Thornbury High School

Year 7 & 8
Information and Curriculum Booklet 2008
STUDENT ACTIVITIES

The School offers our Years 7-10 students the opportunity to be involved in a number of activities. These include the following:

Peer Support (Year 10 students only)
All students in year 10 will be trained in the Peer Support Program. Leaders will be selected from this core group to assist the year 7 Transition Program in 2008.

Homework Club
The Homework Club commences at 3.10 pm one night per week, for one hour. The Homework Club is supervised by staff and teachers who are available to assist students with their work during this time. Details concerning the location and the day when this will occur in 2008 will be available in the Newsletter at the beginning of the school year.

Debating
Thornbury High School is actively involved in competitions established by the Debating Association of Victoria. The School has for many years had a significant involvement in debating, fielding many teams at different levels with great success.

Concert/Stage/Rock Groups
Students who learn an instrument can be involved in one of the above groups. These groups perform regularly and attend a Music Tour, usually interstate.

Music Program
For details of Thornbury High School’s Music Program, please contact Nick Dean in the Music Department.

Computer Club
The 7/8 Centre computer pod is supervised two days a week at lunchtimes for students to use the computers. Other computer areas, including the Library Learning Centre, are also available to students during lunchtime and recess.

Library
The Library is open to students each lunch time for various activities such as computer games, quiet reading, indoor games and videos. It is also available for private study. The Homework Club also occurs in the Library.

Pastoral Camps
Pastoral camps are organised each year for year 7 and year 9 students. Details of cost and itinerary will be available in 2008. Fundraising will be available. Curriculum based camps may also occur throughout the year.

Inter School Sport
The school participates in a number of sporting events and students are encouraged to be involved in any of the Thornbury High School’s sport teams. Students interested in a particular sport should attend the information meeting and any practice sessions outside class hours as required by the coach of that team. Parents are most welcome to attend any of the sporting events. Information concerning the times of training sessions is published in the Student Bulletin and on the 9/10 noticeboard.
House Sports
All students are allocated a House team (Onus/Nicholls/Saunders/Blair) and participate in the Swimming and Athletics Carnival days.

S.R.C.
The S.R.C. is an active body in the school with members participating in decision making processes on important issues relating to students. SRC representatives run year level assemblies.

The S.R.C. representatives are selected after the following process – a written application, an election speech at year level meetings and a selection panel interview. Two students at each year level 7 to 12 are part of the S.R.C. Executive Committee who meet with the Principal each month.

The S.R.C. also supports various charities by arranging and taking part in fundraising events.

Competition and Special Events
Throughout the year, students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of competitions and special events. All students are encouraged to participate in these competitions as they provide an opportunity for students to practise their abilities in public forums and gain acknowledgment for their talents.

These Special Events include:
- Westpac Competition - Mathematics
- Inter School Debating
- LOTE Competitions.
- A Range of Sporting Events
- Peer Support Program
- Alpine School
- Healthy Eating Program
- Science Competitions
- School Musical Production/play
- Public Speaking
- Leadership Training
- Elevate Program
- Party Safe Program

Co-ordinator's Office
The years 7 and 8 office is located in the 7/8 Centre and the 9/10 office is located in the 9/10 corridor. Information boards are outside each of the Co-ordinators' offices. This contains information such as timetables, sport, music, jobs, debating, camps etc.

Overseas/Cultural/LOTE Tours.
Thornbury High School has two sister school relationships with schools in Beijing, China, and San Marco, Italy. In 2005, a tour to Beijing, China, and Malaysia, was organised for students. In January, 2006, there was a music tour to the United States. These overseas tours usually occur every second year.

Quest
All Year 9 students participate in this program in the school's Learning Centre. The aim of the program is:
- to create an innovative program geared to the needs of students in the 21st century.
- to develop engaging curriculum and pedagogy integrating authentic learning, ICT and multi-literacies.
- to create a learning space which facilitates deep and rich learning.
- to create teams working collaboratively to develop new approaches to teaching and learning.
- to cater for individual needs and provide for a variety of learning styles.

For further details concerning this program please refer to the Core Curriculum Year 9 section of this manual.
ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

Student Absence
If your child is absent from school for any reason, parents are requested to ring the Year Level Co-ordinator and leave a message on the voice mail, if the phone is unattended, on the day of the absence. If a child is away for an extended reason, a doctor’s certificate is required. This is particularly important for those students studying a VCE subject.

Dental or doctor appointments should not be made during school time unless absolutely unavoidable.

If your child is away for a lengthy period of time, work can be arranged to be sent home. Please contact your child’s Year Level Co-ordinator.

