

THORNBURY
HIGH SCHOOL



Year 9 Handbook 2018

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Message from the Year 9 team:

The Year 9 program at Thornbury High offers a wide range of opportunities, a broad curriculum and special programs to develop your thinking, personal and social skills. As a student currently in Year 8, you now face some important decisions about your learning program for next year and the Senior years to follow.

As you enter into this next phase of your school life, you will be expected to take greater responsibility for your own learning. This starts now as you consider elective subject selections to make up your course of study for next year. The elective offerings will provide opportunities for you to explore areas of interest, and possibly provide some background for subject selection in later years. It is for these reasons you must make wise choices, based on carefully considered information and advice from adults who are looking after your best interests. It is important you take every opportunity to talk over your choices with your parents, teachers and coordinators who want to advise and support you through this process. We hope you enjoy taking this next step forward and facing the challenges ahead.

We hope your time in Year 9 will be rewarding as you continue your education at Thornbury High School.

All the best from the Year 9 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. As a parent of a VCE students please be aware of the VCAA guidelines for attendance and requirements. If you have any concerns with this please contact the subject teacher.

Overview of the Year 9 Curriculum

The curriculum at Year 9 is made up of core (compulsory) and subject choices.

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 table below gives an overview of the Year 9 curriculum and indicates the number of periods per fortnight allocated to each subject or Key Learning Area. Each period lasts 72 minutes.

Subject	Periods/Fortnight	
	Sem 1	Sem 2
<i>Core Subjects</i>		
English / EAL	6	6
Mathematics	6	6
Science	4	4
History / Geography	4	4
Languages	4	4
Health & P.E.	4	4
<i>Elective Subjects</i>		
Subject 1 / Subject 3	6	6
Subject 2 / Subject 4	6	6
Total	40	40

Promotion Policy

We regard the learning and teaching process as a partnership between students, parents and staff. Thus, we expect our students to actively participate in this process, and to take increasing personal responsibility for their own learning.

We similarly expect our parent community to support their children both directly, by providing them with appropriate materials, monitoring homework and wide-reading, as well as indirectly, by supporting the school and its policies.

Parents and students should be well aware that promotion of students to a higher year level is not automatic. Levels of achievement, completion of coursework, and other considerations will be taken into account.

Promotion to Year 10 requires:

- Achieve an acceptable work standard in all five Work Habits
- Receive an overall of at least 50% in all subjects.
- Minimum attendance of 90% - this means a minimum of 9 days attendance every fortnight.

Inability to meet promotion requirements:

A meeting will be held and alternatives discussed.

Year 9 Elective subject costs

Information is correct as of August 2017 and subject to change.

Please note: all core subjects are levy-free.

KLA	Subject	Levy
Humanities	Crime and the Law	-
Science	STEM Robotics	\$20
	Forensic Science	\$20
	The Science of Food	\$20
Health & P.E	Outdoor Education	\$285
	Fitness and The Body	-
	Sport and Recreation	\$80
Technology	Patisserie	\$100
	Food Studies	\$75
	Furniture Making	\$65
	Information Technology	-
	Jewellery Making	\$55
The Arts	Art studies	\$25
	Movies, Memes & Media Making	\$50
	Dance	\$50
	Digital Art	\$20
	Drama & Theatrical studies	\$30
	Drawing	\$25
	Music Performance (Sem 1&2)	\$25
	Music Recording & Technology	\$50
	Photography	\$90
	Visual Communication and Design	\$25

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

CORE SUBJECTS

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 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.

► EAL (English as an Additional Language)

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

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.

HUMANITIES

Year 9 Geography :

In Geography, students study the world's biomes and food security. They examine how humans have altered regions to produce food, factors that influence crop yields, and the challenges in feeding the current and projected world populations. A secondary study of tourism will be undertaken, whereby students examine how places and people are interconnected, the effects of people's travel on places, and the implications for the future of these places. Thinking and problem solving skills are developed in determining real and possible solutions to these problems.

Year 9 History:

Students investigate the history of Australia in the period 1788 to 1940. The course covers the consequences of settlement/invasion and the development of Australian Society. Key events include Pemulwuy's resistance to the British settlement at Botany Bay, the Gold Rushes, Federation and a major focus on World War One and how Australians responded to the call to arms. The final investigation focuses on post War Australia, life in the twenties, the Great Depression and the beginning of World War Two.

