Middle Years Curriculum Overview

YEAR 7
2014
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GENERAL INFORMATION

KEY CONTACT STAFF 2014 -

Changes may occur in 2014

Principal:
Mr Gus Napoli

Assistant Principal:
Ms Judy Poole

Later Years/ Pathways Leader
Ms Paula Condell

Student Learning Leader:
Mrs Helen Toon

Student Management:
Mr Russell Wigginton

Transition
Ms Jacqueline Bonis

Careers Advisor:
Ms Aglaia Samaras

Student Wellbeing Co-ordinator:
Mrs Angelina Ross

Year 7 Co-ordinator:
Ms Tarquinio

Year 8 Co-ordinator:
Mrs Anderson

Year 9 Co-ordinator:
Mr McKee

Year 10 Co-ordinator:
Ms Maisano

Year 11 & 12 Co-ordinator:
Mr Trevor Cheasley-Higgins

Domain Leaders:

- Arts: Mr Cheasley-Higgins
- Technology: Ms Lorraine Reilly
- English: Ms Agatha Koroneos
- Health & PE: Ms Besim
- LOTE: Ms Maisano
- Mathematics: Mr Rafati
- Science: Mr Rafati
- Humanities: Ms Georgiadis

STUDENT SUPPORT

If students have any problems they should talk to a staff member who can help – a Year Level Co-ordinator, Student Wellbeing Co-ordinator, subject teacher or Careers Advisor – all are available. Don’t hesitate or leave it until it is too late. Ask for help when you need it – that is what the school is for!

The College also assists in other ways:

1. Information Nights and packages – held during the year.
2. Key Personnel with specific responsibilities -
   - Sub School Co-ordinator: assistance with general information in Years 7-9 and enrolments.
   - Year Level Co-ordinators and teachers: general assistance with courses, personal difficulties and advice about specific subjects.
   - Student Wellbeing Co-ordinator: assistance with any areas that affect student wellbeing and provision of information on outside agencies offering assistance, both personal and financial. Also assistance for students with Disability and Impairment.
   - Careers Advisor: careers direction and information.
   - Domain Leaders: assistance with specific subject information.
YEAR 7 CURRICULUM

Overview

At Year 7 all students undertake a full course of study that encompasses all Domain areas.

All students study the following subjects all year.

Students stay in their own class group for all subjects. Some changes, according to student ability levels, occur for English and Mathematics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Specific Subject Information</th>
<th>Periods per week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Grouped according to ability levels.</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Grouped according to ability levels.</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities (SOSE)</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOTE (Italian) or Literacy Support</td>
<td>Students are placed in Literacy according to ability to undertake LOTE</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology: Music/ Food Technology</td>
<td>Semester length</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arts: Art/ Textiles</td>
<td>Semester length</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>20</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: All students will attend a Home Group briefing for 10 minutes at the start of each day.
YEAR 7 ENGLISH

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

In this subject you are going to learn how to become a better writer by looking at the different types of writing style we encounter every day. Using newspapers, magazines, books, internet sites and reports we will identify the ideas, themes and issues in these. You will produce writing to respond to these styles which will help you to develop your writing, speaking, listening and reading skills. We will focus on punctuation, grammar, spelling, proof reading and editing to improve your writing and speaking skills. You will also have many opportunities to practice and improve your speaking and listening skills, through the presentation of your work and ideas in class.

Some of the work you will be completing includes:

- Identity Assignment (Who Am I?)
- Reading Comprehension
- Premier's Reading Challenge/wider reading
- Newspaper assignment
- Bug Muldoon and the Garden of Fear (novel)

WHY ARE WE DOING IT?

We are doing this in order to develop our skills and knowledge in English, especially in regards to:

- Inference
- Building vocabulary and formal language
- Writing with correct grammar and punctuation
- Writing with correct sentence structure
- Using correct tense when writing and speaking
- Reading accurately
- Continuing to progress through the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS)

WHAT ARE YOU EXPECTED TO DO?

