



STAWELL SECONDARY COLLEGE



YEARS 10 - 12 HANDBOOK

2027

PARTICIPATION • ASPIRATION • INCLUSION • RESILIENCE • RESPECT

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YEAR 10 PROGRAM

STUDENT INFORMATION

In Year 10, students study six subjects per semester, twelve per year.

Each student's learning plan must include

- English (two semesters)
- Mathematics (two semesters)
- Science (one semester)
- Health and Physical Education (one semester)
- Two elective subjects in semester 1
- Four elective subjects in semester 2

Year 10 students may be considered for a VCE subject depending on their learning pathway and the support and recommendation of their subject teachers. This is subject to availability of a place in the desired class. Any student considering a VCE subject will need to complete the VCE application form and submit the application to the Registrar.

Year 10 students may select a VET subject if offered at either Stawell or Ararat. Year 10 students are unable to study VET offerings at Horsham until Year 11.

WORK EXPERIENCE

The college aims to develop fully the talents and capacities of all students in the skills relating to employment and an understanding of the work environment, in order to maximise their choices for further work or study.

Students 15 years and older are encouraged to gain firsthand experience in the workplace, through the Department of Education & Training Work Experience program. These workplace experiences can assist a student with career research, subject selection and skill development.

Work experience in Year 10 involves students undertaking a week long placement that broadens their experience and understanding of the world of work and career opportunities in general. Students observe different aspects of work and may assist with tasks allocated by their supervisor.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The college provides students with the opportunity to participate in activities such as music, sport, debating and public speaking, leadership skills programs and international exchange programs. We encourage students to make the most of these opportunities to further develop their skills as part of their lifelong journey.

VCE PROGRAM

Studying the Victorian Certificate of Education is generally designed to be taken in Years 11 and 12. You can also apply to study a VCE subject in Year 10. In doing so this will give you an early understanding of the requirements of the VCE and will prepare you well for Year 11.

Year 10 Students wishing to study a VCE subject.

It is possible for Year 10 students to select a VCE unit as part of their Year 10 studies. There are advantages for students considering this option. By selecting a VCE Unit 1 & 2 in Year 10, students will be able to complete a VCE Unit 3 & 4 in Year 11. This will give them an extra unit in their VCE Year 12 studies and additional enhancement towards their ATAR score for selection into tertiary studies. Studying a VCE unit while in Year 10 assists students in developing their study habits and students are also exposed to the rigours of VCE. The selection of a VCE unit in their course will replace one of their year 10 elective options. If your child is wishing to take up this option they need to complete the "VCE/VET Subject Request at Year 10" form that is found at the back of this handbook.

YEAR 11 and 12

VCE and VCE Vocational Major

In Years 11 & 12 students are able to select either a VCE or VCE Vocational Major pathway. It is important that students make informed decisions about their pathway and it is strongly encouraged that students carefully read the information in this handbook and seek additional information from their subject teachers or home group teachers.

CONTACTS

VCE Coordinator - Ling Zhao

Vocational Major Coordinator -Helen Giles

Registrar / VET & Careers Coordinator - Cindy Bibby

Senior School Coordinator: Andrew Reynolds





VCE STUDIES

The Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE) is a two-year certificate, and is an outstanding qualification that is recognised around the world. The VCE provides pathways to further studies at University, Technical and Further Education (TAFE) and to the world of work. It is even possible to undertake a school-based apprenticeship or traineeship within your VCE.

THE VCE PROGRAM

A VCE program is the set of studies you will undertake to complete your VCE. A VCE study is made up of units. A Unit is half a year (one semester) in length. A VCE program will generally consist of 20 to 24 units taken over two years, with Units 1 and 2 usually taken in Year 11 and Units 3 and 4 in Year 12. If you are planning to undertake Unit 3 and 4 sequences in Year 11, remember that these are more difficult than Units 1 and 2. When making your choice you should consider studies that:

- interest you;
- you are good at;
- lead to employment that you find appealing;
- prepare you for further training or tertiary courses that you are considering;
- provide VET recognition, that is, a VCE VET program leading to a VET qualification within your VCE.

What must I include in my program?

Stawell Secondary College will provide advice to ensure that you are undertaking the right number of units and the right combination of units to graduate with your VCE. To obtain your VCE, you must satisfactorily complete at least 16 units, including at least 4 sequences of Units 3 & 4 including three units of English (Unit 1

and/ or 2, plus Units 3 and 4). The 16 units can include some VET units.

Out of Class Requirements

Undertaking any senior level of education requires a level of commitment. Students should have an understanding of the out of class requirements for each subject they wish to choose. A commitment of at least 15 hours per week of out of class work is the minimum expectation for the VCE program.

Assessment of VCE Units

Students are required to demonstrate a satisfactory level of understanding of the key concepts and skills within the units. In all units, the understanding is assessed through a combination of assignments, tests, presentations and examinations. For information about the key concepts within each unit, students should read the course information within this booklet and refer to the study guidelines provided by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA). Assessments are to be conducted under strict conditions and need to be adhered to by all staff and students. Absence at the time of an assessment will need to be followed up with a medical certificate or statutory declaration.

VCAA WEBSITE

For more detailed descriptions about course requirements, exam timetables and assessment, students should access the VCAA website (<http://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au>). Students are strongly encouraged to view this website regularly, read examiners' reports and access past exam papers.

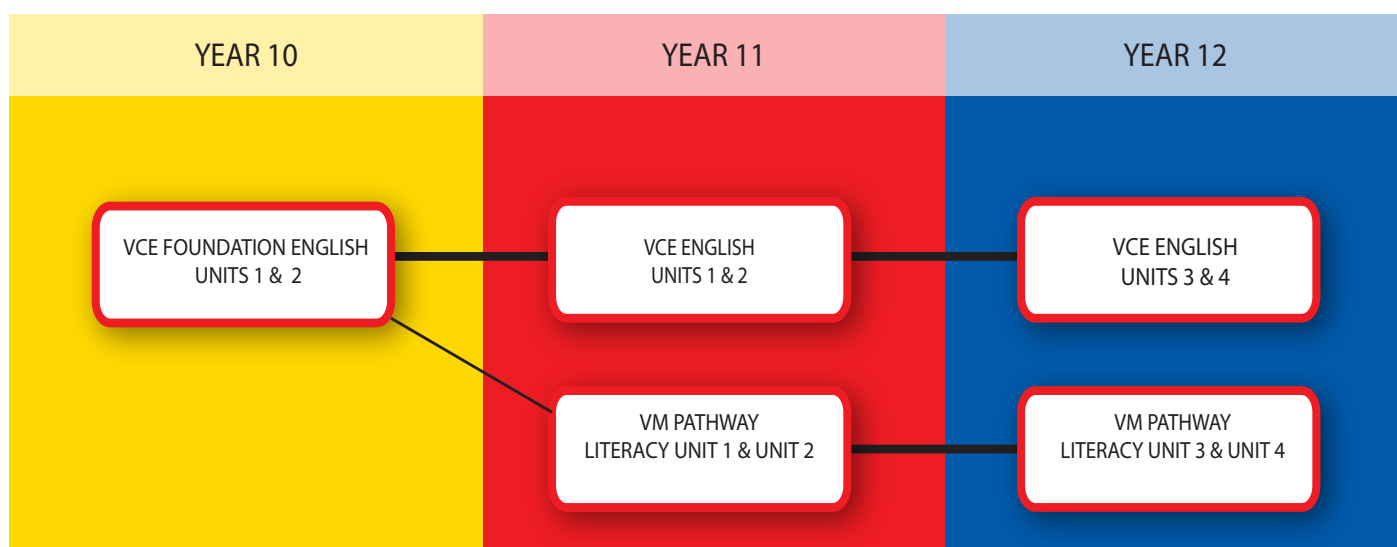
TERTIARY WEBSITE

For more detailed descriptions about tertiary courses please see <http://www.vtac.edu.au/>



SUBJECTS

ENGLISH



VCE English focuses on how the English language is used to create meaning in written, spoken and multimodal texts of varying complexity. The literary texts selected for study are varied, incorporating Australian historical and contemporary novels and films. VCE English contributes to the development of individuals capable of critical and creative thinking, being able to analyse arguments, aesthetic appreciation and creativity, as well as developing the ability to create and analyse texts. Through engagement with texts, students studying English become confident, articulate and critically aware communicators and further develop a sense of themselves, their world and their place within it.

YEAR 10

FOUNDATION ENGLISH VCE Units 1 & 2

The VCE Foundation English course at Year 10 is designed to develop and extend students' language competencies in reading, writing, speaking and listening. At this level, students begin to explore and respond to more complex ideas and issues through reading and viewing a wide range of texts. Topics covered include: English for practical purposes, thinking and learning through English, reading and viewing texts, creating texts and listening to and presenting persuasive texts.

In Foundation English, students study the effects that audience and purpose have on texts and start to apply this knowledge when constructing appropriate written and spoken texts of their own. The flexible design of Foundation English caters for a wide range of students including those with a more vocationally orientated approach to English who may be aiming to directly enter the workforce upon completing their senior secondary studies; those intending to undertake VCE – Vocational Major in Years 11 and 12, and those students who wish to strengthen and refine their literacy skills to support their study in VCE English or English as an Additional Language (EAL) in Years 11 and 12.

YEAR 11

Unit 1

Students read and respond to texts both analytically and creatively to increasingly sophisticated texts. They study elements of a text including: characters themes, vocabulary, text structure, language features and ideas. Students craft their own text around a main framework of ideas, referring to mentor texts as a guide. Students use these elements to respond both through analytical essay writing and personally responding to texts in a variety of writing forms. Discussing ideas and elements of texts is a major aspect of learning in Unit 1-4.

Unit 2

Students develop their reading, comprehension, analytical and persuasive skills. They explore and analyse language features and how authors have used these to create meaning in their texts, drawing on characters, society, history and culture. Students learn how arguments are developed and delivered in many forms of media: Audio, visual digital and print. Contemporary and substantial local or national issues are analysed and how they have particular effect on the intended audience. They learn how to analyse, craft and present their own persuasive texts.

YEAR 12

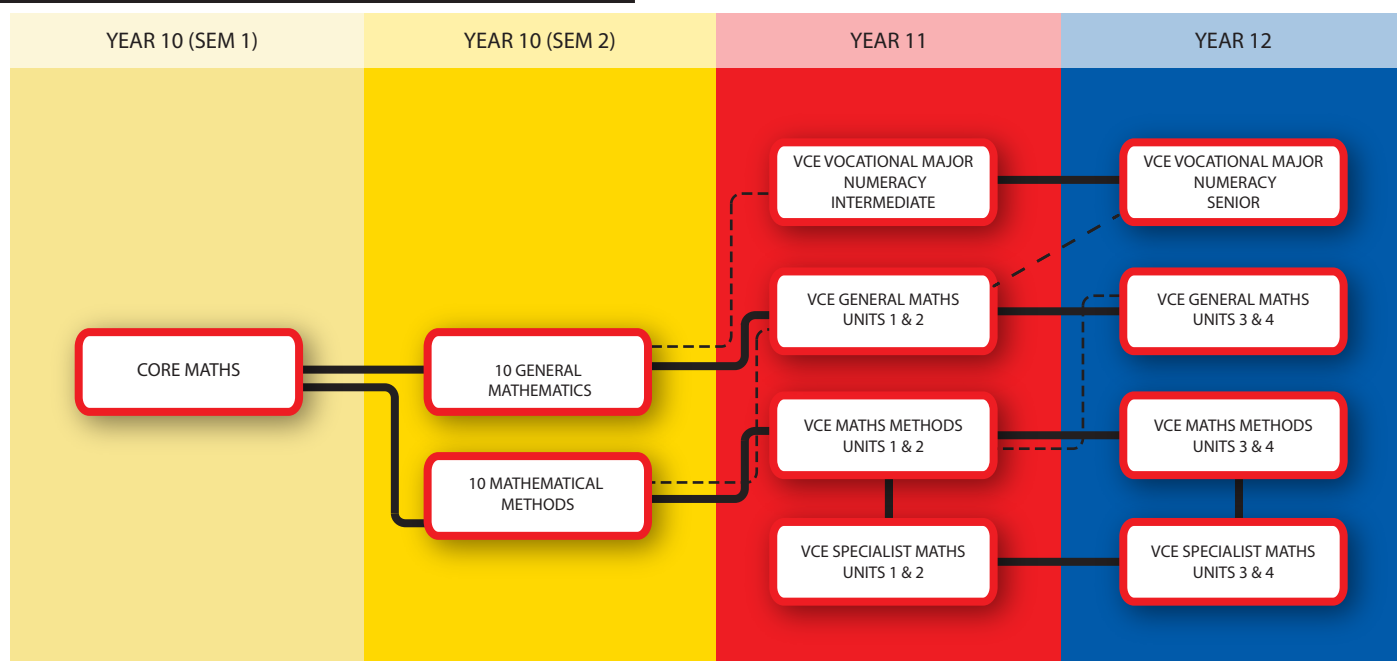
Unit 3

The Unit 3 focal point is reading and responding to a variety of texts using skills developed in previous years. Students read texts and analyse their ideas, concerns and values, understand vocabulary, structure and features. They study these aspects and respond analytically, then use a variety of texts and their elements to influence their analytical response. In creating texts students work with mentor texts, about the framework of ideas, to inspire their own creative processes and generate ideas for their own writing. They revise their own writing and make improvements.

