St Patrick's College

Year 7 and 8

Curriculum Guide

2026

Contents

Curriculum Overview

Welcome to Year 7 and 8 at St Patrick's College!

In this handbook, you'll find essential information about the subjects and courses of study for Year 7 and Year 8. Our goal is to provide a rich and engaging educational experience that fosters both depth and breadth of knowledge. Across all learning areas we're committed to supporting your child's growth and development. Explore the diverse subjects offered and embark on an exciting learning journey with us!

Core Subjects

Core subjects for students in Years 7 and 8 are studied throughout the year and include:

- Religious Education
- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Humanities (including History, Geography, Economics and Business, and Civics and Citizenship)
- Languages - French
- Health and Physical Education

Elective Subjects

Elective subjects cover the breadth and depth of the Arts and Technologies learning areas. They are studied on a rotational basis for one term each.

The Arts:

- Visual Art
- Drama
- Music
- Dance (from 2025)

Technologies:

- Digital Technologies
- Design Technology – Food
- Design Technology – Food, Fibre and Production (Agriculture)
- Design Technology – Materials (Woodwork)

YEAR 7

Religious Education

Why Do Believers Follow the Church and Sacred Texts?

In Term 1, students explore how the teachings of the Church and sacred texts guide the lives of believers. They will investigate how Christian principles and moral teachings influence personal choices, behaviour, and relationships, as well as how faith is lived out within the wider community. Students will also examine sacred texts, considering their messages and why they remain important for shaping beliefs and actions today.

How Has Christianity Changed Over Time?

Students will look at how Christian faith has been expressed across different communities and historical periods. They will explore the origins of Christianity (c. 6 BCE – c. 650 CE), learning about key figures and events that shaped its early development. Students will also reflect on why some traditions have continued over time while others have adapted, helping them understand the ongoing story of the Church and its role in society.

What Connects Christianity, Judaism, and Islam?

In Term 3, students investigate the shared beginnings of Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. They will examine how sacred texts in each tradition reflect the context and purpose of their human authors. Students will explore how these texts guide the beliefs, practices, and life decisions of followers, and will consider the similarities and differences between these faiths to understand the connections that exist between them.

How Do Prayer and Ritual Shape Faith?

Students will focus on the ways that prayer, ritual, sacraments, and sacred texts strengthen personal and communal faith. They will explore how these practices help believers connect with God, support each other, and find meaning in their daily lives. Students will also reflect on the importance of participating in faith traditions and how these experiences contribute to a sense of belonging and spiritual growth.

YEAR 7

English

Speaking My Language

In this unit, students learn the art of persuasion. Debating a range of different topics, they learn to manipulate persuasive language features. Students will learn to articulate their ideas convincingly, understanding the importance of language choice, multimodal features, and features of voice.

Narrative Navigators

Students will engage in a novel study of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by CS Lewis. This unit encourages students to explore character development, thematic elements, and narrative structure. Students articulate their ideas and connections, referencing evidence from the text to support their arguments.

Unravelling Visual Narratives

Guiding students through an analytical exploration of visual texts, this unit examines how visual elements and language features inform, influence, and engage audiences. Students gain an understanding of the roles of symbolism in storytelling, while enhancing their analytical skills and critical thinking.

A Tale Unfolds

Students embark on a creative journey into the art of storytelling. They learn to craft stories inspired by poetry written by First Nations' authors, employing a variety of literary devices to shape a story. The focus is on engaging readers through narrative structures, characters, settings, and plots.

YEAR 7

Mathematics

Number Ninjas

Prepare to become a master of numbers as you join the elite squad of Number Ninjas! In "Mathematical Foundations," explore the secrets of natural numbers, primes, and exponent notation. "Square Solutions" challenges you to crack the codes of squares, square roots, and perfect numbers, refining your pattern recognition skills. Then, brace yourself for "Integer Adventures," where addition and subtraction of integers will put your strategic problem-solving abilities to the test. Sharpen your mathematical skills and cultivate a resilient mindset as you conquer mathematical challenges with ninja-like precision!

Mathematical Marvels

In this comprehensive unit, students ascend to mathematical mastery by honing their skills in the four fundamental operations with positive fractions and decimals. Through a blend of practice and critical thinking, learners develop efficient calculation strategies and explore equivalent representations of rational numbers and percentages. Dive deep into mathematical modeling to solve practical problems in financial and real-world contexts, empowering yourself with a deeper understanding of underlying principles and their versatile applications.