What you MUST do to successfully complete the course:

- To be able to work independently as well as make a valuable contribution to group work.
- Complete all assessment tasks for example, projects, tests and exercises.
- Be organised for class and have all the correct materials.
- Keep an organised workbook.
- Actively participate in class discussions.
- Complete all set class work and homework within the set deadlines.
- Attend all classes.
YEAR 7 MATHEMATICS

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

In all your topics that you will study, your teacher will guide you to how that topic can assist you in your day to day lives and careers and that Maths is part of real life.
You will be working with models, tables, diagrams and materials you will be working with mathematical strategies to try to problem solve.
You will be involved in planning, questioning, investigating, evaluating and reporting.
You will also become experts in the use of a calculator. You will begin using a calculator to explore patterns and assist you with mutli step calculations. You will also be taught how to use graphic organisers for later years in Maths.
The most exciting aspect of Maths is using technology as part of your Maths learning. You will be using spreadsheets and drawing software in many of the topics that you will be covering.

WHY ARE WE DOING IT?

In junior Maths you will be learning how to think like a mathematician. You will be learning how to solve problems, relating to Maths to your day to day lives, learn how to investigate, use calculators and work with different ICT to assist with your mathematics.

WHAT ARE YOU EXPECTED TO DO?

What you MUST do to successfully complete the course:
- To be able to work independently as well as make a valuable contribution to group work.
- Complete all assessment tasks for example, projects, tests and exercises.
- Be organised for class and have all the correct materials.
- Keep an organised workbook.
- Actively participate in class discussions.
- Complete all set class work and homework within the set deadlines.
- Attend all classes.
YEAR 7 SCIENCE

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
You are going to develop your science skills, knowledge and practical experience through different topic based study.

Topics Studied:
- Being a Scientist
- Heat, Light and Sound
- Solids, Liquids and Gases
- Classification
- Earth and Space
- Mixtures
- Senses
- Forces

At the end of each unit of study you will complete a written formative assessment to demonstrate you have learnt and understood the key ideas taught. There will also be an assessment of your science skills and practical ability during the course. The scores from these tests and your performance in class will go towards your reports which are completed each term.

WHY ARE WE DOING IT?
To gain better understanding of the constantly changing and evolving world around you!

There have been good changes in our world, like the web, which has revolutionised the way information is stored and accessed. But there have also been bad changes. We have been making huge demands on the planet’s resources and the environment, and now need to find new solutions for almost everything humans do, from fuel production to waste disposal.

Studying science will prepare you for a job that will put you in the driving seat; giving you skills and knowledge to improve the world around us, and even the future of the planet. Through different topic based units you may be encourage you to consider further study and careers in science and engineering. All of which may help to address skill shortages in technological careers and trades.

Studying science is also very fun and gives you an opportunity to use equipment and chemicals you will not have access to in normal day-to-day life.

WHAT ARE YOU EXPECTED TO DO?
What you MUST do to successfully complete the course:
- To be able to work independently as well as make a valuable contribution to group work.
- Complete all assessment tasks for example, projects, tests and exercises.
- Work safely during all practical classes in the laboratory.
- Be organised for class and have all the correct materials.
- Keep an organised workbook.
- Actively participate in class discussions.
- Complete all set class work and homework within the set deadlines.
- Attend all classes.
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

How can we learn what the past was really like?

Year 7 Humanities travels back through time through to the oldest civilisations of the world. The Ancient Civilisations of Egypt, Greece, Rome and China are explored in depth where students are able to grasp the traditions and way of life lead by those from whom we have developed our modern world.

Students become familiar with historical terminology and learn how to identify and use primary and secondary resources. Students study Geographical Skills and the Asia-Pacific region in depth covering aspects such as; topography, map reading, special features of the region that make it so unique and the diverse range of animals and plant life that it carries.

Students move to develop economical and civics skills to enable them to develop essential skills for everyday life. Students explore the rights that have as citizens of Australia and develop ways to become a better citizen and improve the community in which they live. Students also identify ways to manage income to both enjoy the present and plan for the future.

WHY ARE WE DOING IT?

It is important that we develop an understanding of how our world has developed the way in which it has. It is essential that students have a grasp on how societies develop on many levels; politically, economically, socially and religiously. As civilisations progress; beliefs, values and lifestyles begin to change no matter where in the world we live. The Asia-Pacific region is a focal point as Australia is the largest nation in this area. Students work to identify the different types of environments which lay in the Asia-Pacific region and how each country adapts to their environments. Students will be able to do the above through research, map interpretation, images, film and other ICT dimensions.