Unit 4

In this unit, students further sharpen their explicit and implicit analysis of ideas, concerns and values presented in texts. They analyse the ways authors construct meaning in a text through ideas, concerns and conflicts. Through the analysis of a text, as well as the analysis of argumentative writing and a persuasive oral presentation, students consolidate their capacity to critically analyse texts and deepen their understanding of the ideas and values a text can convey.

MATHEMATICS



YEAR 10

Our Year 10 mathematics program takes into account the needs and aspirations of our students while providing access to practical and challenging mathematical learning. In Semester 2, students begin to focus on their future pathways and will choose one of 10 Mathematical Methods, General Maths or Numeracy to support their future senior studies.

Our units are designed to meet the requirements of the Victorian Curriculum at level 10 and cover the three strands :

- Number & Algebra
- Pythagoras Theorem
- Patterns & Algebra
- Trigonometry Statistics & Probability
- Linear Relationships Measurement & Geometry
- Chance
- Measurement

Semester 2

Students undertaking 10 Mathematical Methods are working towards developing skills at Victoria Curriculum Level 10A. Students will develop skills and understanding that will support the skills and concepts with Mathematical Methods & Specialist Mathematics in Year 11.

Areas covered include:

- Number & Algebra
- Pythagoras Theorem
- Chance
- Non linear relationships & their graphs
- Trigonometric Functions Statistics & Probability
- Patterns & Algebra, Measurement & Geometry

General Mathematics

Students undertaking General Mathematics are continuing developing their skills and working towards Level 10, in addition to building the foundations to undertake VCE General Mathematics

- Number & Algebra
- Data Representation & interpretation
- Linear Relationships & their graphs, Measurement & Geometry
- Using Units of Measurement, Statistics & Probability
- Financial Mathematics

It is strongly recommended that students purchase a Casio Classpad 400 for \$255.50, which can be retained and used in Year 11 & 12.

General Mathematics Units 1 & 2

provide for the study of non-calculus and discrete mathematics topics. They are designed to be widely accessible and provide preparation for general employment, business or further study, in particular where data analysis, recursion and financial modelling, networks and matrices are important. (VCAA 2021)

YEAR 11

General Mathematics Units 1 & 2: The areas of study for Unit 1 of General Mathematics are 'Data analysis, probability and statistics', 'Algebra, number and structure', 'Functions, relations and graphs' and 'Discrete mathematics'. The areas of study for Unit 2 of General Mathematics are 'Data analysis, probability and statistics', 'Discrete mathematics', 'Functions, relations and graphs' and 'Space and measurement'.

YEAR 12

General Mathematics Units 3 and 4 focus on real-life application of mathematics and consist of the areas of study 'Data analysis, probability and statistics' and 'Discrete mathematics'. Unit 3 comprises Data analysis and Recursion and financial modelling, and Unit 4 comprises Matrices and Networks and decision mathematics.

Mathematical Methods Units 1–4 provide for the study of simple elementary functions, transformations and combinations of these functions, algebra, calculus, probability and statistics, and their applications in a variety of practical and theoretical contexts. They also provide background for further study in, for example, science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), humanities, economics and medicine.

YEAR 11

Mathematical Methods Unit 1 is the study of simple algebraic functions, and the areas of study are 'Functions, relations and graphs', 'Algebra, number and structure', 'Calculus' and 'Data analysis, probability and statistics'. Unit 2 is the study of simple transcendental functions, the calculus of polynomial functions and related modelling applications. The areas of study are 'Functions, relations and graphs', 'Algebra, number and structure', 'Calculus' and 'Data analysis, probability and statistics'.

YEAR 12

Mathematical Methods Units 3 & 4 builds on the knowledge and skills from Units 1 & 2. Units 3 and 4 consist of the areas of study 'Functions, relations and Graphs', 'Calculus', 'Algebra, number and structure' and 'Data Analysis, Probability and Statistics'.

Students are expected to be able to effectively use the technology (CAS calculator) to support and aid their solution processes.

Specialist Mathematics Units 1–4 provide for the study of various mathematical structures, reasoning and proof. The areas of study in Units 3 and 4 extend content from Mathematical Methods Units 3 and 4 to include rational and other quotient functions as well as other advanced mathematics topics such as logic and proof, complex numbers, vectors, differential equations, kinematics, and statistical inference. They also provide background for advanced studies in mathematics and other STEM fields. Study of Specialist Mathematics Units 3 and 4 assumes concurrent study or previous completion of Mathematical Methods Units 3 and 4.

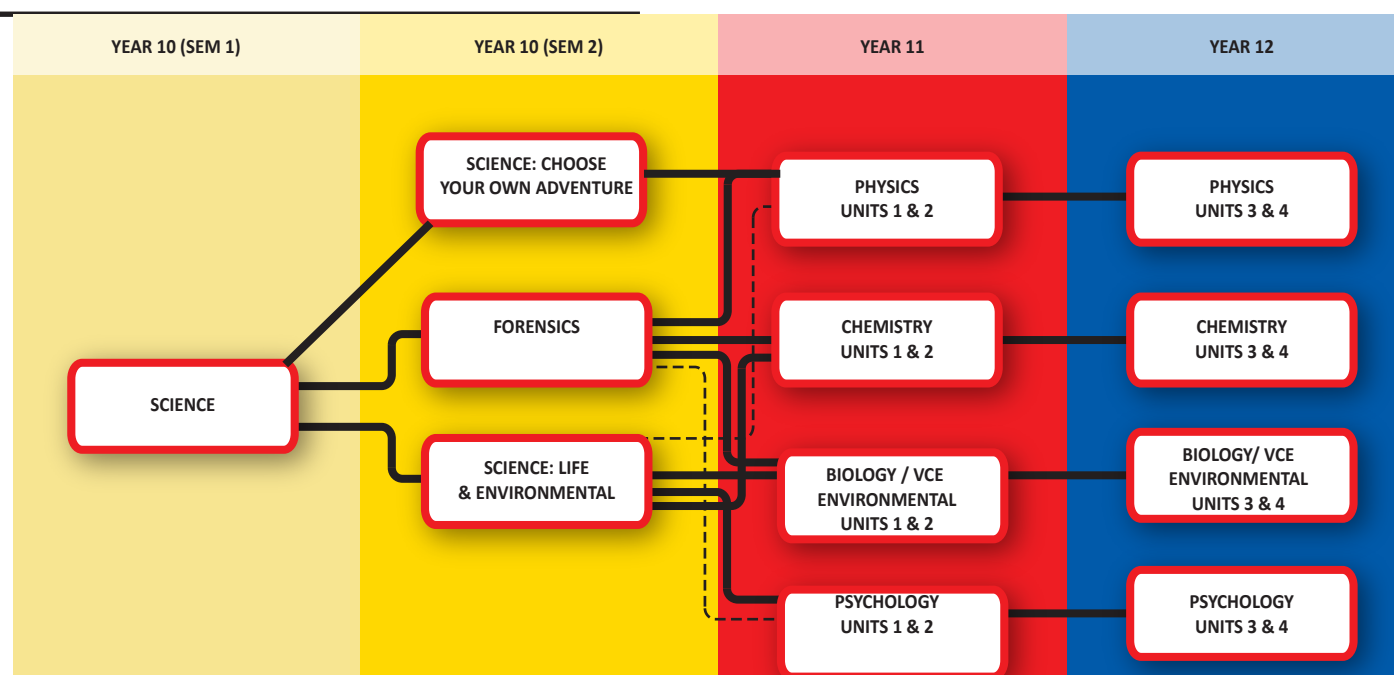
YEAR 11

Specialist Mathematics Units 1 & 2: The areas of study for Specialist Mathematics Units 1 and 2 are 'Algebra, number and structure', 'Data analysis, probability and statistics', 'Discrete mathematics', 'Functions, relations and graphs' and 'Space and measurement'.

YEAR 12

Specialist Mathematics Units 3 and 4 consist of the areas of study: 'Algebra, number and structure', 'Calculus', 'Data analysis, probability and statistics', 'Discrete mathematics', 'Functions, relations and graphs', and 'Space and measurement'.

SCIENCES



YEAR 10

Students in Year 10 General Science will focus on understanding key phenomenon that underpin our world. During the first semester, Year 10 students will also focus on refining their scientific skills that will help them prosper in their future studies.

The topics covered in Year 10 are:

- Global Systems
- The Universe
- Chemical Bonding
- Speed and Velocity

SCIENCE: LIFE & ENVIRONMENTAL

Are you passionate about animals and curious about the natural world? This subject takes you from the science of comparative anatomy and animal care to the health of the ecosystems animals depend on, including the biodiversity of our local Grampians region, wetland regeneration, and bushfire management. Investigate the threats facing wildlife, how habitats function, and how species adapt to a changing world. Whether you dream of veterinary care, conservation, or environmental advocacy, this subject gives you the knowledge and passion to protect animals and the planet they call home. The animals, and the environment, need champions like you!

Further Studies: this subject is the preferred pathway to VCE Biology and/or VCE Environmental Sciences. Students can still access VCE Chemistry, VCE Psychology & VCE Physics with Science: Life and Environmental, VET Agriculture

FORENSICS

Unlock the Science Behind the Crime!

If you've ever wondered how investigators crack the cases others can't, Forensics is the subject for you. From determining time of death to reading a crime scene, you'll explore the cutting-edge science that solves mysteries — analysing fibres, fingerprints, and blood spatter, delving into entomology, ballistics, blood typing, and the role of genetics in catching criminals. You'll get inside the mind of criminals through psychology, examine historical crimes, and work through real case studies. Forensics blends biology, chemistry, law, and psychology into one of the most compelling subjects you'll ever study. If you want to find the truth, the evidence starts here.

Further Studies: this subject is the preferred pathway to VCE Chemistry, VCE Physics, VCE Psychology and VCE Biology . Students can still access VCE Environmental Science with Forensics.

SCIENCE: CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

What if you could study the science you actually care about? Science Investigations gives you the freedom to choose your own topic and dive deep into it — your way. At its core, this subject is about how science really works: planning and designing experiments, analysing data, and understanding how scientific theory develops over time. Once you choose your direction, the theory comes to you.

Passionate about building and engineering? Explore insulation, electrical circuits, forces and loads, and the properties of materials that hold structures together. Fascinated by the ocean? Investigate marine habitats, food webs, animal lifecycles, ocean chemistry, and the threats facing sea life. The possibilities don't stop there — if you can ask a question and investigate it scientifically, it belongs in this subject.

This is science on your terms — curious, hands-on, and entirely your own. What will you investigate?

Further Studies: this subject is the preferred pathway to all the VCE Science subjects because it focuses on cross-study specifications which are in all sciences.

VCE ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

YEAR 11

Unit 1: How Earth's Systems Work Together

How does life on Earth stay in balance? In this unit, you'll explore how Earth's four systems, the atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere and lithosphere, interact and depend on each other. You'll look at how these interactions shape everyday conditions like plant growth, soil health, water quality and air quality, at local, regional and global scales.