Leaving the School
Students are not permitted to leave the school grounds during the school day. If your child needs to leave school for any reason, they need to provide a note to their Year Level Co-ordinator and sign the Early Leavers’ Book which is located at the General Office.

Collecting your Child from School
If for any reason you need to collect your child during the school day, please report to the General Office.
For safety reasons, we cannot allow students to wait for parents in the car park or surrounding areas.

Contacting the School
If you have any enquiries regarding your child’s program or progress, please contact your child’s Year Level Co-ordinator who will either answer your queries or direct you to the appropriate person. The Year Level Co-ordinator closely monitors all students in their care, so it is important to notify them of anything which may affect your child’s progress at school.

Punctuality
We expect all our students to be punctual to school and class. All students begin the day with a form assembly. Students are expected to be at school by 8.45am so that they can collect their books from their lockers. Students who arrive late on more than 3 occasions will be given a School detention.

**BELL TIMES 2008**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.50 a.m.</td>
<td>LOCKERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.55 a.m.</td>
<td>FORM ASSEMBLY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.04 a.m.</td>
<td>PERIOD 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.16 a.m.</td>
<td>PERIOD 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.28 a.m.</td>
<td>RECESS</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.57 a.m.</td>
<td>PERIOD 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.09 p.m.</td>
<td>LUNCH</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.53 p.m.</td>
<td>LOCKER BELL</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.58 p.m.</td>
<td>PERIOD 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.10 p.m.</td>
<td>END OF DAY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Lockers**
All students are issued with a locker which are located in the 7/8 Centre and the 9/10 corridor. On entry to the school, students are requested to pay a $10 deposit to the General Office where they will be issued with a combination lock. This deposit will be refunded when your child leaves the School at the end of Year 12 or at any other time the student transfers to another school. Students are required to put their bags in their locker. They are not permitted to carry their bags to class including P.E. classes or at recess and lunchtime. A small bag can be used to take their sport uniform to the gymnasium.

For security reasons, students are not permitted to go to their locker during class time unless they have signed permission from their classroom teacher.

Students will retain their locks from the previous year, but may be issued with new lockers.

**Uniform**
All year 7 - 12 students are expected to wear full school uniform every day. Uniforms are available to buy from the GPI Uniform Shop which operates out of the school at lunchtimes on Wednesdays. The uniform requirements are outlined in the school planner. Uniform may also be bought from Monday to Saturday at the GPI shop at Thomastown.

All students must wear a sport uniform when they participate in the Sport and Physical Education Core and Elective Programs. The sport uniform is also available for purchase at the GPI shop. Hats are not permitted inside the school building.

The uniform for all year 7 – 10 students is as follows:
- White polo shirt with school emblem/white school shirt
- Royal blue woollen jumper with school emblem
- School black pants or shorts
- Navy blue spray jacket with school emblem
- Black leather lace up shoes
- Girls’ option: blue and white check school dress/checked winter skirt

Sport uniform:
- Gold polo shirt with school emblem
- School navy blue shorts or school track suit pant
- Runners

**School Detention**
If students are given a detention after school, parents will be notified. An official School Detention runs from 3.10 until 4.00 pm. Students will be issued with a detention notice which requires a parent signature and which states the reason for the detention.

If students are late to class, or have not completed homework, they can receive a ten minute detention after school from 3.10 to 3.20 pm. Parents will not be notified in this case unless there is no improvement shown.

Parents will always be notified if a student has a weekend detention.

**Teacher Contact**
Parents are invited to contact teachers. However, if you wish to see a teacher, parents must ring and make an appointment. Please be aware that teachers are not always available as they have classes, meetings and other commitments.

If a teacher is unavailable when you ring, please leave a message with the receptionist or the teacher’s voice mail and the teacher will contact you as soon as it is possible. If you have any particular concerns regarding your child, please contact the Year Level Co-ordinator.
Text Books
We are very aware of the cost to our parents in educating their child. We take particular care that we do not have an extensive book list so that we can reduce the cost for our parents. It is important that all our students have the necessary text books for all their subject areas.

Students will be notified when second hand books are available for sale at the end of the year. After the first week of term one, books will only be available for sale at specific times which will be advertised in the Daily Bulletin. Please contact Ms Carmel Ryan or Mrs Jan Wason re the purchase of second hand books.

Students may hand in their books at the end of the year to sell. We suggest that students take care of their books as this will increase the value of their books when they wish to re-sell them - and further reduce the cost of books to parents.

