

YEARS 7 - 9 HANDBOOK

2027

ASPIRATION RESPECT INCLUSION RESILIENCE PARTICIPATION

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FOOD
TECHNOLOGY







SUBJECTS

Year 7

CORE
English
Health & Physical Education
Science
Chinese
Mathematics
Humanities
ELECTIVES- TWO PER SEMESTER
Art
Materials-Wood
Food Technology
Digital Technology

Year 8

CORE
English
Health & Physical Education
Science
Chinese
Mathematics
Humanities
ELECTIVES - TWO PER SEMESTER
Metalwork
Art
Systems
Performing Arts

Year 9

CORE	ELECTIVES - Two per semester	
English	Chinese (Must be taken for both semesters 1 & 2)	Design Wood
Humanities	Visual Arts	Systems
Science	Visual Communication Design	Food Technology
Mathematics	Performing Arts	
Health & Physical Education		

CORE SUBJECTS

ENGLISH

YEAR 7

In Year 7, English builds upon students' skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening. It provides students with the competence, experience and study habits necessary to successfully continue their studies in English throughout their secondary education. The study of a variety of different forms of literature allows students to explore themes and ideas that they will encounter at school, home and in the wider community. Students complete a variety of writing tasks, including: Autobiographies, persuasive writing, advertisements, narratives, analytical and creative story writing. Our students' confidence is also nurtured to assist them in becoming effective and skilled communicators, both written and verbally.

PATHWAY: Year 7 English provides a foundation for Year 8 English.

YEAR 8

In Year 8, English is taught to enhance students' enjoyment of language and to encourage them to think critically, logically and imaginatively. Students are exposed to a diverse range of texts and learning experiences to meet their individual needs and interests. Students are exposed to First Nations storoes and writing, to expand their world views. Students complete writing tasks to develop their skills in different writing styles such as graphic texts, fairy tales, persuasive writing, fiction and non-fiction, analytical and poetry. They are encouraged to read widely through regular silent reading, and take part in a range of tasks to further their oral presentation skills.

PATHWAY: Year 8 English provides a foundation for Year 9 English.



YEAR 9

Year 9 English aims to build on the concepts, skills and processes students have developed in previous years. Students complete writing and speaking tasks that build upon these skills, and develop new concepts and skills which will prepare them for senior years of secondary education and beyond. Students study a range of literary texts and investigate the issues and ideas within these. Through the study of film, students explore the visual medium as a form of literature with a language of its own to be interpreted and connected to real-world issues. Writing tasks completed in Year 9 English involves extending their persuasive writing skills, narratives and analytical comprehension. Speaking and listening is assessed through oral presentations.

PATHWAY: Year 9 English provides the foundation for VCE Foundation English.



MATHEMATICS

YEAR 7

Mathematical knowledge and skills play a fundamental role in our society. Our mathematics curriculum responds to these needs by targeting learning at students' level and supporting them in improving their understanding and skills. Our program prepares students with the mathematical skills and knowledge needed for future study and life. Students work collaboratively and individually to develop the skills through a variety of learning activities. Our units are designed to meet the Victorian Curriculum guidelines within the six strands:

- Number
- Measurement
- Statistics
- Algebra
- Geometry
- Probability

Calculators and computers are incorporated into our units wherever possible to enhance and extend learning. In addition, students have the opportunity to extend their skill levels by participating in mathematics competitions.

PATHWAY: Year 7 mathematics provides a foundation for Year 8 Mathematics

YEAR 8

The Year 8 mathematics curriculum caters to a broad range of mathematics abilities. We engage our students and support them in developing their mathematical understanding by providing opportunities for students to work collaboratively to solve practical mathematical problems In Year 8 students build on their understanding and skill levels from Year 7 and cover concepts and skills relating to six mathematical strands;

- Number
- Measurement
- Statistics
- Algebra
- Geometry
- Probability

Calculators and computers are incorporated into our units wherever possible to enhance and extend learning. In addition, students have the opportunity to extend their skill levels by participating in mathematics competitions, such as the Australian Mathematics Competition.

