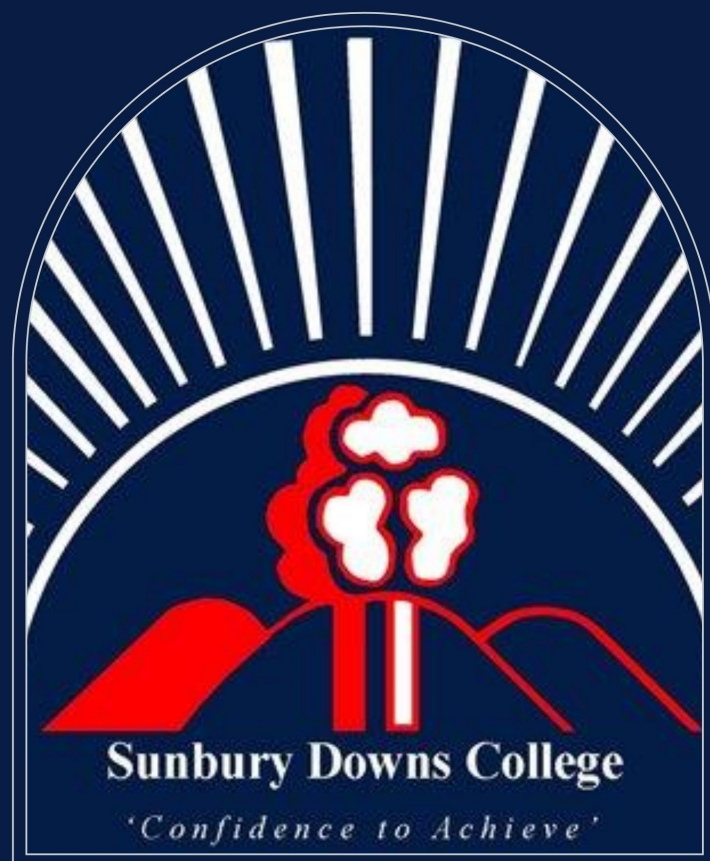


# SUNBURY DOWNS COLLEGE



## MIDDLE YEARS HANDBOOK

### 2024

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## A message from Middle Years Assistant Principal – Susan Smith

This handbook is an informative guide for students and their parents about Year 9 core subjects that will be studied by all Year 9 students throughout the year and the electives that students are able to select. Students are advised to choose elective subjects that suit their strengths, interests and ability.

Year 9 is an important year for students to build the foundations that will prepare them for Later Years. Whilst undertaking Year 9, students must focus on:

- Being organised and ensuring they are prepared for all their subjects
- Completing required homework
- Seeking feedback from teachers to improve their learning outcomes
- Meeting subject requirements (coursework and learning tasks)
- Successful completion of all subjects.

Students in Year 9 should be developing their skills so that when they enter Later Years they have a greater opportunity for success. All students must:

- Ensure that all work submitted by them is genuinely their own work. This includes not plagiarising directly from a text or website, or use of AI (artificial intelligence)
- Acknowledge and reference (cite) all resources used. This includes the website name or names of authors. Some subjects may require further citation details about the source being used.

## Selecting Year 9 Subjects

### Year 9 Curriculum:

- All Year 9 students study **five core subjects** and **four elective subjects** over the course of the year
- All core subjects are studied for the whole year
- All electives are studied for one semester, excepting Italian which is studied for the whole year

### The Five Core Subjects

Students complete the following core subjects in each semester with their Home Group cohort:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Humanities
- Health and Physical Education

### Year 9 ACE - (Accelerated Curriculum and Enrichment)

The students in Year 9 ACE study the following core subjects in each semester, these will be undertaken only with their homegroup cohort.

- ACE English
- ACE Mathematics
- ACE Science
- ACE Humanities
- ACE Health and Physical Education

### Elective Subjects

Year 9 ACE students' elective choices are combined with mainstream classes. Electives provide a rich learning opportunity for the entire Year 9 cohort to collaborate together in their learning environment.

Students study four elective subjects throughout the year. These are semester-based subjects, therefore students will study two electives per semester.

English	Humanities	Art	Performing Arts	Technology	Science	HAPE	Languages
Creative Writing	Myths & Monsters	Art	Drama	Design Technologies Materials (Timber, Metal and Plastic)	Forensic Science	Outdoor Education	Italian*
Literature	Philosophy	Media	Music	Design Technologies Materials (Timber)			
		Visual Communication Design		Digital Technologies			
				Food Studies			
				Textiles			

### Languages\*

Italian is offered as an elective subject and if selected, must be studied for the whole year. This then accounts for two of the student's four elective subject choices.

