

ST COLUMBA'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE



YEAR 9 ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

Information booklet

2020

Introduction

Dear Year 8 students,

This booklet provides you with an outline of the elective courses on offer for Year 9, 2020. Please be aware that these courses can only go ahead if enough students choose them.

Students, this represents a significant step in your education as it provides an opportunity for you to make choices about some subjects you will study for the next two years. The process of decision making is a challenging one and you will be supported in this by your teachers and parents. Ultimately, however, this is your decision and we anticipate that you will make it wisely.

Be aware that next year marks the commencement of your Record of School Achievement (RoSA) that is accumulated over Year 9. Your elective subjects should be an area of study that you enjoy and in which you believe you can do well.

The next two years are important foundations for your senior studies. The preparation for this time in terms of selection of electives is one critical step in this process.

I also challenge you to give serious consideration to the goals you set for yourself for the next two years. I would hope that you acknowledge your responsibility to do your personal best and to gain as much from your educational experiences as possible. I would also expect that you would give serious thought to how you are able to contribute to our Catholic community. In the quality of your relationships with staff and students, in your academic endeavours, in your involvement in a range of extra-curricular activities, you can make an important contribution to St Columba's.

I wish you well as you undertake this important process of preparing for Year 9.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Ryan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr Paul Ryan
Principal

School Life in Years 9 and 10

Thinking about Years 7 and 8

The first two years of Catholic College are very different to Primary School.

- A new and bigger school.
- You have met many new people, both students and staff.
- You are the youngest students in the school rather than the oldest.
- You are studying many new subjects.
- You have become accustomed to many new school rules.

Looking ahead to Year 9

1. For the first time you will be able to choose what subjects you do.
2. It will be assumed by your teachers that because you have chosen the course, then you will be ready to work hard.
3. You are laying the foundations for your studies in Year 11 and 12. It is important that you develop useful study habits:
 - Keep a homework diary in which all learning preparation is recorded.
 - Being organised for every class i.e. having the correct books and equipment.
 - Following a study timetable at home.
 - Planning ahead to complete your assessment tasks on time.

Elective Courses

Agricultural Technology

KLA: Technology and Applied Studies (TAS)

Course Content

Through the study of Agricultural Technology students develop knowledge, understanding and skills which enable the student to contribute positively to their own lifestyle and to the social, economic and environmental future of Australia. The course provides scope for students to explore the many and varied career opportunities in agriculture and its related service industries. It also provides students with opportunity to experience aspects of an agricultural lifestyle through direct contact with plants and animals and a variety of outside activities.

In Agricultural Technology students study the essential content of interactions, management and sustainability within the context of agricultural enterprises. Students will also undertake a range of related practical activities and conduct experiments.

A range of enterprises may be studied, with both a practical and theoretical approach, including:

- Poultry Production
- Vegetable Production
- Sheep Production
- Beef Production
- Winter Cropping

Practical work reinforces their understanding of concepts and a minimum of 50 per cent of the allocated course time consists of practical work.

Recommendations and Restrictions

Students will be required to meet all safety expectations as they participate in practical work.

Assessment

Students are assessed on their practical skills and their understanding of the content. Assignments are practical and theoretical in orientation and ongoing observation of practical work is a key component of assessment.

Commerce

KLA: Human Society and Its Environment (HSIE)

Course Content

Commerce provides knowledge, skills, understanding and values that form the foundation on which young people make sound decisions on consumer, financial, business and legal issues. It develops in students an understanding of commercial and legal processes and competencies for personal financial management. Through the study of Commerce students develop financial literacy which enables them to participate in the financial system in an informed way.

Central to the course is the development of an understanding of the relationship between consumers, businesses and governments in the overall economy. Through their investigation of these relationships, students develop the capacity to apply problem-solving strategies which incorporate the skills of analysis and evaluation. Students engage in the learning process which promotes critical thinking, reflective learning and the opportunity to participate in the community.

To function competently in our democratic and pluralistic society, students need to develop the ability to research information, evaluate options and participate in collaborative decision-making by evaluating a range of consumer, financial, business, legal and employment strategies. In examining these they also develop attitudes and values that promote ethical behaviour and social responsibility and a commitment to contribute to a more just and equitable society.