SCIENCE

In Year 9 Science, students will develop their understanding of the world around them through investigations into electricity and electromagnetism, the brain and nervous system, chemical reactions and environmental science. Students will use practical investigations to experiment with electricity and develop a better understanding of electrical circuits and will investigate the brain and nervous system to evaluate how both of these are essential for successful functioning of the human body. Students will investigate chemical reactions through a range of experimental activities and learn to balance chemical equations, a skill necessary for future studies in chemistry. They also will study how ecosystems operate including how energy moves through an ecosystem, and learn about the various factors, biotic and abiotic, affecting the health of ecosystems.

Students will be required to complete a range of practical investigations, research tasks and topic tests for successful completion of this course and will be expected to maintain an organised workbook with a record of all class activities.

LANGUAGES

The languages offered at Year 9 are Italian, Greek and Mandarin Chinese. Students continue with the language studied in Year 8.

The course aims to develop the skills of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing, as well as an appreciation of the culture of the country of Language. The themes for Year 9 will include; The World of Teenagers, Travel in the Languages Country, Weather and Fashion, Directions, Our City, Our Houses, Entertainment and Hobbies.

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

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education provides an opportunity for students to assess their fitness and improve their physical fitness where necessary. Students participate in a wide range of activities, games and sports.

Students are expected to use, consolidate and extend individual and group tactics as well as the skills learnt in previous years. Students may participate in sporting activities including cricket, soccer, tennis, baseball, basketball, volleyball, futsal and netball. All students must change into full P.E. uniform. They are encouraged to wear sunscreen protection and hats, and to participate in all activities. Physical Education activities are aligned with the inter and intra school sporting programs. Students also complete a number of health lessons throughout the year covering various topics including; Sexual Health, Drug Education and Respectful Relationships.

THE ARTS

► Art Studies

The Arts Studies program focuses on the art making process by providing students with the opportunity to explore, communicate, challenge and express their own ideas through art-making. In this subject the emphasis is on creative critical thinking and practical skill development by providing students with a variety of engaging creative themed projects such as street art, portraiture and impressionism. These projects will incorporate a range of different media, techniques and materials such as pencil, graphite, charcoal, paint, collage and found materials.

The Art studies program combines both art history and practical artmaking through the investigation and application of the elements of art and by undertaking theory based research that relates to their own art making ideas. Students will also be provided with the opportunity to create artwork outside the classroom, partake in artist workshops and visit the Museums as part of the course.

► Dance

So you think you can 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 are encouraged to develop performance skills and link and utilise all the elements of this field; music, tradition, significance, creativity and style.

► Digital Art

Digital Art is where traditional art making processes and technology meet. In this subject students will be given the opportunity to experience art making from a whole new perspective. They will be introduced to the digital art-making platform by learning how to create and experiment with their works using photoshop and Illustrator.

Students will learn how to use the Mac operating system with confidence and will develop and extend their specialised computer skills. They will experiment with a range of different medias such as photography, collage and drawing, learning how to scan, manipulate and enhance their work. Students will be introduced to range of contemporary digital artists

and photographers and will document their thinking and work practices in the form of an online visual journal blog.

► Drama & Theatre Studies

Year 9 Drama offers students the opportunity to create their own theatre pieces and perform to small groups and audiences. They learn about key techniques and practices, and develop their play-making skills to create performance pieces. In workshops, students explore various stage crafts, including make-up, lighting, sound and costume.

Students have the opportunity, through incursions and excursions, to see live theatre and analyse professional performances to support the development of their own work.

If you enjoy drama and performing then this is the elective for you!

► Drawing

The drawing program is designed to be heavily practical subject where students will be provided with a solid foundation for developing techniques in drawing, with a focus on composition and experimentation. Students will learn how to draw from observation and from their imagination, using their perceptions of the world to express themselves and create unique drawings.

This course offers the opportunity for students to gain confidence and develop their drawing skills through the application of a range of different drawing techniques, methods and materials such as collaging techniques, ink experimentations, pastel/pencil blending and line and tonal drawing. Students will complete a range of engaging tasks, including mix-media portraits and comic book illustrations. The approaches to drawing will include representational, expressive and abstract, being supported by discussion of both historical and contemporary practices in drawing.

