serious attempt).

To satisfactorily complete Stage 5, a student must:

* Complete ALL assigned work, including each assessment task, to the best of their ability;
* Demonstrate they have met the course requirements through sustained effort and achievement

**“N” Warning Letter**

A student may receive an ‘N’ Determination for a course or courses if they:

* do not follow the course developed by NESA:
* do not apply themselves with diligence and sustained effort in the set tasks;
* do not achieve some or all of the course outcomes.

Warning letters will be issued where any student is failing to meet NESA requirements throughout Years 9 and 10. It is the student’s responsibility to redeem all coursework and assessment tasks.

Course Contributions

Each course offered in this booklet has a short summary of the content covered as well as listing the course contribution which is charged. Course contributions will be used to cover the consumable items required and which are not provided by the Department of Education. While every attempt is made to keep such contributions to a minimum, they are required to be paid if a student is to participate fully in the subject. Students generally get to keep the products that they make from these consumable items. Arrangements can be made to pay in instalments. Please note that not all courses charge a contribution.

In addition, at Strathfield South High School across Years 9 and 10 students have the opportunity to study **FOUR** 100 hour courses from those outlined in the following pages.

For Year 9, you need to choose two elective subjects. Then in Year 10 you will have the option to:

1. Continue the study of both electives (2 x 200 hours)

2. Continue one elective and choose one new elective (1 x 200hour + 2 x 100hours)

3. Change both electives and choose two new electives (4 x 100 hours)

List of Elective Courses

| Commerce  Computer Studies  Drama  Food technology  History Elective  Industrial Technology - Graphics  Industrial Technology -Timber  Japanese  Music  Photography and Digital Media  Physical Activity and Sports Studies (PASS)  Visual Arts |
| --- |

| History-Elective |
| --- |

**Why choose this course?**

* You would like to learn about past societies and historical periods
* You want to know why there are different versions/stories of past events

**Course description**

History enables young people to develop an interest in and enjoyment of exploring the past. History Elective provides opportunities to develop a knowledge and understanding of past societies and historical periods.

The study of History Elective enables students to investigate the actions, motives and lifestyles of people over time, from individuals and family members, to local communities, expanding to national and world history contexts. It introduces the idea that the past contains many stories and that there is never only one uncontested version. Ideally, by undertaking History Elective, students will develop a life-long interest and enthusiasm for History.

**What students learn**

Students explore the nature of history, heritage and archaeology and the methods that historians use to construct history through a range of thematic and historical studies. The construction of history is examined through options such as oral history, museum or archive studies, historical fiction, media, biography or film. Historical issues studied include the collection, display and reconstruction of the past, ethical issues of ownership, preservation and conservation of the past. Features of a range of ancient, medieval and modern societies are explored and students have the opportunity to study historical themes such as war and peace, crime and punishment, music through history, slavery and gender in history.

Students undertake processes of historical inquiry, including understanding and analysing sources and sequencing major historical events to show an understanding of continuity, change and causation. Students develop an understanding of historical concepts such as empathetic understanding, significance and contestability. They apply research and communication skills, including the use of ICT, and examine different perspectives and interpretations to develop an understanding of a wide variety of viewpoints. Students are provided with opportunities to construct a logical historical argument supported by relevant evidence and to communicate effectively about the past for different audiences.

**Course Contribution: nil**

| Commerce |
| --- |

**Why choose this course?**

If you shop, intend buying and driving a car, plan on living in your own home, have a job or are planning on working and you want a head start, you should think seriously about undertaking this elective subject.

**Course Description**

Commerce is a practical subject and vital course, which centres around the acquisition of fundamental skills in the areas of consumer and legal rights, employment, banking and business. It provides a basic core of information and skills for students who are interested in careers in the world of finance, journalism, real estate, law, government and business. It develops student’s abilities to research information, apply problem-solving strategies and evaluate options in order to make informed and responsible decisions as individuals and as part of the community.

**What students learn**

The Core includes two sections:

| Part 1:  Consumer & Financial Decisions  The Economic and Business Environment | Part 2:  Law, Society and Political Involvement  Employment and Work Futures |
| --- | --- |

This is followed by five optional studies chosen from: Investing; Promoting and Selling; E-commerce, Global Links; Towards Independence; Political Involvement; Travel, Law in Action; Our Economy; and Running a Business.

Students will study:

• The development and importance of money.

• The role of the consumer and how the consumer is protected by governments

• Why and how businesses exist, and relationships between consumers, businesses and government.

• Earning an income and how to budget for the effective use of income.

• The place of government – its functions, responsibilities and effectiveness.

• The importance and use of commercial records

**Course Contribution: Nil**

| Food Technology |
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**Why choose this course?**

• If you enjoy preparing food

• If you want to learn more about food and nutrition

• If you would like to be more creative in the kitchen

**Course Description**

The study of Food Technology provides students with a broad knowledge and understanding of food properties, processing and preparation and how these relate to nutrition and food consumption. Students are involved in investigating food through practical experience and processes such as research, making and management.