Students will study the following core topics over Years 9:

- Consumer Choice
- Personal Finance

Students who continue their Commerce studies in Year 10 will study the following core topics:

- Law and Society
- Employment Issues

Students must complete a minimum of five of the following option topics:

Investing	Towards Independence	Our Economy
Promoting and Selling	Political Involvement	Community Participation
E-Commerce	Travel	Running a Business
Global Links	Law in Action	School Developed Option

Assessment

Assessment will be based on a number of activities which could include library research, research in the local community, poster design, simulation exercises, comprehension exercises, worksheets, group assignments, oral reports, tests and skills exercises based on media reports, graphs, charts and statistics and multimedia presentations.

Drama

KLA: Creative Arts

Course Content

Drama students will engage in exciting opportunities to explore a variety of social issues which impact their lives, including Indigenous and multicultural perspectives. In practical workshops, students will learn about the theatrical world (performance, directing, design and scriptwriting). Students will develop the confidence to better articulate their beliefs about themselves and the world we live in.

Drama students learn about our world through: **making** (seminars/workshop activities), **performance** (acting) and **appreciating** (research, reflection and evaluation of their work and others). Through learning to be effective collaborators and problem solvers, Drama students will be equipped with the interpersonal skills vital for success in the modern world.

Students will study some of the following key areas:

- Improvisation and Mime
- Developing Acting Skills
- Play Building – developing a play from an idea-script to performance
- Mask And Physical Theatre, Clowning and Street Theatre
- Production Skills – lighting, sound, stagecraft
- Stage Design – props, costumes, sets
- History of Theatrical Traditions and Performance Styles from Greek to Modern 21st Century, Documentary Theatre
- Directing and Stage Management
- Using Information Technology – word processing, internet research, audio-visual video and playback
- Evaluating and Reviewing Live Performances

Recommendations and Restrictions

Drama is suitable for students who enjoy **active, collaborative learning environments, performing** and/or, wish to **further develop/improve their self-confidence** and **communication skills**. This course is not just for students seeking employment in entertainment industry courses but any career where problem solving, flexibility, critical thinking and effective collaboration skills are valued and/or required.

Assessment

Students will be assessed through individual and group performance pieces, class participation in workshops, journal writing, individual projects, written reviews essays and recording work in a logbook.

Food Technology

KLA: Technology and Applied Studies (TAS)

Course Content

The study of Food Technology provides students with a broad knowledge and understanding of food processing and preparation. It addresses the importance of hygiene and safe work practices. It also provides students with a context through which to explore the richness, pleasure and variety that food adds to life.

This knowledge and understanding is fundamental to the development of food-specific skills, which can then be applied in a range of contexts enabling students to produce quality food products. Students develop practical skills in preparing and presenting food that will enable them to select and use appropriate ingredients, methods and equipment.

Students study core content related to food preparation, food processing, nutrition and food consumption. This content is presented through focus areas such as:

- Food in Australia
- Food Equity
- Food Product Development
- Food Selection and Health
- Food Service and Catering
- Food for Special Needs
- Food for Special Occasions
- Food Trends

Through practical experience, students will develop the skills of food preparation by designing, producing and evaluating food items related to the focus areas studied.

Students undertake a broad range of practical activities and will generally cook once or twice per fortnight.

Recommendations and Restrictions

A white cooking apron and cap is essential. This can be purchased from the school uniform shop.

Assessment

Assessment will be based on a variety of tasks covering students' knowledge and skills in both written and practical areas.

Industrial Technology- Timber

KLA: Technology and Applied Studies (TAS)

Course Content

The Timber focus area provides opportunities for students to develop knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to the timber and associated industries. In Year 9 students study two core modules that develop knowledge and skills in the use of materials, tools and techniques related to timber. This is further enhanced and developed in year 10 through the study of two specialist Cabinetwork modules.

Some of the topics students will learn about include:

- The safe use, handling and maintenance of hand, power and machine tools.
- The properties and working characteristics of solid timber and manufactured boards.
- A range of processes and techniques used for preparing, joining and finishing timber.
- Design principles and processes.
- Project sequencing, costing and time management.
- How to read, interpret and produce working drawings.
- Industrial processes and career paths in the timber industry.
- The effects of the timber industry on society and the environment.

Projects promote the sequential development of skills and reflect an increasing degree of student autonomy as they progress through the course. The majority of the course time is taken up by practical project experiences which could include the construction of:

- Furniture items
- Decorative timber products
- Storage and transportation products
- Small step ladders or similar
- Storage and display units

Recommendations and Restrictions

This subject would suit students who:

- are interested in pursuing a career in a timber trade or profession.
- wish to develop practical skills for daily life.
- would like to learn the craft of woodworking for personal interest.

