

Year 9 2025



Intermediate School
Unlocking potential

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ACKNOWLEDGING THE GIMUY WALUBARRA YIDINJI

Cairns State High School acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and future Traditional Custodians and Elders of our land, the Gimuy Walubarra Yidinji people, and the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Ancestors have walked this country and we acknowledge their special and unique place in our school's historical, cultural and linguistic identity.

EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

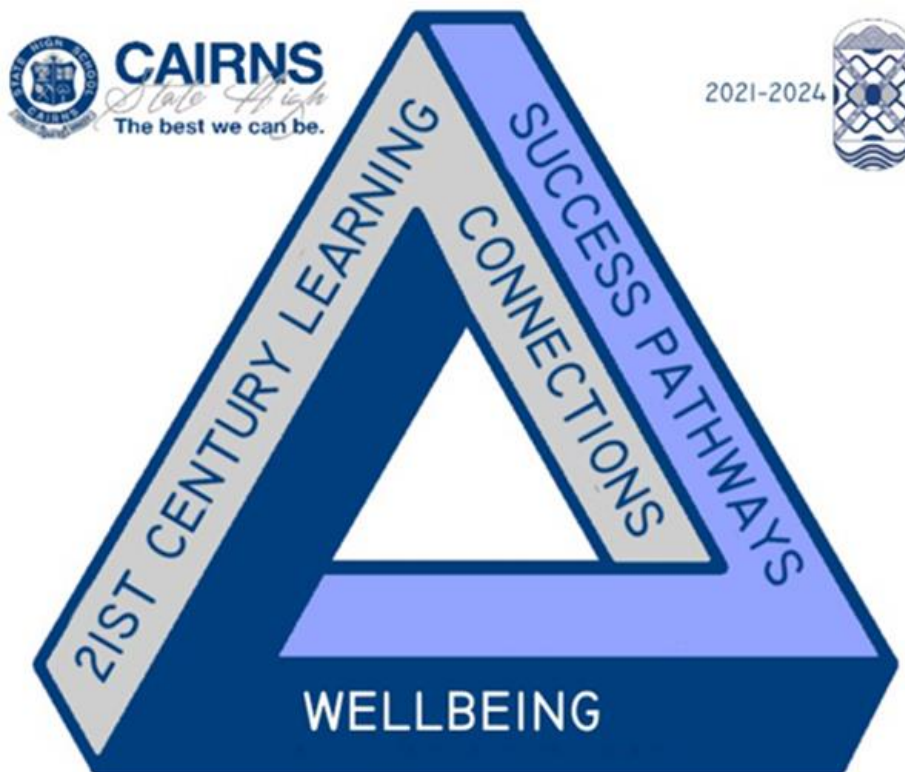
The information in this booklet is designed to help you make decisions about the course of study in Year 9 next year. Information in this book gives you an idea of what each subject will be like. Please read this booklet carefully. The Guidance Officer, Heads of Department and the Administration team are available to provide advice regarding your selection. There can be no guarantee that every subject will run, as availability will depend on teacher resources, physical resources and the demand for these subjects. Please note that students are not able to select the class teachers of their choice for any subject.

This is a great time to be at Cairns State High! Be the best we can be!

Christopher Zilm

Christopher Zilm, Executive Principal

KEY STRATEGIC ACTION AREAS



UNLOCKING YOUR POTENTIAL

It is important to make good decisions when choosing your electives in Years 9, as your choices may directly affect your success at school and how you feel about school. It may also impact on your career plans when you leave school.

At the moment you may not be sure what you want to do when you leave school. Most students feel this way. In Year 9 you have the opportunity to explore your options.

Compulsory study areas provide excellent foundation skills for both your future career and your life. In addition to these subjects you will be able to choose from a range of elective subjects that are designed to develop your interests and practical skills.