Sick Students
If your child is unwell, it is suggested that you keep your child at home. If a child is unwell at school, the school will contact you and send the child home. No student is permitted to go home unless the school has contacted the parent. Students are not permitted to use mobile phones if they are sick to contact parents without permission from a staff member. Parents or guardians must be contacted by the Year Level Co-ordinator or appropriate staff if a sick child needs to be sent home.

It is important that when you enrol your child at the school, emergency phone numbers are given as well as a contact number for the parent/guardian. It is also important that these phone numbers are kept up to date and are relevant.

Excursions/Sporting Events:
All activities which involve students leaving the school grounds require parental/guardian permission in writing. It is the student's responsibility to ensure the appropriate forms are taken home, filled in correctly with all relevant contact numbers, and returned by the due date to the organising teacher. If this is not done, students may miss the opportunity to be involved in the activity/excursion.

PARENT INFORMATION

At Thornbury High School, we strongly promote the partnership between our parents and staff in providing the best education for each individual child. An important aspect of this partnership is to keep our parents informed about the progress of their child and the events which are occurring in the school. We do this in a variety of ways:

Parent Newsletter
The Newsletter is issued three times a term and handed to students on Friday morning. At the beginning of each term a newsletter is posted home to each family to inform our parents of the events which are occurring in the school. Please read this newsletter as it will keep you up to date with everything that is going on in the school.

Student Planner
On enrolment, each student must purchase a planner. This is a very important document and our students are expected to take this to each class. This planner outlines the times of classes and other information relevant to your child. Parents are asked to check the planner each night for homework, notes from teachers, etc. It can also be used as a means of communication to teachers if parents wish to write messages back to the co-ordinator, form teacher or class teacher.
Reporting and Assessment
Parents are invited to contact their child's Co-ordinator to discuss their child's progress. Teachers may contact the parent, at any time, via the planner, E-mail or by making a phone call to the parent, if there is some concern about a student's progress.

There are four occasions throughout the year when there is a more formal reporting of a child's progress. This occurs at the end of each term.

At the end of terms one and three, Interim or Progress Reports are issued and Parent Teacher Interviews are conducted. This is an important time for parents to meet class teachers to discuss a child's progress. At the end of terms two and four, the End of the Semester Reports are issued. At these times a more detailed report, outlining a child's achievement and progress, is issued.

Examinations
All students in Year 10 are required to sit for exams at the end of each semester in the following subjects:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- History or Business & Civics

Some non core units such as LOTE may also run exams as part of their units.

This is an important preparation for VCE.

CATS (Compulsory Assessment Tasks) and SACS (School Assessed Course Work) (Year 10 students only)
All students in years 7 to 10 will be provided with a list of Compulsory Assessment Tasks for all core subjects and electives at the beginning of each semester. Students in year 10 who are studying a VET or VCE subject will also be provided with a list of School Assessed Coursework (SAC) and due dates for these subjects.

Students are expected to complete all CATs by the due date at an acceptable standard. Students may be issued with a minimum extension of 5 days if requested or if the work handed in is incomplete or not to an acceptable standard. If students fail to hand in the work after the extension period, supervised catch up classes will occur on the weekend.

Homework
Regular homework is given. All homework should be entered in the student planner by the student. Homework can take a number of forms: finishing off class work, revising, completing set tasks, researching, redrafting, homework assignments or completing class assignments and assessment tasks, practising an instrument, reading. A Homework Timetable is issued at the beginning of each semester to all Years 7-9 students. Parents should not accept students constantly telling them they do not have homework.

A regular check of your child's workbook or folder in each subject will give you an indication of what work students are doing in class.

The planner is an important source for parents as students should have due dates of long term assignments and all assessment tasks written in their planner. If you have any concerns regarding your child's lack of homework please ring your child's Co-ordinator.

The Homework Club operates after school once a week in the Library where assistance in English and Maths is available.
Parent Involvement
There are many ways parents can be more involved in the school's programs. These include many of the Committees which operate within the School. Please let us know if you are interested in participating in any of the school's committees. These include:
- School Council and its various sub committees
- Literacy Program Support
- Numeracy Program Support
- Sustainability Group
- Music Parents Association
- Parents and Friends Association
- Community Band

Student Services
Thornbury High School has the services of the following:
- Social Worker (part time)
- Adolescent Health Nurse (part time)
- Student Wellbeing Co-ordinator
- Youth Worker (part time)

The School has a Student Well Being Team which meets regularly to discuss programs for individual and groups of students. This team consists of administration, year level co-ordinators, sub school managers, Integration and the personnel listed above.

