

2027 HANDBOOK YEAR 7 8 9



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Years 7, 8 & 9 at Thornbury High School - a time of discovery, growth and opportunity.

As students journey through their junior years, they are supported to develop the knowledge, skills, and habits that lay the foundation for success in the senior years and beyond.

At Thornbury High School, we pride ourselves on fostering a culture of trust, curiosity, and academic excellence. Our dedicated staff, purpose-built learning environments, and strong student support structures ensure that every young person feels known, valued, and challenged. Whether transitioning into Year 7 or exploring new subjects and electives in Year 9, students are encouraged to build positive relationships, engage deeply in learning, and develop confidence in their own abilities.

Throughout Years 7 to 9, students experience a broad and balanced curriculum across English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities, Health & PE, The Arts, Technologies, and Languages. In Year 9, students begin to shape their future through elective choices, laying the groundwork for subject pathways in the Senior School.

These years are not only about academic development, but also about fostering independence, creativity, and responsibility. With a strong focus on wellbeing, respectful relationships and student voice, we aim to nurture young people who are resilient, reflective, and ready to make a positive contribution to their world.

We are excited to partner with families during this important stage and look forward to the growth, successes and experiences ahead.

TEACHING & LEARNING AT THORNBURY HIGH SCHOOL

The Thornbury High School Learning Model has built a shared understanding of great teaching and learning practices across the school. Its aim is to allow all students to feel confident, challenged and supported, no matter which classroom they walk into. The implementation of our Learning model gives all teachers a common structure so students can experience:

- Clarity – you always know the purpose of the lesson and what success looks like.
- Consistency – familiar routines and language make it easier to settle quickly and focus on learning.
- Engagement – varied activities keep lessons lively, interactive and relevant to real life.
- Ownership – regular opportunities to wonder, collaborate and apply knowledge help you think deeply and learn independently.
- Progress you can see – clear modelling, guided practice and frequent review mean misconceptions are spotted early and feedback is immediate, boosting confidence and results.

CONDITIONS FOR EXCEPTIONAL LEARNING

All students can experience learning success by maintaining high expectations, modelling expected behaviours and responding to students' needs. This approach to building and sustaining high expectations fosters belonging, positive relationships and effective teaching and learning.

Relationships:

- Teachers know their students
- Build positive relationships
- Motivate through high expectations

Climate:

- Uphold THS Rules & Norms
- Establish and rehearse effective routines
- Positive reinforcement and respond to non compliance

Learning:

- Engage in the learning purpose, and connect prior knowledge to new concepts
- Explicitly communicate new knowledge and demonstrate skills to students
- Provide all students with the opportunity to practice and demonstrate their knowledge and skills, and connect new learning to prior learning
- Encourage deep thinking, reflection, and sense-making of new information

KEY LEARNING AREA LEADERS



Seamus Kavanagh
Head of English



Fiona Parrey
Head of Performing Arts



Trent Morison
Head of Health & PE



Tara Quenault
Head of Science
& DigiTech



Sheraz Salama
Head of Visual Arts
& Design



Sheraz Salama
Head of Food Technology



Leah Shields
Head of Humanities



Chiara Florio
Head of Languages



Samuel McDowell
Head of Mathematics

HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR SUCCESS

We regard the learning and teaching process as a partnership between students, parents and staff. We expect our students to actively participate in their learning and to take increasing personal responsibility for their own performance both inside and outside the classroom.

To support students to do this they will receive feedback against the following learning behaviours:

1. Arrives with required materials and ready to learn
2. Actively listens and engages during teacher explanations
3. Collaborates effectively with the teacher and peers
4. Applies themselves to completing tasks independently
5. Reviews learning at home

We similarly expect our parent community to support their children both directly, by providing them with appropriate materials and monitoring learning at home, 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.

Minimum standards:

- Achieve at least a 'Usually' work standard in all five work habits in Interim and Semester reports
- Receive an overall of at least 50% in all subjects.
- Maintain a minimum attendance of *90%

*This is a minimum of 9 days of attendance every fortnight.

