

2024  
YEAR 7 & 8  
HANDBOOK



THORNBURY  
HIGH SCHOOL

## Year 7+8 @ THS

In year 7 students will be immersed into a challenging and exciting learning environment. Our priority in these early transition years is to build a culture of mutual trust, respect and a love of learning.

Thornbury High School features a purpose-built Year 7 Centre. The area gives students the security of belonging to their own small and caring community. 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.

In year 8 we continue the transition that our students began in year 7. We have high expectations regarding behaviour, attendance and uniform. We ask that families support students in their learning by familiarising themselves with the requirements set out by the school.

At both year 7 and year 8, we have a Head of Year and two coordinators. These teams meet 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 extracurricular activities.

Parents are encouraged to keep up-to-date with student progress via Compass, staff email and telephone correspondence to maximise student outcomes. If you have any concerns regarding your child's program, do not hesitate to contact us.

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

## Overview of the Year 7+8 curriculum

The curriculum at year 7 and 8 is made up of core (compulsory) subjects. The tables below give an overview of the year 7 and 8 curriculum and indicate the number of periods per fortnight allocated to each subject or Key Learning Area. Each period is 60 minutes.

YEAR 7	
Subject	Periods per fortnight
English	8
Mathematics	8
Science & Digital Technologies	6
Humanities	6
Languages	5
Health* / Food Studies*	2
Physical Education	6
Visual Arts & Design	5
Performing Arts	4
Total	50

\*One semester of each

YEAR 8	
Subject	Periods per fortnight
English	6
Mathematics	6
English Focus* / Maths Focus*	4
Science	5
Humanities	5
Languages	5
Digital Technologies* / Food Studies*	4
Physical Education	4
Health	2
Visual Arts & Design	5
Performing Arts	4
Total	50

\*One semester of each

## 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 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.

## Subjects

### ► DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

Students explore the Digital Technologies curriculum to acquire, analyse, and evaluate various types of data relating to scientific experimentation. They will have opportunities to create a range of digital solutions, such as interactive web design, and will also broaden their programming experiences to include general-purpose programming languages.

### ► ENGLISH

Students participate in a range of activities designed to extend their abilities in the modes of English. These activities include reading and analysing texts (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. Students also undertake a low-stakes-writing program, which aims to foster



confidence and experimentation in their writing, without the pressure of formal assessment.

A wide reading program operates for all students in years 7 and 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.



#### ► FOOD STUDIES

In Year 7, students begin to read and interpret recipes, manage tools and equipment such as knives, measuring cups and spoons, learn about personal and kitchen hygiene and how to manage cleaning procedures. Students are introduced to basic cooking techniques including baking, frying and microwaving.

In Year 8, Students build on their ability to read and interpret recipes, manage tools and equipment such as stoves, ovens and microwaves, build on their knowledge of healthy eating through the Australian Guide to healthy eating and the five food groups. Students are introduced to the concept of sustainable living and begin to develop their own food products. They produce a variety of dishes that cater to all preferences.



#### ► HEALTH

In Health, students cover a range of topics including; Respectful Relationships, Sexual Health, Drug Education, Nutrition and Mental Health. Students learn how to take positive action to enhance their own and others' health, safety and wellbeing, by engaging in research, practical activities, discussions and debates. Students will be challenged to evaluate their own health related decision making, to build skills and knowledge as they journey through adolescence. They will discuss and analyse factors that promote risk taking behaviour, as we look to prepare students to make informed decisions throughout their adolescent years.

Students will develop skills in accessing local services and programs directly relating to improving the health of local teenagers.

#### ► HUMANITIES

The study of Humanities at year 7 focuses on History, Geography and Civics and Citizenship.

When studying History, students gain knowledge and understanding of Ancient Australian, Greek and Chinese societies. They study the defining characteristics of civilisations, how these societies developed over time and how they provided a foundation for modern society. 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 Civics and Citizenship component, Australia's system of government is examined and students explore how this system aims to protect all Australians. Students examine the Australian Constitution and how its features, principles and values shape Australia's democracy.

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. The Geography focus is the physical environment, contemporary issues and natural resources, with a specific study of water as a resource.

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 also the Renaissance. Students learn the foundational skills of historical enquiry, employing key research questions to guide research and report on findings, and analysis of 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.