WHAT ARE YOU EXPECTED TO DO?

What you MUST do to successfully complete the course:

- To be able to work independently as well as make a valuable contribution to group work.
- Complete all assessment tasks for example, enquiry based projects, tests and exercises.
- Be organised for class and have all the correct materials.
- Keep an organised workbook which contains dot point notes, practise tests and the Glossary which students build on across the year through various units.
- Actively participate in class discussions and group work activities using ICT.
- Complete all set class work and homework within the set deadlines.
- Attend all classes.
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
A wide variety of activities such as skills practices in pairs and small groups, mini games, relays, competitions, tabloids, worksheets, videos, excursions, fitness tests, based on the following:

- Athletics
- Football/Soccer
- Fitness
- Netball
- Volleyball
- Gymnastics
- Badminton
- Cricket
- Hockey
- Minor games
- Basketball
- T’Ball

Classes will rotate through 3 units each term.

Health Education about sun safety, building good relationships, working in teams, changes during adolescence, decision making, and concerns like smoking, alcohol use and safe sex.

WHY ARE WE DOING IT?
- To participate in regular physical activity to improve our health and fitness.
- To improve our skills and refine our techniques.
- To understand the game strategies that can help improve our performance.
- To build good relationships with others and improve our teamwork.
- To understand all the changes that are taking place in our lives at this stage.
- To gain knowledge so we make healthy choices.

WHAT ARE YOU EXPECTED TO DO?
What you **MUST** do to successfully complete the course:
- Bring your correct uniform to every class and be ready to participate at your best.
- Be well behaved and follow all class rules.
- Show respect for others at all times.
- Show improvement in your skills, game strategies and healthy choices.
YEAR 7 LOTE
Italian

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
- We will learn about how the Italian language and culture has influenced our own language and the Australian way of life.
- We will use set text books, computers, audio-visual materials and a native Italian teacher to build our knowledge and learn the basics of Italian.
- We will be reading, writing, listening and speaking in Italian, as we study several key themes to enhance our learning.
- We will be using Italian to communicate in class, make connections with Italian students through email and other forms of technology. Work will be completed individually, in pairs and in teams, in order to achieve positive and successful outcomes in this course.

WHY ARE WE DOING IT?
To develop important skills identified in language learning, which will ultimately strengthen and enhance overall skills, such as:
- Understanding & accepting differences & similarities in cultures in other parts of the world, which have contributed to Australia’s multiculturalism.
- The ability to speak and understand another language.
- Understanding the role of grammar in overall language learning; which will strengthen our understanding of the English language.
- Becoming a responsible individual learner who can enjoy a positive language learning experience & be assisted in achieving successful attainment of language skills.

More details can be found in the VELS documentation available at vels.vcaa.vic.edu.au.

WHAT ARE YOU EXPECTED TO DO?
What you MUST do to successfully complete the course:
- Completion of set text book activities, relevant assignments, class tasks and oral participation work.
- Maintain a well organised writing book.
- Be an active member of the class and participate in all class activities including reading, writing, speaking and listening assessments and excursions and incursions relevant to the course.
- Aim to always operate at the best of your ability, setting yourself an effective homework study routine and remain focused on achieving success in your language learning.
YEAR 7 LITERACY SUPPORT

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

You are going to learn about new ways of learning that will help you to improve in all areas, not just in this class. You will be supported in the work that you do in your other subject by improving vocabulary, spelling and writing. You will complete book reports, research tasks, writing tasks and film and book studies. We will use current affairs in newspapers and on television to learn about our community and the world.

WHY ARE WE DOING IT?

We are learning in this way because we believe it is the best way to support you in all your classes. You should start to see an improvement in your other subjects as well as in your literacy class. This extra support over the year will make a huge difference to your learning and your retention of the new topics that you learn.

WHAT ARE YOU EXPECTED TO DO?