You'll also dig into Earth's history, looking at how the planet has changed over geological time and in recent decades, and use this knowledge to help predict what might happen in the future. Along the way, you'll consider the many factors involved in managing environmental change, both natural and human caused, and develop a solutions focused approach to real world environmental challenges.

Unit 2: Feeding & Sustaining a Growing World

Can we feed the world without wrecking the planet? This unit tackles two of the biggest challenges facing humanity, pollution and food and water security. You'll examine how pollution affects air, soil, water and living things, and the flow-on effects for ecosystems, food yields and human health.

You'll investigate different types of pollutants, how they're measured and managed, and what makes a food and water system sustainable enough to meet the needs of current and future generations. This unit connects science to some of the most pressing systemic issues we face today, and gives you the tools to think about solutions.

YEAR 12

Unit 3: Protecting Biodiversity, Supporting Development

Why does biodiversity matter, and how do we protect it while still supporting human development? In this unit, you'll explore the value of the biosphere to all living things, including the ecosystem services that support human health and wellbeing. You'll investigate the processes that threaten biodiversity and evaluate real strategies used to protect a threatened Australian animal or plant species.

Using a case study, you'll apply sustainability principles and environmental management strategies from an Earth systems perspective, looking at how biodiversity is connected to the atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere and lithosphere.

Unit 4: Climate, Energy & the Environment

Why does Earth's climate vary, and what does that mean for people, wildlife and the planet? In this unit, you'll dig into the factors driving climate change at local, regional and global scales, and explore how it affects living things, communities and the environment around us.

You'll compare renewable and non-renewable energy sources, looking at where they come from, how reliable they are and how efficiently they work. Using this, you'll evaluate whether our current energy choices are sustainable, and what the consequences are if we get it wrong. You'll also examine what responsible environmental decision-making looks like, and how science helps guide the way we manage climate change and energy use.

Further Studies: VCE Environmental Science provides direct pathways to careers in atmospheric science, ecology, environmental chemistry and geosciences.



VCE Biology & Psychology rotate each year.
In 2027, Unit 1 & 2 Biology and Units 3 & 4 Psychology will be offered to students.

Students in Year 10 (2027) who are considering Biology as part of their pathway are strongly encouraged to select VCE Unit 1 & 2 Biology in 2027

Students in Year 11 (2027) can select Psychology Units 3 & 4 if this supports their chosen pathway



BIOLOGY

Biology seeks to understand and explore the nature of life, past and present. VCE Biology enables students to investigate the dynamic relationships between organisms, their interactions with the non-living environment, and the processes of life. From the molecular world of the cell to that of the whole organism, which maintains life and ensures its continuity.

YEAR 11

Unit 1: How do organisms regulate their functions?

In this unit students examine the cell as the structural and functional unit of life, including the requirements for sustaining cellular processes. Students focus on cell growth, replacement and death, and the role of stem cells. They explore how systems function through cell specialisation in vascular plants and animals, and consider the role homeostatic mechanisms play in maintaining an animal's internal environment.

Unit 2: How does inheritance impact on diversity?

In this unit students explore reproduction and the transmission of biological information from generation to generation and the impact this has on diversity. They explore the relationship between DNA, genes, chromosomes and how this can be influenced by the environment. Students explain the inheritance of characteristics and predict traits using genetic crosses. Other topics students explore include asexual and sexual reproduction, and cloning. Students explore adaptations, interdependences between species, focusing on how keystone species play an important role in an ecosystem. They also consider the contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge and perspectives in understanding the survival of organisms in Australian ecosystems.

Unit 3: How do cells maintain life?

In this unit students investigate the workings of the cell. They study the synthesis, structure and

YEAR 12

function of nucleic acids and proteins to gain an understanding of how genes are regulated. They will explore the chemistry of cells by examining the nature of biochemical pathways such as photosynthesis and cellular respiration. Students apply their knowledge of cellular processes through investigation of a selected case study, data analysis and/or a bioethical issue.

Unit 4: How does life change and respond to challenges?

In this unit students consider the continual change and challenges to which life on Earth has been, and continues to be subjected to. They study the human immune system and the interactions between its components to provide immunity to a specific pathogen. Students consider how the application of biological knowledge can be used to respond to bioethical issues and challenges related to disease. Students consider how evolutionary biology is based on the accumulation of evidence over time. They investigate the impact of various change events on a population's gene pool and the biological consequences of changes in allele frequencies. Students examine the evidence for relatedness between species and change in life forms over time using various forms of evidence. Students examine the evidence for structural trends in the human fossil record, recognising that interpretations can be contested, refined, or replaced when challenged by new evidence.

CHEMISTRY

VCE Chemistry enables students to explore the relationship between materials and energy through four themes: the design and composition of useful materials, the reactions and analysis of chemicals in water, the efficient production and use of energy and materials, and the investigation of carbon-based compounds as important components of body tissues and the materials used in society.

YEAR 11

Unit 1: How Can The Diversity Of Materials Be Explained?

In this unit students investigate the chemical structures and properties of a range of materials, including covalent compounds, metals, ionic compounds and polymers. They are introduced to ways that chemical quantities are measured. They consider how manufacturing innovations lead to more sustainable products being produced for society through the use of renewable raw materials and a transition from a linear economy towards a circular economy.

Unit 2: How do chemical reactions shape the natural world?

In this unit students analyse and compare different substances dissolved in water and the gases produced. They explore applications of acid-base and redox reactions in society.

Students conduct practical investigations involving the specific heat capacity of water, acid-base and redox reactions, solubility, molar volume of a gas, volumetric analysis, and the use of a calibration curve.

PATHWAYS: This subject leads on to VCE Chemistry Units 3 & 4. Chemistry is a preferred option for students who wish to continue studying at tertiary level in the fields of Medicine & Nursing, Science & Engineering, Agriculture and Environmental Sciences.

YEAR 12

Unit 3: How can design and innovation help to optimise chemical processes?

In this unit students investigate the chemical production of energy and materials. They explore how innovation, design and sustainability principles and concepts can be applied to produce energy and materials while minimising possible harmful effects of production on human health and the environment.

Unit 4: How are carbon-based compounds designed for purpose?

In this unit students investigate the structures and reactions of carbon-based organic compounds, including considering how green chemistry principles are applied in the production of synthetic organic compounds. They study the metabolism of food and the action of medicines in the body. They explore how laboratory analysis and various instrumentation techniques can be applied to analyse organic compounds in order to identify them and to ensure product purity.

A student practical investigation related to energy and/ or food is undertaken either in Unit 3 or Unit 4, or across both Units 3 and 4, and is assessed in Unit 4, Outcome 3.

PATHWAYS

VCE Chemistry Units 3 & 4 is a preferred option for students who wish to continue studying at tertiary level in the fields of Medicine & Nursing, Science

& Engineering, Agriculture and Environmental Sciences. While it is not necessarily a pre-requisite for admission into tertiary courses, completion of VCE Chemistry provides bonus points for entry into courses at some tertiary institutions. Please consult the VTAC Course Guide for more detailed information regarding selection criteria and the allocation of bonus points.

PHYSICS

VCE Physics provides students with opportunities to investigate questions related to selected areas within this subject including atomic physics, electricity, fields, mechanics, thermodynamics, quantum physics and waves. Students also have options for study related to astrobiology, astrophysics, bioelectricity, biomechanics, electronics, flight, medical physics, nuclear energy, nuclear physics, optics, sound and sports science.

YEAR 11

Unit 1: How is energy useful to society?

In this unit students examine some of the fundamental ideas and models used by physicists in an attempt to understand and explain energy. Models used to understand light, thermal energy, radioactivity, nuclear processes and electricity are explored. Students apply these physics ideas to contemporary societal issues: communication, climate change and global warming, medical treatment, electrical home safety and Australian energy needs.

Unit 2: How does physics help us to understand the world?

In this unit students explore the power of experiments in developing models and theories. They investigate a variety of phenomena by making their own observations and generating questions, which in turn lead to experiments.

YEAR 12

Unit 3: How do fields explain motion and electricity?

In this unit students explore the importance of energy in explaining and describing the physical world. Students consider the field model as a construct that has enabled an understanding of why objects move when they are not apparently in contact with other objects. They explore the interactions, effects and applications of gravitational, electric and magnetic fields. Students use Newton's laws to investigate motion and are introduced to Einstein's theories to explain the motion of fast objects. They consider how developing technologies can challenge existing explanations of the physical world, requiring a review of conceptual models and theories. Students design and undertake investigations involving at least two continuous independent variables.

Unit 4: How can two contradictory models explain both light and matter?

In this unit, students explore the use of wave and particle theories to model the properties of light and matter. They examine how the concept of the wave is used to explain the nature of light and explore its limitations in describing light behaviour. A wave model is also used to explain the behaviour of matter which enables students to consider the relationship between light and matter. Students learn to think beyond the concepts experienced in everyday life to study the physical world from a new perspective. Students design and undertake investigations involving at least two continuous independent variables.

A student-designed practical investigation related to waves, fields or motion is undertaken either in Unit 3 or Unit 4, or across both Units 3 and 4, and is assessed in Unit 4, Outcome 3.

PSYCHOLOGY

VCE Psychology is a multifaceted discipline that seeks to describe, explain, understand and predict human behaviour and mental processes, including how we think and feel. Psychology applies a biopsychosocial approach to the systematic study of mental processes and behaviour by allowing students to consider the interrelated nature of biological, psychological and social factors to better understand how individuals, groups, communities and societies think, feel and act. Students study both classical and contemporary research, models and theories to understand how knowledge in psychology has developed and how this knowledge continues to change in response to new evidence and discoveries in an effort to solve day-to-day problems and improve psychological wellbeing. An important feature of VCE Psychology is the opportunity for students to engage in a range of practical scientific investigation methodologies, to develop key science skills and to integrate the links between knowledge, theory and practice.

YEAR 11

Unit 1: How are behaviour and mental processes shaped?

In this unit students examine the complex nature of psychological development, the structure and function of the brain and how this controls behaviour. Students examine the contribution that classical and contemporary knowledge from Western and non-Western societies, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, has made to an understanding of psychological development and to the development of psychological models and theories used to predict and explain the development of thoughts, emotions and behaviours. Topics covered include: psychological development, hereditary vs environmental factors, normality, neurotypicality, support services for psychological development, structure of the brain and neurons, the role of the brain in mental processes and behaviour, brain plasticity, brain injury (ABI and CTE) and the contribution of contemporary research to the understanding of neurological disorders.

Unit 2: How do internal and external factors influence behaviour and mental processes?

In this unit students evaluate the role social cognition plays in a person's attitudes, perception of themselves and relationships with others. Students explore factors and contexts that can influence the behaviour of individuals and groups, recognising that different cultural groups have different experiences and values. Students are encouraged to consider Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's perspectives. Students examine human perception, why individuals and groups behave in specific ways, how perception of stimuli enables a person to interact with the world around them and how this can be distorted. Topics covered include: behaviour of individuals and groups, factors influencing behaviour (positive and negative), obedience, conformity, positive and negative influences of different media sources, human perception of internal and external stimuli (vision and taste), how perception is influenced by cultural norms and historical experiences, perceptual distortions and visual illusions.

YEAR 12

Unit 3: How does experience affect behaviour and mental processes?

In this unit students investigate the contribution that classical and contemporary research has made to the understanding of the functioning of the different branches of the nervous system, enabling a person to interact with the world around them by integrating, coordinating and responding to internal and external sensory stimuli. They consider biological, psychological and social factors that influence learning and memory including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' use of place as a repository of memory. Topics covered include: the nervous system, neurotransmitters, neuromodulators, synaptic plasticity, stress, the gut brain axis, strategies to reduce stress, models to explain learning and memory as well as the interconnectedness of brain regions involved in memory, classical and operant conditioning, observational learning, types of memory and mnemonics place in improving memory.

