

THORNBURY
HIGH SCHOOL



Year 8 Handbook 2018

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Message from the Year 8 team:

The Journey continues

At Year 8 we aim to continue the successful transition that our students began in Year 7 at Thornbury High School.

Expectations regarding behaviour, attendance and uniform must be adhered to and we ask that families support students in their learning by familiarising themselves with the requirements set out by the school. As always, we welcome all contact from families and, if you are experiencing any difficulties with uniform or books please call us immediately. We would like every child at the school to have every opportunity to be their best.

The Year 8 program covers the eight key learning areas: English, Mathematics, Science, Arts, Physical Education / Health, Languages, Technology and Humanities. Students receive a solid grounding in academic studies alongside practical studies and the Arts (including Music). Thornbury High offers three languages: Greek, Italian and Mandarin.

Year 8 Team

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

Student holidays during school time

If you choose to take your child away during school time, teachers MAY NOT be able to provide work depending on the curriculum content being taught at the time. Your child's assessment for that semester will reflect the work they have undertaken whilst at school and in negotiation with the teacher. If you have any concerns with this please contact the subject teacher.

Overview of the Year 8 Curriculum

The curriculum at Year 8 is made up of core (compulsory) subjects.

All subjects are drawn from the Victorian Curriculum and provide the basis for curriculum planning, assessment and reporting from Prep (Foundation) to Year 10.

The following table 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 lasts 72 minutes.

Subject	Periods per fortnight
English / EAL	7
Mathematics	7
Science	4
Humanities - History & Geography	4
Languages	4
Health & P.E.	5
Visual Art (one semester only)	6
Design & Technology (one semester only)	3
Food Studies (one semester only)	3
Music / Media / Drama / Dance	3
Total	40

Promotion Policy

We regard the learning and teaching process as a partnership between students, parents and staff. We expect our students to actively participate in this process, and to take increasing personal responsibility for their own learning and avoid behaviour that impacts negatively on the learning of others.

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. Levels of achievement, completion of coursework, attendance and other considerations will be taken into account.

Key contacts – KLA Leaders

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

English	Paul Mullaney
Maths	Tayatea Mackenzie
Science	Lisa Pieropan
Humanities	Rick Manning
Performing Arts	Emma McCulloch
P.E. / Health	Carla Ruhe
Visual Arts / Technology	Estelle Joannou
Languages / EAL	Renata Tirabassi

ENGLISH

► ENGLISH

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, films and newspaper articles; the development of strategies for writing a range of text types; and listening to or producing a range of spoken texts.

Reading Program: A wide reading program operates for all students in Year 8. 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.

► EAL (English as an Additional Language)

EAL (English as an Additional Language) is offered to students who have been in Australia fewer 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 helps students gain confidence in using the English language and develop their skills in reading, writing, listening and speaking. EAL students are taught by a specialist EAL teacher and are encouraged to participate in extra-curricular activities that reinforce the learning of the language. EAL classes run either within the mainstream classes, combined EAL classes, or standalone EAL groups, depending on EAL student numbers.

MATHEMATICS

The Year 8 Mathematics program covers topics across Number & Algebra, Measurement & Geometry and Probability & Statistics. Students develop proficiency through tasks and activities involving fluency ("the basics"), understanding, problem solving and reasoning. 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.

HUMANITIES

The study of Humanities at Year 8 focuses on History, Geography and Business and Economics. When studying History, students gain knowledge and understanding of Medieval Europe and Japan and also the Renaissance. Students learn the foundational skills of historical enquiry, employing key research questions to guide research and report on findings, and analysing a variety of primary and secondary sources. In the Geography component students study physical geography, with an emphasis on Australian landforms and landscapes, examining the processes that shape individual landforms and the values and meanings placed on landforms and landscapes by diverse cultures. In the Business and Economics component, students will research Australia's economy and workforce, exploring the ways markets work within Australia and the rights and responsibilities of businesses and consumers.

