Middle Years Curriculum Overview

YEAR 8
2014
# CONTENTS

## GENERAL INFORMATION

- Key Contact Staff 2014 .......................................................... 1
- Student Support ................................................................. 1
- Year 8 Curriculum Overview .............................................. 2

## YEAR 8 CURRICULUM

- Year 8 English ................................................................. 3
- Year 8 Mathematics .......................................................... 4
- Year 8 Science ................................................................. 5
- Year 8 Humanities (SOSE) .................................................. 6
- Year 8 Health & Physical Education .................................... 7
- Year 8 LOTE – Italian ....................................................... 8
- Year 8 Literacy Support ..................................................... 9
- Year 8 The Arts
  - Drama ........................................................................... 10
  - Art ................................................................................ 11
- Year 8 Technology
  - Materials ....................................................................... 12
  - Information Technology ................................................. 13
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 Management:
Mr Russell Wigginton

Student Learning Leader:
Mrs Helen Toon

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: 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.
At Year 8 all students undertake a full course of study that encompasses all Domain areas.

All students study the following subjects all year, unless stated otherwise.

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: Materials/ Information Technology</td>
<td>Semester length</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Arts: Art/ Drama</td>
<td>Semester length</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **TOTAL**                        |                                                                  | **20**           

*Note: All students will attend a Home Group briefing for 10 minutes at the start of each day.*
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

We will continue to use a range of texts to develop our knowledge and understanding of the essential areas of English; reading, writing, speaking and listening.

- Reading: we will use a range of texts such as novels, short-stories, films, scripts, poems and newspapers to explore ideas, themes and issues. Students will begin to interpret meaning and messages from these texts.

- Writing: we will produce narrative, scripts, reflective and persuasive texts incorporating correct elements within each form of writing and developing the student’s ability to plan, draft, edit and proof-read. Students apply correct grammar and punctuation to their writing pieces and use appropriate tenses.

- Speaking and listening: we will use class discussions and oral presented assessments to assist students to infer messages. Students will learn to expand their explanations to include evidence and reasons to back up their opinions. They will develop their ability to express themselves verbally and to assess their peers by asking clarifying questions and adding to discussions.

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)

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 & folder.
- Be an active member of the classroom and participate in all class activities including reading, writing, speaking and listening assessments.
- Aim to always operate at the best of your ability, setting yourself an effective homework study routine and remain focused on achieving further success in English.
YEAR 8 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.
YEAR 8 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;
Science Skills
Ecology
Microbiology
Geology
Atoms
Astronomy
Using Forces
Body Systems

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.
YEARN 8 HUMANITIES (SOSE)

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
In Year 8 you are going to learn about the Vikings and Medieval life. You are going to learn about the life and traditions of people during 500AD — 1500AD. Also you will learn about the different environments and geographic features in the Asia Pacific Region. You will go on to study natural disasters and the effects of natural disasters on communities. You will also be introduced to consumer education, learning terms and concepts about the economy.

WHY ARE WE DOING IT?
It is important for us to know the different beliefs, values and lifestyles to help us have a better understanding of the past. It is important for us to understand the Asia Pacific Region and to develop an understanding of consumer decisions. You will learn to research using various sources. You will develop skills on how to interpret maps/images/text to support your opinions.

WHAT ARE YOU EXPECTED TO DO?
What you MUST do to successfully complete the course:
- Complete class work to the best of your ability
- Research from more than one source
- To be able to use and interpret different sources such as maps, images, graphs
- To learn to document bibliographies accurately
- To develop ongoing skills in map work
- To improve time management skills and team work
- Be able to listen, view and respond to information
- To use ICT appropriately