Students are required to meet all safety expectations during practical work.

Assessment

Student assessment will be based on the completion of:

- Practical projects
- Design and management folios
- Technical drawing
- Research and written assessments

Information and Software Technology

KLA: Technology and Applied Studies (TAS)

Course Content

The study of Information and Software Technology assists students to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills to solve problems in real life contexts. Through experimental and collaborative tasks, students engage in processes of analysing, designing, producing, testing, documenting, implementing and evaluating information and software technology-based solutions.

This course integrates the study of core content within the context of options delivered through projects. The core content includes:

- Design, Produce and Evaluate
- Data Handling
- Hardware
- Issues
- Past, Current and Emerging Technologies
- People
- Software

The options that the core content will be integrated with include:

- Artificial Intelligence, Simulation and Modelling
- Authoring and Multimedia
- Database Design
- Digital Media
- Internet and Website Development
- Networking Systems
- Robotics and Automated Systems
- Software Development and Programming

Recommendations and Restrictions

The Information and Software Technology course is designed for students who:

- identify Computing Studies as a valuable area of study
- regard the computer as a tool that they can learn to control in order to improve the quality of their lives
- would like to further improve their existing personal computer skills

Assessment

Assessment is continuous throughout the course and a wide range of assessment procedures are used. These include research projects, practical assignments, fieldwork and teacher observation of students at work.

Japanese

KLA: Languages other than English (LOTE)

Course Content

The study of Japanese provides access to the language and culture of one of the global community's most technologically advanced societies and economies. Students will learn about and experience modern Japanese culture as well as traditional aspects of Japanese culture. Students will read and utilise modern pop culture such as anime and manga to learn to communicate in Japanese authentically.

Japanese enhances students' overall literacy and linguistic skills by contrasting grammar and sentence construction with English. This subject also contributes to building intercultural understanding and tolerance of cultural differences.

Students learn how to read and write in Japanese, and develop skills in listening and speaking. The topics students will learn include:

- self-introduction and family
- interests, likes and dislikes e.g food, sports etc
- leisure and daily activities
- school and subjects
- shopping and traveling in Japan
- tell the time, talk about the weather and other simple topics
- Japanese festivals and culture

There will be a cultural excursion/incursion where students will participate in cultural workshops such as calligraphy, traditional Japanese kimono wearing and have the opportunity to taste authentic Japanese food at a restaurant or Japanese packed lunch; obento.

Students in elective Japanese courses have an opportunity to take part in the study trip to Japan which St Columba's offers every second year through the successful sister school relationship with Hokusetsu Sanda Senior High School, in Japan.

There will also be an opportunity for two Year 10 students to take part in the 6 Month exchange program to study at our sister school, one of the best selective schools in the Kansai region; Hokusetsu Sanda Senior High School, in Japan.

Recommendations and Restrictions

Japanese is an ideal course for those who are interested in another culture and enjoy the challenge of learning a new language. The study of Japanese provides students with opportunities for continued learning and for future employment, both domestically and internationally, in areas such as business, tourism, hospitality, technology, media and international relations.

Assessment

Students will be assessed on the four main areas of speaking, listening, reading and writing in a variety of tasks including:

- creative writing in Japanese
- role play
- listening activities
- Kanji (character) recognition
- Online activities
- Utilising technology to create own work such as presentations/videos
- Research tasks on Japanese culture and lifestyle

Music

KLA: Creative Arts

Course Content

This course provides an opportunity for those students wanting to perform, compose and understand music. Students develop valuable skills as a musician and as a member of an ensemble. The course provides students with an opportunity to learn about different musical genres and styles. All students will be given the opportunity to learn popular songs and perform them in a band setting. As part of their ensembles, students will perform at a variety of school events. Students will also be encouraged to record their own compositions.

Students will learn to:

- Play music of various styles.
- Play and understand a variety of instruments.
- Experiment with music technology.
- Discuss and apply musical concepts objectively, creatively and professionally.
- Work with other musicians as a cohesive group.
- Apply genre specific characteristics to the performances and compositions.
- Maintain an organised and disciplined approach to the overall practice of music.

Recommendations and Restrictions

Music helps a student develop language and reasoning, gives them a sense of achievement, teaches discipline, and promotes creative thinking. Prior musical experience is not essential as this program offers opportunities to students of all abilities, from beginners through to advanced musicians. Students should have an interest and commitment to the aural, theoretical and compositional aspects of the course as well as the practical. Students who have previous experience in music will be given the opportunity to extend their skills through more challenging musical activities.