SCIENCE

Students studying Year 8 Science initially investigate the areas of Geology and Chemistry with a focus on rocks, minerals, chemical and physical reactions. During these units students gain an insight into the development and formation of rocks and minerals and their prior understanding of Chemistry will be expanded upon through learning about both physical and chemical reactions. Students will also study the area of Biology where they will investigate basic cellular structure leading onto a range of body systems, including the circulatory, respiratory and digestive systems. How energy affects the world around us will be covered when focusing on Physics. Students will gain an insight into different forms of energy whilst focusing on light and sound energy. Students will continue to develop their scientific inquiry skills through practical investigations and research projects and will be expected to achieve a satisfactory result in these and two unit tests throughout the semester. They will be expected to maintain an organised work book which will record all class activities, notes, diagrams, results and reports of practical investigations.

LANGUAGES

Languages 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 target language's culture.

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

Year 8 Languages program continues with the study of the language and culture of either Italy, Greece or China 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 Hobbies.

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education in Year 8 is a continuation of the Year 7 program which encourages students to develop a range of sporting 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.

Physical Education activities are aligned with the inter and intra school sporting programs.

Students also participate in a number of health lessons throughout the year, covering a range of topics including; Sexual health, Drug Education, Nutrition and Fitness.

VISUAL ARTS

Students will complete a range of engaging art and design projects that will provide them with the opportunity to communicate, challenge and express their own ideas through art-making, building on to the critical reasoning and practical skills introduced at Year 7. Students will explore and develop ideas by experimenting with a range of media, techniques and materials such as painting, drawing, printmaking, ceramics, digital design and digital imaging.

The program combines both art history and practical artmaking through the investigation and application of the elements of art and design and by exploring, discussing and responding to a range of artists and artworks.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Students are expected to use what they learnt last year about the *design process* and run with it! They are introduced to more tools and techniques, and they design and create useful, relevant projects to be proud of. Design briefs are once again extensively utilised and students are expected to justify design decisions, both in the selection of solutions, and when evaluating their finished product and processes.

FOOD STUDIES

Students will learn to follow recipes, manage tools and equipment such as cookers and knives and learn about safety and hygiene and how to manage cleaning procedures. Students will learn about the foods they cook and evaluate the products they make.

PERFORMING ARTS

► Classroom Music

Students will be introduced to the four essential popular musical instruments in a practical and engaging way.

They will expand on short-courses in Vocals, Keyboard, Guitar and Drums all carefully written and implemented using the Victorian Curriculum.

Concurrently, students will continue the concept of 'guided listening', expanding on essential aural and analysis skills, promoting the link between theory and practice. Students explore complex form structures, dynamics and instrumentation through compositional work while continuing their understanding of intervals, harmony, melody and performance.

► Media Studies

Students will explore a range of film techniques through a series of technical tasks aimed at understanding and analysing film. Each technical task will focus on a particular filmmaking skill, and look at

how professional filmmakers execute this skill to manipulate an audience.

Students will:

- Gain an understanding of filmmaking techniques
- Work through the 3 stages of filmmaking
- Articulate and understand how filmmaking techniques can manipulate audiences.

Students will also improve their filmmaking skills through planning, filming and editing of their own short productions.

► **Dance**

In this subject, students examine the elements of dance across differing styles and cultures. The opportunity to learn techniques and work collaboratively with others to create performance pieces is integral to this subject. Students will encourage to develop performance skills and link and utilise all the elements of this field i.e. music, tradition, significance, creativity and style.

► **Drama**

Students will participate in a range of Drama activities such as role play, improvisation, group performances and devising. Students will develop and present their ideas through both dramatic performance and 'backstage' design, demonstrating a range of drama skills and techniques.

► **Music – Instrumental**

Students are further exposed to the fundamentals of music in a fun and practical way by learning a musical instrument. They receive instrumental lessons from a specialist teacher on their instrument, participate in the Concert Band and perform in concerts as part of their ongoing assessment. Students work on their teamwork skills by creating their own small ensembles as well as playing in ensembles that feature their own instrument. In these settings, students explore the basic melodic, harmonic and rhythmic concepts featured in their favourite pieces while also developing an understanding of the cultural and historical aspects of music.

An Instrumental Music levy of \$200 [\$50 per term] applies to students participating in this program. This covers sheet music, competitions, concerts and the purchase of music equipment.

Instruments can also be hired from the school. Cost to be advised.