As an overall plan, it is suggested that you choose subjects which:

- You enjoy
- You do well in
- Will help you achieve your chosen career goals, or keep your career goals open
- Will develop skills, knowledge and attitudes useful throughout your life

If you follow these guidelines and ask for help when you need it, you should come up with a study program that is appropriate and that you will enjoy.

THINKING ABOUT CAREER OPTIONS

It is helpful to have some ideas about possible career choices. However, those ideas may change when you learn more about yourself and the world of work. Sometimes a good starting point is to identify those subjects you enjoy the most and in which you perform well. Interestingly, the career choices people make are directly linked to their favourite subjects at school. The following website shows the links between subjects and careers and may well be worth checking: www.deewr.gov.au/bullseye

More Information about careers

Student Connect

www.studentconnect.qsa.qld.edu.au

Australia's National Career Information Service

www.myfuture.edu.au

My University

www.myuniversity.gov.au

Australian Apprenticeships

www.australianapprenticeships.gov.au

My Future My Life (for Students with Disability)

www.communities.qld.gov.au/disability/support-and-services/my-future-my-life

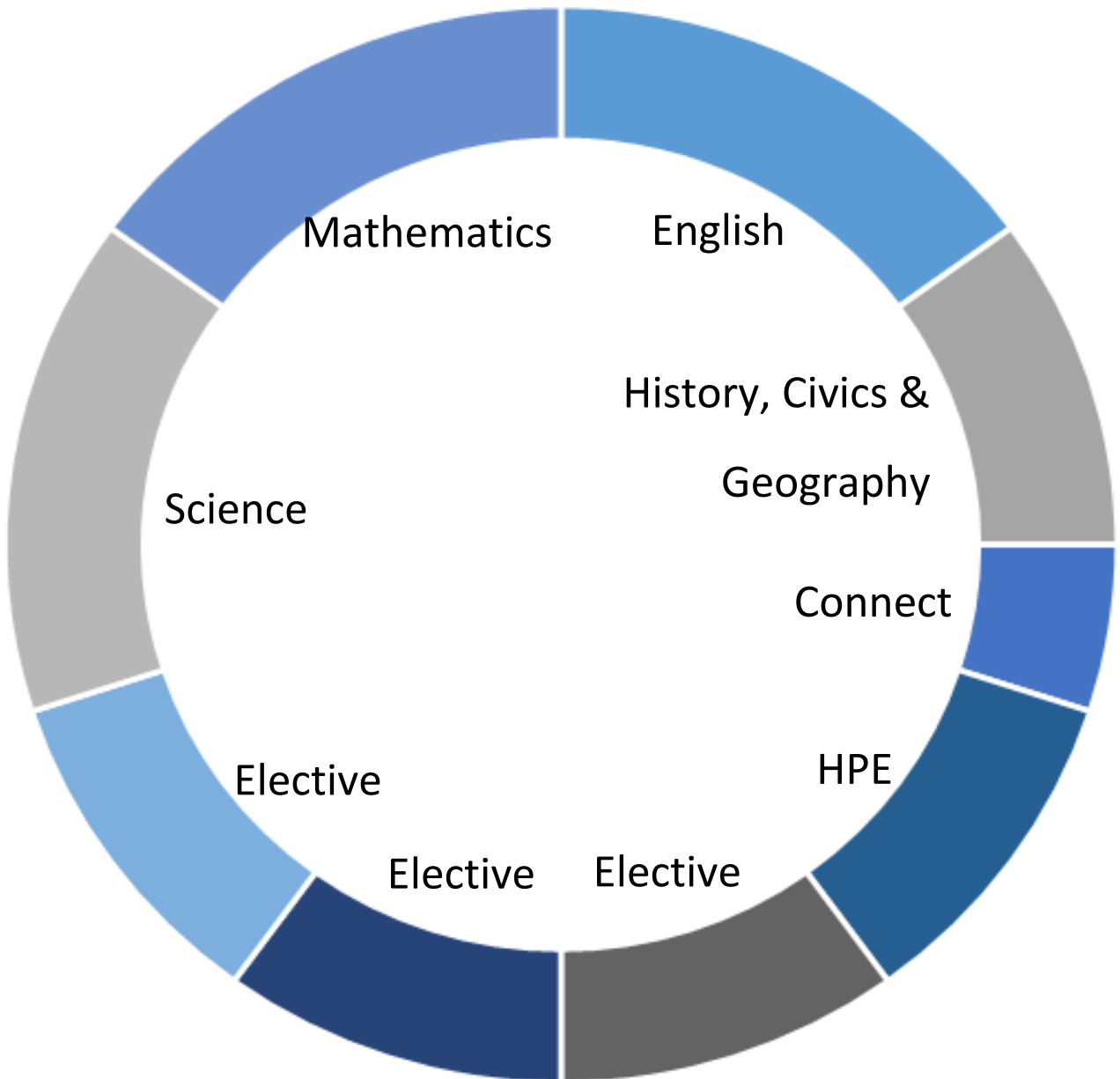
Get Out There

www.getoutthere.qld.gov.au

THE CURRICULUM INTERMEDIATE YEAR 9

The Intermediate stage at Cairns State High recognises the developmental phase of young adolescents and provides choice and experiences that allow students to develop their interests. The aim of the Intermediate School is to provide an engaging experience and continue to develop the toolkit literacy and numeracy skills at the pace appropriate to the individual's academic need.

Students continue development in Year 9 with streamed classes which recognise the pace of the learner. A choice of electives is necessary as students trial subjects on top of the core compulsory subjects.



Elective subjects are offered to students for selection with the understanding that insufficient interest in a subject may result in the subject not running.

TIME ALLOCATIONS INTERMEDIATE YEAR 9

Subject	Terms	Lessons/Week (70 minutes)	Minutes/Week	Curriculum
English			210	
Mathematics			210	
Science			210	
Health and Physical Education			140	