Work you MUST submit to complete the course
- Class work and activities
- Pamphlets/posters
- Power point presentations/oral presentations
- Tests
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
A wide variety of activities like skills practices in pairs and small groups, mini games, relays, competitions, tabloids, worksheets, videos, excursions, fitness tests, based on the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Athletics</th>
<th>Football/Soccer</th>
<th>Fitness</th>
<th>Netball</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>Gymnastics</td>
<td>Badminton</td>
<td>Cricket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hockey</td>
<td>Minor games</td>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>T’ball</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
- We will continue to learn about the Italian language & culture, while examining the influence it has on the Australian way of life.
- We will continue to use the set text books, computers, audio-visual materials and a native Italian teacher to build knowledge and learn more Italian language and about Italy & its people.
- We will continue with reading, writing, listening and speaking activities in Italian, as we study several new themes to enhance our learning.
- We will continue using Italian to communicate in class, make stronger connections with Italian students through email and other forms of technology. Individual work and group assessments will continue to be part of this course, to ensure continued positive and successful outcomes in LOTE learning.

WHY ARE WE DOING IT?
To continue to develop important skills identified in language learning that will ultimately strengthen & enhance overall skills, such as:
- Understanding & accepting differences & similarities in cultures in other parts of the world that have contributed to Australia’s multiculturalism.
- The ability to speak and understand the Italian language.
- Understand further the role of grammar in overall language learning; with specific attention to Italian grammar rules. This will ultimately continue to strengthen our understanding of the English language.
- Continued development as a responsible individual learner who will make a positive contribution to the LOTE classroom and enjoy a successful language learning experience.
- Continued guidance and direction in order to achieve continued 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 & folder.
- Be an active member of the LOTE classroom and participate in all class activities including reading, writing, speaking and listening assessments, excursions & 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 further success in your language learning.
YEAR 8 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 8 THE ARTS
Drama

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
- Work as a group to perform an abstract movement piece “Machine”
- Develop a group piece “Silent Movie” using body language, levels and tableaux.
- Keep a reflective journal.
- Using vocal techniques, tell a children’s story.
- Perform an improvisation.

WHY ARE WE DOING IT?
The course is designed to develop:
- Self confidence and communication skills.
- Knowledge of dramatic elements such as characterisation, plot, atmosphere.
- Knowledge of vocal elements such as pace, intonation, pitch, rhythm, and pause.
- Understanding of processes of creating, making and performing drama through short group devised performance pieces.
- Critical appreciation for theatre of other cultures both past and present.
- Ability to appreciate theatre as audience members.

WHAT ARE YOU EXPECTED TO DO?
What you MUST do to successfully complete the course:
- Actively participate in practical drama.
- Work as a group to perform an abstract movement piece “Machine”
- Develop a group piece “Silent Movie” using body language, levels and tableaux.
- Evaluate own and others work.
- View a performance and write a critique.
- Participate in discussion and feedback of others work.
- Demonstrate appropriate audience behaviour.
- Contribute to a reflective journal.
- Using vocal techniques, tell a children’s story.
- Practise improvisation skills.
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
- 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 individual artists and art movements.

WHY ARE WE DOING IT?
To develop the important skills of:

Creating and making artworks involving:

- Drawing portraits
- Development of art elements and principles
- 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:

- Folio of artworks
- Journal
- Research assignment
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
Work towards producing two products using designing skills, mathematics, basic plans and a variety of tools.

You will maintain a journal documenting:
1. Designs.
2. Plans.
3. Procedural steps.
4. OH&S documentation.

WHY ARE WE DOING IT?
To develop skills in designing and producing products using tools safely.

WHAT ARE YOU EXPECTED TO DO?

What you MUST do to successfully complete the course:
➢ Set class bookwork.
➢ Be Occupational Health & Safety compliant.
➢ Produce products to required standard.
➢ Design set tasks
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?
Computer Awareness  Multimedia
Word processing  Computer graphics
Spreadsheets  Movie making

WHY ARE WE DOING IT?
Information Technology (IT) has quietly became an indispensable, integral part of our everyday life. Behind almost all our financial, recreational, educational and communication activities is an integrated network of Information and Communication Technology. The Year 8 IT course is designed to inform, educate and engage all students.

WHAT ARE YOU EXPECTED TO DO?
What you **MUST** do to successfully complete the course:
- ePortfolio
- Set class tasks
- Two major assignments per term