

Thornbury High School



Year 7 & 8 Information and Curriculum Booklet 2009

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

At Thornbury High School we believe that a safe and secure learning environment, high academic standards and opportunities for students to pursue individual interests are the essential elements of an outstanding education.

At Thornbury High **our purpose** is to prepare students for a changing, diverse and sustainable world by;

- Building knowledge and skills,
- Encouraging effort and excellence,
- Fostering resilience and integrity,
- Developing a caring and cooperative learning community.

At Thornbury High school there are **three distinct phases in education**;

- Establishment and support (Year 7&8).
- Empowerment and Independence (Year 9).
- Specialisation and Pathways (Year 10,11&12).

In year 9 students are involved in an authentic learning program with an emphasis on team learning, connections to the local community and the extensive use of information and communication technology. A significant part of their studies will occur in the newly renovated Library which is a flexible and multi-purpose learning environment.

In year 10 students will be prepared for their VCE studies but also have a range of curriculum choices. These choices include VCE studies, advanced Mathematics, Vocational and Education studies (VET) and a range of electives.

Welcome to Thornbury High School,

Peter Egeberg, Principal

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 Year 7 learning centre. In 2009, year 7 students will also have two brand new classrooms and a decking area. This sustainable building is an extension of the old Year 7 centre. This area gives younger students the security of belonging to their own small and caring community. Specialist facilities include air conditioned classrooms, computers in all classrooms, their own locker area, toilets and recreation area.

Students experience the personal care of a form 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 (Mark Gillies), two Year 7 Co-ordinators (Helen Herouvim and Grant Wason) and two year 8 Co-ordinators (Anne Herschell and Georgia Stavrakis). With your child's 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.

All the best, Junior School Team

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND PARENT INFORMATION

▪ **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.

▪ **Wearing of the Uniform**

All students must wear the correct uniform when going to and from school and on other occasions as directed. The full school uniform requirements are outlined in the school planner.
Sport uniform must be worn during Sport, Physical Education Core and Elective Programs and during Inter School Sport Days and when representing the school.
Hats are only to be worn outside the school buildings.

Uniforms are available to buy from the GPI Uniform Shop which operates out of the school at lunchtimes on Wednesdays. Uniforms may also be bought from Monday to Saturday at the GPI shop at Thomastown.

▪ **Student Planner**

On enrolment, each student will be supplied with a planner. The planner is to be used **exclusively** for school related matters. It is not a personal diary. If not maintained in good condition free of stickers, graffiti and personal annotations, the Planner must be replaced.

The Planner is a very important document and our **students are expected to take this to each class and home each night**. The planner outlines important information. It contains detailed information on uniform requirements, school policies, rules and consequences, student goals, study plans, the times of classes and other information relevant to our students.

The planner is used to record all HOMEWORK.

Parents are asked to check the planner each night for homework, notes from teachers, etc. The planner can 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.

▪ **Lockers**

All students are issued with a locker. 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 in their planner from their classroom teacher.

▪ **Student Absence**

All students are expected to be punctual and regular in their attendance.

Students are required to maintain a minimum 90% attendance rate at school. If your child is absent for any reason parents are requested to ring your child's Year Level Co-ordinator in the morning and leave a message on the voice mail. If the student is absent for an extended reason, a doctor's certificate is required. 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.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND PARENT INFORMATION

▪ **Students Sick at School**

If a student is unwell at school, the school will contact the parent or guardian before sending the student home. No student is permitted to go home unless the school has contacted the parent or guardian. Students are not permitted to use mobile phones if they are sick to contact parents without permission from a staff member.

It is important that when all students are enrolled 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 changes are made with 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.

▪ **Permission to leave the School**

Students are not permitted to leave the school grounds during the school day without official permission. If it is necessary for a student to leave the school during school hours 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.

▪ **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.

▪ **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.

▪ **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.

▪ **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. There is a separate queue for girls.

▪ **Lockers, Money and Valuables/Mobile Phones etc.**

Money or valuables should be left at the General Office for safe keeping during the day. The school will not take responsibility for the security of any possessions or valuables not handed to the General Office. Mobile phones should not be used during class time. I-Pods can be used in class at the classroom teacher's discretion.