In cases where there is an inability to meet promotion requirements a meeting will be held to discuss pathways.

SUBJECT CONTRIBUTIONS

As part of our ongoing commitment to delivering high-quality educational experiences, we ask families to make financial contributions for each subject their child elects to study. These contributions play a vital role in enhancing the learning opportunities and resources available to students, helping us maintain the high standards of our programs.

Example from the Family Contributions document:

Students Selected Subjects	Subject Contributions
Subjects are listed in the year level handbooks that were handed out at the futures expo night in the previous year. Copies of these handbooks are available from the General Office or via Compass School Documentation. Selected subjects will appear on Compass for individual students.	\$20 - 200

Subject contributions typically range from \$20.00 to \$200.00 per subject, depending on the materials and experiences involved. These contributions directly support the purchase of additional resources, the facilitation of excursions and special events, and the enhancement of hands-on learning opportunities. They ensure that our curriculum remains engaging, well-resourced, and enriched with real-world learning experiences.

It is important to emphasise that these contributions are not a fee or charge for the subject but a means to ensure that all students have access to the best possible learning environment. By contributing, families help sustain the educational quality of the subject and ensure that resources are available for every student.

We understand that every family's financial circumstances are different, and we make every effort to keep costs reasonable and transparent. Your support, no matter the amount, makes a meaningful difference. By contributing, families help sustain the quality and breadth of our educational offerings. Together we can continue to provide an outstanding learning journey for every student.

Thank you for your support.

YEAR

7 8

YEAR 7 + 8 @ THS

Years 7 and 8 focus on helping students transition successfully into secondary school, build strong foundations for future learning, and discover their interests and strengths in a nurturing, high-expectation environment.

In Year 7, students are transitioned to high school through our Year 7 Centre, designed to provide a sense of belonging and security. Supported by a dedicated team of teachers and peer mentors, students quickly develop positive relationships, feel known and valued, and are empowered to engage with their learning confidently. Our focus is on creating a calm, structured and inclusive climate where every student is challenged to achieve their best.

In Year 8, students consolidate the growth from Year 7 while continuing to develop as independent, responsible learners. We maintain high expectations for behaviour, attendance and uniform, and work closely with families to support each student's success.

Across both years, classroom teachers, Year Level Leaders and Coordinators collaborate regularly to review student progress, plan engaging curriculum, and coordinate enriching extracurricular activities. Communication with families remains a priority, with Compass and direct contact keeping everyone informed and connected.

These early years at Thornbury High School are the foundation for a vibrant and successful secondary school journey.

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

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 SUBJECTS	PERIODS PER FORTNIGHT
English	8
Mathematics	8
Science	6
Humanities	6
Languages	5
Health*/Food Studies*	2
Physical Education	6
Visual Arts & Design	5
Performing Arts	4
TOTAL	50

*One semester each

YEAR 8 SUBJECTS	PERIODS PER FORTNIGHT
English	6
Mathematics	6
English Focus*/ Maths Focus*	4
Science	5
Humanities	5
Languages + Italian Immersion	5
Digital Technologies*/ Food Studies*	4
Physical Education	4
Health	2
Visual Arts & Design	5
Performing Arts	4
TOTAL	50

*One semester each



SUBJECTS

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 low-stakes-writing, 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.

MATHEMATICS

The Year 7 and 8 Mathematics program covers topics across Number, Algebra, Measurement, Space, Probability and 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.

In Years 7 and 8, students are guided to develop strong attention to detail as a foundation for future learning. A key focus is on modelling clear and well-structured mathematical working, equipping students with the habits they will carry into later years. 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.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

In Year 8 Digital Technologies, students investigate how drones are utilised in a variety of real world situations. They learn how to pilot a drone safely and in accordance with all laws and regulations, plus they program the drone to perform tasks autonomously. They learn vital programming skills through a range of challenges in the Python programming language, culminating in choosing their own project: a game, chatBot, or combat simulator. Students learn how computers represent, store and transfer data. They investigate machine learning through teaching and testing an AI model.