► Movies, Memes & Media Making

Rather than simply watching content online, why not create, star in and publish your own? This course introduces students to the art of film-making and digital media production. Evolving from the award winning 'Class TV' program, students will gain practical experience in how to make quality video content (with the best to be broadcast on the THS Youtube Channel). They will have the chance to recreate viral memes and generate more traditional

media products such as adverts, documentaries and short-films. From scripting and storyboarding, to camera operation and filming techniques, to editing and adding special effects, students will become fully immersed in the pre to post production process. Great for those who want to explore their creative, technical and journalistic talents.

► Music Performance

Music Performance is a year-long subject.

Students will explore the technical, expressive and creative capabilities of their primary instrument in more detail. Performance, theoretical and aural elements, as well as an in-depth analysis of specific songs and genres form much of their class-time coursework.

They work collaboratively and independently across a wide range of styles and in various ensembles. Melodic, harmonic, rhythmic and interpretative elements of music are reinforced through recording, compositional and arranging processes. Research is undertaken to enhance analysis of the complex and dynamic interrelationships between cultures through discussion and essay forms emphasising the development of attitudes, beliefs and behaviours.

► Music Production, Recording and Technology

Have you ever wanted to know how chart-topping songs are produced? Do you want to be able to create your own songs OR are you interested in recording these songs? This subject teaches you how to run a recording studio, (including microphone technique, mixing, effects and mastering), how to use GarageBand effectively (more than just click and drag loops) and how to put on live performances (including setting up P.A. systems, speakers, D.I. boxes etc.). A must-do for any techy wannabe!

► Photography

The Photography program is introductory crash course into exciting world of image capturing. Students will learn a range of photographic processes, beginning with basic digital SLR photography progressing to manual analogue photography. Students will explore the history of photography, drawing upon the works of photographic artists to inspire their own photographic artworks. This course will provide students the opportunity to learn a variety of skills such as;

- Basic composition skills and camera techniques

- Analogue film processing
- Darkroom printing
- Negative Scanning
- Photoshop editing and image manipulation techniques.
- Digital photographic printing.

► Visual Communication & Design

Visual Communication and design is an introductory course that aims to develop students rendering and digital design skills. Students will study the design process, learn how to generate ideas, experiment with materials and develop their understanding of design contexts. They will be introduced to photoshop and illustrator and learn how design a variety of communications, placing emphasis upon rendering processes. Students will explore a range of exciting projects such as;

- Architectural and interior design
- Freehand and Instrumental drawing
- Package design and or Fashion Design
- Freehand Illustration
- Typography

HUMANITIES

► Crime and The Law

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

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

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

P.E. & HEALTH

► Fitness and the Body

This elective encourages students to understand their physical fitness capabilities. Its aim is to increase understanding of methods of training, basic anatomy and physiology, energy systems and sports nutrition.

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

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

► Outdoor Education

Outdoor Education is an exciting and challenging subject that takes students into the 'outdoor classroom' to engage and interact with nature. Students will work both individually and in groups to develop co-operative and planning skills, negotiate challenges while developing trust, an understanding of safe risk and decision-making skills in a variety of situations. Outdoor Education has a levy of \$285 per student.

Activities/Excursions include:

- Snorkelling
- Swimming with Seals/Dolphins
- Surfing
- In-line skating
- Ice skating
- Rock climbing
- Orienteering
- Outdoor skills - preparation and cooking of food on camping stoves, tent set up, clothing and equipment choices when in the outdoors and hiking. All of these leading to a three day camp.

Please note that students can only complete one semester of Outdoor Education across Year 9 and 10. See the P.E. / Health KLA leader for more information.

► Sport and Recreation

Students participate in a range of sport and recreation activities designed to utilise facilities here at Thornbury High School as well as recreational facilities and venues in the local community. Students will develop skills and knowledge to assist in their preparation for being an active and responsible member of the community. Student will have the

opportunity to work on and improve their leadership, cooperative and problem solving skills through a range of activities.

These activities may include, but not be limited to, ten pin bowling, mini golf, archery, lawn bowls, laser tag, trampolining and beach volleyball. Students must wear full sport uniform.