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

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND PARENT INFORMATION

▪ Legal and Illegal Substances NOT to be used at School

Whilst students are at school or travelling to and from school, or attending any school function, or wearing school uniform they are

- not permitted to have or use any tobacco products.
- not permitted to use or process, sell or be under the influence of alcoholic beverages, mind altering substances or illegal substances

The following substances are banned from all School Buildings, grounds and vehicles

- Chewing Gum
- Liquid Paper, White Out or other similar substances
- Permanent markers/textas

• School Detention

An official School Detention runs from 3.10 until 4.00 pm. Students required to attend a school detention will be issued with a detention notice which states the reason for the detention. This notice requires a parent signature.

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.

Catch up classes are held on the weekends for students needing to complete CAT's. Parents are notified in writing.

▪ 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 Mrs Jan Wason re the purchase of second hand books on 94804066. Booklists can be collected from the General Office.

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.

▪ 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 common assessment tasks, practising an instrument and reading.

A Homework Timetable is issued at the beginning of each semester to all Years 7- 9 students.

At Years 7-9 ALL students have set homework each night. This is outlined in the homework timetable.

A Homework Club operates after school twice a week in the Library where assistance in English and Maths is available.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND PARENT INFORMATION

▪ 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 2009

LOCKERS	8.50 a.m.
FORM ASSEMBLY	8.55 a.m.
PERIOD 1	9.04 a.m.
PERIOD 2	10.16 a.m.
RECESS	11.28 a.m.
PERIOD 3	11.57 a.m.
LUNCH	1.09 p.m.
LOCKER BELL	1.53 p.m.
PERIOD 4	1.58 p.m.
END OF DAY	3.10 p.m.

▪ Student Services

Thornbury High School has the services of the following:

- Student Wellbeing Co-ordinator
- Social Worker (part time)
- Adolescent Health Nurse (part time)
- Youth Worker (part time)
- Integration Program

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.

Parent Involvement

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 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 all important dates and everything that is going on in the school.

▪ Parent Participation

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
- Music Parents Association
- Parents and Friends Association
- Community Band
- Sustainability Group

▪ 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.

Assessment and Reporting

▪ Reporting to Parents

Parents are invited to contact their child's Co-ordinator to discuss their child's progress at any time. 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 1 and Term 3, 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. An end of semester report is issued at the end of Semester 1 and 2. This is a more detailed report.

