

2024
YEAR 9
HANDBOOK



THORNBURY
HIGH SCHOOL

YEAR 9 @ THS

The year 9 program offers a broad curriculum of core subjects and specialty electives, providing a range of opportunities to develop students' thinking skills, as well as their social and interpersonal skills.

As students enter the Middle School, they are given greater ownership of their learning and are expected to approach it with a more active sense of responsibility. The selection of elective subjects for year 9 is the first, critical step students take towards choosing the direction of their learning in years to follow. This process is intended to give students a chance to explore areas of interest, and to provide some context for the selection of subjects in year 10 and the Senior School.

It is important that careful consideration be given to subject choices. Families are strongly encouraged to involve themselves in the decision making process, discussing options with their child and seeking further information about subjects if required. Teachers and year level teams are also available to support and advise families during this process.

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

Overview of the Year 9 curriculum

The following table gives an overview of the year 9 curriculum and indicates the number of periods per fortnight allocated to each subject or Key Learning Area.

Subject	Periods per fortnight
English	7
Mathematics	7
Science	7
History* / Geography*	7
Languages	5
PE	4
Health	1
Technologies elective* / Arts elective*	6
Free choice elective x2*	6
Total	50

*One semester of each

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 aware that promotion of students to a higher year level is not automatic. Promotion to year 10 requires:

- Achieve at least 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.

In cases where there is an inability to meet promotion requirements a meeting will be held and alternatives discussed.

Year 9 elective subject costs

This handbook provides an approximate cost for elective subjects, including essential excursions where applicable. Consumable costs for core subjects are included in the essential items fees.

KLA	Elective subject	Cost
Humanities	Crime and the Law	\$30
Science	Forensic Science	\$20
Health & PE	Athlete Development Program	\$100
	Fitness and the body	\$20
	Sport & Recreation	\$100
Technologies	Digital Technologies & Robotics	\$20
	Food Studies	\$90
	Gourmet Traveller	\$90
	Textiles Design	\$90
The Arts	Ceramics	\$80
	Dance	\$30
	Digital Art & Design	\$30
	Drawing & Painting	\$50
	Drama & Theatrical studies	\$50
	Movies, Memes & Media Making	\$30
	Music Performance	\$30
	Photography	\$90

Instrumental Music

Students may choose to continue their instrumental music studies from year 8. Students are withdrawn from regular classes for a 30 minute lesson each week.

Instrument hire \$200 annually Instrumental lesson levy \$200 annually

Key Learning Area Leaders



Bianca McArthur
Head of Food Studies



Emma McCulloch
Head of Performing Arts



Trent Morison
Head of Health & PE



Tara Quenault
Head of Science & DigiTech



Sheraz Salama
Head of Visual Arts & Design



Andrew Self
Head of English



Leah Shields
Head of Humanities



Max Tosi
Head of Languages



Diana Walder
Head of Mathematics

Core subjects

ENGLISH

Students participate in a range of activities designed to extend their abilities in the dimensions of English. These activities include reading and analysing texts (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. Students also continue the *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 year 9 in the Library. All students are encouraged to read extensively at home. Parents are requested to take an active interest in monitoring their child's reading.



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.

As part of the Maths program at year 9, students use the ICT platform 'Mathspace' to further consolidate their fluency. Regular check-in quizzes and diagnostic tasks support and extend the work covered in class.

HUMANITIES

► 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 globalisation will enable students to explore how people and places are interconnected. Using interactive digital mapping software, students investigate global interconnections, developing critical thinking and problem solving skills.



► History

Students investigate the history of Australia in the period 1788 to 1918. 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.

SCIENCE

The Year 9 Science program sees students develop their understanding of the world around them and how systems operate through investigations into electricity and electromagnetism, the brain and nervous system, chemical substances and their reactions, and environmental science. Students investigate and experiment with electricity to develop a better understanding of electrical circuits. They explore how the brain and nervous system respond to stimuli to evaluate how stimulus-response models are essential for successful functioning of the human body. Students investigate chemical reactions through a range of experimental activities and demonstrate how the law of conservation of matter applies to different chemical systems by balancing the associated chemical equations for these reactions. They also study how ecosystems operate including how energy moves through an ecosystem, and learn about the various factors, biotic and abiotic, affecting the operation of ecosystems.



LANGUAGES

Italian is the main language at THS. A small number of students study Mandarin or Greek.

The courses aim 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 include 'The World of Teenagers', travel and direction, weather, fashion, cities and home, entertainment and hobbies.



HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education provides an opportunity for students to participate in a SEPEP (Sport Education in Physical Education Program). In this program students are allocated different roles and responsibilities in a wide range of activities, games and sports. These roles and responsibilities include: coach, player, umpire, scorer, team manager, equipment manager, journalist and time keeper.

Students are expected to use, consolidate and extend individual and group tactics and team work as well as the skills learnt in previous years. Students participate in sports activities including athletics, rugby, football, cricket, soccer, basketball, volleyball, futsal and netball. All students must participate in full sport uniform. They are encouraged to wear sunscreen protection and hats, and to participate in all activities.

Students will complete term long units covering various topics including; Sexual Health, Mental Health, Drug Education and Respectful Relationships. Students will critique behaviours and contextual factors that influence the health and wellbeing of their communities, analysing individual and peer decision making processes to evaluate the risks associated with these choices.



Elective subjects

Every student must select at least one arts elective and at least one technologies elective.

THE ARTS

Students must select at least one semester of an arts (performing or visual) subject.