Data Detectives

Prepare for an electrifying journey through the realms of visualization, transformation, statistical analysis, and probability principles! From unraveling two-dimensional representations in "Visualizing Data" to mastering coordinate transformations in "Coordinate Conundrums," students sharpen their geometric prowess. Dive into "Statistical Investigations" to plan and conduct experiments, mastering data interpretation and measures of central tendency. Lastly, explore the thrilling "Probability Playground," where you'll list sample spaces and conduct experiments to predict outcomes, gaining valuable insights into probability principles and their real-world applications.

Geometric Explorers

Embark on a riveting mathematical odyssey where students explore the wonders of algebraic expressions, equations, geometry, and shape classification! Journey through "Algebraic Adventures" to master linear equations and uncover solutions with precision. Delve into variation through tables of values, gaining insights into the impact of variables on outcomes. Confront geometric challenges in "Shape Shapeshifters," applying angle relationships and triangle properties to solve problems. Finally, become "Polygon Pioneers" as you classify shapes and develop algorithms to systematically sort and categorize polygons, showcasing your computational prowess

YEAR 7

Science

Particle Pioneers

Embarking on an exciting scientific journey into the world of particle theory, students are introduced to the complex and intriguing properties of matter at a sub-microscopic level. Through a series of engaging experiments and investigations, they explore how matter is composed and behaves, focusing on the separation of mixtures and the physical properties of substances. Ethical considerations and cultural impacts of scientific practices are also tackled, enhancing their understanding of science as a human endeavor..

Bio-Quest

Venturing into the vast and dynamic realms of biological diversity and ecosystem dynamics, this unit challenges students to explore and understand the interdependencies within ecosystems and the importance of biodiversity. Hands-on experiments and field investigations allow students to predict and analyze the effects of environmental changes on ecosystems. They also learn about the historical and cultural perspectives on biological classification and its impact on scientific knowledge and environmental policies.

Exploring Cosmic Connections

Delving into the Earth-sun-moon system, students uncover the fundamental principles of celestial mechanics. This unit provides an in-depth look at how these cosmic bodies interact and the effects of their movements on Earth's environment. Engaging in simulations and model-building activities, students visualize and predict celestial events like eclipses and tides, while considering the broader implications of these cosmic phenomena on climate, navigation, and ancient and contemporary cultures.

Unleashing Forces

Investigating the fascinating world of physics, this unit focuses on the dynamics of motion and the forces that govern movement. A hands-on approach helps students understand how different forces act on objects and the resultant effects. Experiments are conducted to measure and analyze forces such as gravity, friction, and air resistance, providing insights into the laws of motion. Students also learn to represent their data effectively through graphs and models, enhancing their ability to communicate complex scientific ideas clearly and accurately.

YEAR 7

Humanities

Democracy Down Under (Civics & Citizenship)

In this unit, we'll explore what makes Australia tick as a democratic country. You'll learn about the Australian Constitution, how our legal system works, and the values that help us live together respectfully and fairly. Through fun activities and lively discussions, you'll find out what your rights and responsibilities are as a citizen, how laws are made and why they matter, and how being an active citizen (by speaking up, voting, and helping others) can make a real difference. By the end of the unit, you'll understand how you fit into Australia's democracy and how you can help shape the future of your community.

Planet Protectors (Geography)

Get ready to become a Planet Protector! In this unit, you'll explore how people and places are connected - and how we can take care of our planet. You'll investigate why water is so important to life on Earth and how it flows through ecosystems, what makes a place liveable (from parks and transport to safety and community), how our choices affect the environment, and what we can do to make cities and towns more sustainable. Through hands-on projects, creative thinking, and real-world problem solving, you'll learn how to plan better spaces and protect the planet for future generations.

Deep Time: The First Australians and our Ancient Past (History)

In this unit, we'll explore the story of Australia's first people. You'll look at how humans arrived in Australia, ancient human history, the journey out of Africa, how the First Australians arrived on this land, and what happened to the giant animals (megafauna) they met. You'll discover what life was like for the First Australians – how they mastered the seas, hunted or food, cared for the land, built communities, and created amazing art that continues to tell stories today. You'll learn how we can keep these stories alive and why understanding different perspectives helps us build a fairer, more respectful society. Through storytelling, creative tasks, and deep thinking, you'll gain a new appreciation for the world's oldest living culture and your place in its ongoing story.