**What students learn**

Through a study of nutritional requirements of different groups of people over the lifespan, students will learn how to choose, use and prepare suitable foods to meet specific requirements. The functions of food and nutrients in the diet will be studied, and students will gain knowledge of the marketplace. The commercial aspect of Australian foods is also investigated, such as innovations and technological change.

Students learn to:

• Prepare logical sequenced plans of action for a variety of food activities.

• Demonstrate communication and teamwork skills.

• Select and use a variety of food preparation techniques and equipment proficiently.

• Present oral and written reports about food technology using appropriate terminology.

• Demonstrate the use of equipment to provide a safe work environment.

• Display research and report writing skills.

**Course Contribution:** $110 per year plus container purchase and apron hire (or you can bring your own)

| Industrial Technology - Timber |
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**Why choose this course?**

* If you enjoy creating and making things
* If you like designing and creating in timber
* To gain knowledge, understanding and skills that relate to timber-related technologies

**Course Description**

Industrial Technology -Timber provides opportunities for students to develop knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to timber and its associated industries. Students are involved in the planning, development and construction of quality projects. Core modules develop knowledge and skills in the use of materials, tools and techniques related to timber which are enhanced and further developed through the study of specialist modules in: Cabinetwork and Wood Machining

This course enables students to build a wide range of timber projects. Working with wood is an enjoyable experience and the school teaches students traditional skills along with the use of the most modern machine tools. Safe working habits and design skills are emphasised in the course. Students can develop self confidence and responsibility as they make projects using design and problem solving skills

**What students learn**

Practical projects undertaken will reflect the nature of the Timber focus area and provide opportunities for students to develop specific knowledge, understanding and skills related to timber-related technologies. These may include:

∙ decorative timber products

∙ storage and transportation products

∙ small stepladders or similar

∙ storage and display units.

Projects will promote the sequential development of skills and reflect an increasing degree of student autonomy as they progress through the course.

**Course Contribution: $90**

| Music |
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**Why choose this course?**

* You enjoyed learning Music in Year 7 & 8
* You love music
* You want to learn more about different types of music
* You are already learning an instrument
* You would like to start learning an instrument or developing your vocal skills

**Course Description**

All students will have the opportunity to develop their musical abilities and potential. Even if you have never learnt an instrument you CAN take music as an elective. There are a variety of assessment tasks – from listening and score reading tasks, to performances, composition tasks, talks and research assignments. Students will have the option to focus on an instrument of their choosing or continue to taste different instruments.

**What students learn**

In Music, students learn to perform repertoire within a range of musical contexts, compose music that represents the topics they have studied and listen with discrimination, meaning and appreciation to a broad range of musical styles. The study of the concepts of music, underpin the development of skills in performing, composing and listening.

Performing

- Develop ensemble and solo performance technique within genres of music studied in units.

- Perform in ensembles (groups) and on your own within class.

Composition

- Explore the creation of musical works through developing improvisation skills and knowledge of written notation along with composition techniques.

- Development of skills on musical software such as Sibelius, Note Flight, Garage Band, etc.

Listening

- Listen to a diverse range of music

- Analyse music and understand how it works - Interpret different styles of music

- Find connections between music of today and music of the past

**Course Contribution:** $50

| Physical Activity and Sports Studies (PASS) |
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**Why choose this course?**

The PASS elective provides students with the opportunity to further explore the science of sport and physical activity and the many contexts in which individuals can build activity into their lifestyle. It also introduces students to valuable and marketable skills in organisation, enterprise, leadership and communication.

**Course Description**

This course is not designed simply for those that are ‘good at sport’. It is for anyone who has an interest in sports and human movement related fields, those that wish to improve their fitness, confidence and skills and those who wish to develop lifelong physical activity and health enhancing skills and behaviours to optimise their personal health and wellbeing. Many learning experiences and skills in this subject are linked to learning in other areas.

The PASS elective provides students with the opportunity to further explore the science of sport and physical activity and the many contexts in which individuals can build activity into their lifestyle. It also introduces students to valuable and marketable skills in organisation, enterprise, leadership and communication.

**What students learn**

Physical Activity and Sports Studies also promotes learning about movement and provides students with opportunities to develop their movement skills, analyse movement performance and assist the performance of others. It also introduces students to valuable and marketable skills in organisation, enterprise, leadership and communication.

**Course Contribution: Nil**

| Computer Studies |
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**Why choose this course?**

* To develop your technology skills
* Enjoy problem solving

**Course Description**

Information and Software Technology develops students’ knowledge and understanding, confidence and creativity in analysing, designing, developing and evaluating information and software technology solutions. In today’s world highly developed levels of computing and technology literacy are vital for the future. This course in particular focuses on technologies that reduce human effort.

**What students learn**

Students will identify a need or problem to be solved, explore a range of possible solutions and produce a full working solution. They will use a variety of technologies to create, modify and produce products in a range of media formats.

**Course Contribution:** $30

| Visual Arts |
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**Why choose this course?**

* If you are interested in a creative career.
* To express your ideas and imaginings in creative way.
* If you enjoy working with a broad range of materials.

