Name:............................................

Please retain this Handbook for reference to subjects, events and policies throughout 2014
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## PROPOSED YEAR 7 2014 PLANNER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TERM</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ONE</strong>&lt;br&gt;30&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; Jan - 4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; April 2014</td>
<td>First Assembly- Introduction to Year 7&lt;br&gt;School Photos&lt;br&gt;Music Picnic Evening&lt;br&gt;Year 7 Camp&lt;br&gt;Year 7 Injections&lt;br&gt;Year 7 Sport Day&lt;br&gt;Term 1 Music Concert&lt;br&gt;Swimming Carnival&lt;br&gt;Interim Reports, Parent Teacher Interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TWO</strong>&lt;br&gt;22&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt; April - 27&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; June 2014</td>
<td>Year 7 Sports Day&lt;br&gt;Athletics Day&lt;br&gt;NAPLAN&lt;br&gt;Year 7 Injections&lt;br&gt;School Assembly&lt;br&gt;Student Opinion Survey&lt;br&gt;School Bullying Survey&lt;br&gt;Mid Year Music Concert&lt;br&gt;Semester 1 Reports distributed to students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>THREE</strong>&lt;br&gt;15&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; July - 19&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; September 2014</td>
<td>Semester 1 Award Assembly&lt;br&gt;Music Camp&lt;br&gt;Year 7 Sports Day&lt;br&gt;Thornbury’s Got Talent&lt;br&gt;Mathematics Competition&lt;br&gt;Science Competition&lt;br&gt;Footy Day&lt;br&gt;School Musical / Play&lt;br&gt;Book Week&lt;br&gt;Interim Reports, Parent Teacher Interviews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FOUR</strong>&lt;br&gt;6&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; October - 15&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt; December 2014</td>
<td>Year 7 Sports Day&lt;br&gt;Final Assembly&lt;br&gt;Year 7 Injections&lt;br&gt;End of Year Music Concert&lt;br&gt;Promotion to Year 8&lt;br&gt;Transition Program&lt;br&gt;End of Year Excursion&lt;br&gt;Awards Evening&lt;br&gt;Semester 2 Reports distributed to students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EXACT DATES TO BE ADVISED**

Various subject-based competitions: Mathematics, Science; Debating, Inter School Sports, Excursions, Leadership Forums and Curriculum Days; please refer to school newsletters throughout the year.
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 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

FROM THE YEAR 7 TEAM

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. The area gives younger students the security of belonging to their own small and caring community. Specialist facilities include air conditioned classrooms, a class laptop set and interactive whiteboard, 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 Team is led by the Year 7 Manager and two Year 7 Co-Ordinators. This team meets regularly with your child’s classroom teachers, 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.

If you have any concerns regarding your child’s progress, do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to working with all new students and parents/guardians next year.

Mark Gillies (Year 7 Manager), Helen Herouvim & Grant Wason (Year 7 Co-Ordinators)
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](http://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 to and from school and on other occasions as directed. The full school uniform requirements are outlined in the school planner. The Sport uniform must be worn during Sport, Physical Education Core and Elective Programs and during Inter School sport days.

Hats are only to be worn outside the school buildings.

Uniforms are available for purchase from the Acadamy Uniform Shop which operates at the school during lunchtime on Wednesdays. Uniforms may also be purchased from the Acadamy shop at 238 WolsleyPlace, Thomastown 3074 (Phone 9460 8011) from Monday to Saturday.

- **Lockers**
All students are issued with a locker. On entry to the school, students are requested to pay $15 to the General Office where they will be issued with a combination lock.

Students are required to keep their bags in their lockers. They are not permitted to carry their bags to class including P.E. classes or at recess and lunchtime. Students are given a coloured carry bag 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 Planner**
On enrolment, each student will be supplied with a planner. This planner is to be used exclusively for school related matters. It is not a personal diary. If this planner is not maintained in good condition, free of stickers and graffiti, the planner must be replaced.

The planner is a very important document and our students are expected to take this to each class. The planner outlines important information. It contains detailed information on uniform requirements, school policies, regulations, 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 with teachers, if parents wish to write messages back to the Co-Ordinator, the Form Teacher or the Class Teacher.

- **Homework**
A Homework timetable is issued at the beginning of each semester to all Years 7-9 students. Year 10 students should be mature and responsible enough to organise the nights they need to complete homework.

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.

Parents should not accept students claiming that they do not have homework.

A Homework Club operates after school twice a week in the Library where assistance in the subject areas of English and Maths are available.
STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND PARENT INFORMATION

- **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/guardians are requested to ring the Year 7 Attendance Officer in the morning and leave a message on voicemail. If the student is absent due to an extended period of illness, 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 an extended period of time, work can be sent home. Please contact your child's Year Level Coordinator.

  **ABSENCES**
  **Year 7 Attendance Officer 9458 6161**
  **MESSAGES TAKEN 24 HOURS**
  If parents need to discuss absences further, they can contact the Year 7 Coordinators.