Education Maintenance Allowance
Parents on EMA need to be aware of the date that these forms need to be completed and handed in to the General Office. Reminder dates are published in the School Newsletter. Please ring the School's Business Manager, Mrs Theresa Daly, if you have any queries regarding EMA.

Canteen
The School has a canteen available which provides food to our students. It is open before school as well as at recess and lunchtime. Lunch orders can be placed before school and at recess. Students are not permitted to leave the school grounds at any time to buy their lunch at other facilities. There is a separate queue for Year 7 students.

Mobile Phones etc.
Walkmans, I-Pods, MP3 players, mobile phones or, indeed, any other items of value, should not be brought to school. However, if a student decides to bring these items to school, the school will not be responsible for any loss, theft or damage. Mobile phones must be switched off during class time. I-Pods may be used in class at the discretion of the class room teacher.

No photographs or film/video recordings using mobile phones is permitted in school buildings or on the school grounds.

 Discipline Policy
The School has a structured Discipline Policy which is published in the school planner. Copies are available from our website: www.thornburyhs.vic.edu.au

We expect Thornbury High students to behave at all times with courtesy, common sense and consideration for others.

M.I.Ps (Managed Individual Pathways)
The MIPS Co-ordinator (Mr David Smith) assists students in planning their career options and designing appropriate pathways.
YEAR 7 PROGRAM
The Journey Begins...

In the Junior school, your son or daughter will be immersed into a challenging, exciting and involving learning environment. Our top priority in these early transition years is to build a culture of mutual trust, respect and a love of learning.

The junior school at Thornbury High School features a purpose built Years 7 and 8 learning centre. This gives younger students the security of belonging to their own small and caring community. Specialist facilities include air conditioned Home Room classrooms, computer pod, their own locker area, toilets and recreation area.

Students experience the personal care of a Home group teacher as their first level of support and commence each day in their Home Room. A small team of subject teachers and the peer support from older students enable our junior students to quickly develop a sense of identity and to forge positive relations with staff and each other.

THE YEAR 7 AND 8 TEAM
All years 7 and 8 students have a small group of teachers who are responsible for their welfare and education. In general, for the core subject areas of English, Humanities, Mathematics and Science, a maximum of two teachers will teach each student in these Key Learning Areas [KLAs]. The form teacher is usually one of these teachers, ensuring that your child has daily contact with their form teacher as a class room teacher.

The Years 7 and 8 Team is led by the years 7/8 Sub School Manager, the Year 7 Co-ordinator and the year 8 Co-ordinator. With all classroom teachers, this team meets regularly to discuss curriculum and administrative details. This also gives the teachers an opportunity to discuss student progress and to plan curriculum and extra curricula activities.

You will be notified at the beginning of 2008 who your child’s form teacher will be.

YEAR 7 CAMP
The camp program is a very important part of helping students to adjust to secondary school life. As well as assisting students to acquire skills in working and living together, it provides them, and their teachers, the opportunity to get to know each other in an informal setting.

In 2008, the Year 7 Camp will be held at Cape Otway Ocean Lodge at Cape Otway. The camp will be held from February 4th to 8th. All enquiries regarding the camp should be directed to Mr. Grant Wason. Further information and permission forms will be distributed to students on Orientation Day.

HIGH ACHIEVERS’ PROGRAM
There is a strong expectation that all students will be extended in all subjects. However, please refer to our school’s brochure ‘Acceleration and Enhancement Programs’ for further details concerning our years 7 and 8 High Achievers’ Program.

PEER SUPPORT
Trained Year 10 students work closely with our new Year 7 students to provide support and advice during their transition into secondary school.

YEAR 7 TRANSITION PROGRAM
At the beginning of the new school year, all year 7 students will be involved in a transition program. The aim of the program is to give students the opportunity to familiarise themselves with their new school and their new teachers. During term one, parents are invited to a barbeque where they will be given the opportunity to meet their child’s class room teachers, form teacher, other staff members and members of the School Council.
YEAR 7 CURRICULUM

The following chart is an overview of the Years 7 curriculum. It indicates the number of periods per week that are located to each KLA area. There are 40 periods per fortnight in total. Each period is of 72 minutes duration.

The Performing Arts groups, for those students who wish to learn a musical instrument, will have two periods of Music/Drama per week throughout the year. Band practice will be after school or before school starting in term two. The focus in these forms will be on performance through music and drama. Class room music and drama will be offered as two periods per week, for one semester each, for the forms that are not the Performing Arts forms.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
<th>PERIODS PER FORTNIGHT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGLISH</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATHEMATICS</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCIENCE</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUMANITIES (History/Geography)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTS (Art/Music/Drama)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOTE (Greek/Italian/Indonesian)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TECHNOLOGY (Design &amp; Creativity)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS ED/SPORT/HEALTH</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>40</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Subjects are drawn from the three strands of the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS). The Victorian Essential Learning Standards provides the basis for curriculum planning, assessment and reporting for all Victorian schools from Prep to Year 10.

