



YEAR 9
HANDBOOK



2023



Message from the Year 9 Team

The year 9 program offers a broad curriculum of core subjects and specialty electives, providing a range of opportunities to develop students' thinking skills, as well as their social and interpersonal skills.

As students enter the Middle School, they are given greater ownership of their learning and are expected to approach it with a more active sense of responsibility. The selection of elective subjects for year 9 is the first, critical step students take towards choosing the direction of their learning in years to follow. This process is intended to give students a chance to explore areas of interest, and to provide some context for the selection of subjects in year 10 and the Senior School.

It is important that careful consideration be given to subject choices. Families are strongly encouraged to involve themselves in the decision making process, discussing options with their child and seeking further information about subjects if required. Teachers and year level teams are also available to support and advise families during this process.

All information regarding school rules, policies and procedures are outlined on the school website and in the student planner.

Overview of the Year 9 curriculum

The following table gives an overview of the year 9 curriculum and indicates the number of periods per fortnight allocated to each subject or Key Learning Area.

Subject	Periods per fortnight
English	7
Mathematics	7
Science	7
History* / Geography*	7
Languages	5
PE	4
Health	1
Technologies elective* / Arts elective*	6
Free choice elective x2*	6
Total	50

*One semester of each

Promotion Policy

We regard the learning and teaching process as a partnership between students, parents and staff. Thus, we expect our students to actively participate in this process, and to take increasing personal responsibility for their own learning. We similarly expect our parent community to support their children both directly, by providing them with appropriate materials, monitoring homework and wide-reading, as well as indirectly, by supporting the school and its policies.

Parents and students should be aware that promotion of students to a higher year level is not automatic. Promotion to year 10 requires:

- Achieve at least an 'acceptable' work standard in all five work habits

- Receive an overall of at least 50% in all subjects.
- Minimum attendance of 90% - this means a minimum of 9 days attendance every fortnight.

In cases where there is an inability to meet promotion requirements a meeting will be held and alternatives discussed.

Year 9 elective subject costs

This handbook provides an approximate cost for elective subjects, including essential excursions where applicable. Consumable costs for core subjects are included in the essential items fees.

KLA	Elective subject	Cost
Humanities	Crime and the law	\$20
Science	Forensic Science	\$20
Health & PE	Athlete Development Program	\$90
	Fitness and the body	\$20
	Outdoor Education	\$300
Technologies	Digital Technologies & Robotics	\$20
	Food Studies	\$90
	Gourmet Traveller	\$90
	Textiles Design	\$90
The Arts	Drawing & Design	\$30
	Digital Art	\$30
	Drama & Theatrical studies	\$30
	Movies, Memes & Media Making	\$30
	Music Performance	\$30
	Painting & Ceramics	\$50
	Photography	\$90

Key Learning Areas

If you have any queries regarding subject specific information, please contact the appropriate KLA leader.

English	Robin Garden
Maths	Diana Walder
Science & Digital Technologies	Lisa Pieropan
Humanities	Rick Manning
Performing Arts	Bec Perkin
Health & PE	Trent Morison
Visual Arts & Design	Sheraz Salama
Food Studies	Chrissy Collins
Languages	Max Tosi

Core subjects

ENGLISH

Students participate in a range of activities designed to extend their abilities in the dimensions of English. These activities include reading and analysing texts (novels, short stories, poetry, films and newspaper articles), the development of strategies for writing a range of text types, and listening to or producing a range of spoken texts. Students also continue the low-stakes-writing program, which aims to foster confidence and

experimentation in their writing, without the pressure of formal assessment.

A wide reading program operates for all students in year 9 in the Library. All students are encouraged to read extensively at home. Parents are requested to take an active interest in monitoring their child's reading.

MATHEMATICS

The year 9 Mathematics program covers topics across Number & Algebra, Measurement & Geometry and Probability & Statistics. Students develop their proficiency through tasks and activities involving fluency, understanding, problem solving and reasoning.

As part of the Maths program at year 9, students use the ICT platform 'Mathspace' to further consolidate their fluency. Regular check-in quizzes and diagnostic tasks support and extend the work covered in class.

HUMANITIES

► Geography

Students study the world's biomes and food security. They examine how humans have altered regions to produce food, factors that influence crop yields, and the challenges in feeding the current and projected world populations. A secondary study of globalisation will enable students to explore how people and places are interconnected. Using interactive digital mapping software, students investigate global interconnections, developing critical thinking and problem solving skills.

► History

Students investigate the history of Australia in the period 1788 to 1918. The course covers the consequences of settlement/invasion and the development of Australian society. Key events include Pemulwuy's resistance to the British settlement at Botany Bay, the Gold Rushes, Federation and a major focus on World War One and how Australians responded to the call to arms.