PATHWAY: Year 8 mathematics provides a foundation for Year 9 Mathematics

YEAR 9

Our Year 9 mathematics program builds on students' skills and understanding from previous years. We prepare students with the mathematical skills and knowledge needed for future study and life. Students are given opportunities to extend and challenge their current skill levels.
Our units are designed to meet the current Victorian guidelines within the key areas of Number, Algebra, Measurement, Space, Probability and Statistics.

PATHWAY:
Year 9 mathematics provides a foundation for Year 10 Mathematics.



HUMANITIES

YEAR 7

In year 7, Humanities includes the study of history and geography. Students study human societies, environments and people, and their cultures in the past and the present. In history, students focus on ancient times, investigating how their cultures formed and developed over time. In geography, students investigate the impact that the environment can have on human populations and how human populations can impact those same environments too. Students learn to find information in primary and secondary sources, conduct their own independent research, and how to convey what they have learnt through writing.

YEAR 8

In year 8, Humanities includes history, geography, civics and business - a little bit of everything humanities has to offer. In civics & citizenship, students learn the fundamentals of our system of government, including how and why to vote. In business, students learn the basics of starting a business and the factors to consider when trying to profit. In history, students investigate the middle ages across the world and continue to develop their research and writing skills from year 7. Finally, in geography, students learn about landscapes and landforms and apply practical skills to map and record these in their environment. Throughout year 8 humanities, students gain skills to best engage with their world and begin to critically question that same world.

YEAR 9

In year 9, Humanities includes history, geography and some elements of civics and business studies. In geography, students investigate biomes including where in the world to find them and what in the world is found in them. Students will also learn about food security and how biomes can influence this across the world. In history, students investigate a large portion of Australia's history from settlement through to the start of the first world war, with a focus on the industrial revolution and how this transformed the world as we know it. Throughout year 9 humanities, there is a continued focus on building the critical thinking skills of students alongside their ability to share that thinking through their research and their writing.

ASSESSMENT:

•Research Assignments •Projects •Topic Tests

PATHWAY:

This course provides a pathway to a range of study areas in Year 10 and beyond including further studies in History, Business Management, Legal Studies, and Global Politics.

SCIENCE

YEAR 7

Year 7 Science explores the wonder of how things work, including various phenomena and the amazing variety of all living things.
Science provides students with a powerful tool for understanding how their world operates and how they can interact with their physical surroundings. Science encourages students to learn through inquiry-based approaches and to formulate their ideas accurately with the help of the scientific method.

TOPICS:
• introduction to science • separating techniques • classification • food chains and webs
• Earth in space • resources and the water cycle • forces and motion

Students work collaboratively and individually to develop their scientific skills through hands-on activities and practical investigations, research tasks, excursions to STEM facilities and incorporating technology, through online learning programs.

YEAR 8

Science topics in Year 8 cover aspects of the four main areas of study in Science: Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Earth and Space Science. Students work on reinforcing and building their skills learned in Year 7 Science.

TOPICS:
• atomic structure and the periodic table • chemical reactions • force and gravity
• the rock cycle • cells and reproduction • body systems • light and sound

Through this study, students practise and develop skills of observation, questioning, planning, analysing and communicating. Students experience a variety of learning approaches through the use of practical investigations, modelling activities, textbook exercises, written investigations, excursions to STEM facilities and incorporating technology, through online learning programs.

YEAR 9

Year 9 Science continues to develop students' curiosity about the world and build their scientific skills. Students will continue to investigate topics surrounding the four main aspects of Science: Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Earth and Space Science.

Topics:
• Ecosystems • Control and Regulation • Chemical Reactions • Plate Tectonics
• Acids and Bases • Sound and Light • Electricity and Electromagnetism

Through this study, students practise and develop skills of observation, questioning, planning, analysing and communicating. Students experience a variety of learning approaches through the use of practical investigations, modelling activities, textbook exercises, written investigations, excursions to STEM facilities and incorporating technology, through online learning programs.





HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION (HAPE)

Year 7

In Year 7 Health and Physical Education students will participate in a range of activities including football, netball, athletics, dance, soccer, bat tennis and softball. Students will identify and discuss health concerns affecting young people including skin cancer awareness, bullying and smoking. They will identify health initiatives and resources designed for young people and engage in a range of activities to develop a positive identity, resilience and decision making skills.

Year 8

In Year 8 Health and Physical Education students develop motor skills, tactics and strategies and apply these to improve individual and team performance. Students explore the physical, social and emotional changes that occur during adolescence including puberty and self-awareness as well as factors that influence their own development and wellbeing.

Year 9

Health and Physical Education students will identify ways to improve the quality of their skills and use strategies to improve individual and team performance. They will evaluate their personal fitness and use a variety of training methods. Students participate in a range of activities including person fitness, lifestyle activities, badminton, target and ball sports. Students will explore the physical, social and emotional dimensions of health. Students will explore risk taking behaviours for teenagers

LANGUAGE

CHINESE

YEAR 7

Chinese is the language to learn in the 21st century. It has become one of the most useful skills for future employment in Australia. In Year 7, students will build their vocabulary and sentence structures based on topics about themselves and the Chinese community. They will develop their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills throughout the Year 7 program. Additionally, students will gain an understanding and appreciation of the history and culture associated with the language through a variety of resources. The course caters to both beginners and those with previous experience learning Chinese. The school provides a range of resources and opportunities for students to enhance their language learning. For example, Education Perfect, a computer program, helps students consolidate their language skills outside of class. Students are also encouraged to participate in various extracurricular activities, including Chinese Culture Days, state-wide Chinese speaking competitions, excursions, school-organized China study tours, and Friday after-school classes. 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.**

PATHWAYS:

Year 7 Chinese leads on to Year 8 Chinese.

YEAR 8

In Year 8, students work to expand their vocabulary for conversational and written Chinese and to improve their cultural awareness. They will continue to enhance their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills based on the foundation established in Year 7. Students will interact to exchange information and opinions on topics related to adolescence, including describing friends, leisure activities, food, and Chinese culture. They will use the language to exchange information, express opinions, ideas, feelings, and future plans both orally and in written correspondence.

Students are encouraged to participate in various extracurricular activities such as Chinese Cultural Days, state-wide Chinese competitions, excursions, incursions, and Friday after-school classes. In Year 8, students will be involved in a pen-pal program, providing them with the opportunity to interact and communicate with students from China to gain a deeper understanding of the language and culture. 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.

PATHWAYS:

Year 8 Chinese leads on to Year 9 Chinese.



YEAR 9

Chinese 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.

In this subject, students can expect to expand their vocabulary in conversational and written Chinese language for more applied social situations. They will interact on topics related to the world of adolescence including study, leisure, relationships and careers. Students will improve their language capacity in listening, speaking, reading and writing from beginner's level to intermediate.

Students will also participate in a variety of Chinese excursions and camps, incursions, online programs, cultural activities, Chinese language competitions and a pen pal program with our Shanghai sister school students. Students are encouraged to extend their language proficiency by attending Friday after-school Chinese class to study HSK (Chinese Standard Test) to gain certificates at different levels, which are widely recognised around the world. 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.**

PATHWAYS:

Year 9 Chinese must be selected for both semesters. This subject leads on to VET Applied Languages and VCE Chinese Language, Culture and Society. This pathway also provides an opportunity for students to consider study abroad.consider study abroad.



ELECTIVE SUBJECTS



ART

YEAR 7

In Year 7, students explore the "elements of art". This includes a range of projects that allow the students to explore and experiment with colour, line, tone, form, shape, texture, time, light and sound. Students experiment with materials for art making and explore self-expression through the use of symbolism and personal style. They develop unique methods for representing their ideas through the development of individual and collaborative artworks. Students also view and discuss artworks created in different times and places, to develop their ability to interpret artwork.