Assessment and Reporting

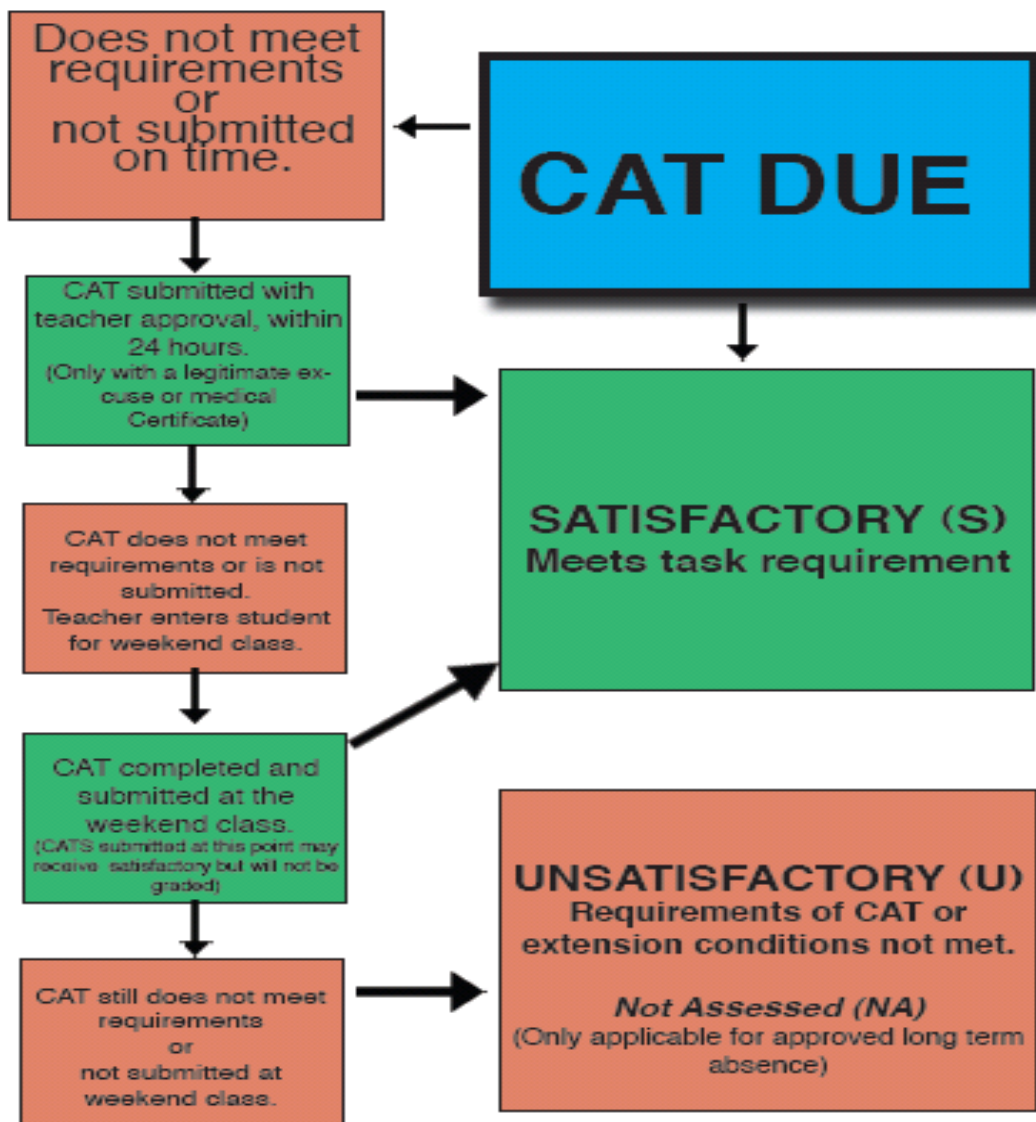
▪ CAT's Compulsory Assessment Tasks

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's) and due dates for these subjects.

Students are expected to complete all CAT's by the due date at an acceptable standard. Students may be issued with an extension. This is outlined in the procedure below.

COMPULSORY ASSESSMENT TASK YEARS 7-10 PROCESS FOR EXTENSION OF TIME



Student Activities

The School offers our Junior students the opportunity to be involved in a number of activities throughout their time in the Junior School. These include the following:

- **Inter School Sports**

The whole 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 7/8 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 School Representative Council is an active body in the school with students participating in decision making processes on important issues relating to students. SRC representatives run year level assemblies and organise events during the school year. The S.R.C. also supports various charities by arranging and taking part in fundraising events

- **Camps**

Year 7 students will attend a Pastoral camp at Lake Dewar Lodge in Myrniong from March 30th to April 1st. For more information contact Mark Gillies (Year 7/8 Manager).

- **Homework Club**

The Homework Club commences at 3.10 pm twice per week, for one hour. The Homework Club is supervised by staff who are available to assist students with their work during this time. Details concerning the location and the day when this will occur in 2009 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/ Music Program**

Students who learn an instrument can be involved in one of the above groups. These groups perform regularly and attend a Music Camp.

For details of Thornbury High School's Music Program, please contact the Music Department.

- **Computer Club/Library**

Computer areas, including the Library Learning Centre, are available to students during lunchtime and recess.

- **Competitions 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 extra curricula activities as they provide an opportunity for students to practise their abilities in public forums and gain acknowledgment for their talents.