SCIENCE

► The Science of Food

The Science of Food is a subject designed to bring the principles of Science together with food to ultimately understand how biological and chemical interactions affect the creation of various everyday foods. Students will engage in many experiments surrounding these principles to reinforce their scientific understanding whilst experimenting with different foods. How microbes such as bacteria, fungi, viruses and parasites affect the food industry will be investigated including their impact on food processing and the fermentation process, and the underlying nutritional biochemistry of food components will be investigated.

► Forensic Science

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

► STEM Robotics

With a focus on engineering, machines, and computer control, students build, evaluate, modify and program a variety of task-specific, automated robots. Motors, sensors and LEGO Mindstorms hardware are combined with drag and drop programming to develop robot designs, and enhance student creativity and ICT skills. Students work both individually and in teams to complete a range of robot challenges. Research topics include investigations into prosthetics and industrial robotics.

TECHNOLOGY

► Food Studies

Students will learn about food through cooking, designing and investigating. The specific areas that students study include; grains, indigenous foods, global cuisine and healthy eating. Students will follow the design process in order to produce their own pasta dish.

► Furniture Making

This course will teach you the basics of traditional joinery along the way to making your own folding deck chair. Course costs cover your first deck chair and a second small project of your own design. This could be a small table or perhaps a footrest to go with your deck chair.

Deck chairs are made from sustainably logged Victorian Ash but if students would like to use more exotic or interesting timbers they may do so at additional cost, or source them from elsewhere.

Assessment will be in the form of:

- Knowledge quizzes
- 2D CAD drawings
- Deck chair production
- Design drawings
- Self evaluation

► Information Technology

In this unit students will prepare a range of individually designed and computer generated documents using acquired keyboard skills and toolbar icons. They will investigate and evaluate a variety of current software such as education and recreation packages and reference databases. Students will also investigate, design and evaluate functions of the various Internet search engines.

► Jewellery Making

This course enables you to become jewellery designer/makers. There are two components to this course, metals and plastics.

1. First you will design and create your own hand-beaten metal pieces in brass and copper. You will learn how to apply colour and texture to the metal using a range of

techniques. Silver may be used at an additional cost.

2. You then move to plastics where all the shaping and texturing is done via 3D modelling software before your design is laser cut or 3D printed.

► Patisserie

Students will learn about baked goods and desserts through cooking, designing and investigation. The specific areas that students study include; biscuit making, bread making, cake making and pastry making. Students will follow the design process in order to produce their own cake table.

How to choose subjects

Step 1 Reflection:

- In terms of your education: What are your strengths? What do you enjoy doing?
- At this stage what career path interests you? i.e., Sport/Rec Industry, Health/Beauty Industry, Sciences, Commerce, Small Business, Law, I.T., Design, Music or the Arts.
- You could check these references to research possible courses www.myfuture.edu.au which gives students opportunity to explore their interest and skills.

Step 2 Some Advice:

- Year 9 is a challenge - lots of new subjects, new electives, and new co-curricular and new friends to make. Think about your future – **choose what suits you** not what your current friends want to do. This is a time to explore and think about where you're heading, make the most of the opportunities being offered.
- The Year 9 program offers a wide range of units. You will choose **two subjects each semester** in Year 9. Choose units which sound interesting to you.
- Read this handbook carefully for unit descriptions. Most units last for one semester and cannot be repeated. Discuss your options with teachers and parents.
- Students need to read the handbook carefully or ask the relevant teachers if they require further information. **Once students have been placed on a published subject roll and their choices have been confirmed in writing no changes can be made to selections.**
- Parents are encouraged to participate in assisting their child in selecting their subjects **and must note that some subjects can incur a cost.** This must be paid to confirm enrolment in the subject.

Process of Subject Selection

1. Each student will be required to complete the **Subject Preference Form**. **Parents are encouraged to discuss choices with their child.** We hope to give students their first and second choice but in some case this may not be possible.
2. Once parental approval has been given to the student's choice of subjects, by signing the subject form, the form must be returned to the Co-

ordinator's office by the due date. Students who hand in their selection sheets late may have a limited choice of electives.

3. The information received from the forms will be used to derive the level of demand for each subject. Students whose first choice cannot be fully satisfied will be given their second or third choice.
4. When all students' choices have been finalised, the subjects available to each student will be confirmed to the parent and the student in writing.