

YEAR 9 2026



Intermediate School
Unlocking potential

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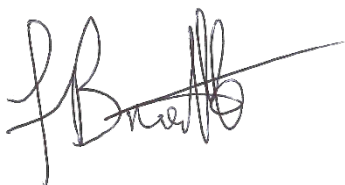
EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

The information in this booklet is designed to help you make decisions about your course of study for Year 9 next year.

Information in this book gives you an idea of what each subject will be like. Please read this booklet carefully. Your teachers, Heads of Department and the Executive team (Deputy Principals) are available to provide advice regarding your selection.

While we aim to give you your subject preferences, there can be no guarantee that every subject will run. Availability of subjects will depend on teacher resources, physical resources and the demand for subjects. Please note that students are not able to select their classes or 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!



Frank Brunetto, 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

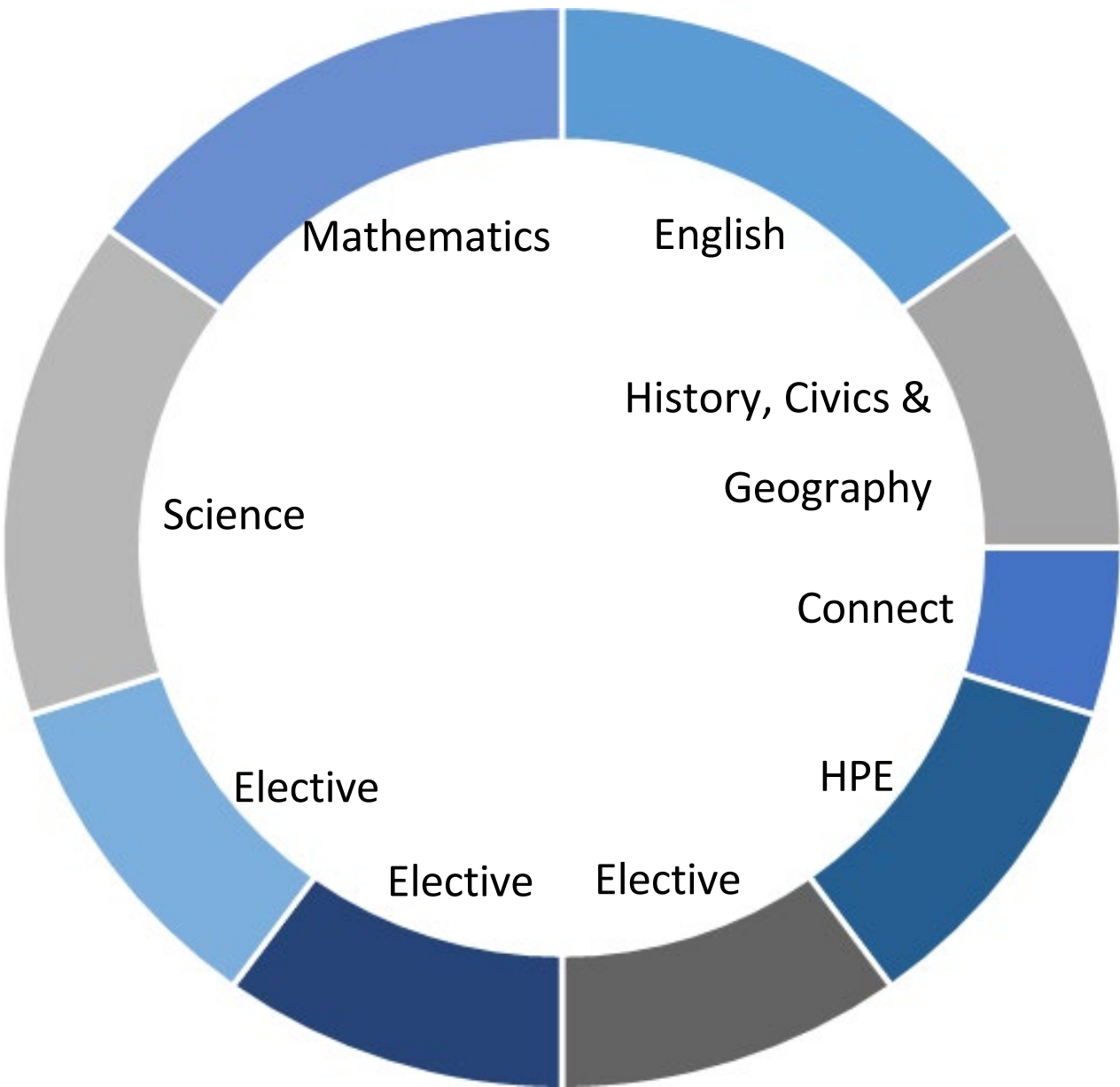
It is helpful to have some ideas about possible career choices. However, those ideas may change when you learn more about yourself and the world of work. Sometimes a good starting point is to identify those subjects you enjoy the most and in which you perform well. Interestingly, the career choices people 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:
<https://myfuture.edu.au/bullseyes>

More Information about careers can be found at <https://education.qld.gov.au/careers/apprentices-and-trainees/school-to-work/career-education>

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 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 / Geography |   |   | 140 |  |
| Elective |     |   | 140 |  |
| Elective |     |   | 140 |  |
| Elective |     |   | 140 |  |
| Connect |     |  | 75 |  |

COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

ENGLISH

Full Year

Compulsory

Units of Study

Units studied in Yr 9 include:

- Ethical issues in drama
- Novel study (Analytical exposition)
- Advertising (persuasive techniques)
- Speculative fiction

In all units, the three interrelated strands are:

- Language
- Literature
- Literacy

Assessment

Extended response, analytical essay, multi-media and persuasive speech, and creative short story

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.