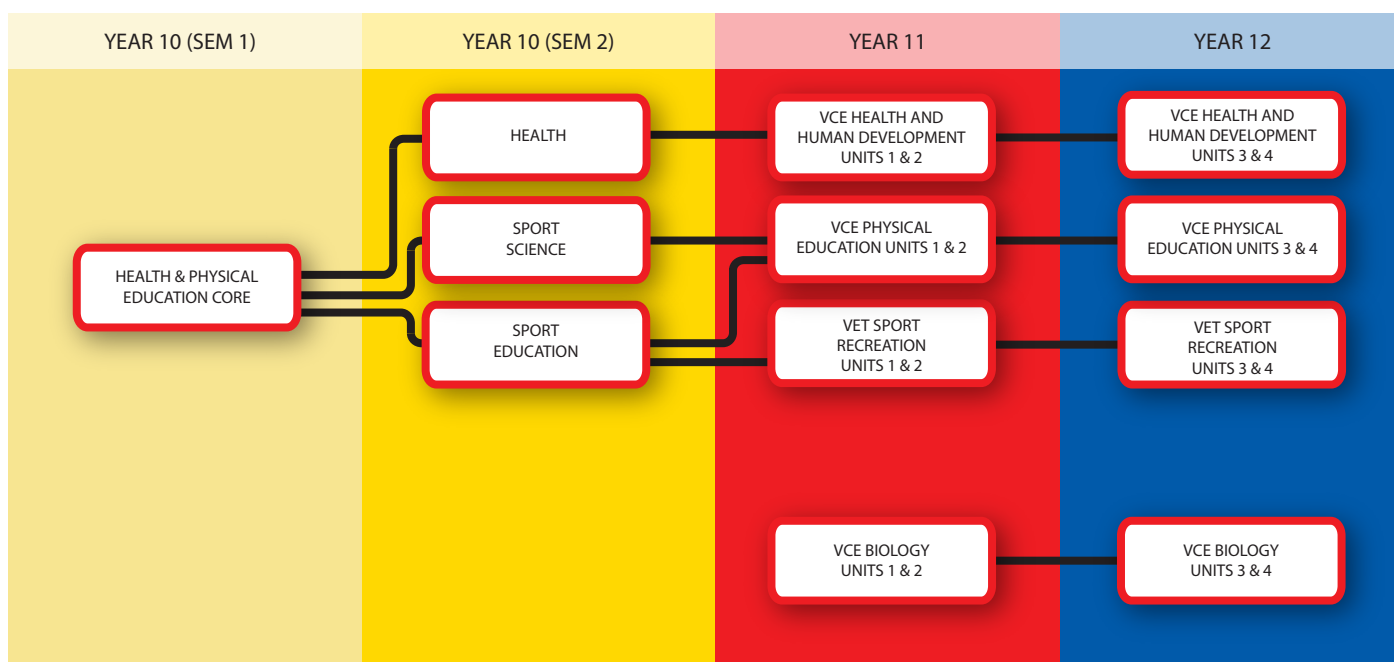
Unit 4: How is mental wellbeing supported and maintained?

In this unit students explore the demand for sleep

and the influences of sleep on mental wellbeing. They consider the biological mechanisms that regulate sleep. Students consider ways in which mental wellbeing may be defined and conceptualised, including social and emotional wellbeing as a continuum and also apply a biopsychosocial approach. They explore how mental wellbeing can be supported by considering the importance of biopsychosocial protective factors and cultural determinants as integral to the wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Topics covered include: sleep, types of sleep (REM and NREM), methods to measure sleep, demands for sleep across the lifespan, sleep deprivation, sleep hygiene, ways of considering mental wellbeing, including levels of functioning, internal and external factors affecting mental wellbeing, phobias and the application of a biopsychosocial approach to maintaining mental wellbeing.

A student practical investigation related to mental processes and psychological functioning is undertaken in either Unit 3 or Unit 4, or across both Units 3 and 4, and is assessed in Unit 4, Outcome 3.

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION (HAPE)



YEAR 10

In Year 10 Health and Physical Education students will engage in movement skills through participation in units such as European Ball sports and Football codes. These may include Touchball, European Handball, Golf, Racquet sports, and Bocce. Students will improve their fitness and gauge participation through the Sport Education preparation unit. They will analyse the impact of mental health issues in the community and explore a range of services which promote mental health. They will develop an understanding of healthy nutrition and how to select healthy food options.

FURTHER STUDIES:

Year 10 Sport Education (Sem 2), Year 10 Sports Science (Sem 2), Year 10 Health (Sem 2)

YEAR 10 - SEMESTER 2

SPORT EDUCATION

Given responsibility for conducting aspects of a sporting competition in which they will share roles and display appropriate sporting behavior. Students will coach primary aged students in a selected sport. Studies will include issues in community involvement in sport and physical activity. Student will complete online umpiring and coaching courses from the AIS.

FURTHER STUDIES: VCE Physical Education, VCE Health and Human Development, VET Sport and Recreation.

HEALTH

This elective has a focus on introducing key concepts studied in VCE Health and Human Development. In this elective students will develop their understanding of Australia's current health status and wellbeing of a range of population groups within Australia. As part of this, students will investigate the major health issues facing Australia's youth and look at health promotion strategies that can be implemented to address these issues. Students will examine the role that the Australian healthcare system plays in improving overall health including Medicare, Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme and the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Students will gain a deeper understanding of risk taking behaviours leading to illicit drug use through a community based program.

FURTHER STUDIES: This course leads to VCE Health and Human Development.

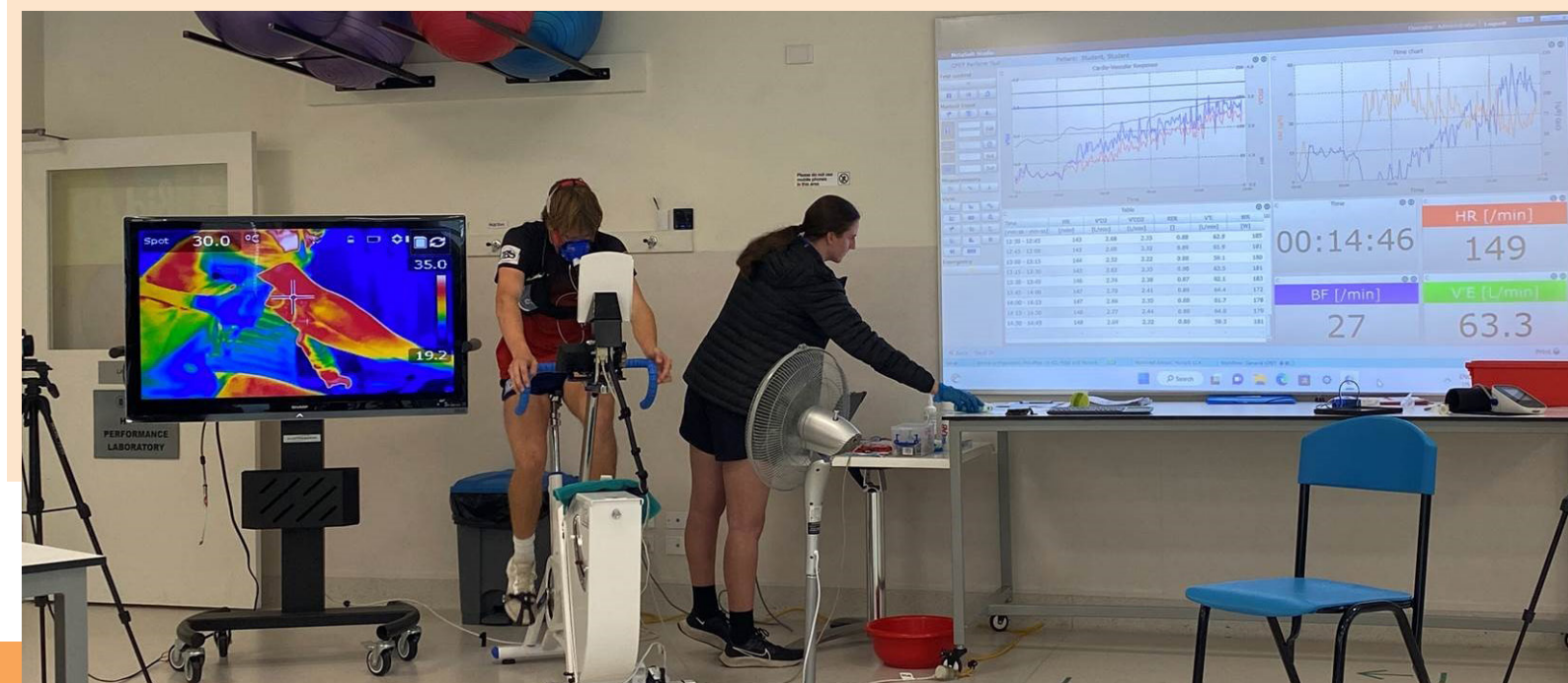


SPORTS SCIENCE

YEAR 10 - SEMESTER 2

In Sports Science, students examine the musculoskeletal system of the human body and how the muscles and bones work together to produce movement. Through practical activities, they explore the major components of the musculoskeletal system and their contributions and interactions during physical activity, sport and exercise. Students also examine the cardiovascular and respiratory systems of the human body and how the heart, blood vessels and lungs function at rest and during physical activity. Students will also examine the three energy systems and how they interact to provide the body with energy. Through involvement in a variety of practical activities, students investigate and analyse movements to develop an understanding of how the correct application of biomechanical principles leads to greater efficiency and accuracy in movement skills.

FURTHER STUDIES: This course leads to VCE Physical Education (Units 1-4), VET Sport and Recreation





HEALTH & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Health & Human Development and Physical Education rotate each year.

In 2027, Unit 1 & 2 Health and Human Development will be offered and Unit 3 & 4 Physical Education. Students in Year 10 (2027) who are considering Health as part of their pathway are strongly encouraged to select VCE Unit 1 & 2 Health and Human Development in 2027.

*Students in Year 11 (2027) students can select Units 3 & 4 Physical Education if this supports their chosen pathway.

YEAR 11

Unit 1: Understanding health & wellbeing

This unit looks at health and wellbeing as a concept and takes the view that health and wellbeing are subject to a wide range of contexts and interpretations, with different meanings for different people. The influence of age, culture, religion, gender and socioeconomic status on perceptions of and priorities relating to health and wellbeing will be considered, and measurable indicators of population health. With a focus on youth, students will investigate the major health inequalities among Australia's youth and the causes, as well as the role that government and organisations play in addressing these. Students will research the roles and sources of major nutrients and the use of food selection models and other tools to promote healthy eating. The consequences of dietary imbalance will be a major focus. They will also consider factors that influence food practices and look at health promotion strategies to address these.

Unit 2: Managing health & development

This unit investigates transitions in health and wellbeing, and development, from lifespan and societal perspectives. Students look at changes and expectations that are part of the progression from youth to adulthood. This unit promotes the application of health literacy skills through an examination of adulthood as a time of increasing independence and responsibility, involving the establishment of long-term relationships, possible considerations of parenthood and management of health-related milestones and changes. Students enquire into the Australian healthcare system and extend their capacity to access and analyse health information. They investigate the challenges and opportunities presented by digital media and health technologies, and consider issues surrounding the use of health data and access to quality health care.

ASSESSMENT FOR UNITS 1 AND 2:

Students are required to demonstrate achievement for three outcomes. As a set these outcomes encompass all areas of study.

Assessment tasks are:

- Case study analysis
- Data analysis
- Visual presentation
- Written response
- Oral presentation
- Tests
- End of unit written examinations

YEAR 12

Unit 3: Australia's health in a globalised world

This unit looks at health, wellbeing and illness as multidimensional, dynamic and subject to different interpretations and contexts. Students begin to explore health and wellbeing as a global concept. While the major focus is on the health of Australians, this area of study also emphasises that Australia's health is not isolated from the rest of the world.

Students look at various public health approaches and the interdependence of different models as they research health improvements and evaluate successful programs. While the emphasis is on the Australian health system, they will also examine the progression of public health in Australia since 1900, noting global changes and influences such as the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion.