History			140	
Civics			140	
Geography			140	
Elective			140	
Elective			140	
Elective			140	
Connect			35	

OPPORTUNITIES: CHOOSING SUBJECTS

COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

ENGLISH

Full Year

Compulsory

Units of Study

- Australian peoples, histories and cultures
- Different perspectives - memoirs
- Information texts
- Speculative fiction
- Ethical issues - drama
- Manipulating language
- Novel study
- Perspectives on issues

Assessment

Students will be assessed through:

- written assignments
- orals
- written exams

Students are expected to show drafts. Preparing for assessment is allocated class time as well as homework.

Other information

Students should do 1-2 hours of homework per week. At times homework will be in the form of assignment preparation. Parental supervision of homework and assignments is desirable.

Careers

[Are you good at English?](#)

MATHEMATICS

Full Year

Compulsory

Units of Study

The content strands are Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. They describe what is to be taught and learnt.

The proficiency strands are Understanding, Fluency, Problem Solving, and Reasoning. They describe how content is explored or developed, that is, the thinking and doing of mathematics.

Assessment

Written tests

Other information

Students who find Maths difficult may be offered a supported pathway in a Essential Maths class to develop understanding of mathematics at a reduced pace with repeated practice and structured consolidation.

Revision of classwork needs to be maintained and homework is set regularly. It is expected that students do 20 to 30 minutes per night after each lesson.

Students need a scientific calculator for lessons (Casio FX82), a grid book, ruler, protractor, pens and pencils.

Careers

[Are you good at Mathematics?](#)

SCIENCE

Full Year Compulsory

Units of Study

Science understanding - which focuses on the important science concepts from across different areas of science

Science inquiry skills - which focuses on skills essential for working scientifically

Science as a human endeavour -which focuses on the nature and influence of science

Assessment

Exams, skills tests, practical tests, research assignments, lab reports, model construction and presentations. All practical work must be written up and submitted as requested by teachers.