SCIENCE

Students develop their understanding of the world around them through investigations into electricity and electromagnetism, the brain and nervous system, chemical reactions and environmental science. Students will use practical investigations to experiment with electricity and develop a better understanding of electrical circuits and will investigate the brain and nervous system to evaluate how both of these are essential for successful functioning of the human body. Students will investigate chemical reactions through a range of experimental activities and learn to balance chemical equations, a skill necessary for future studies in chemistry. They also will study how ecosystems operate including how energy moves through an ecosystem, and learn about the various factors, biotic and abiotic, affecting the health of ecosystems.

LANGUAGES

Italian is the main language at THS. A small number of students study Mandarin or Greek.

The courses aim to develop the skills of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing, as well as an appreciation of the culture of the country of language. The themes for year 9 include 'The World of Teenagers', travel and direction, weather, fashion, cities and home, entertainment and hobbies.

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education provides an opportunity for students to participate in a SEPEP (Sport Education in Physical Education Program). In this program students are allocated different roles and responsibilities in a wide range of activities, games and sports. These roles and responsibilities include: coach, player, umpire, scorer, team manager, equipment manager, journalist and time keeper.

Students are expected to use, consolidate and extend individual and group tactics and team work as well as the skills learnt in previous years. Students participate in sports activities including athletics, rugby, football, cricket, soccer, basketball, volleyball, futsal and netball. All students must participate in full sport uniform. They are encouraged to wear sunscreen protection and hats, and to participate in all activities.

Students will complete term long units covering various topics including; Sexual Health, Mental Health, Drug Education and Respectful Relationships. Students will critique behaviours and contextual factors that influence the health and wellbeing of their communities, analysing individual and peer decision making processes to evaluate the risks associated with these choices.

Elective subjects

Every student must select at least one arts elective and at least one technologies elective.

THE ARTS

Students must select at least one semester of an arts (performing or visual) subject.

► Digital Art

Digital Art is where traditional art making processes and technology meet. Students will be given the opportunity to experience art making from a whole new perspective. Students will learn how to use the Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator programs with confidence and will develop and extend their specialised computer skills. They will experiment with a range of different media such as photography, painting and drawing to manipulate and enhance their digital work. Students will be introduced to a range of contemporary digital artists and designers and will document their thinking and work practices in the form of an online visual journal.

► Drama & Theatre Studies

Drama & Theatre Studies offers students the opportunity to create their own theatre pieces and perform to small groups and audiences. They learn about key techniques and practices, and develop their play-making skills to create performance pieces. In workshops, students explore various stage crafts, including make-up, lighting, sound and costume.

Students have the opportunity to see live theatre and analyse professional performances to support the development of their own work. Great for those who enjoy drama and performing.

► Drawing & Design

Drawing & Design aims to develop students' manual and digital drawing and design skills. Students will gain skills in freehand drawing and illustration through observation and from their imagination. They will experiment with different techniques, materials and mediums such as watercolour techniques, ink experimentations, pastel and pencil blending, marker pen rendering and digital drawing. Students will also study the design process, learn how to generate ideas, experiment with media and materials, and develop their understanding of design contexts. They will use digital applications to design a variety of visual communications. Students will explore projects in branding, illustration, architecture and interior design.

► Instrumental Music

Note: This subject is extra-curricular and lessons are run outside of normal class time.

Students explore the technical, expressive and creative capabilities of their primary instrument in more detail and/or choose to study a second instrument. They work collaboratively and independently across a wide range of styles and in various ensembles to build on and apply their understanding of melodic, harmonic and rhythmic concepts. Students receive instrumental lessons from a specialist teacher and participate in a range of performances as part of their assessment.

Instrument hire \$200 annually Instrumental lesson levy \$200 annually

► Movies, Memes & Media Making

Rather than simply watching content online, why not create, star in and publish your own? This course introduces students to the art of film-making and digital media production. Students will gain practical experience in how to make quality video content. They will have the chance to recreate viral memes and generate more traditional media products such as adverts, documentaries and short-films. From scripting and storyboarding, to camera operation and filming techniques, to editing and adding special effects, students will become fully immersed in the pre to post production process.

► Music Performance

Students explore the technical, expressive and creative capabilities of their primary instrument in more detail. Performance, theoretical and aural elements, as well as an in-depth analysis of specific songs and genres form much of their class-time coursework. They work collaboratively and independently across a wide range of styles and ensembles. Melodic, harmonic, rhythmic and interpretative elements of music are reinforced through recording, compositional and arranging processes. Research is undertaken to enhance analysis of the complex and dynamic interrelationships between cultures, emphasising the development of attitudes, beliefs and behaviours.