YEAR 7 PROMOTION STATEMENT
Promotion to Year 8 is available to students who have demonstrated an ongoing commitment to their studies, who have worked consistently throughout the year, who have completed all Compulsory Assessment Tasks in all subjects to an acceptable standard and who have achieved 90% attendance.

A panel consisting of the Year 7/8 Co-ordinators, parents, student and Form Teachers will determine promotion of students who do not sufficiently demonstrate the above.
**SUBJECT DESCRIPTION**

**English**
Students are required to participate in a range of activities designed to extend their abilities in the modes of English: reading, writing, speaking and listening. These activities include language work, studies of texts, drama and oral presentations, production of a writing folio. Students also participate in a reading program one period per week.

**Dimensions addressed:**
- **Reading:** to read and justify their interpretation of a range of texts.
- **Writing:** to use a range of text types in their writing.
- **Speaking & Listening:** to listen and produce a range of spoken texts.

**Assessment:** The following activities are assessed throughout the year: oral presentations, assignments, writing pieces, spelling tests and book reports.

**Homework:** may include specific homework tasks, regular homework activities or the completion of class work. Examples of homework tasks may include:
- Preparation for oral presentations
- Writing folio pieces
- Weekly vocabulary and spelling exercises
- 20 minutes reading every night as part of the Wide reading Program

**English As A Second Language (ESL)**
ESL provides targeted English teaching and extra time support and exposure to enable students to:
- Develop a level of competency and confidence in English
- Fully participate in social and school based contexts.

**Assessment:** Assessment will be ongoing and will include:
- Oral presentations
- Writing pieces
- Vocabulary and grammar exercises

**Homework:** Homework may include:
- Oral speaking practice with English speakers
- Preparation for class activities
- Writing pieces
- Regular reading practice
- Text response assignments
- Grammar and vocabulary exercises

**Mathematics**
Students work through a ‘contract’ system at their own pace. The contract is a list of tasks including set exercises from their text book, work sheets, puzzles, computer activities and extension activities. Some students work on the Numeracy program in a separate booklet. Some year 7 students will be time tabled in the Maths Task Centre once a fortnight for problem solving and ‘hands on’ challenging problems.

**Dimensions addressed:** Space, Number, Measurement, Chance and data, Structure and Working Mathematically

**Assessment:** Students will be assessed:
- Topic Tests
- Projects

**Homework:**
- Complete any unfinished daily set tasks, usually from text book
- Weekly homework sheet
- During Project sessions, homework is expected
**Science**

Year 7 Science students investigate safety in the laboratory, mixtures and solutions, cells and the classification of living things. They also investigate volcanoes, weather, magnets and sound. Students collect and analyse information and learn about using the scientific method for problem solving. They also do experiments, makes models, produce posters and multi media reports and use computer simulations.

**Dimensions addressed:**
- Science knowledge and understanding
- Science at work

**Assessment:**
- Science journal- record of class activities, notes, practical results and reports and a glossary of science terms
- Unit tests
- Practical report
- Research report

**Homework:**
Homework may include a selection of activities from the text book or printed sheets. Students are expected to review key concepts, prepare for tests, maintain their journal and develop a glossary of new science terms.

**Australian Schools Science Competition** is in term two. All year 7 students are encouraged to participate in this competition.

**Humanities**

Throughout the course there is an emphasis on how people use and interact with their environment. There is a strong focus on the ancient civilisations of Egypt, Greece and Rome. We study how these societies have developed over time and their influence on modern societies. Activities include written assignment work, such as the production of an ancient Greek newspaper, developing a mural which depicts scenes from ancient Roman society and writing a planner of an ancient Egyptian.

**Dimensions addressed:**
- Knowledge and understanding
- Reasoning and interpreting
- Geospatial skills

**Assessment:**
On going assessment includes participation in class discussions, written assignments, oral presentation on a related topic, completion of set tasks and drama activities related to the topic studied.

**Homework:**
Completion of set tasks where appropriate. However, students are often given written homework assignments related to a topic which is completed over a 3 to 4 week period.