SCIENCE

In Years 7 and 8 Science, students build a connected conceptual understanding of the living world, matter, Earth systems and physical sciences.

In the biological sciences, students move from classifying the diversity of life using and designing tools such as dichotomous keys to understanding how cells, tissues, and organ systems give rise to complex living things. They investigate ecosystems, model the flow of matter and energy through food webs and pyramids, and explore how populations respond to natural and human-driven change. In the chemical sciences, students use the particle model and atomic theory to explain the properties and behaviour of matter, and investigate separation techniques including filtration, distillation, and chromatography. They learn to represent matter using symbols, formulas, and models, and distinguish physical from chemical changes using observable evidence. In the Earth and space sciences, students use models to explain predictable cycles driven by the Earth-Sun-Moon system, investigate renewable and non-renewable resources and their associated risks, and explore Earth as a dynamic planet shaped by tectonic processes and the rock cycle over deep time. In the physical sciences, students investigate forces and simple machines before using energy as a unifying concept, tracking how it is transferred and transformed across systems and why real systems are never perfectly efficient. They conduct energy audits and investigate how electricity and magnetism are linked.

Throughout both years, Science Inquiry is central: students design investigations, use models to explain phenomena they cannot directly observe, and evaluate evidence. Science as a Human Endeavour is woven throughout, as students consider how scientific knowledge is built and revised through technology and evidence, examine the ethical dimensions of medical and environmental decisions, and recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as holders of sophisticated knowledge that has shaped and continues to shape the Australian scientific environment.

HUMANITIES

Year 7 Humanities covers History, Geography, and Civics and Citizenship. In History, students study Ancient Societies, including First Nations peoples, exploring changes and continuities over time and their foundations for modern society, using primary and secondary sources to guide their inquiries. In Civics and Citizenship, students learn about Australia's system of government, the justice system, and the Australian Constitution. In Geography, students explore the physical environment, contemporary issues, and natural resources, with a focus on water and liveability, while developing skills in interpreting maps, graphs, and geospatial data.

Year 8 Humanities covers History, Business and Economics, and Geography. In Semester 1, students study Medieval Europe, developing skills in assessing historical significance and analysing sources, before turning to Feudal Japan to compare daily life across Feudal Japan, Medieval Europe, and modern society. In Semester 2, students study Business and Economics, learning to research and assess the reliability of information to support their economic understanding. They then study Geography, exploring landscapes and landforms, including Australian case studies and the changing nature of nations over time.

LANGUAGES

Students undertake three years of compulsory study of Languages from Years 7 to 9 with the option to continue studies into Year 10 and VCE. While Italian is the main language taught at Thornbury High School, 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.

In Year 7 and 8 Languages classes, students develop speaking, listening, reading, writing, and viewing skills to be able to engage with topics such as general conversation, personal world, family, animals, hobbies, daily routines, food, tourism, travel, and nationalities. To enhance learning, students regularly participate in rehearsing and performing role plays, singing songs, and attending cultural events. Further development of students' language skills is aided through the use of IT in Year 8.

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 Humanities and other subjects, with the explicit teaching of Italian, and continues all the way to senior classes. The Italian program provides opportunities for students to connect with the wider Italian community both locally and through overseas travel and exchange experiences.

PERFORMING ARTS

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

Students are introduced 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 massed Concert Bands 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. Singing and body percussion form elements of instrumental lessons as do drama and team-building games. At Year 7 students incorporate acting, script writing and music into live theatrical performance units, focussing on Music and building their Drama skills. In Year 8, they also investigate Media through filmmaking techniques, storytelling and student-led media projects.

VISUAL ARTS & DESIGN

Through Visual Arts and Design, students will complete a range of engaging creative projects that provide opportunities to communicate and express ideas, perspectives and meaning through artmaking and design practice. Students will develop creative and critical thinking, visual literacy and practical skills by exploring ideas, experimenting with a range of media, materials, techniques and processes.