Ancient Rome (History)

Step into the world of Ancient Rome, one of the most powerful and fascinating civilisations in history. In this unit, you'll uncover the secrets of Roman life by exploring ruins, artefacts and

ancient texts. You'll investigate how Rome grew from a small city to a mighty empire, and discover the achievements that still influence our lives today. You'll learn how historians and archaeologists piece together clues from the past - and what mysteries still remain. By the end of the unit, you'll be able to use historical terms to describe different time periods, create timelines and explore key events and people, analyse sources to find out what life was like in Ancient Rome, and think critically about what we know (and don't know) about the ancient world.

Money Matters

(Economics & Business)

In this unit, we'll explore how people and communities make smart choices about using limited resources (such as time, money, and materials) to meet their wants and needs. You'll discover how businesses and consumers (that's you!) interact, what your rights and responsibilities are when buying and selling, and how different jobs and incomes shape our lives. We'll dive into real-world examples and take part in activities that help you understand, what it means to be a smart shopper, how businesses work and make decisions, where money comes from and how people earn it, and how these ideas connect to your everyday life and the world around you. By the end of the unit, you'll be able to think like an economist and make informed choices that matter!

YEAR 7

Languages - French

Bienvenue en France

Get ready to begin your journey exploring all things French! In this unit, you'll learn how to chat in French using everyday phrases, like saying hello, introducing yourself, and even showing surprise or disappointment (yes, there's a French way to say "Oh no!"). But it's not just about the words - you'll also discover what life is like in France. From cheering at football matches to relaxing in Paris parks, sipping hot chocolate in cosy cafés, and exploring famous French spots, you'll get a taste of French culture while learning the language. By the end of the unit, you'll be able to hold simple conversations and understand more about what makes France so unique.

C'est beau, Paris

Ready to level up your French skills? In this unit, you'll learn how to chat like a pro in everyday situations, whether you're greeting your mates or speaking politely to adults. You'll practise asking how someone's feeling, and learn how to offer, accept, or even politely say "non merci" to an invitation. As always, there's more than just a focus on words! You'll explore what it's like to start the school year in France (la rentrée), discover the magic of Paris, and learn the do's and don'ts of French manners - like how to greet people with "bisous". By the end, you'll be able to handle real-life conversations and understand how French people communicate, with style!

Ça, c'est ma famille

In this unit, you'll learn how to talk about the people who matter most - your family! You'll discover how to describe your family members, ask others about theirs, and say how old people are. You'll also explore what family life is like in France. From traditional views to modern multicultural families, you'll see how French families live, celebrate, and even how their surnames came to be. By the end of this unit, you'll be able to chat confidently about family, introduce yours, and understand how French culture shapes family life today.

Au parc zoologique

Love animals? This unit is for you! You'll learn how to talk about pets, zoo animals, and their features all in French. You'll practise sharing your opinions about zoos and pets, and explore the wild world of animals in France. Discover incredible French zoos and their biozones, learn about the famous pet cemetery in Asnières, and find out which Aussie animals are popular in France. Plus, you'll get to know how French people feel about their furry (and feathery!) friends. By the end of this unit, you'll be able to describe animals, express your thoughts, and understand how animals are part of French life and culture.

YEAR 7

Health and Physical Education

Unlike other learning areas, Health and Physical Education is taught in trimesters.

Ready for the Challenge

Starting high school is a big step—and this unit helps students take it with confidence! Students explore how identity, emotions, and change shape their experiences and relationships. Through engaging activities and discussions, they'll learn how to manage challenges like making new friends, navigating puberty, and adapting to new responsibilities. By building resilience and self-awareness, students will develop strategies to support themselves and others during this exciting transition. This unit sets the tone for a successful journey through secondary school.

Athletic Movement Magic

This fast-paced unit is all about discovering the magic of movement! Students will explore athletics through a mix of practical and theoretical learning, mastering skills like sprinting, jumping, and throwing. They'll learn how to manipulate movement elements—effort, space, time, objects, and people—to improve performance and achieve personal bests. Whether you're a seasoned athlete or just starting out, this unit is designed to boost confidence, coordination, and physical literacy in a fun and supportive environment.