Other information

Students must wear shoes with impervious uppers in Science. Students may be required to wear safety goggles, tie back long hair and remove acrylic/synthetic coats of flammable material during practical lessons. Students are placed in graded class groups according to their performance in Year 8. Different classes will study at different levels of difficulty according to student ability. However, all classes will cover similar core material. These arrangements are reviewed each term.

Careers

[Are you good at Biology?](#) [Chemistry?](#) [Physics?](#)

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Full Year Compulsory

Units of Study

- Promoting the health of individuals and communities
- Developing concepts and skills for physical activity
- Enhancing personal development

Assessment

Students are assessed on the achievement of outcomes through a variety of techniques including the completion of work booklets, assignments, exams, participation and practical performance in a wide range of skills and games.

Other information

All students are expected to participate in both practical and theoretical aspects of the course. Non-participation due to injury/illness requires a note/medical certificate. During the school year some lessons will be conducted in the school pool. Students will be expected to bring swimmers and towel for these lessons.

Careers

[Are you good at HPE?](#)

HISTORY

Compulsory (One Semester)

Units of Study

The Industrial Revolution	Making of the Nation	World War I
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Assessment

A written assignment, exam essay and short response exam.

Other information

The study of History is a valuable component of a student's education since the skills learned can be applied to a wide range of careers and occupations. History has long been considered a vital element of the education of any professional because of the value and validity of the skills used in its study..

Careers

[Are you good at History?](#)

CIVICS AND CITIZENSHIP

Compulsory elective in Semester 2 (Choose between Geography OR Civics & Citizenship)

Units of Study

- Examining how Australia's political and legal systems enable change
- Sustaining Australia's democracy

Assessment

Assessment will include a written research assignment and short answer response.

Other information

Civics and Citizenship focuses on government and democracy, law and citizens, and citizenship, diversity and identity.

Careers

[Are you good at Civics and Citizenship?](#)

GEOGRAPHY

Compulsory elective in Semester 2 (Choose between Geography OR Civics & Citizenship)

Units of Study

Biomes and Food Security	Geographies of Interconnections
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Assessment

Assessment will include a written extended response and research assignment

Other information

Geography develops skills in critical and analytical thinking, research and general writing skills, and basic mathematical operations such as graphing, tabulation, and ordering of statistics.

Careers

[Are you good at Geography?](#)

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

ART

Full Year Elective

Units of Study

Semester 1: Scape - Through the portal

Media: wet and dry mixed media, photography/digital imagery

Related Concepts- portraiture, colour schemes, tint & shades, colour mixing, composition, landscape and space

Semester 2: Object

Media: painting, printmaking, 3D paper, cardboard, found-object, natural and human-made material, recycle

Related Concepts- still life, abstraction, Cubism, Dada, Futurism, composition; repetition; balance; harmony; Variety, symbolism, historical and cultural context with a focus on Australian Indigenous Art composition; form, artefact, pattern, rhythm, movement, unity

Assessment

Mixed media drawings, prints, ceramic objects, digital photos, paintings and 3D objects. Students also use a visual diary to record evidence of development, research, responding and reflection exploration which students record in their visual art diaries.

Other information

The course has a significant practical studio-based component however students are required to use laptops for research and development tasks.

Careers

[Are you good at Art?](#)

BULLDOGS BASKETBALL

Full Year Elective

Units of Study

- Individual fundamental skill development
- Athlete development – strength and conditioning etc.
- Sports Science – understanding psychology and nutrition
- Refereeing, coaching and administration – accreditation and practice
- Life skills – time management and goal setting etc.

Assessment

This is primarily a practical subject. Theory units are undertaken at various stages dependent upon court availability. At present there is one major assignment per term.

Other information

Applicants should note that there are costs involved in this subject and they will vary depending on the student's level of involvement in the club scene. Any costs associated with games are the responsibility of the student. Students may be required to assist in fundraising throughout the year. Accreditation and excursion costs may occur throughout the year.