► Painting & Ceramics

In Painting and Ceramics, students focus on painting and hand building through a variety of topics and mediums. Students will gain skills in painting creatively and realistically through a range of engaging tasks. Students may explore mediums such as gouache, watercolour and acrylic paint. In Ceramics, students will learn to form a functional mug, vessel or sculpture using pinch pot, coiling and slab construction techniques. They will underglaze, glaze and fire their works in the kiln. Students maintain a visual diary to record the stages of the creative process.

► Photography

The Photography program introduces students to traditional and contemporary photographic practices. Students will learn a range of processes, beginning with digital SLR and progressing to manual analogue photography. Students will explore the history of photography, drawing upon the works of artists to inspire their own photographic artworks. This course will provide students the opportunity to learn basic composition skills, camera techniques, analogue film processing, darkroom printing, negative scanning, Photoshop image manipulation techniques and digital photographic printing.

TECHNOLOGIES

Students must select at least one semester of a technologies subject.

► Digital Technology and Robotics

The practical and the applied side of computer science! Students combine engineering, mechanisms, computer control, motors and sensors to build autonomous robotic devices powered by an Arduino microcontroller. Students plan, develop and program a digital game using an object oriented programming language such as Python. They will learn how software, hardware, compression and encryption work together in computer networks and answer that burning question, 'Is my phone listening to me?'

► Food Studies

Students will indulge in a culinary journey, investigating the endless possibilities of food, its functions and flavours. Students will build their knowledge in the sensory properties of foods through taste testing and making comparisons between foods. Students will learn about macro and micro nutrients and will acquire skills in producing and evaluating nutritionally balanced meals. The concept of preserving food is explored and students continue to build on their understanding of sustainable eating. Students will develop their own food products following all phases of the design process.

► Gourmet Traveller

Students will experience the foods and flavours of different cuisines and cultures that have led to global food variety. They will learn about the foods of the Mediterranean, Asia Pacific, Africa, Europe and the Americas. They will develop an understanding of the different cultures through the preparation and evaluation of typical foods. Students will build on their understanding of food preparation techniques, specifically those of international orientation. Students will develop their own food products following all phases of the design process.

► Textiles Design

In Textiles Design, students safely operate a sewing machine to construct a range of functional products including; tote bags, pencil cases and coil bowls. They undertake studies in a workshop environment that encourages a safe independent practice. Students work through the design process and follow a design brief to resolve projects; both teacher lead and self-directed.

HUMANITIES

► Crime and the Law

The focus of this elective is 'What is Crime?' and the course focuses on the following areas:

- Crimes against people
- Crimes against property
- Crimes against the state

The aim of the course is to introduce students to the impact of law in our lives and how law impacts upon the individual. The focus of the subject is the criminal law, court procedures and criminal sanctions. Many famous criminal cases are used in the study of the subject.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

► Fitness & the Body

Students are encouraged to understand their physical fitness capabilities. Its aim is to increase understanding of methods of training, basic anatomy and physiology, energy systems and sports nutrition.

Students will mainly use school facilities but relevant excursions to local sports centres may be organised.

Students will be given the opportunity to develop and participate in training following the implementation of individual training programs based on an extensive fitness testing and data collection period.

► Outdoor Education

Outdoor Education is an exciting and challenging subject that takes students into the 'outdoor classroom' to engage and interact with nature. Students will work both individually and in groups to develop co-operative and planning skills, negotiate challenges while developing trust, an understanding of safe risk and decision-making skills in a variety of situations.

Students learn preparation and cooking of food on camping stoves, tent set up, clothing and equipment choices when in the outdoors and hiking.

Activities/Excursions may include:

- Swimming with Seals/Dolphins
- Snorkelling
- Surfing
- In-line skating
- Ice skating
- Rock climbing
- Orienteering
- Outdoor skills
- Camp

► Athlete Development Program

The Athlete Development Program will provide student athletes the opportunity to upgrade their athletic performance whilst at school. This subject offers the opportunity for talented athletes at Thornbury High School the opportunity to learn, grow and develop their physical sporting skills as well as participation in strength and conditioning training.

Students participate in specialised physical education classes that focus on specific movements and skills in a range of sports. Students design, implement and evaluate personalised plans for improving or maintaining their own and others' physical activity, fitness, technique and performance levels.

All students are expected to participate in their full school PE uniform and are encouraged to wear sunscreen protection and hats during activities in outdoor areas.

SCIENCE

► Forensic Science

In this unit students will take on the role of Forensic Science investigators for our own CSI. Students will work in a chemistry laboratory to solve hypothetical crimes. They will learn to apply observation and logic, fingerprinting, microscopy, chromatography, DNA profiling and chemical analysis. This unit will help develop higher order thinking skills and prepare students for further studies in Science.