In Visual Arts, students will investigate and create artworks across a range of art forms including drawing, painting, printmaking and ceramics. Students will develop skills in observational and expressive drawing, clay construction, surface decoration, colour theory, printmaking and painting techniques while exploring how visual conventions, materials and processes communicate ideas and meaning. The program combines art history, visual analysis and practical artmaking through the exploration of artists and artworks from diverse cultures and contexts, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander artists and culturally responsive artmaking practices.

Through Visual Communication Design, students will engage in creative projects including brand collaborations, packaging design, soft toy design, digital artworks using Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator, and digital production processes such as laser cutting. Students will explore visual language conventions including layout, typography, imagery, colour and composition while applying design thinking and the visual communication design process to develop creative solutions for specific audiences and purposes. Throughout the program, students will document, reflect on and discuss their creative and design processes using appropriate visual arts and design terminology. Students will experiment with and refine ideas through drawing, planning, material exploration and digital technologies before presenting finished artworks and design solutions for audiences.

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.

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.

FOOD STUDIES

In Year 7, students begin to read and interpret recipes while developing confidence in managing tools and equipment such as knives, measuring cups and spoons. They learn about personal and kitchen hygiene, as well as effective cleaning procedures. Students are introduced to basic cooking techniques including baking, frying and microwaving. Throughout the course, they work collaboratively and are encouraged to ask questions and explore how and why food is prepared in different ways.

In Year 8, students build on their ability to read and interpret recipes and expand their skills in managing more complex equipment such as stoves, ovens and microwaves. They deepen their understanding 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 design and develop their own food products. With a focus on collaboration and critical thinking, they consider how food choices impact individuals, communities and the environment, producing a variety of dishes that cater to diverse needs and preferences.



YEAR

9

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.

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.

YEAR 9 SUBJECTS	PERIODS PER FORTNIGHT
English	7
Mathematics	7
Science	7
History*/Geography*	7
Languages	5
Physical Education (PE)	4
Health	1
Technologies elective*/Arts elective*	6
Free choice elective x2*	6
TOTAL	50

*One semester each

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

KLA	SUBJECT
Humanities	Crime and the Law
Science	Forensic Science
Health & PE	Athlete Development Program
	Fitness and the body
	Sport & Outdoor Recreation
Technologies	Digital Technologies & Robotics
	Food Studies
	Gourmet Traveller
	Textiles Design
The Arts	Ceramics
	Drawing & Painting
	Drama & Theatre Studies
	Media
	Music Performance
	Photography
	Visual Communication Design

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC (AS AN EXTRA-CURRICULAR)

Students may choose to continue their instrumental music studies from the end of Year 8, when the free program ends. Students are withdrawn from regular classes for a 30 minute lesson each week on a rotating basis. This is an extra-curricular activity not an elective subject, and all are welcome, though it is recommended if you are continuing the Music Performance subjects in Years 9 or 10.

Instrument hire is approximately \$220 annually

Instrumental lessons are approximately \$220 annually



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 Number, Algebra, Measurement, Geometry, Probability and Statistics.

Through a range of engaging tasks, students build proficiency in fluency, understanding, problem solving, and reasoning, while being encouraged to question and reflect on their work and progress.

The ICT platform Mathspace is used to consolidate fluency, supported by regular check-in quizzes and diagnostic tasks that extend and reinforce classroom learning.

SCIENCE

The Year 9 Science program sees students develop their understanding of the world around them and how systems operate. They do this through investigations into electricity and electromagnetism, energy transfers, the nervous system, chemical substances and their reactions, and Earth's systems. Students investigate and experiment with generating electricity (AC and DC) and explore the applied energy transformations in turbines and generators. They explain how the nervous and endocrine systems use negative feedback to support homeostasis in the body's internal environment, as well as distinguish between infectious and non-infectious disease and explore disease control measures. Students investigate chemical reactions and demonstrate how the Law of Conservation of Mass applies to different chemical systems by balancing the associated equations for these reactions. They explore how interactions within and between Earth's interrelated systems affect the carbon cycle and describe trends in patterns of global climate change and propose strategies to mitigate contributing factors.