Unit 4: Health and human development in a global context

This unit examines health and wellbeing, and human development in a global context. Students use data to investigate health status and burden of disease in different countries, exploring factors that contribute to health inequalities between and within countries, including the physical, social and economic conditions in which people live. They consider the health implications of increased globalisation and worldwide trends: climate change, digital technologies, world trade and the mass movement of people. Area of Study 2 focuses on global action to improve health, wellbeing and human development, focusing on the United Nations' (UN's) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the work of the World Health Organization (WHO). Students also investigate the role of non-government organisations and Australia's overseas aid program.

ASSESSMENT FOR UNITS 3 AND 4:

School-Assessed Coursework for the outcomes in Units 3 and 4 will each contribute 25% to the students study score. The end of year examination will contribute 50%. These assessments can include, but are not limited to:

- Case study analysis
- Data analysis
- Written responses

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Health & Human Development and Physical Education rotate each year.

In 2027, Unit 1 & 2 Health and Human Development will be offered and Unit 3 & 4 Physical Education. Students in Year 10 (2027) who are considering Health as part of their pathway are strongly encouraged to select VCE Unit 1 & 2 Health and Human Development in 2027.

***Students in Year 11 (2027) students can select Units 3 & 4 Physical Education if this supports thier chosen pathway.**

YEAR 11

Unit 1: Bodies in Motion

In this unit students explore how the musculoskeletal and cardiorespiratory systems work together to produce movement. Through practical activities students explore the relationships between the body systems and physical activity, sport and exercise, and how the systems adapt and adjust to the demands of the activity. Students investigate the role and function of the main structures in each system and how they respond to physical activity, sport and exercise. They explore how the capacity and functioning of each system acts as an enabler or barrier to movement and participation in physical activity. Students evaluate the social, cultural and environmental influences on movement. They consider the implications of the use of legal and illegal practices to improve the performance of the musculoskeletal and cardiorespiratory systems, evaluating perceived benefits and describing potential harms. They also recommend and implement strategies to minimise the risk of illness or injury to each system.

ASSESSMENT

- End of unit written examination
- Cardiorespiratory System Test
- Practical lab write ups.
- Musculoskeletal System Test

Unit 2: Physical Activity, Sport and Society

Students are introduced to types of physical activity, and the role participation in physical activity and sedentary behaviour plays in their own health and wellbeing as well as in other people's lives in different population groups. Through a series of practical activities, students experience and explore different types of physical activity promoted in their own and different population groups. They gain an appreciation of the level of physical activity required for health benefits. Students investigate how participation in physical activity varies across the lifespan. They explore a range of factors that influence and facilitate participation in regular physical activity. Students investigate individual and population-based consequences of physical inactivity and sedentary behaviour. They then create and participate in an activity plan that meets the physical activity and sedentary behaviour guidelines relevant to the particular population group being studied. Students apply various methods to assess physical activity and sedentary behaviour levels at the individual and population level, and analyse the data in relation to physical activity and sedentary behaviour guidelines. Students study and apply the social-ecological model and/or the Youth Physical Activity Promotion Model to critique a range of individual and settings-based strategies that are effective in promoting participation in some form of regular physical activity.

ASSESSMENT

- End of unit written examination
- Physical Activity Folio
- Contemporary Issue Oral Presentation

Unit 3: Movement skills and energy for physical activity

In this unit students examine the biomechanical and skill acquisition principles that can be applied when analysing and improving movement skills used in physical activity and sport. Through coaching and involvement in a variety of practical activities, students investigate and analyse movements to develop an understanding of how the correct application of biomechanical and skill acquisition principles leads to greater efficiency and accuracy in movement skills. Students explore the various systems and mechanisms associated with the production of energy required for human movement. They consider the cardiovascular, respiratory and muscular systems and the roles of each in supplying oxygen and energy to the working muscles. They examine the way in which energy for activity is produced by the three energy systems and the associated fuels used for activities of varying intensity and duration. Students also consider the many factors contributing to fatigue as well as recovery strategies used to return to pre-exercise conditions. Through practical activities, students explore the interplay of energy systems during physical activity.

Unit 4: Training to improve performance

In this area of study students focus on the information required to form the foundation of an effective training program. They use data from an activity analysis and determine the fitness requirements of a selected physical activity. They also use data collected from participating in a series of fitness tests to inform the design of the training program. Students determine the relevant factors that affect each of the fitness components, and conduct a series of fitness tests that demonstrate correct and ethical implementation of testing protocols and procedures. Students focus on the implementation and evaluation of training principles and methods from a practical and theoretical perspective. They consider the manner in which fitness can be improved through the application of appropriate training principles and methods. Students identify and consider components of an exercise training session, and monitor, record and adjust training. Students explain the chronic adaptations to the cardiovascular, respiratory and muscular systems.

ASSESSMENT FOR UNITS 3 AND 4:

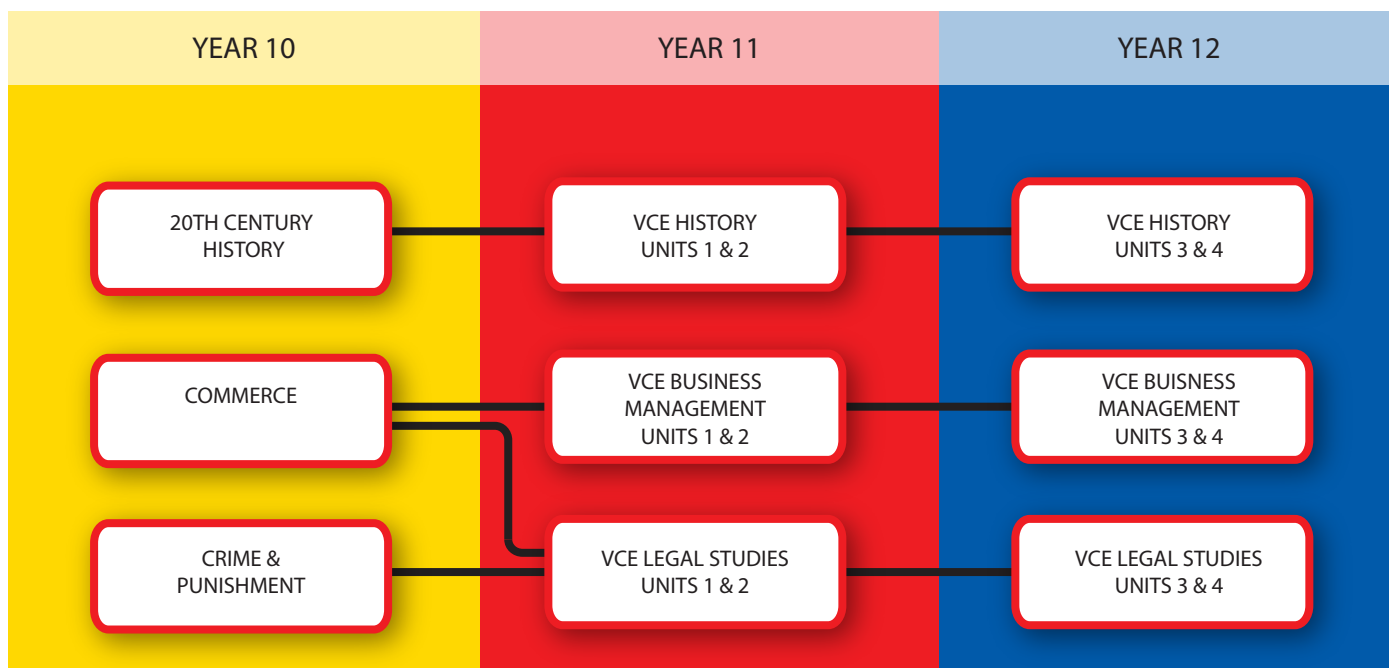
School assessed coursework (SAC) for the outcomes in Units 3 and 4 will each contribute 25% to the students study score. These assessments can include, but are not limited to:

- Structured Questions
- Laboratory Reports
- Written Reports
- Reflection Folios
- Data Analysis

The end-of-year examination will contribute the remaining 50% of marks allocated to Unit 3 & 4 VCE PE.



HUMANITIES



HISTORY - 20th CENTURY

YEAR 10

In History students will discover how politics, war and social unrest across the world impacts us even today. Students explore some of the most important events and developments of the 20th century both in Australia and around the world. Students will explore the causes, course and consequences of World War 2; they will investigate the development of human rights in Australia and the United States and examine how pop-culture has changed since the 1950s. The subject explores history with an eye to the present and the future, so students can make links and comparisons between events of the past and those happening today.

PATHWAYS:

This course prepares students for VCE History subjects and will help to develop a range of knowledge and skills that will support their entry into other VCE Humanities subjects.

COMMERCE

YEAR 10

In order to equip students with an understanding of the world of employment and business, two strands are offered within the topic of Commerce. At Year 10 level the course aims to introduce students to some of the main study areas.

This unit includes but is not limited to:

- Goal Setting •Job Search skills •Analysing the role of Government in regulating the economy.
- Examining the impact of policy and legislation on working conditions.
- Gain a Safe at Work OHS certificate •The Australian Legal System
- The Economic System Students will become familiar with concepts which they will explore further should they choose to continue study in VCE Business Management and/or Legal Studies.

ASSESSMENT:

Unit examination, topic tests, class exercises, assignments and an end of semester written examination.

PATHWAYS: This course provides a pathway into Year 11 VCE Business Management and Legal Studies

CRIME & PUNISHMENT

YEAR 10

In Crime and Punishment students will discover how crime and punishment has evolved over time in Australia and around the world. Using a range of contemporary case studies and historical events, this subject will cover how laws are made and how they change to reflect societal needs and values. Students will take part in a mock criminal investigation and trial, use forensic science techniques and criminal court procedures to develop an understanding of processes that are used from start to finish in a formal criminal investigation.

PATHWAYS:

This course prepares students for VCE Legal studies and will help to develop a range of knowledge and skills that will support their entry into other VCE Humanities subjects.





Legal Studies & Business Management rotate each year.

In 2027, Unit 1 & 2 Legal Studies and Units 3 & 4 Business Management will be offered to students.

Students in Year 10 (2027) who are considering Legal Studies as part of their pathway are strongly encouraged to select VCE Unit 1 & 2 Legal Studies in 2027

Students in Year 11 (2027) can select Business Management 3 & 4 if this supports their chosen pathway

LEGAL STUDIES

YEAR 11

Unit 1: The presumption of innocence

Laws, including criminal law, aim to achieve social cohesion and protect the rights of individuals. Criminal law is aimed at maintaining social order. When a criminal law is broken, a crime is committed which is punishable and can result in criminal charges and sanctions.

In this unit, students develop an understanding of legal foundations, such as the different types and sources of law, the characteristics of an effective law, and an overview of parliament and the courts. Students are introduced to and apply the principles of justice. They investigate key concepts of criminal law and apply these to actual and/or hypothetical scenarios to determine whether an accused may be found guilty of a crime. In doing this, students develop an appreciation of the manner in which legal principles and information are used in making reasoned judgments and conclusions about the culpability of an accused. Students also develop an appreciation of how a criminal case is determined, and the types and purposes of sanctions. Students apply their understanding of how criminal cases are resolved and the effectiveness of sanctions through consideration of recent criminal cases from the past four years.

Unit 2: Wrongs and rights

Civil law aims to protect the rights of individuals. When rights are infringed, a dispute may arise requiring resolution, and remedies may be awarded. In this unit, students investigate key concepts of civil law and apply these to actual and/or hypothetical scenarios to determine whether a party is liable in a civil dispute. Students explore different areas of civil law, and the methods and institutions that may be used to resolve a civil dispute and provide remedies. They apply knowledge through an investigation of civil cases from the past four years. Students also develop an understanding of how human rights are protected in Australia and possible reforms to the protection of rights, and investigate a contemporary human rights issue in Australia, with a specific focus on one case study.

YEAR 12

Unit 3: Rights and Justice

The Victorian justice system, which includes the criminal and civil justice systems, aims to protect the rights of individuals and uphold the principles of justice: fairness, equality and access. In this unit, students examine the methods and institutions in the criminal and civil justice system, and consider their appropriateness in determining criminal cases and resolving civil disputes. Students consider the Magistrates' Court, County Court and Supreme Court within the Victorian court hierarchy, as well as other means and institutions used to determine and resolve cases.