#### ► LANGUAGES

Italian is the main language taught at Thornbury High. Students undertake three years of compulsory study with the option to continue studies into Year 10 and the VCE.

In Year 7 and 8 Italian, students gain confidence in constructing their own Italian sentences, create Italian poems and support local primary schools with their language learning. In Year 8, we offer an Italian immersion stream, with students applying for entry into the program towards the end of Year 7. The immersion program combines teaching content from subjects such as humanities, food studies and performing arts with the explicit teaching of Italian and continues all the way to Senior classes

We also currently have a small number of students studying Greek. Greek is often selected by students from a Greek background, but this is not a requirement.

Across all language studies, students will participate in a variety of listening, speaking and reading and writing activities as well as take 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 and other ICT resources. The topics include Greetings and Introductions, Myself, My friends and Family, Nationalities, Geography, Sport, Food, Interests and Hobbies.

#### ► MATHEMATICS

The year 7 and 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.

Maths Focus in Year 8 provides students with an opportunity to further develop their Probability and Statistics skills through project and game-based learning, with ongoing feedback provided through regular formative assessment.

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.

As part of the fortnightly learning schedule, students are timetabled into a computer room to use the ICT platform 'Mangahigh' to consolidate and review skills taught, and support or stretch knowledge and confidence within a topic

#### ► SCIENCE

In Year 7 & 8 Science students are introduced to the core science disciplines (biological, chemical, physical, and Earth and space sciences) with a focus on explaining scientific phenomena and its applications. Students are taught the tenets of the scientific method, learning how to scientifically question and predict, plan and conduct experiments, make accurate measurements and record data, and analyse results to draw conclusions. They learn the importance of controlling and manipulating variables to identify cause-and-effect relationships between system components, and explore ways to explain these relationships using appropriate scientific representations.

Students explain the role of classification in ordering and organising information about living and non-living things, as well as renewable and non-renewable resources, considering the factors (such as location and time) that influence these classifications. Students identify and give examples for different forms of energy, and describe the role of energy in causing change in systems, including the role of heat and kinetic energy in the rock cycle. They use and develop models including food chains and food webs to represent and analyse the flow of energy and matter through ecosystems and explore the impact of changing components within these systems. Students also investigate relationships in the Earth-Sun-Moon system and explain changes in an object's motion by considering the interaction between multiple forces. Students link form and function at a cellular level and explore the organisation and interconnectedness of body systems, explore changes in matter at a particle level, and distinguish between chemical and physical change.





## ► PERFORMING ARTS

All year 7 and 8 students learn a musical instrument for free within our integrated Performing Arts curriculum.

Students will be introduced to the fundamentals of music in a fun and practical way by learning a musical instrument. They will 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. In these settings, students explore the basic melodic, harmonic and rhythmic concepts featured in their favourite pieces. They will be introduced to 'guided listening' gaining essential aural and analysis skills, establishing the link between theory and practice. Students will explore basic form structures, dynamics and instrumentation through compositional work while developing an understanding of intervals, harmony, melody and performance.

This program is unique to Thornbury High School, and is the only Northern Metropolitan school to offer this style of 'band-program' to students and parents at no charge.



## ► PHYSICAL EDUCATION

In Physical Education, students participate in a broad range of fitness based activities with an emphasis on teamwork and cooperation. Areas of study include: Athletics, Futsal, Badminton, Cricket, Australian Rules Football, Rugby, Gymnastics, Netball, Basketball, Handball, Soccer, Tennis and various other sports leading into Inter School Sport competitions.

All students are expected to participate in the full school PE 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.



## ► VISUAL ARTS & DESIGN

Through Visual Arts, students will complete a range of engaging art projects that will provide them with the opportunity to communicate and express their own ideas through art-making. They will develop and build their critical reasoning and practical skills by exploring ideas, experimenting with a range of media, materials, techniques and art forms 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 Art elements and by exploring and responding to a range of artists and artworks.

Through Design & Technologies, students will engage in a number of design projects to create quality designed solutions across a range of materials and technologies including textiles, plastics, recycled and sustainable materials. Students will develop knowledge and confidence to critically analyse and respond creatively to design challenges. They will plan and manage projects from conception to realisation through a design and production process.