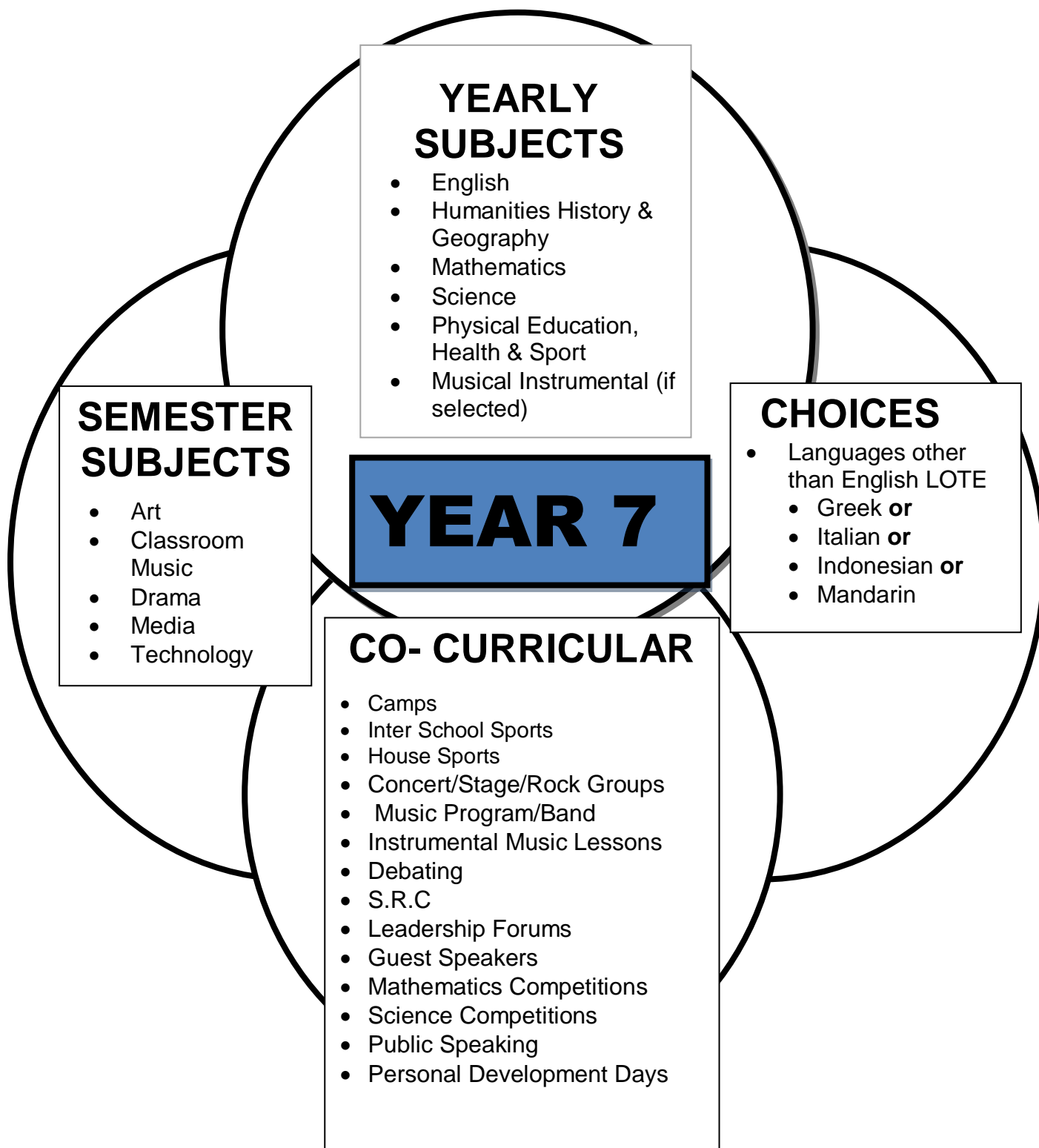
These Special Events include:

- Westpac Competition - Mathematics
- LOTE Competitions.
- A Range of Sporting Events
- Thornbury High Idol
- Guest Speakers
- Science Competitions
- School Musical Production/Play
- Public Speaking
- Leadership Training
- Personal Development Days

- **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. In 2008 students visited our sister school in Italy. These overseas tours usually occur every second year.

The Year 7 Program



Overview of Year 7 Curriculum

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.