Breaking Down the Barries

In this inclusive and thought-provoking unit, students explore how stereotypes, respect, empathy, and diversity influence relationships in sport and life. Through team-based activities and game design, they'll learn how to create environments where everyone feels welcome and valued. Students will challenge assumptions, celebrate differences, and discover how inclusive practices can improve teamwork, enjoyment, and collaboration. This unit encourages students to be leaders in promoting fairness and belonging.

Safeguarding Your World

Safety first—online and offline! This unit empowers students to navigate the digital and real world with confidence. They'll learn assertive communication techniques, protective behaviours, and help-seeking strategies to stay safe and support others. Through scenario analysis and role-play, students will explore how to respond to tricky situations, build respectful relationships, and make informed choices. It's all about developing the skills to protect your wellbeing and stand up for what's right.

YEAR 7

YEAR 7

The Arts

Visual Art - “Exploring Nature Through Art”

Students embark on a creative exploration of the natural world, using it as inspiration for their artistic creations. Through a series of guided activities, they experiment with different artistic techniques and mediums, incorporating elements of nature into their artwork. This unit helps students appreciate the beauty and significance of the environment while developing their artistic skills. The culmination of their efforts is showcased in a curated exhibition, where students display their artworks and reflect on the connections between art, nature, and sustainability.

Music - "Keys and Chords"

Delving into the world of keys and chords, students explore the fundamental elements of pitch, including keys, scales, and chords. They learn to construct major scales, identify primary triads within a key, and develop skills in playing these chords on the guitar. Opportunities to practice and perform songs that utilize these chords are plentiful, aiming to enhance students' understanding of pitch and their ability to apply this knowledge in musical performance and composition.

Drama - "Stagecraft and Storytelling"

In this dynamic unit, students explore the art of drama with a focus on role, character, and relationships. They develop their voice and movement skills to sustain characters and situations, while employing elements such as focus, tension, space, and time to enhance their performances. Incorporating language and ideas, students use dramatic symbols to create action and evoke mood and atmosphere. They also learn to shape their performances for audiences, utilizing both narrative and non-narrative forms and production elements. By the end of the unit, students gain a deeper understanding of drama as an art form and its capacity to communicate ideas, perspectives, and meanings.

Dance – to be introduced in 2025.

YEAR 7

Technologies

Design Technology (Food) - "Healthy Snack Design"

Embark on a flavorful journey delving into the art of healthy snacking! In this module, students dive into the realm of nutritious bites, guided by the principles of the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating (AGTHE). Through hands-on cooking sessions, interactive surveys, insightful KWL charts, strategic decision-making matrices, and lively discussions, students hone the skills needed to curate wholesome snack choices. Our mission? To cultivate a culture of wellness while unraveling the nuances of food design.

Design Technology (Food, Fibre and Production) – “Habitats & Horticulture”

Step into the vibrant world of sustainable agriculture, where tiny heroes wield tremendous power! This unit invites students to explore the vital role of beneficial organisms in nurturing our agricultural ecosystems. From researching and selecting insect allies for horticultural small crops to crafting habitats tailor-made for home gardens, students embark on an experiential journey. Through this immersive odyssey, they uncover the intricate web of life sustaining our planet's food systems, fostering a deep appreciation for the unsung heroes of the soil.

Digital Technology – “Creative Coders”

Students engage deeply with the foundational aspects of programming and data representation over the course of the term. They master the craft of designing efficient algorithms and user-friendly interfaces, guided by design thinking principles. This process sharpens their problem-solving skills as they iteratively develop solutions that adhere to specific functional requirements and constraints. Through hands-on experience in programming environments, students have the chance to thoroughly test, refine, and precisely implement their creative solutions.

YEAR 7

Technologies

Design Technology (Materials) – “Willful Wood Working”

Students embark on a journey of woodworking mastery, integrating safety protocols, woodworking techniques, and project design and construction into a seamless progression. Beginning with a deep dive into safety practices, including the correct use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and workshop machinery, students then transition to mastering essential woodworking techniques, from marking and cutting to assembly. Guided by principles of design and sustainability, students culminate their learning by applying their acquired skills to design, plan, and construct a wooden carryall project.