► Ceramics

Ceramics is a hands-on elective, students will explore and develop a wide range of skills and technical knowledge in hand building including pinch pot, coiling, slab construction and surface decoration to construct functional and sculptural works using earthenware clay. They will underglaze, glaze and fire their works in the kiln. Students maintain a visual diary to record the stages of the creative process.



► Dance

Let's dance! This elective is a practical subject that introduces students to the fundamentals of dance including expressive movement, musicality, flexibility, and artistic expression. Students work collaboratively and individually to develop safe dance practices, and explore dance practices from a range of cultures and styles. Students will choreograph and perform their own dance compositions, developing their improvisation and spatial awareness skills. This elective encourages students to express their creativity through physical movement and develop technical dance skills, while promoting confident body awareness.

► Digital Art & Design

Digital Art & Design is where traditional art and design processes meet technology, experiencing art and design from a whole new perspective. Students will learn how to use the Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator programs with confidence and will develop and extend their specialised computer skills. They will experiment with a range of different media such as photography, painting and manual and digital drawing to manipulate and enhance their digital design work. Students will be introduced to a range of contemporary digital artists and designers and will document their thinking and work practices in the form of an online visual journal.

Please note: Students undertaking this elective subject must have a device that meets the requirements as outlined on the Thornbury High ICT portal. Students will be required to install the Creative Cloud application along with Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator to use throughout this elective. These applications are provided free of charge.

► Drama & Theatre Studies

Drama & Theatre Studies 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 production role areas, including make-up, lighting, sound and costume.

Students have the opportunity to see live theatre on excursions and analyse professional performances to support the development of their own work. Great for those who enjoy drama and performing.



► Drawing & Painting

The Drawing & Painting course focuses on freehand drawing, illustration and painting through a variety of topics and mediums. Students will gain skills in drawing and painting creatively and realistically through observation and from their imagination with a range of engaging tasks. This course offers students the opportunity to gain confidence and develop their drawing and painting skills through the application and experimentation of a range of different drawing and painting techniques, materials and mediums such as acrylic, watercolour and gouache techniques, ink experimentations, pastel and pencil blending, marker pen rendering, digital drawing, collage and mixed media techniques.

► Movies, Memes & Media Making

Rather than simply consuming 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. Students will gain practical experience in how to make quality video content. 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.



► Music Performance

Music Performance explores all aspects of music through listening, creative, and performance activities. Students have the opportunity to play their instruments in small and large ensembles with their peers, collaborating, rehearsing and performing the music that is interesting to them. In Year 9, students also continue to build on their music language and analysis skills to help them

understand the music they are playing and listening to in a more in-depth manner. They will have the opportunity to explore these skills through a wide range of composition, improvisation and arranging tasks using both traditional and digital means.



► Photography

The Photography program introduces students to traditional and contemporary photographic practices. Students will learn a range of processes, beginning with digital SLR and progressing to manual analogue photography. Students will explore the history of photography, drawing upon the works of artists to inspire their own photographic artworks. This course will provide students the opportunity to learn basic composition skills, camera techniques, analogue film processing, darkroom printing, negative scanning, Adobe Photoshop image manipulation techniques and digital photographic printing.



TECHNOLOGIES

Students must select at least one semester of a technologies subject.

► Digital Technology and Robotics

The practical and the applied side of computer science! Students combine engineering, mechanisms, computer control, motors and sensors to build autonomous robotic devices powered by an Arduino microcontroller. Students plan, develop and program a digital game using an object oriented programming language such as Python. They will learn how software, hardware, compression and encryption work together in computer networks and answer that burning question, 'Is my phone listening to me?'



► Food Studies

Students will indulge in a culinary journey, investigating the endless possibilities of food, its functions and flavours. Students will build their knowledge in the sensory properties of foods through taste testing and making comparisons between foods. Students will learn about macro and micro nutrients and will acquire skills in producing and evaluating nutritionally balanced meals. Students continue to build on their understanding of the concept of sustainability in relation to becoming informed consumers. Students will develop their own food products following all phases of the design process.

► Gourmet Traveller

Students will experience the foods and flavours of different cuisines and cultures that have led to global food variety. They will learn about the foods of the Mediterranean, Asia Pacific, Africa, Europe and the Americas. They will develop an understanding of the different cultures through the preparation and evaluation of typical foods. Students will build on their understanding of food preparation techniques, specifically those of international orientation. Students will develop their own food products following all phases of the design process.



► Textiles Design

In Textiles Design, students safely operate a sewing machine to construct a range of functional products including; tote bags, pencil cases and coil bowls. They undertake studies in a workshop environment that encourages a safe independent practice. Students work through the design process and follow a design brief to resolve projects; both teacher lead and self-directed.



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.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

► Fitness & the Body

Students are encouraged 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.



► Sport & 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. Students 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 ten pin bowling, mini golf, archery, lawn bowls, laser tag, trampolining, rock climbing, ice skating and beach volleyball.

► Athlete Development Program

The Athlete Development Program will provide student athletes the opportunity to upgrade their athletic performance whilst at school. This subject offers the opportunity for talented athletes at Thornbury High School the opportunity to learn, grow and develop their physical sporting skills as well as participation in strength and conditioning training.

Students participate in specialised physical education classes that focus on specific movements and skills in a range of sports. Students design, implement and evaluate personalised plans for improving or maintaining their own and others' physical activity, fitness, technique and performance levels.

All students are expected to participate in their full school PE uniform and are encouraged to wear sunscreen protection and hats during activities in outdoor areas.



SCIENCE

► 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.