Careers

[Are you good at Sport?](#)

BULLDOGS RUGBY LEAGUE

Full Year Elective

Units of Study

- Fitness
- Carnival organization and Rugby League administration
- Sports Medicine/First Aid and Nutrition
- Coaching accreditation
- Skills and team work

Assessment

Students will be assessed in skill acquisition, fitness and game play, as well as having assignments/exams/work folio for each theory unit. The course will have a focus on numeracy and literacy through its practical and, in particular, theory units.

Other information

Other suggested requirements that students should have for the class are Rugby League Boots and mouthguards. Only students who are currently playing rugby league for school or club should choose this subject, or those who wish to be officials.

Careers

[Are you good at Sport?](#)

(CHINESE (MANDARIN)) CERTIFICATE II APPLIED LANGUAGES

Full Year Elective

Units of Study

The course is an extension of work covered in Year 8 Chinese. As learning a language is based on effective communication, learning focuses on language comprehension (listening and reading) and composition (writing and speaking). Real language and authentic materials are used to enhance communication.

The course is structured around six fields: international world, built world, natural world, personal and community life, leisure and recreation and the imaginative world. Students will gain skills in the use of both character writing and pinyin.

Assessment

Students will be assessed in comprehension (listening and reading) and composition (writing and speaking) throughout the year.

Other information

It is strongly recommended that students have completed the Year 8 Chinese program or can demonstrate language competence. Prior approval from the Head of Department is required in other circumstances.

Careers

[Are you good at Languages?](#)

CREATIVE ARTS

Full Year Elective

Units of Study

Be Active – skills in exercise, movement and voice, health and nutrition, work place health and safety, age specific movement – explored through Exercise/Movement/Education programs developed for age specific members of the community – . Kinderdance, Primary programs.

Clown Doctors – skills in characterisation, movement, improvisation, comedy styles – explored through Clown Doctors (working in Children’s Ward at Hospital)

Assessment

Students will be assessed using class work theoretical assignments and practical projects both in groups and in independently negotiated projects

Other information

Travel to different venues will be necessary for practical application of community based projects

Homework is set when relevant. Students are expected to practise regularly. Although much of the work is completed in class it will be necessary to do some rehearsals in their own time.

Careers

[Are you good at Entertaining?](#)

DANCE

Full Year Elective

Units of Study

Unit 1 Hip Hop – Battle Beats

Unit 2 Jazz -Jazz it Up!

Unit 4 Multi-Cultural Dance

Assessment

Assessment is continuous by way of small group performance, both individual and group choreography, written appreciation assignments and oral presentation. Equal weighting is given to each of the areas of study.

Written and oral assignments involve the use of the new technologies in the form of a PowerPoint presentation.

Other information

Students wishing to do this subject:

Must be prepared to change into appropriate dance wear for practical sessions and take part in all aspects of the course.

Are expected to accept responsibility to attend rehearsals and performances as required, including performing at Dance Night in October.

Have the opportunity to take advantage of our Centre of Excellence program. Entry to this program is by audition.

Should bring a water bottle to class. This is strongly encouraged.

Careers

[Are you good at Dance?](#)

DANCE EXTENSION

**Full Year
Elective**

Units of Study

Dance Extension is a specialised program for students who have a passion and specific talent in Dance (Ballet, Jazz and/or Contemporary). Dance Excellence caters for students who have prior dance experience and who aim to continue their development of skill and techniques.

Hip Hop: Battle Beats

Jazz: Jazz it Up!

Multicultural dance

Assessment

Assessment is continuous by way of small group performance, both individual and group choreography, written appreciation assignments and oral presentations. Equal weighting is given to each of the areas of study.

Other information

Students must be prepared to change into appropriate dance wear for practical sessions and take part in all aspects of the course. Student must not wear any of their dance wear to other classes.

Are expected to accept responsibility to attend rehearsals and performances as required, including Dance Night.