SUBJECTS	Year 7 Semester Periods per fortnight
ENGLISH	7
HUMANITIES History and Geography	4
MATHEMATICS	7
SCIENCE	4
PHYSICAL EDUCATION SPORT and HEALTH	4
LOTE Greek, Italian, Indonesian or Mandarin	4
Art	6 (one semester only)
TECHNOLOGY Wood	6 (one semester only)
Music/Drama/Media	3
TOTAL	40

The above chart gives an overview of the Year 7 curriculum and indicates the number of periods per fortnight allocated to each subject or Key Learning Area. Each period is of 72 minutes duration.

HIGH ACHIEVERS' PROGRAM

Students selected for this program 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.

GIRL'S CLASS

In addition to All Boy Classes and Mixed Classes, Thornbury High School also offer an all girls class at year 7.

Policy on Promotion

We regard the learning and teaching process as a partnership between students, parents and staff. Therefore, 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 well aware that promotion of students to a higher year level is not automatic.

Promotion to Year 8 requires

1. Achieve an acceptable work standard
 - Complete all compulsory assessment tasks (CAT's) to an acceptable standard.
 - Obtain at least an 'acceptable' rating for effort as recorded in their reports.
2. Have acceptable attendance
 - Minimum attendance of 90% this means a minimum of 9 days attendance every fortnight.
 - Consistently punctual to class.
3. Demonstrate acceptable behaviour at all times
 - Ongoing commitment to studies and consistent work throughout the year.
 - Obtain at least 'acceptable' rating for class behaviour as recorded in their school report.
 - Consideration to be given to number of school detentions and suspensions

Inability to meet Promotion Requirements

If a student does not meet these promotion requirements there are three possible courses of action which will be decided by a panel consisting of the Year 7 Co-ordinator, 7/8 Manager, parents, teachers and student.

1. Promoted to the next year level on a contract which will be reviewed at the end of 5th week. If the conditions of the contract are not met then the student will return to the previous year level.
2. Offered the chance to repeat current year level.
3. Assisted in transferring to another school or alternative setting.

The Year 7 Curriculum

Year 7

English

Curriculum Focus

Students are required to participate in a range of activities designed to extend their abilities in the modes of English. These activities includes the reading and study of texts, which may include novels, short stories, poetry and newspaper articles; the development of strategies for writing a range of text types; and listening to or producing a range of spoken texts. They should aim to achieve 4.50 Level by the end of the year.

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 as part of their homework program

Compulsory Assessment Tasks:

1. Oral Presentation
2. Text Response
3. Writing Tasks

Year 7

English as a Second Language

Curriculum Focus

E.S.L (English as a Second Language) is offered to students who have been in Australia fewer than seven years and for those students whose education in English has been interrupted due to living overseas for an extended period of time.

The course is designed to help students gain confidence in using the English language and develop their skills in reading, writing, listening and speaking. E.S.L students have access to a specialist E.S.L resource room and are encouraged to participate in extra-curricular activities that reinforce the learning of the language. E.S.L is offered to students during LOTE periods.

Compulsory Assessment Tasks:

1. Oral Presentation
2. Text Response
3. Writing Tasks

Year 7

Humanities, History & Geography

Curriculum Focus

The study of Humanities at Year 7 focuses on two areas: History and Geography. When studying History students gain knowledge and understanding of Ancient Egyptian, Roman and Greek Societies. They study how these societies have developed over time and how they provided a foundation for modern society. Students frame key research questions to guide investigations and report on findings, using a variety of Primary and Secondary sources.

As part of the Geography component, students learn new ways to record and analyse data and learn how to interpret maps, graphs and apply geospatial tools.

Compulsory Assessment Tasks:

Semester 1

1. Research Assignment
2. Oral Presentation
3. Poster Presentation

Semester 2

1. Newspaper Article
2. Geography Field Work

Curriculum Focus

The Year 7 Mathematics Program focuses on: Space, Number, Measurement/Chance and Data, Structure and Working Mathematically.

Students are required to keep an organised workbook with all class notes, exercises and homework. Homework should enable students to finish class work, projects and other set tasks. Mathematics homework should be completed according to the homework timetable.