HUMANITIES

GEOGRAPHY

In Year 9 Geography, students study the world's biomes and its relation to food production. They examine how humans have altered regions to produce food and the impacts of our food consumption and food waste on people and places. A secondary study of global interconnections is undertaken, whereby students examine how places and people are connected and investigate the effects of global production and consumption on places and people. Thinking and problem solving skills are developed in determining real and possible solutions to these problems.

HISTORY

Students study Colonisation and Indigenous Rights and Freedom. The Colonisation unit examines the consequences of British settlement and invasion, including key events such as Pemulwuy's resistance to settlement at Botany Bay, and how these events shaped the development of Australian society. Students then study Indigenous Rights and Freedom, exploring the struggle for rights and freedoms experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, and analysing a range of historical sources and perspectives to form evidence-based opinions about their significance and legacy.

LANGUAGES

The Languages program develops students' skills in Listening, Speaking, Reading, Viewing and Writing while fostering an appreciation of language and culture. Italian is the main language studied at Thornbury High School, with a small number of students also studying Greek.

In Year 9, students explore Italian fashion, Made in Italy products and traditional festivals while reflecting on similarities and differences between Italian and Australian cultures. They revise present tense and modal verbs, learn to recount events in the past, expand their technology-related vocabulary, and demonstrate their learning through fashion shows, surveys, songs, role-plays and presentations. Students have the opportunity to participate in extra curriculum activities such as the Dante Alighieri Poetry Recitation competition to challenge themselves.

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

In this hands-on elective, students develop practical skills and technical knowledge in a range of ceramic techniques, including pinch pots, coiling, slab construction, and surface decoration using earthenware clay. Students create both functional and sculptural works while exploring the creative possibilities of ceramics. They will also learn finishing processes such as underglazing, glazing, and kiln firing to complete their pieces.

DRAWING & PAINTING

Students who choose Drawing & Painting will find themselves in the art classroom, learning to draw, illustrate and paint. This course is all about self-expression through a variety of mediums and is suitable for students of all skill levels. Students will experiment with acrylic paints, watercolours, gouache, ink, pastels, Copic markers, digital drawing, collage and more. The projects are designed to support students in developing confidence with these mediums while providing the freedom to explore themes, ideas and imagery that are meaningful to them.

Studying Drawing & Painting is a fantastic way for students to express their thoughts, feelings and perspectives in a visual format while strengthening creative thinking and problem-solving skills.

This subject provides a supportive and lively classroom environment where students can share ideas, receive constructive feedback and grow as artists. Throughout the course, students will enhance their technical skills, explore new artistic mediums and develop the ability to transform the images in their imagination into creative works of art.

DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES

Drama & Theatre Studies invites students into the exciting world of performance, where they don't just study theatre—they make it. Students create original pieces, experiment with ideas, and perform for classmates and wider audiences, building confidence and creativity along the way. A major highlight is attending live theatre performances, giving students the chance to experience professional productions up close and be inspired by real-world storytelling.

In class, students explore play-making through dynamic workshops, developing skills in acting, devising, and storytelling. They also get hands-on experience in production roles such as lighting, sound, costume, and make-up, learning how all elements come together to create powerful theatre. Students analyse the shows they see to inform and elevate their own performances. This subject is perfect for those who enjoy being creative, collaborative, and expressive—whether on stage or behind the scenes.

MEDIA

News Team assemble! Year 9 Media introduces students to the art of film-making and digital media production. Students will gain practical experience in how to make quality video content, working towards creating an episode of television for 'Class TV'. In the first term, they will develop their skills in film codes and the conventions of the newsroom, resulting in a Breaking News segment recorded in our TV Studio/green screen space. In the second term, they will have the chance to contribute ideas and develop segments for 'Class TV', as well as filming, acting in, and editing these segments to create their episode of television. From scripting and storyboarding, to camera operation and filming techniques, and finally editing and adding special effects, students will become fully immersed in the pre to post production process. You stay classy, Thornbury High!