Students explore topics such as the rights available to an accused and to victims in the criminal justice system, the roles of the judge, jury, legal practitioners and the parties, and the ability of sanctions and remedies to achieve their purposes. Students investigate the extent to which the principles of justice are upheld in the justice system. Throughout this unit, students apply legal reasoning and information to actual and/or hypothetical scenarios.

Unit 4: The People, the Law and the reform

The study of Australia's laws and legal system includes an understanding of institutions that make and reform our laws. In this unit, students explore how the Australian Constitution establishes the law-making powers of the Commonwealth and state parliaments, and how it protects the Australian people through structures that act as a check on parliament in law-making. Students develop an understanding of the significance of the High Court in protecting and interpreting the Australian Constitution. They investigate parliament and the courts, and the relationship between the two in law-making, and consider the roles of the individual, the media and law reform bodies in influencing changes to the law, and past and future constitutional reform. Throughout this unit, students apply legal reasoning and information to actual and/or hypothetical scenarios.



BUSINESS MANAGEMENT

In studying Business Management, students develop knowledge and skills that enhance their confidence and ability to participate effectively in the workplace.

YEAR 11

Unit 1: Planning a Business

Businesses of all sizes are major contributors to the economic and social wellbeing of a nation. Therefore how businesses are formed and the fostering of conditions under which new business ideas can emerge are vital for a nation's wellbeing. Taking a business idea and planning how to make it a reality are the cornerstones of economic and social development. In this unit students explore the factors affecting business ideas and the internal and external environments within which businesses operate, and the effect of these on planning a business.

Unit 2: Establishing a Business

This unit focuses on the establishment phase of a business's life. Establishing a business involves complying with legal requirements as well as making decisions about how best to establish a system of financial record keeping, staff the business and establish a customer base. In this unit students examine the legal requirements that must be satisfied to establish a business. They investigate the essential features of effective marketing and consider the best way to meet the needs of the business in terms of staffing and financial record keeping. Students analyse various management practices in this area by applying this knowledge to contemporary business case studies from the past four years.

YEAR 12

In Business Management, students develop knowledge and skills that enhance their confidence and ability to participate effectively in the workplace.

Unit 3: Managing a business

In this unit students explore the key processes and issues concerned with managing a business efficiently and effectively to achieve the business objectives. Students examine the different types of businesses and their respective objectives. They consider corporate culture, management styles, management skills and the relationship between each of these. Students investigate strategies to manage both staff and business operations to meet objectives. Students develop an understanding of the complexity and challenge of managing businesses and through the use of contemporary business case studies from the past four years have the opportunity to compare theoretical perspectives with current practice

Unit 4: Transforming a business

Businesses are under constant pressure to adapt and change to meet their objectives. In this unit students consider the importance of reviewing key performance indicators to determine current performance and the strategic management necessary to position a business for the future. Students study a theoretical model to undertake change, and consider a variety of strategies to manage change in the most efficient and effective way to improve business performance. They investigate the importance of leadership in change management. Using a contemporary business case study from the past four years, students evaluate business practice against theory.



CHINESE

YEAR 10

Chinese language is the most widely spoken language in the world. Chinese has become one of the most useful languages for future employment in Australia and around the world.

Students will participate in a variety of Chinese excursions and camps, a Chinese language competition (state, national and global levels), cultural days and a Pen Pal program with our sister school students. In 2024, 30 students gained valuable experience through our three-week program in China. In September 2025, 26 students are committed to participating in a two-week program. **In 2026, students will once again have the opportunity to immerse themselves in Chinese language and culture in China.**

Stawell Secondary College will offer VET Certificate II in 2025 for Year 10 Chinese language students. This VET Certificate is a qualification in the study of a language that is recognized across Australia. Through this course, students will learn to interact with a range of people in various contexts – both in social settings and in the workplace. Students who meet the criteria will be awarded the Certificate II at the end of Year 10, providing them with a nationally recognized qualification.

The Year 10 Chinese Program will also be aligned closely with the VCE Chinese Language and Culture subject, designed to integrate the content and language by delivering and assessing the learning tasks in listening, speaking, reading and writing if students wish to study VCE Chinese in Year 11 and Year 12.

The year 10 Chinese program focuses on the everyday application of language skills. Students will have the opportunity to simulate real-life contexts and are encouraged to make connections between their language classes and the outside world. They will learn how to communicate with friends, community members, colleagues, clients, and employers in a variety of settings, both in Australia and in countries where the language is spoken. This opens up possibilities for careers after school, both here in Australia across various industries, as well as for overseas exchange programs or work-related travel. Demonstrating such an achievement on a CV at a young age shows employers that a young person is capable of learning a second language and has the persistence and motivation to reach a certain level of fluency, regardless of whether a specific language is required for a job.

Pathways: Year 10 Chinese must be selected for both semesters. This course leads to two pathways in Years 11 and 12.

1. VCE Chinese Language, Culture and Society

The study of VCE Chinese is scaled up significantly for the ATAR score, boosting admission chances into university. In 2021, Melissa Sanders achieved a study score of 49 (out of 50) in Chinese, and was awarded a Premier's Award for her outstanding VCE result in the subject Chinese Language, Culture and Society. Since Stawell Secondary College started to offer this course, our VCE Chinese Language, Culture and Society mean study score has been above the state mean.

2. VET Certificate III in Applied Language

After achieving Certificate II in Applied Language at the end of Year 10, students are offered the opportunity to continue their vocational language study into Year 11 and Year 12, where they can complete Certificate III in Applied Language. This course can also contribute a 10% increment towards a student's ATAR score.

Both pathways also provide an opportunity for students to apply for scholarships to study in China. On a number of occasions in previous years, Stawell Secondary College Chinese language students have been successfully awarded Chinese government scholarships to study language courses in China.

YEAR 11 & 12

Students have the opportunity to choose one of the options:

1. VCE Chinese Language, Culture and Society

Chinese language is the most widely spoken language in the world. Chinese has become one of the most useful languages for future employment in Australia and around the world. **This course aims to integrate the content and language together, with some of the content material being delivered and assessed in English, which will be a huge advantage for our non-Chinese background students.**

The study of Chinese Language, Culture and Society is designed to enable students to:

- Use Chinese to communicate with others
- Understand and appreciate the cultural contexts in which Chinese is used
- Recognise the role of language and culture in effective communication and the important cultural and linguistic heritage of Chinese-speaking peoples
- Understand their own culture(s) through the study of other cultures
- Gain awareness of different attitudes and values within the wider Australian community and beyond
- Apply their understanding of Chinese language, culture and society to work, further study, training and leisure

Each unit deals with specific content contained within the areas of study and is designed to enable students to achieve a set of outcomes for that unit. There are separate prescribed topics in each unit of this study which are organized under two strands:

- Chinese Language (approximately 65-70%)
- Culture and Society in Chinese-speaking communities – **this is conducted in English (approximately 30-35%)**

The cultural component has been a significant benefit to students who have no Chinese background, as it not only provides students with more in-depth cultural awareness but also reduces the difficulty of the Chinese language level.

ASSESSMENT FOR UNITS 1 & 2: Students will be required to demonstrate a satisfactory level of understanding of the learning outcomes. This will be achieved through school-based assessment tasks such as:

- Speaking in Chinese
- Listening and responding in Chinese
- Reading & responding in Chinese
- Writing in Chinese
- Written response in English

ASSESSMENT FOR UNITS 3 & 4:

- Unit 3 School-assessed Coursework: 25 per cent
- Unit 4 School-assessed Coursework: 25 per cent
- End-of-year examinations: -oral examination 15 per cent
-written examination 35 per cent

Pathways: VCE Chinese is scaled up significantly for the ATAR score, boosting admission chances into tertiary studies at university in Australia. In 2021, Melissa Sanders achieved a study score of 49 (out of 50) in Chinese and was awarded a Premier's Award for her outstanding VCE result in the subject Chinese Language, Culture and Society. Since Stawell Secondary College started offering this course, our VCE (Chinese Language, Culture and Society) mean study score has been above the state mean.

2. **In 2025, Students who have enrolled in VET II in Applied Language in 2024 will be offered the opportunity to continue VET III in Applied Language study.**

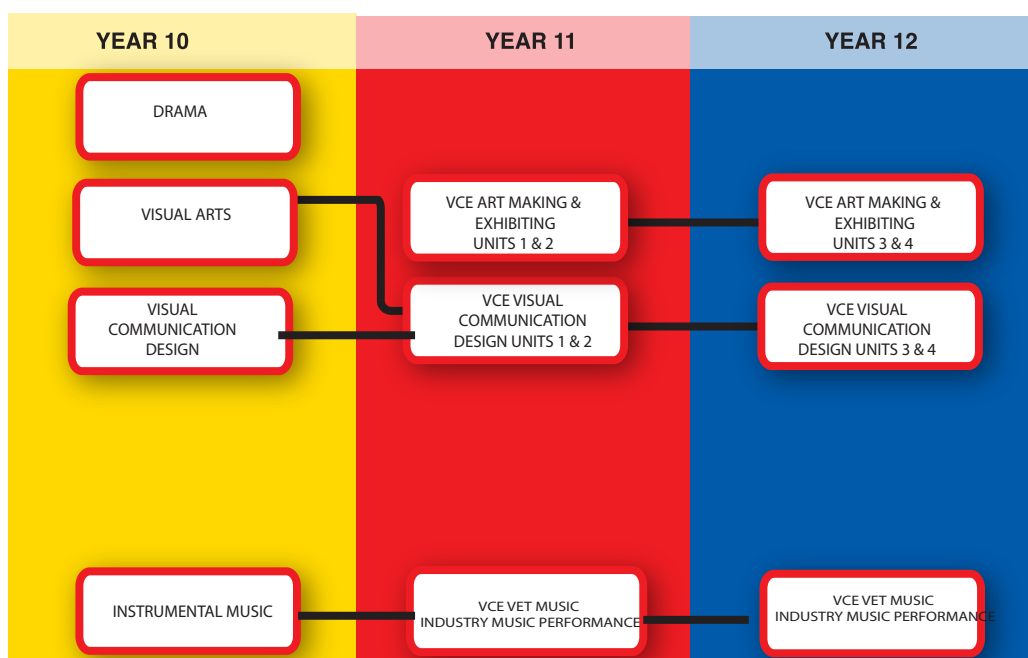
This course focuses on the everyday application of language skills. Students will have the opportunity to simulate real-life contexts and are encouraged to make connections between their language classes and the outside world. They will learn how to communicate with friends, community members, colleagues, clients, and employers in a variety of settings, both in Australia and in countries where the language is spoken. This opens up possibilities for careers after school, both here in Australia across various industries, as well as for overseas exchange programs or work-related travel. Demonstrating such an achievement on a CV at a young age shows employers that a young person is capable of learning a second language and has the persistence and motivation to reach a certain level of fluency, regardless of whether a specific language is required for a job.

Pathways: If students successfully complete Certificate III in Applied Language, they will be offered a 10% increment of the lowest (the fourth or fifth subject) of their VCE study scores, which will be added to a student's ATAR score.

Both pathways (VCE Chinese Language, Culture and Society) and VET in Applied Language provide opportunities for students to apply for scholarships to study in China. On a number of occasions in previous years, Stawell Secondary College Chinese language students have been successfully awarded Chinese government scholarships to study language courses in China. In addition to tertiary options, having a second language is also beneficial for a large variety of career avenues in fields such as Medicine, Engineering, Hospitality, Business, Tourism and many more.



THE ARTS



YEAR 10

VISUAL ARTS

Students shall explore various materials and techniques, building skills and knowledge to develop artworks in conjunction with the continued development of art through history and into the 21st century. Students will focus on developing understanding of skills and materials and the communication of ideas to an audience. Guided by an overarching theme students shall explore various genres deepening their understanding and appreciation of Visual Arts.

PATHWAYS: Leads to VCE Art Making & Exhibiting and VCE Visual Communication Design.

ART MAKING & EXHIBITING

YEAR 11

Unit 1: Explore, expand and investigate

In this unit students explore materials, techniques and processes in a range of art forms. They expand their knowledge and understanding of the characteristics, properties and application of materials used in art making. They explore selected materials to understand how they relate to specific art forms and how they can be used in the making of artworks. Students also explore the historical development of specific art forms and investigate how the characteristics, properties and use of materials and techniques have changed over time. Throughout their investigation students become aware of and understand the safe handling of materials they use.