Compulsory Assessment Tasks:**Semester 1 & 2**

- | | | |
|----------------|------------|-------------------|
| 1. Topic Tests | 2. Project | 3. Homework Tasks |
|----------------|------------|-------------------|

Curriculum Focus

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 |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|

Compulsory Assessment Tasks:**Semester 1&2**

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Research Assignment | 2. Practical Report |
|------------------------|---------------------|

Curriculum Focus

Physical Education students will participate in many fitness based activities with an emphasis on team work and 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. All students are expected to change into the full school P.E. uniform and are encouraged to wear sunscreen protection and hats during activities in outdoor areas.

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

Students may be required to complete written assignments at home.

Sport and physical education activities are aligned with the inter and intra school sporting programs.

Compulsory Assessment Tasks:**Semester 1&2**

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| 1. Participation | 2. Assignment |
|------------------|---------------|

Curriculum Focus

LOTE (Languages other than English) is offered to students from Years 7 to 12. 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. The languages offered at Thornbury High School are Greek, Indonesian, Italian and Mandarin.

Year 7 LOTE introduces the languages and culture of either Italy, Indonesia, Greece or China through themes and situations relevant to young people today. Students will participate in a variety of listening, speaking, reading and writing activities as well as taking part in role plays, singing songs and attending cultural events. Further development of students' language skills will occur through the use of computer linked software. At least one ICT generated assignment will be completed each semester. In Year 7 the topics will include Greetings, Myself, Family and Friends, Daily Activities, Animals and School,

Compulsory Assessment Tasks:**Semester 1&2**

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Oral Presentation | 2. Writing Task |
|----------------------|-----------------|

Curriculum Focus

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 design tasks such as perspective and computer design. Students have the opportunity to talk and write about art in the class room and have excursions to outside venues.

Compulsory Assessment Tasks:

1. Folio
2. Workbook

Curriculum Focus

Students will study this subject three periods per week for one semester. 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

The focus is on Materials Technology in Year 7. Students will be expected to complete a number of models by using various materials and to complete an investigation on safety.

Compulsory Assessment Tasks:

1. Production Work
2. Safety Chart

Curriculum Focus

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

Compulsory Assessment Tasks:

1. Research
2. Composition

Curriculum Focus

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 criticise drama in different contexts.

Students will:

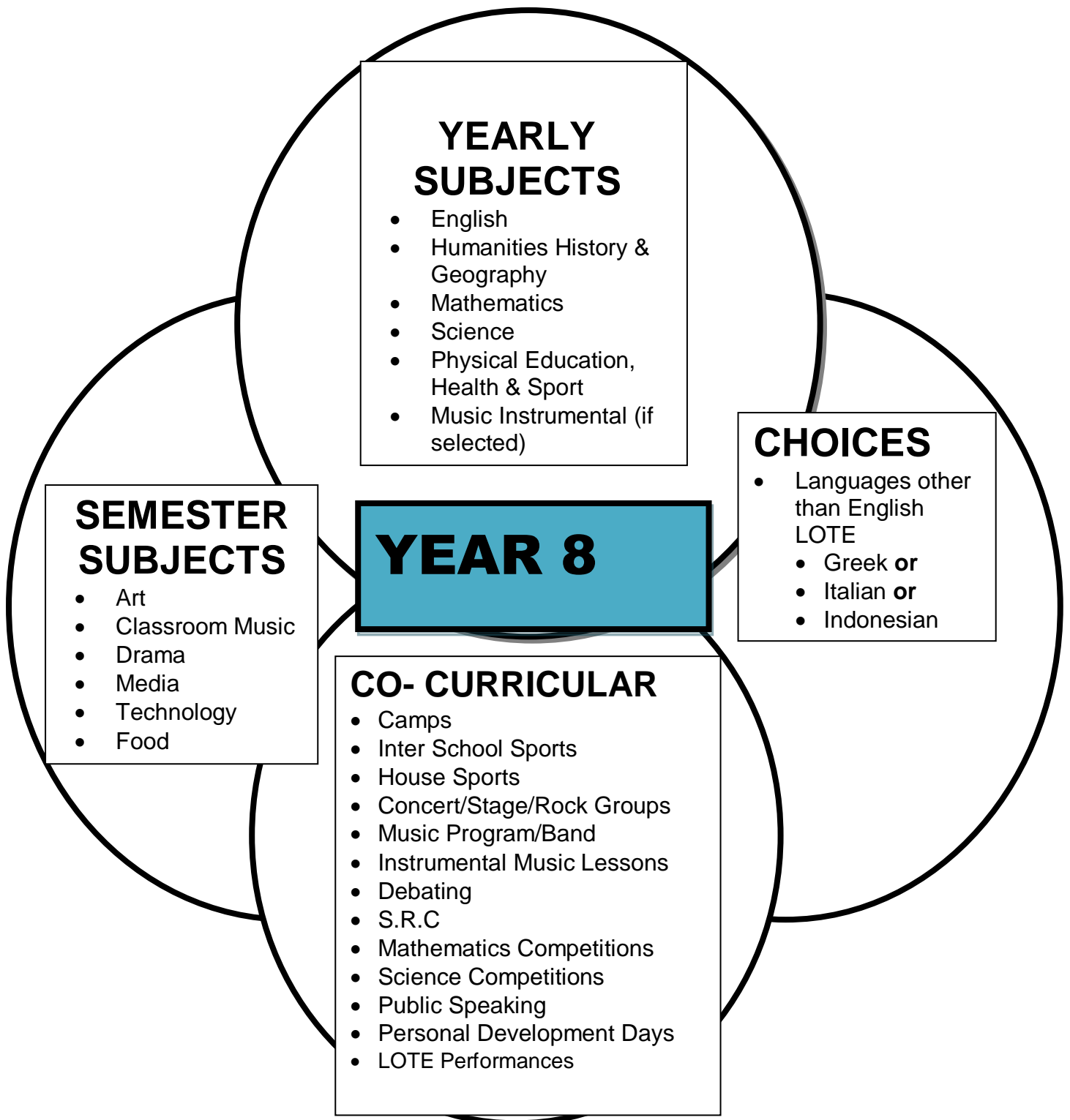
- Use starting points to generate and expressly develop ideas when making and presenting drama
- Demonstrate a range of skills, techniques and processes in organising and structuring drama elements.