**NOTE:** The final elective classes that are offered will directly depend on student numbers. Therefore, it is important to note that some subjects in the above list may not run in 2024. Also, due to the popularity of certain subjects, not all students are able to gain their first selections. Consideration will be made regarding Year 8 students' effort, attendance and performance.

## Core Subjects

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### English

The English course is based on the Victorian Curriculum, which is organised into three interrelated strands: Language, Literature and Literacy. Together the three strands focus on developing students' knowledge, understanding and skills in Reading and Viewing, Speaking and Listening, and Writing. It is designed to broaden students' outlook on their world and increase their appreciation of a variety of texts. It enables students to analyse and explain how language choices and conventions are used to influence an audience. In addition, students will examine the Intercultural Capability, which assists young people to become responsible local and global citizens.

### Mathematics

Fluency, understanding, problem-solving and reasoning are an integral part of building a student's capacity to learn and apply mathematical knowledge and skills across a broad range of mathematical scenarios. The three mathematical content strands are Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry and Statistics and Probability. Year 9 students cover the following topics: Pythagoras' Theorem, Financial Mathematics, Algebra, Linear and Non-Linear Relationships, Trigonometry, Measurement, Geometric Reasoning and Chance and Data Representation.

### Humanities

In Year 9 Humanities, students are provided with the opportunity to explore a number of topics throughout the year, whilst studying History, Geography, Economics and Business, and Civics and Citizenship. The Humanities course provides a framework for students to examine the complex processes that have shaped the modern world and to investigate responses to different challenges including people's interconnections with the environment.

### Science

The Year 9 Science course enables students to deepen their inquiry into four branches of Science: Chemistry, Physics, Biology and Environmental Science. The course links the theory to real world applications including human impact on ecosystems, reactions of chemical compounds and the workings of electrical circuits. The scientific method of investigation is emphasised throughout these topics and students are encouraged to develop and communicate their understanding through scientific research and reports.

### Health and Physical Education

The Year 9 Health and Physical Education course provides students with the knowledge and skills to plan, design and implement training programs based on various fitness components. Students analyse the health benefits of having a balanced diet and undertaking regular physical activity. Throughout the course, students explore the roles and responsibilities in relationships, identify the outcomes of risk-taking behaviours, evaluate harm-minimisation strategies and learn basic first aid. This subject enables students to combine motor skills, strategic thinking and tactical knowledge to improve individual and team performance.

## Accelerated Curriculum and Enrichment (ACE) - Core Subjects

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### ACE English

The ACE English course helps create confident communicators, imaginative thinkers and informed citizens, able to analyse, understand, communicate and build relationships with others and with the world around them. ACE English develops students as ethical, thoughtful, informed and active members of society, able to engage imaginatively and critically with literature to expand the scope of their experience. The students learn to listen to, read, view, speak, write, create and reflect on increasingly complex and sophisticated texts with accuracy, fluency and purpose. This includes the development of interest and skills in inquiring into the aesthetic aspects of texts to foster an informed appreciation of literature.

### ACE Mathematics

The skills of understanding, fluency, problem-solving and reasoning are an integral part of Mathematics skill-building across the three content strands: Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry and Statistics and Probability. The proficiencies reinforce the significance of working mathematically within the content and describe how the content is explored or developed. During Year 9 ACE, students cover the topics of Pythagoras Theorem, Financial Mathematics, Probability, Linear Algebra, Linear Functions, Trigonometry, Measurement, Geometry and Statistics. Their reasoning skills are extended and core focus is on developing more problem solving skills.

### ACE Humanities

In Year 9 ACE Humanities, students are provided with the opportunity to explore a number of topics throughout the year, whilst studying History, Geography, Economics and Business, and Civics and Citizenship. The ACE Humanities course provides students with a multitude of skills that can be applied throughout a variety of subjects. In their first semester, students will evaluate the concepts of Fast Fashion and Geography of Interconnections, exploring how all of the world is connected. In the second semester, students will learn about the pre-conditions of World War I and how the consequences from the Great War then caused the events of World War II to occur.

### ACE Science

The Year 9 ACE Science course covers the broad areas of Chemistry, Physics, Biology and Environmental Science. Within these areas, concepts such as the relationship between organisms and the environment, chemical bonding and organic chemistry, energy and motion, and inheritance and evolution are explored. The scientific method of investigation is emphasised and the students are encouraged to develop and communicate their understanding by undertaking scientific research and reports.

### ACE Health and Physical Education

The Year 9 Health and Physical Education course provides students with the knowledge and skills to plan, design and implement training programs based on various fitness components. Students analyse the health benefits of having a balanced diet and undertaking regular physical activity. Throughout the course, students explore the roles and responsibilities in relationships, identify the outcomes of risk-taking behaviours, evaluate harm-minimisation strategies and learn basic first aid. This subject enables students to combine motor skills, strategic thinking and tactical knowledge to improve individual and team performance.