**LOTE (Languages Other Than English)**

**Greek** in Year 7 caters for the needs of all students, Beginners and Advanced. For the advanced, it is an extension of an already acquired knowledge in both the culture and the language. For beginners, it is a unique experience coming into contact with the language widely spoken in our community and a culture appreciated world wide. Learning activities include book exercises, culture videos, speaking activities and excursions.

**Assessment:** There is a continuous assessment of work done in class and home with an emphasis on reading, writing and speaking exercises. Written and oral tests for both Beginners and Advanced groups are held regularly.
Homework: A weekly homework program based on vocabulary and grammatical exercises, stories and a variety of texts is provided. For beginners, revision of work done in class, completion of vocabulary and language exercises is particularly essential.

**Indonesian** focuses on a balance between language and culture through a variety of listening, speaking, written and reading activities. Further development of students’ language skills occurs through the use of computer linked software. Students complete at least one ICT generated assignment each semester. In year 7 the topics include self, family friends, daily activities, animals and school. Activities can include art work, role play, singing Indonesian songs, playing word games- all activities designed to enhance knowledge of Indonesian words and phrases.

**Assessment:** Assessment is on going and includes written assignments, oral participation and presentations, grammar tests and all compulsory assessment tasks.

**Homework:** Homework can take a variety of forms including work sheets, written assignments, preparation for oral activities and completion of assignments.

**Italian** adopts a thematical and situational approach based on the day to day lives of boys and girls in the 13 to 14 age group. It offers students a sound balance of content, grammar and cultural knowledge through interesting and stimulating activities built around cartoon dialogues, word building, tape listening exercises, songs and poetry and computer linked software (course and games).

**Assessment:** Is continuous and includes all class and homework activities. Oral activities include poem recitation and participation in conversation activities. Written activities include drawing a post card, activities related to the texts and assignments.

**Homework:** Homework may consist of a variety of activities including various tasks from the course/activity book and cultural assignments e.g. Region brochure

**THE ARTS**

**Art:**
Year 7 Art explores a range of art processes and media to allow students the opportunity to enjoy a wide art experience. These include both 2D (painting and drawing) and 3D (sculpture/ceramics) processes as well as Visual design tasks such as perspective and computer design. Students have the opportunity to talk about art in the classroom and have excursions to outside venues.

**Assessment:** Students produce a folio of practical art works generated throughout the semester. They also keep a visual diary/work book which includes design processes, homework and work book activities. One written assignment is completed each semester.

**Homework:** Regular homework tasks are given to year 7. These are usually drawing tasks to be completed in the Visual diary. Sometimes homework can include further design work for class projects and completion of written assignments.

**Music- Classroom**
Students will participate in practical and simple theory activities including aural training, interpreting and analysing works. They will be provided with a basic understanding and awareness of the 4 fundamental areas of music: Pitch, Timbre, Rhythm and Dynamics.

Students will:
- Use starting points to generate and expressively develop ideas when making and presenting music
- Demonstrate a range of skills, techniques and processes in organising music elements to structure music
Assessment: Will be on going and the focus will be on participation in class work, group and individual and class activities.

Homework: Students will be expected to complete any unfinished class room work and assignments.

Music Year 7 Performing Arts Forms

This subject is an option to those students who wish to be part of the Performing Arts form in Year 7. It supports the classroom curriculum and enhances the opportunity for students to enter VCE Drama and Music studies. A range of instruments is taught. Further details of the requirements of this course can be obtained from the Music Co-ordinator, Mr. Nick Dean.

Students who are part of the performing Arts Program attend weekly band rehearsals. They are placed in bands appropriate to their ability. The bands have regular opportunities to play in concert settings. Students are expected to practise each day for approximately 10 to 15 minutes, depending on their level of proficiency. Students are required to attend a Music Camp during the year.

This subject introduces students to instrumental music at an individual and group level. Students will learn to play an instrument and use this skill to perform with others in a band situation.

Within the instrumental program students will study music theory. Areas of study include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basic Theory</th>
<th>Performance (both Solo and group)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interaction</td>
<td>Tone/Intonation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhythm</td>
<td>Technique/Articulation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Drama

Students participate in a variety of activities such as role play and improvisation. These activities are designed to extend their ability to create, develop, present and criticize drama in different contexts.

Students will:
- Use starting points to generate and expressly develop ideas when making and presenting drama
- Demonstrate a range of skills, techniques and processes in organising drama elements to structure drama.

Assessment: Students are expected to participate in all activities including the preparation and presentation of a performance. They are also expected to keep a journal which includes a log book of ideas and activities.