Careers

[Are you good at Dance?](#)

DRAMA

**Full Year
Elective**

Units of Study

- Comedy
- The White Rose
- 'The Stones'

Assessment

Two to three pieces of assessment per semester in the areas of making and responding. Students will discover and explore the elements of drama, applying principles and making and responding to drama in various forms.

Other information

Emphasis is placed on the practical side of this course with participation by students being a priority.

Careers

[Are you good at Drama?](#)

DRAMA EXTENSION

Full Year Elective

Drama Extension is a specialised program aimed at students who have a passion and specific interest in Drama. Through the study of drama students are engaged in making and responding to drama as well as building skills in group work, problem solving and innovative thinking.

Units of Study

Comedy

History through Drama

Realism

Assessment

Students will explore and develop their knowledge and skills of the dramatic languages, applying principles in the Making and Responding dimensions in various performance styles and public contexts. Although a core of the workload is conducted in class time, students will be required for lunchtime, afterschool and/or weekend rehearsals leading up to public performances.

Other information

Emphasis is placed on the practical side of this course with participation by students being a priority.

Careers

DIGITAL ART

Full Year Elective

Units of Study

Semester 1: Image Manipulation – Students use Digital SLR cameras and Photoshop to produce a range of resolved works with a focus on Surrealism, lighting and portraiture. All student planning, research, reflection and development are recorded in their Electronic Visual Diary.

Semester 2: 2D Animation – Students develop skills in 2D animation using Adobe Animate.

Assessment

Digital art works. All student planning, research and development is recorded in their Electronic Visual Diary.

Other information

Although having studied digital art in year 8 is an advantage it is not a requirement for year 9 digital art.

Careers

[Are you good at Art?](#)

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

**Full Year
Elective**

Units of Study

Coding or programming is a core focus of the course in developing digital solutions. The course uses a project based learning approach where students work collaboratively and independently to understand and use different technologies to solve challenging problems.

Arduino Programming (Simple Game focus)

Networking

Web Development

Assessment

Students will be assessed to determine standards of achievement using formal tests, class work and programming projects.

Other information

Coding (programming) requires a fully functional laptop lesson. Digital Technologies is not a subject where students play random games and surf the Internet. Coding or programming is a demanding academic study.

Careers

[Are you good at Digital Technologies?](#)

ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS

**Full Year
Elective**

Units of Study

- Money, Money, Money (The Economy and Financial Literacy)
- It's a Small World (Globalisation and Economics Unit)
- Marketing Magic (Entrepreneurial activities)

Assessment

Students will be assessed using examinations, assignments, enterprise simulations and marketing pitch.

Other information

When practical work is involved, students will need to keep pace with the lessons or attend catch up classes during lunch breaks. Students will participate in entrepreneurial activities which will involve planning, marketing and presenting a product or service.

Careers

[Are you good at Economics?](#) [Business?](#)

ENGINEERING AND DESIGN

Full Year Elective

Units of Study

Design fundamentals

Engineering fundamentals

Assessment

Students are assessed through:

Design Folios

CAD Modelling

Sketching

Prototyping & Analysis

All assessment is compulsory. Students are expected to show progress and draft work and will be given class time as well as home time for completion of tasks.

Other information

Students should allow for completion of some tasks outside of class time, this may be in the form of sketching, CAD and folio work. This may need to be completed in the Engineering and Design classroom at school.

FOOD, NUTRITION AND FASHION

Full Year Elective

Units of Study

In Year 9, students focus on one semester of food and nutrition and one semester of textiles and design. The following units will be covered:

1. Set For Sleep

3. Healthy Habits

2. Bags, Bags, Bags

4. Family Meals

Assessment

- Weekly practical cookery
- Practical cookery exams
- Written tests and assignments
- Practical textiles items
- Process journals

Other information

Students must participate in weekly cooking during foods units by supplying ingredients and also resources needed for the textile units.