MUSIC PERFORMANCE

Music Performance is all about getting hands-on with music through listening, creating and performing. Students will have the chance to play their instruments in both small and large ensembles, working together to rehearse and perform music they enjoy. There are exciting opportunities to perform live, share original work, and even take part in excursions to experience music beyond the classroom. In Year 9, students also build their understanding of music language and analysis, helping them explore the music they play and listen to in more depth. Through a mix of composition, improvisation and arranging tasks—using both traditional instruments and digital tools—students can experiment, collaborate and develop their own musical style.

PHOTOGRAPHY

The Photography program covers both traditional and modern photographic techniques. Beginning with digital SLR, students progress to manual analogue photography. They delve into photography's history, drawing inspiration from artists' works to inform their own. The course teaches basic composition, camera handling, analogue film processing, darkroom printing, negative scanning, Adobe Photoshop for image manipulation and digital photo printing, offering comprehensive skills in photographic artistry.

Acceptance into this elective is dependent on students demonstrating a strong sense of responsibility and consistently meeting behavioural expectations.

VISUAL COMMUNICATION DESIGN

In this creative and hands-on elective, students explore four key design fields: environments, messages, objects and interactive experiences. They will follow the design process to create exciting projects such as brand logos, 3D architectural models and laser-cut products.

Students will build on their Adobe Illustrator skills and learn to use new professional programs such as SketchUp, while also exploring circular design – designing with sustainability in mind. They will be introduced to the work of contemporary designers and document their ideas, research and progress in a visual diary.

Please note: 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.





ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

TECHNOLOGIES

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

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY AND ROBOTICS

This subject explores the practical and the applied side of computer science. Students combine engineering, computer control, motors and sensors to build a range of robotic devices powered by an Arduino microcontroller. Students take home an AI controlled lamp run by an Arduino Nano as part of their studies. Students plan, develop and program a digital game using Python and the Arcade library of resources. They will learn how software, hardware, compression and encryption work together in computer networks and program a number of encryption techniques.

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 deepen their knowledge of food preparation techniques with a focus on international cuisines. They will create their own food products by working through all stages of the design process.

TEXTILES DESIGN

Explore creativity through fabric, design and making in Textiles Design. In this practical subject, students develop skills in sewing, construction and textile techniques while creating a range of projects such as bags, cases, bowls and garments. Students learn to confidently use sewing machines and equipment, solve design challenges, and experiment with colour, texture and pattern. Textiles Design encourages creativity, individuality, and hands-on problem solving while building practical skills that can be applied in both creative and everyday contexts.

HUMANITIES

CRIME AND THE LAW

Crime and the Law introduces students to the impact of law in our lives. The focus is to examine the key aspects of the criminal court system and how our understanding of crimes has changed and continues to evolve. Students are introduced to the Australian criminal court system, highlighting both its safeguards for the rule of law and its areas of weakness. Students will explore various types of crime, including offences against individuals, property, and the state. The course then delves into the evolution of policing and criminal profiling by analysing notorious cases, such as those of serial killers Jack the Ripper and Ivan Milat. Additionally, students will critically evaluate the impact of true crime media, such as documentaries and podcasts, on modern investigations and criminal trials.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

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.

FITNESS AND 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.

SPORTS AND OUTDOOR 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.

SCIENCE

FORENSIC SCIENCE

Forensic science is a vital area within the justice system. Forensic scientists are able to analyse a range of evidence to make inferences about what happened at a crime scene. In this unit students will learn about the latest forensic science methods. They will use their knowledge of chemistry, biology and the physical sciences to evaluate evidence and solve hypothetical crimes, as well as investigating real-life case studies. Students will explore various techniques such as fingerprinting, trace microscopy, chromatography and DNA profiling. Students will also develop their ICT skills by completing online forensics activities.



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