YEAR 8

Religious Education

How Do Initiation Rituals Connect Believers to God?

In Term 1, students explore the unique relationship between God and God's people as revealed in the Old Testament. They will study covenant stories and the messages of key Old Testament prophets. Students will also investigate initiation rituals in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—such as baptism, Bar/Bat Mitzvah, and other rites of passage—and consider how these ceremonies strengthen the bond between believers and God, marking important steps in their faith journey.

What Does the Trinity Reveal About God's Plan?

Students will explore the mystery of the Trinity and how it reflects God's plan for salvation through Jesus Christ. They will use Scriptural evidence to understand the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus as the central act of God's saving plan. Students will also examine how words, symbols, and images help believers represent and understand this profound mystery, deepening their appreciation for the Christian understanding of God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Who Has Guided the Church Through Change?

In Term 3, students investigate how key figures and events in the early Church and the work of significant reformers have shaped the mission of Jesus in times of challenge and change. They will study events from the Acts of the Apostles and the contributions of early Church communities. Students will also explore patterns of change and continuity in the Church from c. 650 CE – c. 1750 CE, reflecting on how reformers' writings and actions continue to influence believers today.

How Do Prayer, Liturgy, and Moral Action Shape the Church?

Students will focus on the ways believers' participation in liturgy, prayer, and moral practices strengthens the Church's presence and activity in the world. They will evaluate how personal and communal worship, response to contemporary moral challenges, practice of virtues, and commitment to ecumenism help the Church live out its mission today. Students will also reflect on how their own faith practices contribute to a vibrant and compassionate Church community.

YEAR 8

English

Pictures tell the Story

Students learn to decode visual elements as they shape audience perceptions, evoke emotions, and convey thematic messages. The visual literacy unit empowers students to craft their own stories, fostering an ability to communicate effectively through narrative.

The Storyteller

Students explore a diverse range of First Nations' texts that incorporate both visual and literary elements. Through critical examinations, students further their appreciation for cultural identity and storytelling. Students identify and analyse how texts reflect or challenge contexts through their aesthetic features and literary devices.

Reading for Meaning

Students study John Boyne's novel *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*, unravelling its themes, symbolism, and character portrayals. Through analytical discussion, the unit explores how narrative structure and literary techniques connect with broader societal reflections, offering insight into the human condition.

People to Remember

Students are introduced to the world of fame and glory, where personal histories and cultural identities converge. Through the examination of memoirs, film, songs, and short stories, students explore how authors articulate complex personal and social dynamics. Students create a speech, applying persuasive devices to express their ideas and perspectives.

YEAR 8

Mathematics

Number Adventures

Join us on an exhilarating expedition through the world of numbers! In "Mathematical Foundations," delve into the mysteries of irrational numbers, mastering their secrets within terminating or recurring decimals. Next, conquer "Exponential Escapades" as you wield the power of exponent laws to unlock new avenues for problem-solving. Finally, navigate "Thrilling Operations" with confidence, mastering the challenges of integer and rational number operations. Sharpen your mathematical skills and cultivate curiosity and resilience in the face of mathematical challenges as you embark on this exciting journey!

Mathematical Marvels

Embark on a journey of mathematical discovery! In "Exponential Adventures," master exponent laws and calculations with positive integer exponents. Equip yourself with modeling skills to solve real-world problems in "Modelling Mastery." Unravel measurement mysteries with "Pythagorean Puzzles," and prepare for managing duration problems across time zones in "Time Zone Treasures." Challenge critical thinking, apply mathematical concepts creatively, and deepen your appreciation for mathematics in solving real-world problems.

Mathematical Explorations: From Algebra to Measurement

Get ready for an exciting exploration of mathematics! In "Exponential Adventures," master calculations with positive integer exponents and apply exponent laws with precision. Navigate complex equations and enhance algebraic skills in "Algebraic Explorations." Solve perimeter, area, and volume problems, mastering measurement intricacies across various contexts in "Measurement Marvels." Engage in hands-on activities, interactive explorations, and real-world problem-solving tasks, fostering a deep understanding of mathematical concepts and their applications.