What you MUST do to successfully complete the course:
- To be able to work independently as well as make a valuable contribution to group work.
- Complete all assessment tasks for example, projects, tests and exercises.
- Be organised for class and have all the correct materials.
- Keep an organised workbook.
- Actively participate in class discussions.
- Complete all set class work and homework within the set deadlines.
- Attend all classes.
**YEAR 7 THE ARTS**

**Music**

**WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?**

Work on developing performance skills using the keyboard, including:
- finger technique
- rehearsal skills
- rhythmic skills

You will work on developing an understanding of basic music theory:
- note and rest values
- time signatures
- notation
- expressive markings

You will complete a group and individual composition, that will include
- using a range of composing styles
- Team work
- Sound effects
- The pentatonic scale
- Application of the theory learnt

You will develop Listening/Aural skills, including:
- Recognition of different musical instruments
- Recognition of basic intervals and chords.

**WHY ARE WE DOING IT?**

To develop the important skills of CREATING AND MAKING music through:
- Performance techniques
- Ensemble work
- Use of musical elements
- Structure
- Use of different instruments such as; percussion instruments, keyboards and the voice

**EXPLORING & RESPONDING to music by:**
- Developing “Music” language
- Expressing personal and informed judgements on performances and composition
- Develop the aural skills to be able to recognise, different musical instruments and elements, and to be able to respond to these.

**WHAT ARE YOU EXPECTED TO DO?**

What you **MUST** do to successfully complete the course:
- To be able to work independently as well as make a valuable contribution to group work.
- Complete all assessment tasks for example, projects, tests and exercises.
- Be organised for class and have all the correct materials.
- Keep an organised workbook.
- Actively participate in class discussions.
- Complete all set class work and homework within the set deadlines.
- Attend all classes.
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
Work towards producing a folio of completed artworks in a range of media
- Pencil
- Acrylic paint
- Oil pastels
- Crayons
- Collage
- Clay
- Papier mache

You will maintain a journal documenting:
- Sources of inspiration
- Designs and options
- Reasons for your choices
- Development of your folio works
- Your evaluations of the finished works

You will research various artists and the movements those artists are associated with.

WHY ARE WE DOING IT?
- To develop the important skills of:
  
  Creating and making artworks involving:
  - Drawing portraits
  - Development of the art elements
  - Observations from still life and the world around us
  - Colour mixing
  - Manipulating different materials in 2D and 3D

  Exploring and responding to artworks by:
  - Analysing and developing understanding about your own and other peoples’ work
  - Expressing personal and informed judgements about artworks
  - Developing “Arts” language

WHAT ARE YOU EXPECTED TO DO?
What you MUST do to successfully complete the course: Submit-
- Folio of artworks
- Journal
- Research assignment
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
To develop the important skills of:

Investigating: Students will examine a variety of different food groups and investigate a particular food, its processing and the range of products available.

Designing: Students will be introduced to the design process and throughout the semester they will design two of their own recipes. These will also be self evaluated.

Producing: Students will prepare a variety of meals and baked products utilising a number of skill and techniques. Students will also prepare self-designed meals.

Evaluating: Evaluation will be based on the work methods and final product.

WHY ARE WE DOING IT?
- To promote a sound knowledge and understanding of particular foods and preparation of them.
- To introduce good nutritional practices.
- To introduce practical cooking skills.
- To encourage independence in class work.
- To develop co-operative group work.

WHAT ARE YOU EXPECTED TO DO?
What you MUST do to successfully complete the course: Submit-
- A fruit & milk investigation
- Design Task: Design your own Fruit Smoothie
- Design Task: Design your own Healthy Noodles
- Weekly production work
- Evaluation Tasks (weekly & as part of the design tasks)
YEAR 7 TECHNOLOGY
Textiles

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
To develop the important skills of:
**Designing:** Students will be introduced to the design process and throughout the semester they will design two of their own textile projects. These will also be self evaluated.
**Producing:** Students will produce a project based on their own design utilising a number of skill and techniques.
**Evaluating:** Evaluation will be based on the work methods and final product.

WHY ARE WE DOING IT?
To develop the important skills of:
- Hand sewing
- Machine sewing
- Designing a product
- Working with in a time line to produce a product
- Evaluating their own work to identify strengths and weaknesses
- Fabric construction

WHAT ARE YOU EXPECTED TO DO?
What you MUST do to successfully complete the course: Submit
- Folio of design work based on two projects for the semester
- Two completed products
- Evaluation of both finished products
- Theory components on fabric construction