Assessment

Students will be assessed through individual and group performances, participation in class workshops, portfolio work and listening tasks as well as composition activities.

Physical Activity and Sports Studies

KLA: PDHPE

Course Content

Physical Activity and Sport Studies provides a comprehensive study of physical activity and movement. It incorporates a study of the way the body functions and how to prepare to move efficiently in a variety of contexts. It includes study of the social issues related to physical activity and its role in the lives of the individual and Australian society. It also has a focus on moving with skill in order to enjoy participation and to achieve performance goals.

The content is organised in modules within the following three areas of study:

- Foundation of Physical Activity
- Physical Activity and Sport in Society
- Enhancing Participation and Performance

A further requirement of the course is a strong focus on practical application in relation to a range of movement applications. These may include:

- Aerobics and Fitness
- Aquatics
- Athletics
- Games
- Gymnastics
- Outdoor Education
- Recreational Pursuits

Recommendations and Restrictions

Students will need to be interested in both theoretical and practical aspects of sport and physical activities. The course promotes healthy and active lifestyles with each unit making students aware of the needs of their bodies to live life to its fullest capacity. Secondly we promote excellence through the use of extensive mixed abilities activities, extension questions, group work and a challenging curriculum.

Assessment

Assessment is in the form of both practical and theoretical tasks with a variety of methods used to ascertain the achievements of the education outcomes of the syllabus.

Textiles Technology

KLA: Technology and Applied Studies (TAS)

Course Content

A study of Textiles Technology provides students with the opportunity to be creative, independent learners and to explore functional and aesthetic aspects of textiles. Project Work that includes experimentation and the use of a wide range of resources such as fibres, yarns, dyes, printers and e-textiles will enable students to create projects that express their own design ideas.

The majority of the course time is taken up by practical project experiences which may be developed from the following areas:-

- Apparel – includes clothing and accessories such as hoodies, pyjamas and jackets.
- Furnishing – includes items such as cushions.
- Costume – includes fancy dress costumes and masks.
- Textile Arts – includes wall hangings and wearable art.
- Non-apparel items – includes bags, kites and backpacks.

Students learn about the principles of design and Australian designers. We also learn about textiles in other cultures and the properties of various fibres, yarns and fabrics.

Recommendations and Restrictions

This course is suitable for all students who enjoy being creative. No previous sewing experience is needed. This can be a valuable course for students seeking employment in creative industries and provides valuable skills for use in everyday life.

Students will need to purchase some equipment and materials for their projects.

Assessment

Students will be assessed on:-

- Practical projects
- Research
- Documentation of project work

Visual Arts

KLA: Creative Arts

Course Content

Visual Arts provides students with specialised learning opportunities to investigate the practice of making artworks and critically and historically interpret art informed by the students understanding of practice, the conceptual framework and the frames.

A broad range of activities are offered to develop particular and personal interest. The students will make artworks and critically and historically interpret artworks in selected areas such as :

- Drawing
- Painting
- Ceramics
- Printmaking
- Digital Imaging
- Photography
- Sculpture
- Graphics
- Computer Based Technologies

Recommendations and Restrictions

This course is suitable for students who enjoy being creative and have a keen interest in making and studying artworks.

Assessment

Students will be assessed on:

1. Artmaking activities based on specific practice, the conceptual framework and the frames
2. The Visual Arts Diary, documenting the development of ideas, processes, research and evaluation
3. Critical and historical study of Visual Arts

Visual Design

KLA: Creative Arts

Course Content

Visual Design provides students with specialised learning opportunities to investigate the practice of making design artworks and critically and historically interpret designs, informed by the students understanding of practice, the conceptual framework and the frames.

A broad range of activities are offered to develop particular interests and skills through areas of print, objects and space-time design such as:

- Posters
- Multimedia
- Advertising
- Illustration
- Typography
- Jewellery
- Ceramics
- Textiles
- Theatre design

Recommendations and Restrictions

This course is suitable for students who enjoy being creative and have a keen interest in applied arts, design and computer based technologies.

Assessment

Students will be assessed on:

1. Design artmaking activities based on specific practice, the conceptual framework and the frames
2. The Visual Design Journal documenting the development of ideas, processes, experiments and evaluations
3. Critical and historical interpretations of designs