- **Students Sick at School**
  If a student is unwell, the school will contact the parent or guardian before sending the student home. Students are not permitted to go home unless the school has contacted the parent or guardian. Students are not permitted to use mobile phones to contact parents if they are unwell, without permission from a staff member.

  **It is important that when 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 noted through 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. Please use the Early Leavers book to sign your child out.

  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, they need to give a note to their Year Level Coordinator 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 Coordinator who will either answer your queries or direct you to the appropriate person. The Year Level Coordinator 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.
STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND PARENT INFORMATION

- **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 stating the reason for the detention, and requires a parent/guardian signature.

  If students are late to class, or have not completed homework, they may be given 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. Weekend detention classes are also held.

- **Excursions/Sporting Events:**
  All activities which involve students leaving the school grounds require parent/guardian permission in writing. It is the students’ responsibility to ensure the appropriate forms are taken home, completed 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.

- **Text Books**
  We are 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. At the end of the year, students will be notified when second hand books are available for sale.

  Students may hand their books in to be sold at the end of the year. We suggest that students take care of their books as this will increase their sale value and further reduce the cost of books to parents.

- **Canteen**
  The School canteen is open before school as well as at recess and lunchtime. Lunch orders can be placed before school and at recess. Year 7 students are dismissed from class 5 minutes before Recess and Lunch to help ease congestion in the canteen. Students are not permitted to leave the school grounds at any time to buy their lunch at other facilities.

- **Lockers, Money and Valuables**
  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. I-Pods and Mobile phones cannot be used during class time. **No photographs or film/video recordings using mobile phones are permitted in the school buildings or on the school grounds.**

- **Legal and Illegal Substances NOT to be used at School**
  Whilst students are at school, travelling to and from school, 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 products
  - Permanent markers/textas
  - No caffeine drinks
- **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 three occasions will be given a School Detention.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL BELL TIMES</th>
<th>EARLY DISMISSAL BELL TIMES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LOCKERS</td>
<td>LOCKERS</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.50 a.m.</td>
<td>8.50 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>FORM ASSEMBLY</td>
<td>FORM ASSEMBLY</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.55 a.m.</td>
<td>8.55 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PERIOD 1</td>
<td>PERIOD 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.04 a.m.</td>
<td>9.05 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PERIOD 2</td>
<td>PERIOD 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.16 a.m.</td>
<td>10.05 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>RECESS</td>
<td>RECESS</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.28 a.m.</td>
<td>11.10 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>LOCKER BELL</td>
<td>LOCKER BELL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.52 a.m.</td>
<td>11.25 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>PERIOD 3</td>
<td>PERIOD 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.57 a.m.</td>
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<td>LUNCH</td>
<td>PERIOD 4</td>
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<td>1.09 p.m.</td>
<td>12.35 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>LOCKER BELL</td>
<td>END OF DAY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.53 p.m.</td>
<td>1.40pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>PERIOD 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.58 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>END OF DAY</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.10 p.m.</td>
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- **Early Dismissal**
  On selected Thursday afternoons, three times per term, students are dismissed at 1.40pm for Staff Professional Development. Please check the Newsletter for dates.

- **Student Services**
  Thornbury High School has the services of the following:
  - Student Wellbeing Coordinator
  - Social Worker (part time)
  - Adolescent Health Nurse (part time)
  - Youth Worker
  - 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 Coordinators, Sub-School Managers, Integration and the personnel listed above.

- **Bullying Survey**
  Harassment is any behaviour, verbal or physical, which is unwelcome, dangerous, intrusive, violent, abusive or discriminatory in nature or offensive to a person. Harassment will not be tolerated in any way.

  The school conducts an Annual Bullying Survey of students to:
  - Ascertain the level of the problem.
  - Identify areas of the school where students feel less safe.
  - Identify students who bully, and provide appropriate consequences and support.

- **ICT**
  Students need to pay for their printing. Five dollar, two dollar and 50 cent top-up cards should be purchased from the General Office either before school or at Recess or Lunch.
Parent Involvement

At Thornbury High School, we strongly promote a partnership between parents and staff in order to provide 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 at school. We do this in a variety of ways:

- **Parent Newsletter**
  The Newsletter is issued three times a term and is either handed to students or emailed to each family. The newsletter informs parents of the events which are occurring in the school. Please read this Newsletter as it will keep you up to date with all the important events and activities that are going on in the school.
  
  The Newsletter can also be found on the school web page: [www.thornburyhs.vic.edu.au](http://www.thornburyhs.vic.edu.au)

- **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 the staff at the General Office 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

- **Education Maintenance Allowance**
  Parents on EMA need to be aware of the date that these forms must be completed by, and handed to, the General Office.
  Reminder dates are published in the School Newsletter. Please ring Ms. Vicki Denovan on 9458 6101, if you have any queries regarding EMA.

Assessment and Reporting

- **Reporting to Parents**
  Parents are invited to contact their child's Coordinator to discuss their progress at any time. Teachers may contact the parent via the planner, e-mail or by making a phone call to the parent.

  Formal reporting of a child's progress occurs four times a year, at the end of each term.

  At the end of Term 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 their child's progress.