## Elective Subjects (semester based)

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### Art

Learning in Art involves both theoretical and practical tasks relating to a broad range of Art forms. The manipulation of traditional and contemporary art-making materials, techniques and processes will be explored, such as drawing and painting, collage and digital photography, printmaking and sculpture. The folio component of this subject allows students to undertake and explore the creative process from inspiration, through investigation of ideas and refining concepts, and ultimately towards the production of final presentation artworks. The analysis process will study examples of Art from both historical and contemporary movements. Students will develop a comprehensive understanding of the concepts embedded in existing artworks, the choice of subject matter, and how the use of art elements and art principles develop the readability of the artists' meanings and messages.

### Creative Writing

Creative Writing allows students the freedom of self-expression through producing stories which reflect their interests and values. The Year 9 Creative Writing course will introduce the typical structures of fictional narratives (i.e. the 'Seven Basic Plots'). Students will write a short story based on their chosen basic plot structure. Students will conduct research on a chosen form of writing, for example poetry, film scripts, memoir, graphic novel and write a creative piece in that form. Students will keep a writing journal throughout the course in order to explore ideas, inspiration and creativity. Students will engage in the writing processes of brainstorming, drafting, editing and publishing. This elective will develop student writing confidence as they explore their strengths as a budding author.

### Design Technologies Materials (Metal and Plastic)

Learning in Design Technologies – Materials (Metal and Plastic) consolidates an understanding of the design process, refines practical skills and develops critical and creative thinking. Design processes require students to identify and investigate a need or an opportunity to generate, plan, manage and create design solutions and evaluate products and processes. Students consider the economic, environmental and social impacts that result from commercial products. They understand the roles and responsibilities of those working in design and technologies occupations and their contributions to society. Students will use a range of tools and equipment in order to build appropriate skills and knowledge that are then applied to design tasks. Year 9 Design Technologies (Metal and Plastic) focuses on developing practical and analytical skills.

### Design Technologies Materials (Timber)

Learning in Design Technologies – Materials (Timber) consolidates an understanding of the design process, refines practical skills and develops critical and creative thinking. Design processes require students to identify and investigate a need or an opportunity to generate, plan, manage and create design solutions and evaluate products and processes. Students consider the economic, environmental and social impacts that result from commercial products. They understand the roles and responsibilities of those working in design and technologies occupations and their contributions to society. Students will use a range of woodworking tools and equipment in order to build appropriate skills and knowledge that are then applied to design tasks. Year 9 Design Technologies (Timber) focuses on developing practical and analytical skills.

### Digital Technologies

Learning in Digital Technologies focuses on further developing understanding and skills in computational thinking, design and the evaluation of solutions. Students get to develop significant skills that are applicable beyond the school environment, such as simple website development, use of Excel spreadsheets and some coding in Python. The curriculum covers Digital systems, Data and Information and gives students the opportunity to create digital solutions. Students define and decompose complex problems and design and evaluate user experiences. They share and collaborate online, and even experiment with robotics.

## Drama

Drama provides students with opportunities to develop as confident, reflective and creative performing artists through an exploration of dramatic elements and expressive skills. Over the course of the semester, students will refine skills in collaboration, improvisation, performance and reflection. They will utilise expressive skills to explore characterisation and communicate narrative elements. Students will experiment with a variety of stagecraft such as: costume, lighting, make up, set design, props design, stage management, directing and acting. Students will work in teams to plan, rehearse and present a performance for an audience. Students will have the opportunity to view and analyse professional theatre performances, broadening their perspective of the industry. Through this subject, students will experiment with imaginative and innovative ways of using drama to communicate stories and share ideas.

## Food Studies

Food Studies provides students with a broad knowledge and understanding of the principles of food safety, preparation and nutrition. Students explore food-related issues through a range of practical experiences. Students explore cuisines that influence the Australian diet and use the design process to create a healthy twist of a current food trend. This subject provides students with the confidence to produce simple dishes and make healthy food choices.

## Forensic Science

Forensic Science students will focus on the applications of science in relation to forensic science. It will focus on laboratory skills and also examining real-life crimes and the kinds of evidence that is collected and how science laboratory skills that we nurture in science have real-life applications. Students will have the opportunity to use their biology skills when investigating genetic information of crime scenes, their chemical skills in undertaking a range of chemical reactions used to solve crimes, their physics skills for interpreting x-ray, CT and MRI scans, ballistics reports and tool-marking analysis, and an introduction to psychology in relation to criminal profiling.