Spatial Adventures and Statistical Explorations

Embark on an exhilarating journey through spatial reasoning and statistical analysis! In "Spatial Mastery," master three-dimensional positioning and explore congruency and similarity in shapes. Dive into data sampling implications, analyzing distributions and comparing variations in random samples in "Statistical Expeditions." Sharpen spatial reasoning skills and statistical literacy, gaining a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts and their applications in both spatial and statistical contexts. Get ready for a journey filled with discovery, exploration, and mathematical mastery!

YEAR 8

Science

Cells: Would you eat lab grown meat?

Scientists have discovered a way to produce meat using cultured cells instead of livestock. This discovery is paving the way for more ethical and sustainable food production methods and could change the way we eat meat forever. Students will chew their way through this unit to discover the fascinating world of cells, and their potential to help solve a range of global issues.

Body Systems: What does it take to be a cold-blooded killer?

Until recently, scientists thought that boa constrictors killed their prey through suffocation, but a new study suggests it's another body system that fails. Students snake their way through this unit as they compare the body systems of humans with those of other animals.

The Nervous System: How can your gut influence your mood?

Ever had butterflies in your stomach or felt hangry? Then you may already have a hunch about the connection between your stomach and how you feel. It turns out there's much more to this story than previously thought. In this unit, students explore cutting-edge scientific discoveries about how the gut and brain interact. These studies suggest that the health of your gut might influence your thoughts, feelings and behaviour. With this real-world context, this unit provides students with plenty of food for thought!

Energy: Learning from nature's energy engineers

Engineers design machines to harness energy in new and exciting ways. Living things also rely on using and saving energy to survive. So by studying living things, we can often learn how to improve our technology. This has inspired new designs for trains, surfboards, robots and wind turbines!

Physical and Chemical Change: Unwrapping the secrets of chocolate

Humans have been enjoying cocoa for millennia. Today, cocoa beans are turned into delicious, melt-in-your-mouth chocolate by a sequence of physical and chemical changes. Bite into this unit and get a taste of the chemistry of chocolate, as well as many other examples of changing matter.

Element and Compounds: What happens if the world runs out of helium?

World supplies of helium were running low before the recent discovery of a large deposit in the East African Rift. The gas is rare on Earth because it's light enough to escape the atmosphere, but its unique properties also give it a wide range of important uses. Through this context, introduce your students to the incredible variety of elements and compounds that make up the complex world around us.

Active Earth: Feel the earth move!

The surface of Earth is continually changing. The movement of tectonic plates causes natural hazards that are outside of our control. People living under the threat of active volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis can feel helpless. Learning about these natural hazards and how to mitigate them provides a sense of control and can even save lives. So how does understanding our active planet help society? Dig into this unit to find out more!

YEAR 8

Humanities

Active Citizenship in Australia (Civics & Citizenship)

In this unit, students delve into Australia's political system, examining the role of citizens in actively participating in democracy. You'll explore the impact of elections, political parties, interest groups, media, and individuals on government and decision-making processes. You will analyse the legislative process in Australia, investigating the types of laws and their application. Additionally, they explore the concept of national identity, considering the factors and influences that shape it and its role in fostering active citizenship.

People, Places and Migration (Geography)

In this unit, we explore how and why people move and settle in different places. You'll learn how population changes connect to jobs, lifestyle, and opportunities. Students look at city growth (urbanisation), especially in developing parts of Asia, and compare urban life in Australia and other countries. Through case studies, you'll investigate internal and international migration and how it shapes Australia's cities. Finally, we'll explore the challenges cities face, such as overcrowding and transport, and how they can be improved for the future.

Living Landscapes (Geography)

Get ready to explore the fascinating world of landforms and landscapes! In this unit, you'll learn how natural forces like wind, water, and tectonic activity shape the Earth - from mountains and rivers to deserts and coastlines. We'll also look at how different cultures connect with landscapes, what natural hazards can occur and how people prepare for and respond to them, where Australia's most iconic landforms are found (and why they're so special), how we can protect these places to keep them safe and beautiful for the future. By the end of the unit, you'll understand how landscapes are formed, why they matter to people, and how we can manage them sustainably.