Careers

[Are you good at Home Economics?](#)

HOSPITALITY

Full Year Elective

Units of Study

Year 9 hospitality focuses on food. Students build on basic cooking skills while developing knowledge of the hospitality industry.

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Kitchen Basics | 3. Paddock to plate |
| 2. Ways to Cook | 4. Café Foods |

Assessment

Students will be assessed each semester in the following ways:

Weekly practical cookery (ingredients supplied by students)

Practical cookery exam

Written assignment & theory exam

Other information

The course will involve weekly practical cookery, teacher demonstrations, group work and theory.

Careers

[Are you good at Hospitality?](#)

INDUSTRIAL GRAPHIC SKILLS

Full Year Elective

Units of Study

Sketching

2D CAD Graphics

3D CAD Graphics

Assessment

Students are assessed through:

CAD Drawing Folios

CAD Modelling

Sketching Folios

Exams

All assessment is compulsory. Students are expected to show progress and draft work and will be given class time as well as home time for completion of tasks.

Other information

Students should allow for completion of some tasks outside of class time, this may be in the form of sketching, CAD and folio work. This may need to be completed in the Graphics computer lab at school.

Careers

[Are you good at Industrial Arts?](#)

ITALIAN

Full Year Elective

Units of Study

This course is an extension of work covered in Year 8 Italian. As learning a language focuses greatly on communication, language comprehension (listening and reading) and composition (writing and speaking) are the areas covered throughout the course. Native language speakers and authentic materials are used to enhance the teaching and learning of Italian.

The course is structured around, but not limited to, the following topics: international world, daily routines in Italian culture, transport, school, food and drink, hobbies and interests.

Assessment

Students will be assessed in the above mentioned areas (listening, reading, writing and speaking).

Other information

It is strongly recommended that students have completed the Year 8 Italian program or can demonstrate language competence. Prior approval from the Head of Department is required in other circumstances.

Careers

[Are you good at Languages?](#)

ITALIAN IMMERSION

Full Year Elective

Units of Study

This course is an Italian extension course. Students will study History and Geography in Italian following the Australian curriculum guidelines (units include: The Industrial Revolution, Making of the Nation, and World War I for History, and Biomes and Food Security and Geographies of Interconnections for Geography). Native language speakers and authentic materials are used to enhance both the teaching and learning of content through the targeted use and learning of the Italian language (Content and Language Integrated Learning – CLIL approach). Students develop content knowledge and skills as well as a wider range of creative and critical thinking skills, and target language fluency.

Assessment

Assessment includes a series of learning experiences, tasks, projects and assignments as ongoing formative assessment of subject content knowledge and skills. All assessment is compulsory and is in Italian - appropriate scaffolding and support are provided.

Advice

It is strongly recommended that students have achieved at least a B in the Year 8 Italian program. Prior approval from the Head of Department is required in other circumstances.

Pathway

Year 10 Italian Immersion & Senior Italian

JAPANESE

Full Year Elective

Units of Study

Work in Years 9 is a continuation of work covered in Year 8. The two organising strands are: Communicating and Understanding. The course is structured around six fields: international world, built world, natural world, personal and community life, leisure and recreation and the imaginative world. Units may include Neighbours, Getting to Know You, Movie Making, Board Game Creation, Healthy Eating, Graffiti, World Heritage Areas and Natural Disasters, to name a few.

Assessment

Students will be assessed in comprehension (listening and reading) and composition (writing and speaking) throughout the year. Assessment will vary between units with students being encouraged to demonstrate what they have learnt through open ended assessment tasks. Anecdotal records and some closed tests will also inform students and teachers of student progress. In some terms student may have an assignment in addition to being tested in two skill areas.

Other information

It is strongly recommended that students have completed the Year 8 Japanese program or can demonstrate language competence. Prior approval from the Head of Department is required in other circumstances.