## Literature

The study of Literature focuses on developing student enjoyment and appreciation of literary texts through discussion, debate and critical analysis. Literature is based on the idea that meaning is created through the relationship between the reader and the text itself - the way we view the world determines how we will interpret texts we encounter. Students will be encouraged to evaluate the opinions and values they bring to different texts, as well as to create their work, which reflects their personal beliefs. In this Literature elective, students will develop their understanding of the 'Coming of Age' genre through text analysis, creative writing and film study. This elective will provide students with the opportunity to develop their critical literacy skills, which will support their study of either VCE English or Literature as they progress into the Later Years.

## Media

This subject provides students with the opportunity to develop critical and creative knowledge and skills. Media products and technologies (e.g. film, photography, print media) and processes (e.g. pre-production, production and post-production) are considered from various perspectives, including their structure and features, production context, audience reception and the impact of media on society. Students will learn technical skills in the creation of media products, including photography and film. They will also learn how to use post-production software programs to edit and refine their work.

## Music

Music has the capacity to engage, inspire and enrich all students, encouraging them to reach their creative and expressive potential. Skills and techniques developed through participation in music learning allow students to manipulate, express and share sound as listeners, composers and performers. In Year 9 Music, students develop the confidence to be creative, innovative, thoughtful, skilful and informed musicians. They learn and apply instrument skills on keyboard, guitar, bass, drums and/or vocals, to interpret, rehearse and perform ensemble repertoire in a range of forms and styles. In addition, students gain a greater understanding of interpersonal skills by focusing on their role as ensemble musicians in class rehearsals and performances.

## Myths and Monsters

Myths are traditional narratives that examine ideas that were of central importance to societies of the past. People once believed in mythical monsters and mysterious dark forces, and in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, these beliefs have made something of a comeback. In this course, students are invited to explore myths and monsters of the past and present, through inquiry-driven learning based in History, Sociology, and Anthropology. The course will also feature a focus on conspiracy theories, both modern and ancient, as students are equipped with the critical thinking tools to uncover the truth in a world increasingly full of fake.

## Outdoor Education

Our environment, whether it be urban, wilderness or aquatic, can provide us with a backdrop for some of the most powerful experiences a person will ever have. Using these environments as our classroom, students will be able to discover more about themselves through personal challenges, as well as how we are all intrinsically linked to each other and our environment. The class will share experiences in adventure activities such as hiking, rock climbing and initiation challenges, based on the principles of challenge by choice and leave no trace. These experiences will help students develop a deeper understanding of their limits, as well as prepare them for VCE studies in Outdoor and Environmental Studies or completion of the Certificate II in Outdoor Recreation.

*\*Please note that Outdoor Education is a full fee-paying subject and will incur a cost per student for the semester. These fees will cover the cost of external providers, transport and Outdoor Educational equipment used by students.*

## Philosophy

Do we really know anything at all? In year 9 Philosophy, students are provided with the space and time to wrestle with this, and other age-old problems that lie at the heart of every deep, meaningful conversation. How can we know the difference between right and wrong? Should humans be considered superior to animals? Year 9 Philosophy will allow students to assess their opinions on the 'big' questions of life, particularly around the key study of applied ethics. Students will develop their research, communication and interpersonal skills in this engaging and thought-provoking subject.

## Textiles

Textiles offer students an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of clothing they wear or items they use. It provides students with the necessary skills to construct their own textile pieces through processes of planning, preparing patterns, cutting and sewing fabric. Students in Textiles use design thinking and textiles processes to develop sewing skills including machine and hand sewing to construct wearable items from bags to clothing. They will explore the textile industry and gain a deeper understanding of fabrics and fibres through research tasks. Students investigate various techniques of creating textile-based work such as felting, block printing, embroidery and bargello to creatively design solutions for their clients.

## Visual Communication Design

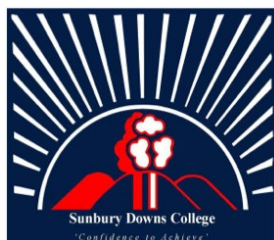
Learning in Visual Communication Design involves both practical and analysis tasks relating to a range of Design fields. The manipulation of traditional and contemporary materials, techniques and processes will be explored, such as free-hand drawing and rendering, digital design, technical and instrumental drawing. The folio component of this subject is where students undertake and explore the design process from researching inspirational images, through the generation and refinement of ideas, and ultimately towards the production of two and three-dimensional final presentations. The analysis component will study historical and contemporary design, designers and design movements, and develop a comprehensive understanding of how design elements and design principles service the liveability and readability of a designer's intention.

## Elective Subjects (entire year)

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### Italian

Year 9 Italian offers students the opportunity to further expand their linguistic ability and development in speaking, listening, reading and writing. Topics studied within this course include Directions and Travel, Weather and Clothing, Fashion, Health and Culture. Studying Italian will also allow students to gain further knowledge and appreciation of the Italian culture and increase career opportunities. This elective may offer off-campus learning activities including Il Museo Italiano and the Immigration Museum.



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