Feudal Frontiers: Medieval Europe & Japan under the Shogans (History)

Step into the fascinating worlds of Medieval Europe and Japan under the Shoguns. Students explore the historical significance of these two powerful societies, delving into the causes and effects of key events, developments, and turning points. They investigate the lives and impacts of significant individuals, groups, and institutions that shaped Medieval Europe and Shogunate Japan. Through engaging historical inquiry, students develop critical questions about the past and learn to analyse sources to support their understanding.

YEAR 8

Market Dynamics and Smart Spending

(Economics & Business)

In this unit, you'll discover how people and companies make decisions - like what to buy, how to save, and where to spend. You'll learn how taxes help pay for things we all use, such as schools and hospitals, and how they influence the choices we make with money. We'll also build your skills in setting goals and creating budgets, so you can make smart decisions in real-life situations—whether you're saving for something special or planning a school event. By the end of the unit, you'll understand how money works in the real world and feel confident making choices that are good for you and your community.

YEAR 8

Languages - French

C'est la fête

Welcome to the celebration! In this unit, you'll learn how to chat in French with more confidence - like asking what day it is, talking about dates, and making plans with friends. We'll dive into the fun and colourful festivals that happen all year round in France. From music performances to national holidays, you'll discover what makes each celebration special and how people enjoy them. By the end of the unit, you'll be able to use numbers and dates in conversations, talk about events and make plans in French, and explore French culture through its amazing festivals and celebrations.

En classe, on travaille

Step into the shoes of a student in France and explore what school life is like. In this unit, you'll learn how to talk about your school day in French, including what subjects you study, your timetable, and how to share your achievements. You'll practise asking and answering questions, following classroom instructions, and keeping track of time in French! Plus, you'll discover how the French school system works, including its traditions, calendars, and daily routines. By the end of the unit, you'll be able to talk about your school subjects and timetable, share your accomplishments and classroom experiences, and understand how schools in France are similar (and different!) to yours.

Bon appétit !

Ready to take your taste buds on a trip to France, all without leaving the classroom? In this unit, we'll explore the delicious world of French food and culture. You'll learn how to order yummy treats in French, talk about your favourite foods, and use polite phrases to accept or decline offers. We'll also discover famous French dishes (hello, croissants and crêpes!), fun food customs, and food festivals celebrated across France and the French-speaking world. By the end, you'll be able to chat like a local and even raise a toast in French - santé !

Mes journées sont bien remplies

In this unit, you'll learn how to talk about your daily routine, make plans with friends, and share your favourite activities - all in French. We'll dive into the fun side of French life, discovering popular hobbies and how people spend their free time. You'll practise how to arrange meetups and talk about your schedule, describe your daily routine, say what you like (and don't like!) doing, and ask and answer questions confidently. You'll also get a sneak peek into the French lifestyle - how their school days run, what they do for fun, and how it compares to life in Australia.

YEAR 8

Health and Physical Education

Unlike other learning areas, Health and Physical Education is taught in trimesters.

Beyond Limit – maximising Outcomes & Performance

Ready to push your limits? This unit dives into the science and strategy behind movement and fitness. Students will explore how to improve physical performance through targeted training, goal setting, and self-assessment. They'll participate in fitness testing, design personal fitness plans, and learn how movement impacts overall wellbeing. Whether you're aiming to get fitter, faster, or stronger, this unit gives you the tools to succeed and feel great doing it!

Power of Peers

Friends can be a powerful influence—and this unit helps students harness that power for good! Students will explore how peer relationships shape decisions, behaviours, and wellbeing. They'll learn how to communicate assertively, seek help, and promote positive risk-taking. By analysing media and social norms, students will design strategies to encourage healthy choices in their community. This unit builds leadership, empathy, and advocacy skills that make a real difference.

Movin' & Groovin'

Let creativity take the lead! In this expressive unit, students combine movement and rhythm to create unique routines that blend dance and sport. They'll explore coordination, timing, and teamwork through activities like basketball-inspired choreography and performance arts. It's a celebration of movement, music, and imagination—perfect for students who love to express themselves and try something new. Get ready to groove, collaborate, and shine on stage!

YEAR 8

The Arts

Visual Art - "Artistic Processes"

Students learn about following a process as a series of instructions, the importance of planning and developing artworks, safe use of tools and materials, and the use of digital technology in Visual Art. Through a range of 2D and 3D activities, students will acquire the skills required to participate safely in a range of Visual Arts projects. They will also gain knowledge and skills in design and art-making processes through research, selection, planning, and executing a bas-relief sculpture. Students will explore different techniques, technologies, and processes in artmaking, as well as the elements and principles of art and design.