For the production classes students are required to wear;

- leather school shoes or boots (runners or sandshoes of any type are not acceptable)
- protective clothing such as aprons • safety items as deemed necessary by the teacher

YEAR 8

Year 8 students will explore the elements and principles of art through a wide range of mediums that they will apply to creative project-based learning. They will build on their knowledge developed in Year 7 Art which will allow them to extend, understand and refine their skills in many traditional arts based disciplines such as, painting, drawing and sculpture. This will give them a solid foundation for further study in arts based electives in Year 9.

PATHWAYS: Year 9 Visual Communication Design, Year 9 Art

VISUAL ARTS

YEAR 9

At Year 9, students identify sources of inspiration and experiment with materials and techniques to develop artworks that communicate meaning. They undertake research to enhance their knowledge of art history and inform the development of ideas. Students maintain a record of their process in their visual diary and develop their ability to reflect, evaluate and alter their direction. Through practical work, students' creativity is fostered to encourage the expression of their ideas and the development of technical skill.

PATHWAYS:
Leads to VCE Studio Art and VCE Visual Communication Design.

VISUAL COMMUNICATION DESIGN

Year 9

Visual Communication Design at Year 9 introduces students to the principles of design and the design processes. The subject is inspired by design of all types, including architecture, product design, landscape design and graphic design. Although a very creative subject, students gain a range of transferable skills, including technical drawing, visual analysis and use of digital design programs such as Adobe Illustrator and Google sketchup. Students will be able to create their own logos, learn about typography, create perspective drawing landscapes, learn to use scale and measurement in paraline drawings and use the design elements and principles to achieve an imaginative response for a given design brief.

FOOD TECHNOLOGY

Year 7

Students develop practical skills with the safe and hygienic use and care of tools, equipment and appliances in food production. They develop self-confidence and management skills, and carry out the processes of investigating and designing, producing, analysing and evaluating recipes. They develop an understanding of foods, allergies, ethical and sustainable solutions and are introduced to food selection models such as the Australian Guide to Healthy Eating. Students work individually and in teams to produce a weekly food production. A range of different food items suitable for breakfast, lunch and dinner and other special occasions are prepared. The main assessment is the cupcake design brief, where the decorated cupcakes are produced on a theme.

Year 9

Students examine the influences on Australian food, including Indigenous ingredients and the impacts of migration. Students look at the traditions of previous generations, foods from other countries, ehtical and sustainable solutions, and experiment with the functional properties of food. Students continue to develop safe and hygienic work practices and enrich their development by applying a range of skills and techniques relevant to food production methods. The main assessment is the noodle box design brief.

PATHWAYS: Year 10 Food Technology A & B, VCE Unit 1 &2 Food Studies.





DESIGN WOOD

YEAR 7

Students make basic wood projects with personal touches being added to individualise their projects. The four main areas of study are: Investigating, Designing, Producing and Evaluating. Students will also learn how to interprate engineering designs and produce hand sketches and detailed drawings of their final production project. This learning area is a highly practical area in which students are encouraged to express themselves and develop skills in decision making and problem solving. It provides students with opportunities to apply their knowledge and skills in a practical and enterprising way, using a variety of resources tools and equipment.

YEAR 9

Students develop and apply the design process to create practical wood-based solutions. They investigate a design brief, generate and communicate ideas through sketches, drawings and CAD, develop and produce a final design, and evaluate their solution.
Students develop practical skills in material selection, workshop processes and safe use of tools and equipment, while applying creativity, problem-solving and decision-making throughout the design process.

PATHWAYS: Year 10 Design Wood, VCE Product Design, VET Building and Construction, VET Engineering

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

YEAR 7

Students learn to navigate a multi-drive system with their device. They learn to best use the Microsoft suite to assist them with their secondary schooling and explore new programs such as Photostory and Audacity. Students also undertake a practical task that involves the construction of a simple electronic circuit.