Unit 2: Understand, develop and resolve

In Unit 2 students continue to research how artworks are made by investigating how artists use aesthetic qualities to represent ideas in artworks. They broaden their investigation to understand how artworks are displayed to audiences, and how ideas are represented to communicate meaning. Students respond to a set theme and progressively develop their own ideas. Students learn how to develop their ideas using materials, techniques and processes, and art elements and art principles. They consolidate these ideas to plan and make finished artworks, reflecting on their knowledge and understanding of the aesthetic qualities of artworks. The planning and development of at least one finished artwork are documented in their Visual Arts journal.

YEAR 12

Unit 3: Collect, extend and connect

In this unit students are actively engaged in art making using materials, techniques and processes. They explore contexts, subject matter and ideas to develop artworks in imaginative and creative ways. They also investigate how artists use visual language to represent ideas and meaning in artworks. The materials, techniques and processes of the art form the students work with are fundamental to the artworks they make. Students will visit an exhibition in either a gallery, museum, other exhibition space or site-specific space. They must visit or view a minimum of two exhibitions during the current year of study.

Unit 4: Consolidate, present and conserve

In Unit 4 students make connections to the artworks they have made in Unit 3, consolidating and extending their ideas and art making to further refine and resolve artworks in -specific art forms. The progressive resolution of these artworks is documented in the student's Visual Arts journal, demonstrating their developing technical skills in a specific art form as well as their refinement and resolution of subject matter, ideas, visual language, aesthetic qualities and style. Students also reflect on their selected finished artworks and evaluate the materials, techniques and processes used to make them.

VISUAL COMMUNICATION DESIGN

YEAR 10

Year 10 Visual Communication Design focuses on three different areas of design: Communication Design, Environmental Design and Industrial Design. Students will receive design briefs for all three design fields, covering skills required of any accomplished designer in any one of these fields. Students will learn how to use the design process to explore and document their design decisions, as well as use design thinking skills that will build on student's creativity and ability to develop interesting and well-presented design solutions for the given brief. They will use design elements and Principles to create designs on paper and in a digital context, using industry standard computer programs. Students will explore conventions used by graphic designers and research relevant issues to the design industry. Students may then choose to expand on all of these skills by choosing Three Dimensional Design in semester 2.

PATHWAYS: VCE Visual Communication Design

YEAR 11

Unit 1: Introduction to Visual Communication Design

Students are introduced to the use of the design process as a whole. The areas of study include: Drawing as a Means of Communication, Design Elements and Principles, and Visual Communication Design in Context. Students will learn about the design movements in history such as Bauhaus and Art Deco, which changed the way we design in a contemporary context. Students will then be able to appropriate these design styles into their own designs.

Unit 2: Applications of Visual Communication Design within Design Fields

In Unit 2 of Visual Communication Design, students start to learn skills to really prepare them for Year 12. The outcomes for this unit include: Technical Drawing in Context, Type and Imagery and Applying the Design Process. This unit will focus on building on students ability to represent their own three dimensional designs according to the technical drawing specifications for these design fields. The outcome "Type and Imagery" builds on students competency on the computer programs Photoshop and Illustrator, as well as showing how the use of computer software can improve the aesthetic of their designs. Finally students spend the last few weeks of the course focussing on their own projects lead by the design process, in preparation for next year's folio.

YEAR 12

Unit 3: Visual Communication Design Practices

Students complete two outcomes in preparation for their folio. These areas are Analysis and Practice in Context, and Design Industry Practice. The first outcome, Analysis and Practice in Context, allows students to explore each of the three design industries linked to the subject of Visual Communication Design. These include Environmental Design, Industrial Design and Communication Design. Students are required to analyse existing designs, and then create their own response to each design field allowing students to build on prior knowledge and skills to prepare for folios and the end of year exam. Students will also complete a task related to designers in their field, to learn about how designers work and go through the design process with their designs. Once students have completed the first two outcomes of Unit 3, they then move on to their folio in the third area of study,

Developing a Brief and Generating Ideas. Students write their own design briefs and begin to collate research and sketches for their design in a folio. The development of the folio will roll over and be completed in Unit 4.

Unit 4: Visual Communication Design, Development, Evaluation and Presentation

Now that students have started their folios, students will then continue to develop and refine their designs through the first area of study, Development of Design Concepts. Once students have completed the development and refinement of their designs, they can begin their final presentations as part of their second outcome for the Unit. Finally for the third outcome, Evaluation and Explanation, students evaluate and pitch their design to the class.

Art Making & Exhibiting & Visual Communication rotate each year.

In 2027, Unit 1 & 2 Art Making and Units 3 & 4 Visual Communication will be offered to students.

Students in Year 10 (2027) who are considering Art Making & Exhibiting as part of their pathway are strongly encouraged to select VCE Unit 1 & 2 Art Making & Exhibiting in 2027

Students in Year 11 (2027) can select Visual Communication 3 & 4 if this will support their chosen pathway

This subject aims to develop students' confidence and self-esteem to explore, depict and celebrate human experience, take risks and challenge their own creativity through performance. Students explore Drama as an art form through improvisation, scripted drama, rehearsal and performance.

DRAMA

YEAR 10

Drama in Year 10 seeks to refine and extend student understanding and use of role, character, relationships and situation by exploring the use of voice and movement. Students engage with diverse performance styles by exploring Drama. In doing so, students develop a sense of inquiry and empathy by exploring how Drama has the capacity to influence, challenge and evoke critical reflection upon a variety of historical, social and political concerns.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC & VCE MUSIC

Students choosing VCE Music will undertake coursework via correspondence and must also undertake lessons on an instrument, which can be scheduled during music coursework times. Alternatively, students can enrol for VET Music, which is offered through arrangement with Horsham College. Students electing to just continue with Instrumental Music as an extra program will have their lessons scheduled into their study periods wherever possible.

VCE Music Units 3 & 4 usually requires at least five years previous instrumental tuition. Instruments offered at SSC include Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Alto or Tenor Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, Violin and Drums. Piano places are extremely limited, and students considering Piano or Violin for VCE Music should have a minimum 7 years experience on their instruments. It is strongly advised that students and their parents meet with Mrs Hemley before committing to this selection.

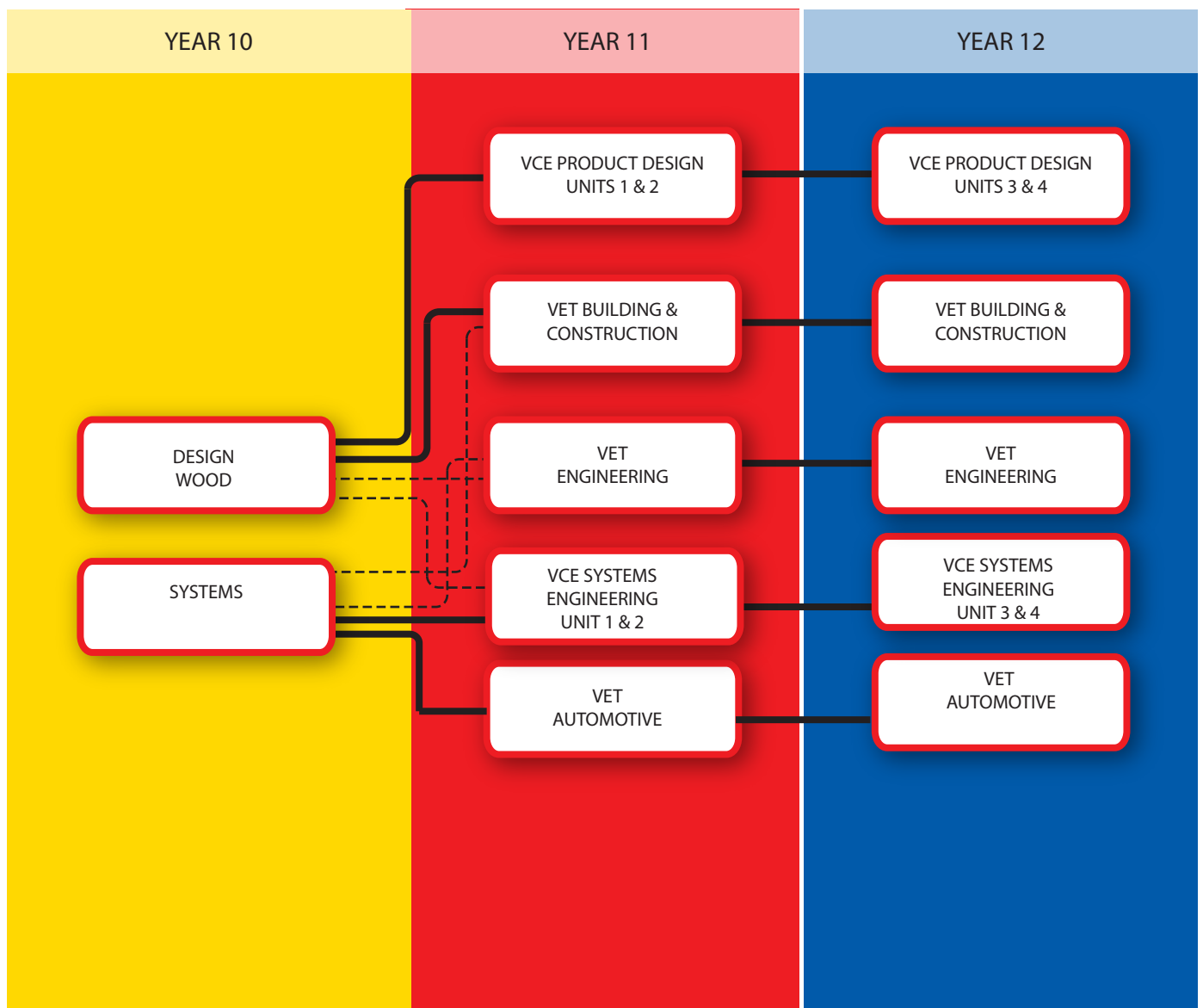
Instrumental Music lessons are scheduled on a rotating timetable. Students register for lessons each semester. Home practice is essential for success. We have a limited number of loan instruments available but at this level it is preferable that students own their instruments. Mrs Hemley can help with purchasing an instrument of reliable quality. Students are also encouraged to participate in the school band which also opens opportunities to work with music students from other schools.







TECHNOLOGY



SYSTEMS

YEAR 10

This subject introduces students to the workings of mechanical and electrical systems through hands-on projects. Students design, build, modify, and evaluate systems.

Key learning includes:

- Understanding how systems work
- Problem-solving through experimentation
- Exploring sustainability and emerging technologies
- Documenting production, tool use, modifications, and evaluation

Students develop practical skills, creativity, and critical thinking through engaging, project-based learning.

PATHWAYS: Year 10 Systems leads onto VCE Systems Engineering and VETiS Automotive.

DESIGN WOOD

YEAR 10

Design Wood is primarily a hands on subject which allows students to produce practical projects whilst developing a better understanding of various materials and improving their designing skills. Working with various materials, tools and workshop equipment, students develop a range of skills that are sought after in industry. Industry Standards and Occupational Health and Safety requirements are also covered in this course.

PATHWAYS: VCE Product Design Technology, VET Building and Construction and VET Engineering.



SYSTEMS ENGINEERING

Food Studies & Product Design Technology/Systems rotate each year.

In 2027, Unit 1 & 2 Product Design Technology, Unit 1 & 2 Systems and Units 1 & 2 Food Studies will be offered to students.

Students in Year 10 (2027) who are considering Product Design, Systems or Food Studies as part of their pathway are strongly encouraged to select these subjects in 2027

YEAR 11

Unit 1: Introduction to Mechanical Systems

Unit 2: Introduction to Electrotechnology Systems

Systems Engineering Units 1 and 2, introduce students to the processes of design, creation, operation and evaluation of integrated systems. Integral to Systems Engineering is the identification and measurement of systems goals, the development of alternative system design concepts, trial and error, design trade-offs, selection and implementation of the best design, testing and verifying that the system is well built and integrated, and evaluating how well the completed system meets the intended goals.