Music - "Music in Culture"

Come and explore music through a diverse investigation through different cultures and their contexts to today, including First Nations Australian music, emphasizing respect for Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property rights. They will develop creative and critical skills in listening, vocal and instrumental performance, and composition by interpreting and manipulating music elements such as pitch, rhythm, and texture. This includes composing in various genres, using aural skills and digital tools, and critically evaluating their own and others' music. Students will also present their performances to targeted audiences, integrating knowledge from their analyses and compositions into public showcases.

Drama - "Mastering Realism and Scriptwriting"

In this unit, students deepen their drama skills through Realism, focusing on character development and narrative impact. They will perform group scenes, experiment with Realism's conventions, and engage in scriptwriting by adding scenes to a published play. The unit enhances their use of voice and movement to maintain characters, and refines dramatic elements like focus, tension, and space to improve performances. Students will also incorporate language and dramatic symbols to amplify action and mood, shaping their work for audiences using various dramatic forms. The exploration extends to drawing from diverse dramatic traditions to broaden their understanding and execution of drama.

YEAR 8

Technologies

Design Materials - "Mastering Woodworking Techniques"

In this unit, students will explore the core practices of the woodworking industry with an emphasis on the safe use of hand tools and machinery. The course begins with thorough safety training, focusing on personal protective equipment (PPE) and safe work methods. Following this essential safety foundation, students will progress to constructing a wooden carryall. This project provides a practical application of their skills, enabling them to demonstrate their understanding of the entire design process, from initial concept through to the final product. Key considerations such as sustainability, effective use of materials, and technological integration are emphasized. Through this hands-on experience, students will not only learn to create functional and aesthetically appealing wood products but also understand their impact on society and the environment.

Graphics - "Digital Designers"

Students will deepen their proficiency in computer-aided design (CAD) by evaluating and creating sophisticated designs. The curriculum is structured to enhance students' technical skills in generating, developing, testing, and communicating design ideas, employing appropriate graphical representation techniques and technical terminology. Project management processes will also be integrated, focusing on both individual and collaborative design solution production. Key activities include mastering fundamental and advanced functions in Inventor software, from basic drawing skills to complex assembly tasks involving race car components. Students will engage in practical applications that reinforce their understanding of design principles, project coordination, and the strategic use of digital tools in a professional setting.

Digital Technologies - "Digital Solutions Development"

Students will delve into the realm of digital technologies, focusing on implementing and modifying programs with user interfaces that involve branching, iteration, and functions in a general-purpose programming language. By the end of the academic year, students will be able to distinguish between various network types, explain data representation methods, and manage digital projects efficiently. The unit aims to equip students with the skills to plan and create interactive digital solutions, defining problems in terms of functional requirements and constraints. They will design user experiences, algorithms, and user interfaces, incorporating branching and iterations, and evaluate information systems for their effectiveness, innovation, and sustainability. Through a series of engaging lessons and practical activities, students will develop their problem-solving abilities, algorithm design skills, and critical thinking in digital solutions development.

YEAR 8

Technologies

Food Specialization - "Use It Up Feast Program"

In this unit, students will explore food waste, innovative solutions for waste reduction, kitchen science, and nutrition over a series of weeks. They will investigate the problem of food waste, research future thinkers in the field, and develop creative strategies to combat food waste and promote healthy eating. Practical activities, such as creating muffins using commonly wasted ingredients, will reinforce their learning and understanding of sustainable food practices. Through a combination of research, hands-on tasks, and critical analysis, students will engage with real-world issues and explore solutions for a more sustainable food future.

Food, Fibre, and Agriculture - "Sustainable Cultivation"

Students will explore sustainable food production methods, with a focus on cultivating their own wicking beds. They will delve into factors influencing sustainability in agriculture, learn about plant growth, and design graphical representations of their wicking bed plans. Through hands-on activities and research, students will identify solutions to local sustainability issues and craft informative brochures on sustainable gardening practices. The unit aims to develop students' project management skills, design thinking, and understanding of sustainable food production in a practical and engaging manner.