Compulsory Assessment Tasks:

1. Performance
2. Scripting

This subject is an option to those students who wish to learn an instrument in Year 7. It supports the classroom curriculum and enhances the opportunity for students to enter VCE Music studies. A range of instruments are taught. Students who are part of the Performing Arts Program attend weekly band rehearsals. 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. For those who are already advanced on their instrument, extension classes and higher ability bands are available.

Year 8 Program



Overview of Year 8 Curriculum

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.

SUBJECT	Year 8 Periods per fortnight
ENGLISH	8
HUMANITIES History Geography	4
MATHEMATICS	7
SCIENCE	4
PHYSICAL EDUCATION SPORT & HEALTH	4
LOTE Greek or Italian or Indonesian	4
TECHNOLOGY Design, Creativity & FOOD	6 (one semester)
ART	6 (one semeste)
Music/Drama	3
TOTAL	40

The above chart gives an overview of the Year 8 curriculum and indicates the number of periods per fortnight allocated to each subject or Key Learning Area. Each period is for a 72 minute period.

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.

HIGH ACHIEVERS' PROGRAM

Students selected for this program 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.

Policy on Promotion

We regard the learning and teaching process as a partnership between students, parents and staff. Therefore, 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 well aware that promotion of students to a higher year level is not automatic.

Promotion to Year 9 requires

1. Achieve an acceptable work standard
 - Complete all compulsory assessment tasks (CAT's) to an acceptable standard.
 - Obtain at least an 'acceptable' rating for effort as recorded in their reports.
2. Have acceptable attendance
 - Minimum attendance of 90% this means a minimum of 9 days attendance every fortnight.
 - Consistently punctual to class.
3. Demonstrate acceptable behaviour at all times
 - Ongoing commitment to studies and consistent work throughout the year.
 - Obtain at least 'acceptable' rating for class behaviour as recorded in their school report.
 - Considerstion to be given to number of school detentions and suspensions

Inability to meet Promotion Requirements

If a student does not meet these promotion requirements there are three possible courses of action which will be decided by a panel consisting of the Year 8 Co-ordinator, 7/8 Manager, parents, teachers and student.