  Parent Teacher Interviews are not conducted at the end of Term 2 (Semester 1) and Term 4 (Semester 2), however, a detailed report is posted to parents.
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 each semester.

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

The School offers our Year 7 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 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 are published in the Student Bulletin and can be found on the Year 7 noticeboard.

- **House Sports**
All students are allocated a House Team (Onus/Nicholls/Saunders/Blair) and participate in the Athletics Carnival day.

- **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 3-day Pastoral Camp at Lake Dewar Lodge in Myrniong in the week from March 5th to March 7th. For more information contact Mark Gillies (Year 7 Manager).

- **Homework Club**
The Homework Club operates twice per week, for one hour from 3:10pm. The Homework Club is supervised by staff who are available to assist students with their work during this time. Details regarding the location and the day when this will occur in 2014 will be available in the Newsletter at the beginning of the school year.

- **Debating**
Thornbury High School is actively involved in debating 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 on 9458 6128.

- **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
The Year 7 Program

**YEARLY SUBJECTS**
- English
- Humanities - History & Geography
- Mathematics
- Science
- Physical Education, Health & Sport
- Musical Instrumental (if selected)

**SEMESTER SUBJECTS**
- Art
- Classroom Music
- Drama
- Technology

**LOTE** (Languages other than English)
- Greek
- Italian
- Indonesian
- Mandarin

**STUDENTS STUDY ONE LANGUAGE EACH TERM**

**YEAR 7 CO-CURRICULAR**
- Camps
- Inter School Sports
- House Sports
- Concert/Stage/Rock Groups
- Music Program/Band
- Instrumental Music Lessons
- Debating
- S.R.C
- Leadership Forums
- Guest Speakers
- Mathematics Competitions
- Science Competitions
- Public Speaking
- Personal Development Days
Overview of Year 7 Curriculum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUBJECTS</th>
<th>Year 7 Semester Periods per fortnight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGLISH</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUMANITIES - History and Geography</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATHEMATICS</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCIENCE</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYSICAL EDUCATION SPORT and HEALTH</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOTE Greek, Italian, Indonesian and Mandarin</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art</td>
<td>6 (one semester only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TECHNOLOGY Wood</td>
<td>6 (one semester only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music/Drama/Media</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

THE ‘CONCEPT’ PROGRAM (Replacing our current High Achievers’ program)

The ‘Concept’ Program runs from Year 7 to Year 9 and is designed to cater for students who have a love for learning. The program is designed to extend and challenge these students whilst engaging with the mainstream curriculum. Students develop their skills and knowledge by exploring content at a conceptual level, emphasising depth of understanding. Students are expected to make links between the key learning areas through the areas of Interdisciplinary Learning; Relationships, Health, Sustainability, Community and Information Communication Technology. By taking part in ‘Concept’ students learn to take responsibility for their own learning and develop life-long learning strategies.

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 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 encouraging 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 students to:

1. Achieve an acceptable work standard by:
   - Completing all compulsory assessment tasks (CAT’s) to an acceptable standard.
   - Obtaining 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 by:
   - Displaying an ongoing commitment to studies and consistent work throughout the year.
   - Obtaining at least an ‘acceptable’ rating for class behaviour as recorded in their school report.

Please note: Consideration is also given to the number of school detentions and suspensions received throughout the year.

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, Year 7 Manager, parents, teachers and student.

1. Promoted to the next year level on a contract which will be reviewed at the end of Term 1. 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.
Curriculum Focus
Students are required to participate in a range of activities designed to extend their abilities in the modes 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.

Reading Program: A wide reading program operates for all students in Years 7 to 9. Reading classes are held in the Library. 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.

Curriculum Focus
E.A.L (English as an Additional Language) is offered to students who have been in Australia for less than five 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.A.L students have access to a specialist E.A.L resource room and are encouraged to participate in extra-curricular activities that reinforce the learning of the language.

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.

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.
**Year 7 Science**

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, make models, produce posters and multimedia reports and use computer simulations.

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

**Year 7 Physical Education, Health & Sport**

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 within 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.

**Year 7 Languages other than English LOTE**

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 studied. The languages offered at Thornbury High School are Greek, Indonesian, Italian and Mandarin. In Year 7 students will have the opportunity to experience all four languages by completing a term of each language throughout the year. At the end of Year 7 students will apply to enrol in one of these languages in Year 8 and beyond. Entry to the Year 8 classes will be based on results achieved in Year 7, availability of places, teacher recommendation and where necessary, interviews.

In Year 7 LOTE, 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 assignment per semester will be completed using computers and other ICT resources. The topics in Year 7 will include Greetings and Introductions, Myself, My Friends and Family.

This subject incurs a $20 levy to cover photocopying and in lieu of a text book.

**Year 7 Art**

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 participate in excursions to outside venues.
### Year 7 Technology Studies

**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 / Wood in Year 7. Students will be expected to complete a number of models by using various materials and to complete an investigation on safety.

### Year 7 Music

**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.

### Year 7 Drama

**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 expressively develop ideas when making and presenting drama.
- Demonstrate a range of skills, techniques and processes in organising and structuring drama elements.

### Performing Arts Class Music

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.