**Course Description**

Visual Arts is an exciting and challenging course with opportunities to learn about yourself as an artist, other artists, artworks, audiences and the amazing world in which they practice artmaking.

Art studying includes critical/historical studies, where students will explore and analyse the practice of artists and apply this understanding to the development of their own artmaking. Artmaking involves the process that each student undergoes when creating a Body of Work from brainstorming and researching their ideas, to experimenting with their chosen art materials and finally producing their artworks. Each unit of work reflects a theme or area of study, as well as a focus on a particular artmaking process.

**What students learn**

Visual Arts is an exciting and challenging course with opportunities to learn about yourself as an artist, other artists, artworks, audiences and the amazing world in which they practice artmaking. In Visual Arts we foster creativity, problem-solving, independent learning, development of critical thinking and the ability to think outside the square.

In Critical and Historical practices, students will develop skills in analysis, art language and engage with critical and historical writing about the arts, while exploring the history of art, the practice of artists, art critics and art historians keeping abreast of current art events, including visiting galleries and exhibitions

**Course Contribution:** $50. In addition, students will need to purchase an art diary.

| Drama |
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**Why choose this course?**

The Stage 5 Drama course enables young people to experience the world of theatre whilst fostering an appreciation of the work of other performers and practitioners. The dramatic activities facilitate the building of confidence, creativity, critical thinking and the ability to collaborate effectively with others. These personal skills assist in the preparation of students for the workplace and not just for a role in Theatre.

**Course Description**

In Drama students have the opportunity to develop their creative, expressive and communication skills while participating in a variety of workshops that concentrate on improvisation, acting and performance. The practical nature of the Drama course allows students of all abilities to experience success and enjoyment in the classroom. Drama relies heavily on the ability to work cooperatively and creatively with others, enabling students to build self-confidence and leadership in a group situation. Course content focuses on the exploration of the Elements of Drama through playbuilding and practical experience in a variety of dramatic forms and performance styles. These include Comedy / Mime / Physical / Mask / Musical Theatre / Ritual / Commedia Dell’Arte, Melodrama and Shakespearean Drama. Students experience and analyse scripts from the past and present, gaining an insight into the concept of taking a dramatic work from “page to stage”.

**What students learn**

Students will learn the skills, techniques, practices, elements and functions of Drama and Theatre in a practical, hands-on environment. They will learn about the challenges of playbuilding through group devised processes. Students will also learn about the various practitioner roles in the theatre, the visual impact of design, production techniques and the importance of the audience in any performance. Students begin to develop an understanding of Drama and Theatre contextually and its place in the world.

**Course Contribution:** Nil . Students will need to provide / purchase a set of “theatre blacks” for performance assessments. This is simply a black t-shirt and black pants.

| Photographic and Digital Media |
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**Why choose this course?**

If you are interested in the world of artists, photographers, designers, filmmakers and animators. If you are interested in developing your own creative and artistic skills through technology. If you want to learn more about how Photography & Digital Media are used in artistic practice.

**Course Description**

Photographic and digital media powerfully communicates ideas, identity, values and culture through images. The study of photographic and digital media enables young people to develop an interest in and enjoyment of investigating the rapidly evolving ideas, practices and technologies of this art form. Through critical reflection and acquiring understanding, knowledge and skills, students respond to the ideas, art and arts practice of others, through creatively developing their own ideas and photographic and digital artworks.

**What students learn**

Students learn about the pleasure and enjoyment of making different kinds of photographic and digital media works in still, interactive and moving forms. They learn to represent their ideas and interests with reference to contemporary trends and how photographers, videographers, film-makers, computer/digital and performance artists make photographic and digital media works.

Students learn about how photographic and digital media is shaped by different beliefs, values and meanings by exploring photographic and digital media artists and works from different times and places, and relationships in the artworld between the artist – artwork – world – audience. They also explore how their own lives and experiences can influence their making and critical and historical studies.

Students learn to make photographic and digital media works using a range of materials and techniques in still, interactive and moving forms, including ICT, to build a Photographic and Digital Media portfolio over time. They learn to develop their research skills, approaches to experimentation and how to make informed personal choices and judgements. They learn to record procedures and activities about their making practice in their Photographic and Digital Media journal. Students learn to investigate and respond to a wide range of photographic and digital media artists and works in making, critical and historical studies.

Students learn to interpret and explain the function of and relationships in the artworld between the artist – artwork – world – audience to make and study photographic and digital media artworks.

**Course Contribution:** $50

| Graphics |
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**Why choose this course?**

• If you like designing, sketching, and drawing new ideas

• If you would like to do something with design when you leave school

**Course Description**

The major emphasis of the Graphics Technology syllabus is on student’s actively planning, developing and producing quality graphical presentations. Students will learn to design, prepare and present graphical presentations using both manual and computer based drafting technologies. They will learn to interpret and analyse graphical images and presentations and develop an understanding of the use of graphics in industrial, commercial and domestic applications.

**What students learn**

All students will learn about the principles and techniques involved in producing a wide range of images, models, pictures and drawings. They will gain an understanding of graphics standards, conventions and procedures used in manual drafting and computer-aided drawing (CAD)

**Course Contribution:**