Careers

[Are you good at Languages?](#)

MANUFACTURING SKILLS

Full Year Elective

Units of Study

Safety Processes and Procedures

Timber Manufacturing

Plastics Manufacturing

Metals Manufacturing

Assessment

Students are assessed through:

- Prototype Manufacturing
- Multimodal Manufacturing Diary

All assessment is compulsory. Students are expected to show progress and draft work and will be given class time as well as home time for completion of tasks.

Other information

Students should allow for completion of some tasks outside of class time, this may be in the form of manufacturing, safety modules and manufacturing diary. This may need to be completed in the workshops at school.

Careers

[Are you good at Industrial Arts?](#)

MUSIC

Full Year Elective

Units of Study

The course is organised within three areas: Musicology, Composing and Performing and students study the following units of work.

- World Music
- The Musical
- Pioneers of Rock Music
- Music's Classic Hits

Assessment

Assessment by way of performances, compositions, assignments and exams will occur throughout the course. Equal weightings apply to each of the musicology, composing and performing dimensions.

Other information

Students wishing to do this subject must be learning a musical instrument (voice included) either through the school's Instrumental Music Program or from a private music teacher

Careers

[Are you good at Music?](#)

MUSIC EXTENSION

Full Year Elective

Students considering the Study of Music in years 11 and 12 should select Music Extension in Years 9 and 10.

Units of Study

As composers they will create, shape and refine musical ideas in a range of forms and styles with consideration of the musical needs and practise of performers

As performers, they will demonstrate skills and knowledge in their chosen instruments (including voice), both as soloists and ensemble members, with a command of repertoire relevant to their instrument.

As audience members, students will respond to music, demonstrating a command of language and concepts of music. Through research and critical study they will develop a rich knowledge of the contemporary and historical contexts of musical works and practices.

- World Music
- The Musical
- Music's Classic Hits
- Australian Pop Music/Pioneers of Rock

Assessment

Assessment by way of performances, compositions, assignments and exams will occur throughout the course. Equal weightings apply to each of the musicology, composing and performing dimensions.

Other information

Students wishing to do this subject must be learning a musical instrument (voice included) either through the school's Instrumental Music Program or from a private music teacher.

Careers

[Are you good at Music?](#)

MATHS SCIENCE EXTENSION

Full Year Elective

Units of Study

Students will spend equal time on Maths and Science in the course. In the Mathematics part of the course, the focus will be on problem solving through a series of mathematical investigations. In general, activities and learning experiences will use content that extends beyond this syllabus. In the Science part of the course, students will participate in activities to develop their skills in experimental design, data collection and data analysis as well as science communication. Additional student outcomes may include the use of statistics, using electronic equipment to collect data and participating in field investigations.

Assessment

Mathematics: Students will be assessed on a folio of their investigations over each semester and an in-class test.

Science: Students will be assessed on a folio of their investigations over each semester. The folio will include a journal of their investigations, a scientific paper and an oral presentation of their findings.

Other information

The purpose of this subject is to cater for highly motivated academic students who have a keen interest in science and mathematics.

Careers

[Are you good at Mathematics?](#)

ENGLISH AND LITERATURE EXTENSION

Full Year Elective

Units of Study

This course is an extension of work covered in Year 8 English. Students will study a range of literary forms from various contexts and consider that ways that textual choices engage readers.

The course is structured around, but not limited to, the following topics: narrative voice, literary techniques, perspectives and representations.

- Unit 1 – *Ruminations and Reimagining* – Extended response – imaginative spoken/multimodal response
- Unit 2 – *Perspectives, Power and People* – Extended response – interpretations of literary texts (written response)

Assessment

Students will be assessed in a spoken imaginative and written analytical tasks.

Other information

It is strongly recommended that students have received a minimum B standard result across both semesters in year 8 English or can demonstrate language competence. Prior approval from the Head of Department is required in other circumstances.

Careers

[Are you good at English?](#)



CAIRNS

State High
The best we can be.

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