SYSTEMS METAL

YEAR 8

This unit introduces students to the exciting world of mechanical and electronic systems. Through a hands-on, project-based approach, students explore how these systems work and how they can be applied to solve real-world problems.

Students will follow the design process: investigating a problem, developing a solution, producing a working model, and evaluating the outcome. This subject lays the foundation for future studies in systems engineering and encourages creativity, curiosity, and independent thinking.

PATHWAYS: Yr 9 Systems, Yr 10 Systems, VCE Product Design, VET Auto, VCE Systems Engineering

YEAR 9

This unit builds on students' understanding of mechanical, electrical, and electromechanical systems. Students explore how these systems function and apply their knowledge to build, dismantle, modify, or repurpose a mechanical or electronic system.
Students work on the design process and client expectations.

PATHWAYS: Systems Year 9 leads onto Year 10 Systems and VCE Systems Engineering

DESIGN CREATIVITY & TECHNOLOGY

YEAR 8

This unit will introduce students to the varying range of materials used in our lives. Students investigate a problem, design and produce a solution and then evaluate this and the production process. Students gain skills in the manipulation of various materials using a range of hand and power equipment.

PATHWAYS: Year 9 Systems, Year 9 Design Wood, Year 10 Systems, VCE Product Design & Technology, VET Automotive, VET Engineering

PERFORMING ARTS

YEAR 8

Performing arts offers students the opportunity to reach their creative and expressive potential by making and responding to drama independently and in groups. Students begin by developing their understanding of how to create role and character through exploring the expressive skills of voice, body language and costume. Throughout the semester, students make and respond to a variety of different dramatic genres, including comedy and improvisation. Students build their capacity to work in teams and develop confidence, creating live and recorded performances. Students are asked to evaluate their creative process in order to develop their critical inquiry, reflection and analysis skills. Through performance, students are supported to develop a sense of empathy, confidence and social intelligence by focusing on their ability to develop character strengths.

PATHWAYS: Year 9 Drama

PERFORMING ARTS

YEAR 9

Performing Arts aims to introduce students to live and recorded performances. Students develop their own scripted works in response to themes from a range of cultures, times and locations. Theycreate ensemble performances utilising elements of physical theatre. They will work in small groups and as a part of a large ensemble to develop creative works for performance.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

Instrumental Music is an additional co-curricular program that runs parallel to the main timetable and is offered to all students in the school. Students get a specialist lesson each week and as soon as they are ready they are strongly encouraged to join the school band, which gives them the opportunity to further develop, consolidate and extend their skills in ways that cannot be achieved in lessons alone. Participation in theband also opens up opportunities to work with students from other schools.

Instruments include Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Alto or Tenor Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, Bass Guitar, Percussion/Drums, Violin, and limited places for Piano. Lessons are scheduled on a rotating timetable so students do not constantly miss the same subject. Students register for lessons each semester, with lessons beginning the week following the submission of forms. Home practice is essential for success. To support this, a limited number of loan instruments are also available.

MUSIC

This course aims to broaden students' appreciation of music and its elements, while also developing their performance and compositional skills. Students will have the opportunity to rehearse and in a group setting and experience the excitement of live performance. All students will need to actively play an instrument in class and are recommended to be enrolled in the Instrumental Music program.
A large focus of this subject is the use of music to convey emotion, story and identity. This will be explored through listening and learning about a wide range of musical genres as well as identifying music that has shaped students' lives and identities. The course culminates in an extended project involving the recording of sounds and samples, using technology to compose and edit music, and finally the creation of an original piece of music.
No previous musical experience is necessary to participate.

FURTHER STUDIES:
VET Music, VCE Music Perormance & Music Investigation





ASSESSMENT

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.

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.

BUILDING LEARNING SKILLS & CORE VALUE QUALITIES

All students are encouraged to take responsibility to build their learning skills and develop the qualities that align with our core values through engaging in learning activities within and outside of the classroom. This may include completing additional learning tasks outside of the classroom or participating in various community-based activities, such as being part of a sporting team.

STAWELL SECONDARY COLLEGE



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