Physical Education And Sport

Physical Education and sport students will participate in many fitness based activities with an emphasis on team work co-operation. Areas of study include: Athletics, archery, badminton, cricket, Australian Rules football, rugby, gymnastics, handball, soccer, tennis and various other sports leading into Inter School sport competitions.

Fitness: establishing a fitness level that will assist students in every day life

Team Work: enable students to work successfully in small and large groups in a co-operative manner

Safety: to create a safe working environment with the respect to oneself and others

Assessment: On going assessment of class participation in all activities pertaining to physical education and sport.
**Technology Studies**

Students will study this subject two periods per week for two semesters. Students will use a wide range of techniques, equipment and processes to construct their work with an emphasis on safety in the work shop.

Students will be expected to:
- Research information on the product
- Design the product
- Produce their design using the appropriate technique
- Evaluate according to their design the efficiency of the product and the processes used

Although the focus is on Materials Technology in Year 7, Systems Technology is a focus in Lego Technics towards the end of the year. Students will be expected to complete a number of models by using various materials and to complete a major investigation on robots.

**Assessment:** Each model is assessed on design, production and a written evaluation. Class work sheets and investigation assignments are also assessed.

**Homework:** homework may take the form of assignments, work sheets and any design, production or evaluation work related to class room tasks which may need to be completed.

**Personal Development**

Students study topics looking at personal identity, friendships, being healthy, food choices, risk taking, growth and development. Activities include: group discussions, writing up appropriate diets, menus, posters related to studied topics and devising an achievement award. Personal Development is for one period per week and is not formally assessed.
CURRICULUM

YEAR 8
YEAR 8 CURRICULUM

The following chart is an overview of the Year 8 curriculum. It indicates the number of periods per week that are located to each KLA area. There are 40 periods per fortnight in total. Each period is of 72 minutes duration.

The Performing Arts groups, for those students who wish to learn a musical instrument, will have two periods of Music/Drama per week throughout the year. Band practice will be after school or before school starting in term two. The focus in these forms will be on performance through music and drama. Class room music and drama will be offered as two periods per week, for one semester each, for the forms that are not the Performing Arts forms.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
<th>PERIODS PER FORTNIGHT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGLISH</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATHEMATICS</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCIENCE</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUMANITIES (History/Geography)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTS (Art/Music/Drama)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOTE (Greek/Italian/Indonesian)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TECHNOLOGY (Design &amp; Creativity)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS ED/SPORT/HEALTH</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>40</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Subjects are drawn from the three strands of the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS). The Victorian Essential Learning Standards provides the basis for curriculum planning, assessment and reporting for all Victorian schools from Prep to Year 10.

YEAR 8 PROMOTION STATEMENT

Promotion to Year 9 is available to students who have demonstrated an ongoing commitment to their studies, who have worked consistently throughout the year, who have completed all Compulsory Assessment Tasks in all subjects to an acceptable standard and who have achieved 90% attendance.

A panel consisting of the Year 7/8 Co-ordinators, parents, student and Form Teachers will determine promotion of students who do not sufficiently demonstrate the above.
SUBJECT DESCRIPTION

**English**

Students are required to participate in a range of activities designed to extend their ability in the modes of English: writing, reading, speaking and listening. These activities include language work, text analysis, the identification of audience and purpose of texts and the development of written and oral strategies for communication.

**Reading Program:** A wide reading program operates for all students in years 7 to 9. Reading classes are held in the Learning Centre. All students are encouraged to read extensively at home as a regular part of their English homework. Parents are requested to take an active interest in monitoring their child’s reading.

**Homework:** Regular homework is set by the class room teacher. Parents are asked to regularly check their child’s planner for homework.

**Mathematics**

The year 8 Mathematics program builds on understanding the dimensions of number, space, measurement, chance and data, structure and working mathematically. Students are required to keep an organised workbook with all class notes, exercises and homework.

**Assessment:** Testing will be carried out at the end of each topic.

**Homework:** Homework can take the form of work sheets, finishing class work, projects or other set tasks.

**Maths Task Centre:** Students will spend at least one lesson per fortnight in the Maths Task Centre with their class teacher and a mathematics teacher Aide. The purpose of this is to solve non routine problems in mathematics which often include concrete materials and require logic and spatial skills. Students will be expected to write short reports to show the process used and to explain solutions.

**Humanities**

The study of Humanities focuses on the history of the Middle Ages and the study of the Australian Political System. Activities include group and individual exercises. Students will be asked to present their information in a variety of forms both written and oral.

**Homework:** Homework is regularly given and may include specific exercises, completion of class activities or assignments which are specific for home study.