This study can be applied to engineering fields, such as automation, control technologies, mechanisms and mechatronics, electrotechnology, robotics, pneumatics, hydraulics, energy management and emerging technologies and materials. Unit 1 explores mechanical systems concepts and principles. Unit 2 explores electrical/electronic systems concepts and principles. Both units develop understanding by practical application of topics covered. Systems Engineering considers the interactions of these systems with society and natural ecosystems. In Units 1 and 2 students develop skills, knowledge and understanding while completing the design and production process for a mechanical and then an electrical/electronic product.

PATHWAYS: Systems Engineering Unit 1 and Unit 2 lead onto Systems Engineering Unit 3 and Unit 4.

YEAR 12

Unit 3: Systems Engineering and Technologies

Unit 4: Systems Control and New and Emerging Technologies

VCE Systems Engineering involves the design, creation, operation and evaluation of integrated systems, which impact many aspects of daily life. Integral to Systems Engineering is the identification and measurement of systems goals, the development of alternative system design concepts, trial and error, design trade-offs, selection and implementation of the best design, testing and verifying that the system is well built and integrated, and evaluating how well the completed system meets the intended goals.

This study can be applied to engineering fields, such as automation, control technologies, mechanisms and mechatronics, electrotechnology, robotics, pneumatics, hydraulics, energy management and emerging technologies and materials. Systems Engineering considers the interactions of these systems with society and natural ecosystems. Units 3 and 4 investigate the production and use of energy for society and the development of emerging technology and materials. Students investigate, design, produce and evaluate one major integrated system over Units 3 and 4.

PATHWAYS: Systems Engineering Unit 1 and Unit 2 lead onto Systems Engineering Unit 3 and Unit 4.

PRODUCT DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

Product Design Technology & Systems rotate each year.

In 2027, Unit 1 & 2 Product Design Technology and Units 1 & 2 Systems will be offered to students.

Students in Year 10 (2027) who are considering these pathways are strongly encouraged to select VCE Unit 1 & 2 Product Design and or VCE Systems Unit 1 & 2 in 2027

YEAR 11

Unit 1: Sustainable Product Redevelopment

This unit focuses on the analysis, modification and improvement of a product design with consideration of sustainability. There are two areas of study for this Unit: 1. Sustainable redevelopment of a product. 2. Producing and evaluating a redeveloped product.

Unit 2: Collaborative Design.

In this unit students work in teams to design and develop an item in a product range or contribute to the design, planning and production of a group product. They focus on factors including end-user/s' needs and wants; function, purpose and context for product design; aesthetics; materials and sustainability; and the impact of these factors on a design solution. There are two areas of study for this Unit: 1. Designing within a team. 2. Producing and evaluating within a team.

YEAR 12

Unit 3: Applying the Product Design Process

In this unit students are engaged in the design and development of a product that addresses a personal, local, or global problem (such as humanitarian issues), or that meets the needs and wants of a potential end-user/s. The product is developed through a design process and is influenced by a range of factors including the purpose, function and context of the product; user-centred design; innovation and creativity; design elements and principles; sustainability concerns; economic limitations; legal responsibilities; material characteristics and properties; and technology. There are three areas of study for this unit.

1. Designing for end users.
2. Product development in industry.
3. Designing for others.

Unit 4: Product Development and Evaluation

In this unit students engage with an end-user/s to gain feedback throughout the process of production. Students make comparisons between similar products to help evaluate the success of a product in relation to a range of product design factors. The environmental, economic and social impact of products throughout their life cycle can be analysed and evaluated with reference to the product design factors. *There are three areas of study for this Unit: 1. Product analysis and comparison. 2. Product manufacture. 3. Product evaluation.*



FOOD TECHNOLOGY - A

YEAR 10

Students produce, analyse and evaluate a variety of foods, and research the health impacts of different foods. Students consider special dietary needs and ways to improve their own diet. They learn the importance of healthy eating with consideration to the specific nutrients required across the life span that support optimal growth, development and maintenance of good health. The main assessment task is where students research a food related disease and prepare a suitable meal.

PATHWAYS: VET Hospitality, VCE Food Studies Units 1 & 2, VCE Health & Human Development Units 1 & 2

FOOD TECHNOLOGY - B

YEAR 10

Students learn how to source, prepare and purchase nutritious and delicious affordable meals. They investigate how to use food as well as learning how to use seasonal fruit and vegetables. Students look at budgeting for meals and living expenses, with an opportunity to develop their skills and knowledge in this area. The main assessment task is the Dinner Party design brief where students get a budget to create, plan and make a two course meal.

PATHWAYS: VET Hospitality, VCE Food Studies Units 1 & 2, VCE Health & Human Development Units 1 & 2



FOOD TECHNOLOGY

FOOD STUDIES

Food Studies & Product Design Technology/Systems rotate each year.

In 2027, Unit 1 & 2 Product Design Technology, Unit 1 & 2 Systems and Units 1 & 2 Food Studies will be offered to students.

Students in Year 10 (2027) who are considering Product Design, Systems or Food Studies as part of their pathway are strongly encouraged to select these subjects in 2027

Unit 1: Food Origins

In Unit 1, students explore the origins and development of food from historical, cultural and geographical perspectives. They investigate how food production and consumption have changed over time and examine factors that influence food choices, including family traditions, culture, religion and technology. Students develop practical food preparation skills while considering the role food plays in shaping individual and community identities.

Unit 2: Food Makers

Unit 2 focuses on the journey of food from producer to consumer. Students investigate Australia's food industries and food systems, examining how food is grown, processed, packaged, marketed and distributed. They explore contemporary food issues such as food security, sustainability and ethical food production. Practical activities allow students to apply their understanding of food production processes and evaluate the impact of food choices on individuals and society.

Unit 3: Food in Daily Life

Unit 3 examines the relationship between food and health across the lifespan. Students investigate the nutritional requirements of different population groups and analyse how social, cultural, economic and environmental factors influence food choices. They develop skills in interpreting nutritional information and planning meals that support health and wellbeing. Practical investigations focus on designing and producing foods that meet specific dietary needs.

Unit 4: Food Issues, Challenges and Futures

In Unit 4, students explore current and emerging food issues on a local, national and global scale. They investigate challenges such as food insecurity, environmental sustainability, climate change and the future of food production. Students critically evaluate strategies that promote sustainable food systems and consider innovative approaches to feeding a growing population. Through practical work and research, students apply their knowledge to propose solutions for future food-related challenges.



VCE Vocational Major

The VCE Vocational Major (VM) is a vocational and applied learning program within the VCE designed to be completed over a minimum of two years.

The VCE VM will give students greater choice and flexibility to pursue their strengths and interests and develop the skills and capabilities needed to succeed in further education, work and life.

The VCE VM prepares students to move into apprenticeships, traineeships, further education and training, university (via non-ATAR pathways) or directly into the workforce.

The purpose of the VCE VM is to provide students with the best opportunity to achieve their personal goals and aspirations in a rapidly changing world by:

- equipping them with the skills, knowledge, values and capabilities to be active and informed citizens, lifelong learners and confident and creative individuals; and
- empowering them to make informed decisions about the next stages of their lives through real life workplace experiences.

To be eligible to receive the VCE VM, students must satisfactorily complete a minimum of 16 units (across Year 11 and 12), including a minimum of:

- 3 VCE VM Literacy or VCE English units (including a Unit 3–4 sequence)

- 2 VCE VM Numeracy or VCE Mathematics units (most students will complete 4 units)
- 2 VCE VM Work Related Skills units (most students will complete 4 units)
- 2 VCE VM Personal Development Skills units, and
- 2 VET credits at Certificate II level or above (180 nominal hours)

Students must also complete a minimum of three other Unit 3–4 sequences as part of their program.

Each 90hrs of VET (Vocational Education & Training) completion gives a credit of one unit.

Work Placement and the submission of the Workplace Learning Record (WLR) gives a credit of one unit.

VET PROGRAMS 2027

Students wishing to study a VET program will have the option of studying the following programs at the below locations. A bus service will be provided to students to travel to these locations: Year 10 students will only be permitted to study a VET program at either Stawell or Ararat sites.

Stawell Secondary College

Automotive Studies (Pre-vocational)

Agriculture

Salon Assistant

Ararat Secondary College

Allied Health Assistance

Cookery

Hospitality

Marian College - Ararat

Certificate II in Engineering Pathways

Certificate II in Community Services

Certificate III in Fitness

Certificate II in Applied Digital Technologies

Horsham/Longerenong

Electrotechnology

Music

Plumbing

Screen & Media

Sport, Fitness & Recreation

Early Childhood Education & Care

Information Technology

Retail Cosmetics

Building & Construction

ALL students completing the VCE Vocational Major pathway must complete a VET subject.

Further information about each VET program listed above can be found in the Wimmera Southern Mallee VET Cluster Handbook.

SCHOOL BASED APPRENTICESHIPS & TRAINEESHIPS

These programs integrate education, training and employment and provide an opportunity for students to study at school whilst at the same time undertaking government approved and accredited training qualifications as a paid employee.

SCHOOL BASED APPRENTICESHIPS AND TRAINEESHIPS ARE SUITED TO STUDENTS WHO:

- Wish to obtain a full time apprenticeship or traineeship after school;
- Would like to gain an industry qualification while on the job, as well as their VCE or VCAL;
- Want to keep their options open and broaden pathway choices after completing Year 12;
- Want to combine paid work, learning (VCE/VCE Vocational Major) and training in a specific industry.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?

Generally, School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships take two years and have an average of 13 hours of work and training per week while attending school.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- An employer agrees to employ a student for the term of the School Based Apprenticeship or Traineeship and agrees to support them in their training.
- Employment and training contracts are signed and registered with an Australian Apprenticeship Centre.
- A training plan is developed for the student which incorporates industry training, school and work commitments. When this is confirmed, the student liaises with their employer, the school Registrar and teachers to modify their learning program and timetable to accommodate the on-the-job training time.
- The training plan is signed off by the school Registrar. The student's program and results of the industry training are entered on the VCAA Victorian Assessment Software System (VASS) database. The units of competence completed during training are credited to the student's VCE or VCE Vocational Major pathway.

STRUCTURED WORKPLACE LEARNING

Structured Workplace Learning allows students to acquire skills and knowledge in an industry setting as part of an accredited vocational training program (VET). Structured Workplace Learning is not the same as Work Experience. Students studying VCE Vocational Major are required to undertake a work placement as part of their program.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

Students undertaking a work placement have the opportunity to:

- learn and apply knowledge and skills which are relevant to the workplace;
- examine and assess initial career choices and career opportunities;
- develop contacts with potential employers;
- fulfill tertiary institution prerequisites that require experience in the area of intended study;
- demonstrate the mastery of specific skills and competencies related to accredited VET programs
- develop an awareness of appropriate attitudes and behaviours for paid work;
- improve communication skills and self-esteem.



ASSESSMENT & REPORTING

YEAR 10

UNITS OF LEARNING & ASSESSMENT

Each subject will require students to complete between two to four units of learning. Students will be assessed on their understanding and skill development within each unit of learning through a variety of assessment tasks. These assessment tasks may include such things as written exercises, practical work, folio work, task sheets and presentations. Parents will be notified if students have not completed or unsatisfactorily completed any of these assessment tasks, and students will be able to redeem their assessments at a later date. Students will receive their results from their subject teacher and be given feedback on how they can improve in future assessments.

HOMEWORK

Homework is defined as learning activities related to school curriculum, which teachers expect students to complete in their own time. Homework is an essential ingredient for ongoing success at school. Parents should be aware that students are expected to undertake homework, which will be on a regular basis and should include ongoing revision of previous classwork. The amount of homework required will depend on each subject; however, on average a Year 10 student could expect at least 3.5 hours per week.

CONTINUOUS REPORTING

Our students receive regular and targeted feedback on their learning and progress throughout the semester. This feedback provides students with guidance on what they have understood and achieved, and what steps are needed to improve and progress.

We are currently reviewing our continuous reporting process which involves gathering feedback from students, families and staff. The review will inform us on how we will report student progress to families and students in the future. We will keep our school community informed of our progress and in the meantime, the current reporting format will remain.



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