1. Promoted to the next year level on a contract which will be reviewed at the end of 5th week. If the conditions of the contract are not met then the student will return to the previous year level.
2. Offered the chance to repeat current year level.
3. Assisted in transferring to another school or alternative setting.

The Year 8 Curriculum

Year 8

English & PD

Curriculum Focus

Students are required to participate in a range of activities designed to extend their abilities in the dimensions of English. These activities include the reading and study of texts, which may include novels, short stories, poetry and newspaper articles; the development of strategies for writing a range of text types; and listening to or producing a range of spoken texts. They should aim to achieve 5.00 Level by the end of the year.

Reading Program: A wide reading program operates for all students in Years 7&8. 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.

Compulsory Assessment Tasks:

Semester 1&2

1. Oral Presentation
2. Text Response
3. Writing Folio

Year 8

English as a Second Language

Curriculum Focus

E.S.L (English as a Second Language) is offered to students who have been in Australia fewer than seven years and for those students whose education in English has been interrupted due to living overseas for an extended period of time.

The course is designed to help students gain confidence in using the English language and develop their skills in reading, writing, listening and speaking. E.S.L students are encouraged to participate in extra-curricular activities that reinforce the learning of the language.

Compulsory Assessment Tasks:

1. Oral Presentation
2. Text Response
3. Writing Tasks

Year 8

Humanities, History & Geography

Curriculum Focus

The study of Humanities at Year 8 focuses on two areas: History and Geography. When studying History students gain knowledge and understanding of Medieval and Renaissance Europe and Exploration of the 'New World'. Students frame key research questions to guide investigations using a variety of Primary and Secondary sources. They report on their findings through projects and reports as well as a range of multimedia tools. As part of the Geography component students learn how to apply geospatial tools, new ways to record and analyse data and how to interpret maps and graphs.

Compulsory Assessment Tasks:

Semester 1

1. Research Task/Point of View Essay
2. Oral Presentation

Semester 2

1. Research Task/Essay
2. Geography Task

Year 8

Mathematics

Curriculum Focus

The Year 8 Mathematics Program focuses on: Space, Number, Measurement/Chance and Data, Structure and Working Mathematically.

Students are required to keep an organised workbook with all class notes, exercises and homework. Homework should enable students to finish class work, projects and other set tasks. Mathematics homework should be completed according to the homework timetable.

Compulsory Assessment Tasks:

Semester 1& 2

1. Topic Tests
2. Project
3. Homework Tasks

Curriculum Focus

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.

Compulsory Assessment Tasks:**Semester 1&2**

1. Research Assignment
2. Practical Report

Curriculum Focus

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 the full school P.E. uniform and are encouraged to wear sunscreen protection and hats during activities in outdoor areas.

Students may be required to complete written assignments at home.

Sport and physical education activities are aligned with the inter and intra school sporting programs.

Compulsory Assessment Tasks:**Semester 1&2**

1. Participation
2. Assignment

Curriculum Focus

LOTE is offered to students from Years 7 to 12. 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.

The languages offered at Thornbury High School are Greek, Indonesian and Italian.

Year 8 LOTE continues with the study of the language and culture of either Italy, Indonesia or Greece through themes relevant to young people. Students will participate in a variety of listening, speaking, reading and writing activities as well as taking part in role plays, singing songs and attending cultural events. Further development of students' language skills will occur through the use of computer linked software. At least one ICT generated assignment will be completed each semester. In Year 8 the topics will include Nationalities, Sport, Food, Interests and Pastimes.

Compulsory Assessment Tasks:**Semester 1&2**

3. Oral Presentation
4. Writing Task

Curriculum Focus

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.

Compulsory Assessment Tasks:

1. Folio
2. Workbook

Curriculum Focus

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.

Compulsory Assessment Tasks:

1. Production Work
2. Research

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.

Compulsory Assessment Tasks:

1. Folio of Work
2. Practical Work

Curriculum Focus

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.

Compulsory Assessment Tasks:

1. Research/Presentation
2. Composition

Curriculum Focus

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.

Compulsory Assessment Tasks:

1. Performance
2. Project

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 20 to 30 minutes, depending on their level of proficiency.

Students will continue to learn 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 and attend a Music Camp.