**Science**

Students investigate chemical reactions, electric circuits and simple machines. They also investigate nutrition, rocks and body systems. They learn about collecting and analysing information, about team work and about applying a scientific method to problem solving. Students will be expected to maintain an organised work book which will record all class activities, notes, diagrams, results and reports of practical investigations.

**Homework:** Students are expected to develop a regular pattern of home study. Home work may be a selection of activities from the text book or printed hand outs. Students are also expected as part of their science home study, to review key concepts, prepare for tests and maintain their journal.

**Sport**

Sport in Year 8 is a continuation of the Year 7 program which encourages students to develop a range of sport skills, an understanding of the various sport rules and tactics, and an appreciation of the codes of behaviour. Students participate in a range of individual and group activities. All
students are expected to change into full P.E. uniform and are encouraged to wear sunscreen protection and hats during activities.

**Personal Development**

This program is a continuation of the Year 7 program and encourages students to take an interest in their own health, to appreciate themselves as unique individuals and to feel empowered to make and carry out informed health promoting decisions. Topics covered include: Bullying, alcohol and other drugs, Community Health, Sexuality, Values and changing relationships.

**LOTE**

LOTE (Languages other than English) is taught to students from years 7 to 9. The course aims to develop the skills of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing, as well as the appreciation of the culture of the country of the LOTE. Overseas excursions to visit the country of the LOTE languages taught, offer our students an experience to further appreciate the culture.

Currently, the languages offered at the High School are Greek, Indonesian and Italian.

**Homework:** All LOTE studies expect students to complete homework activities on a regular basis. This may include written work from texts, printed handout sheets or assignment work.

In Greek, students can participate in Advanced Greek classes.

**Art And Design**

Students will produce a range of practical works which continue to develop the skills in art and design introduced at year 7. The program combines both art history and practical art.

Students will:
- Explore and develop ideas in sequential and related topics
- Focus on presentation
- Develop skills in Art criticism

These projects combine the elements of design and include both formal and imaginative processes. The Art and Visual Communication disciplines are incorporated into the year’s study and are complimentary to each other.

The theory component is delivered throughout the year. It looks at developing an understanding of the place of art works, in particular, cultural and historical contexts.

**Homework:** Practical and theory homework is assigned regularly and is to be completed in a work book.

**Drama/Media**

Students will be required to participate in a range of drama and media activities, role play, improvisation, video production and film analysis. Students will develop and present their ideas through dramatic performance and video production, demonstrating a range of drama and media skills and techniques.

**Music**

Students will participate in practical and theory activities including aural training, composing, improvising, interpreting and analysing works. Students will participate in individual and group activities.

Students will be expected to:
- Prepare, select and perform works
• Use appropriate language to describe sounds and to express ideas and feelings
• Show an understanding of the cultural and historical differences in music

Students will be expected to participate in class work and performances. Written assignments are also a requirement of the course.

**Year 8 Performing Arts Form**

This subject is an option to those students who wish to be part of the Performing Arts form in Year 8. It supports the class room curriculum and enhances the opportunity for students to enter VCE Drama and Music studies. A range of instruments are taught. Further details of the requirements of this course can be obtained from the Music Co-ordinator, Mr. Nick Dean.

Students who are part of the Performing Arts program attend weekly band rehearsals. They are placed in bands appropriate to their ability. The bands have regular opportunities to play in concert settings. Students are expected to practise each day for approximately 10 to 15 minutes, depending on their level of proficiency.

This subject introduces students to instrumental music at an individual and group level. Students will learn to play an instrument and use this skill to play an instrument and use this skill to perform with others in a band situation. **Students participating in this program must study Music Theory.**

**TECHNOLOGY**

Students in year 8 will include Food Technology in their technology studies. All students will study Food technology for one semester and material technology studies in the second semester.

**Material Technology Studies**

Students will use a wide range of techniques, equipment and processes to experience problem solving exercises. They will design and produce a finished product. In class students will:

- Research the information concerning their chosen product
- Design a product
- Produce their design using appropriate techniques
- Evaluate the efficiency of their product and the processes used.

Students will be expected to complete a number of models and a written Investigative Report on some of these models.

**Food Technology**

Students will prepare and cook a variety of foods suitable for particular ages. They will learn to identify environmental and hereditary factors involved in growth and development. Students will be expected to participate in practical and written assignment activities.

**Information Technology**

Information technology is integrated into the curriculum across all KLA areas. The Computer Pod area in the years 7 and 8 Centre which allows students to make optimum use of all available facilities in all subject areas. Computers are also available in three computer rooms and the learning Centre.