MATHEMATICS

Full Year

Compulsory

Units of Study

The content strands are Number and Algebra, Measurement and Space, 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 and assignment (problem solving task)

Other information

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.

SCIENCE

Full Year Compulsory

Units of Study

Units studied in Year 9 include:

- Particles and waves (Physical sciences)
- Life on Earth (Earth and Space Sciences)
- Chemical reactions and radioactivity (Chemistry)
- The body in balance (Biology)

In all units, the three interrelated strands are:

- Science understanding - focuses on the important science concepts from across different areas of science
- Science inquiry - focuses on skills essential for working scientifically
- Science as a human endeavour - which focuses on the nature and influence of science

Assessment

Experimental investigation, assignment, project and test/examination.

Other information

Students must wear shoes with impervious uppers in Science.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Full Year Compulsory

Units of Study

In Year 9, content is organized under two strands:

- Personal, social and community health (identities and change, interacting with others, making healthy and safe choices)
- Movement and physical activity (moving our bodies, making active choices, learning through movement)

Assessment

Assignments, exams, and practical performance.

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.

HISTORY

One Semester

Compulsory

Units of Study

Units studied in Yr 9 include:

- Movers and Shakers in Australia from Australian nation (1750-1914)
- World War I (1914-1918)

In both units, the two interrelated strands are:

- Knowledge and understanding
- Skills (questioning and researching, using historical sources, historical perspectives and interpretations, communicating)

Assessment

Project and investigation

Other information

CIVICS AND CITIZENSHIP

One Semester

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

Units of Study

Units studied in Yr 9 include:

- Who has the Power? In this unit, students investigate how individuals and groups shape power in Australia and other nations
- Changing the Game - In this unit, students explore how individuals and groups influence change in the legal system to support a more just and equitable society.

In both units, the two interrelated strands are:

- Knowledge and understanding
- Skills (questioning and researching, analysis, evaluation and interpretation, civic participation and decision-making, communicating)

Assessment

Guided inquiry and project

Other information

GEOGRAPHY

One Semester

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

Units of Study

Units studied in Yr 9 include:

- Biomes and food security
- Geography of interconnections

In both units, the two interrelated strands are:

- Knowledge and understanding
- Skills (questioning and researching using geographical methods, interpreting and analysing geographical data and information, concluding and decision making, communicating)

Assessment

Investigation and project

Other information

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

ART

Full Year

Elective

Units of Study

- E-Scape - Creative exploration of Landscape based art making
- Into the portal - Extending the Scape through Personal Context

Assessment

Folio of work including written, visual and practical components.

Other information

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

BULLDOGS BASKETBALL

Full Year

Elective

Units of Study

- Individual fundamental skill development (Term 1)
- Small sided games (Term 2)
- Modified games 3x3 (Term 2)
- Introduction to offensive and defensive principles (Term 3)
- Tournament and gameplay (Term 4)
- Statistics and scoring (ongoing)

Assessment

This is primarily a practical subject with ongoing observation of skills and gameplay.

Other information

Theory lessons are undertaken at various stages dependent upon content being taught and or court availability.

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 a work folio each term.

Other information

Other suggested requirements that students should have for the class are Rugby League Boots and mouthguards.

(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.

CREATIVE ARTS

Full Year

Elective

Units of Study

- Unit 1 – Get Active – develop skills in exercise, movement, and voice, applying age-specific movement techniques to create and deliver performance and education programs for children, including kinder dance and primary school activities.
- Unit 2 – Social Commentary – collaborate to devise, film, and present a short film exploring social issues, using creative storytelling to raise awareness and engage audiences.
- Unit 3 – Creative at Christmas – rehearse and perform at a children's community Christmas event, creating engaging festive entertainment for young audiences.

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. Primary school visits, daycare visits.

DANCE

Full Year Elective

Units of Study

- From street to screen - history, development and social significance of Hip-Hop dance through practical and theoretical experiences
- Why we dance - cultural, religious, celebratory and social significance of the many different dance styles from around the world.
- Jazz it Up! - history, development and social significance of Jazz dance through practical and theoretical experiences

Assessment

Small group performance, group choreography, and multimodal presentation.

Other information

DRAMA

Full Year Elective

Units of Study

- Comedic drama- foundations of comedy and its purpose within contemporary theater.
- Contemporary drama - elements of drama, acting skills and stagecraft through the Realism style.
- Unpacking drama - explore the Australian Identity through reading, viewing and workshopping a series of scenes from varied Australian playtexts
- Issue based drama - explore different styles of theatre and dramatic conventions through Collage Drama.

Assessment

Performances, extended response, project.

Other information

DIGITAL ART

Full Year

Elective

Units of Study

Semester 1 – Animation

Students will develop skills and processes in 2D animation using a variety of techniques, including Adobe Animate and traditional stop-motion animation.

Semester 2 – Digital Image Manipulation

Students will use digital cameras and Adobe Photoshop to produce a series of resolved works, focusing on framing, lighting, and portraiture. All planning, research, reflection, and project development will be documented in a digital PowerPoint folio.

Assessment

Digital art works. All student planning, research and development is recorded in a personal PowerPoint folio.

Other information

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

Full Year

Elective

Units of Study

- TinkerCad game - design and develop a gaming system using simple LCD screen graphics.
- Networking and computer systems - investigate the way networks work and how hardware and software combine to solve problems related to the transfer and storage of data.
- Dynamic website design - develop simple dynamic website content.

Assessment

Folio of work, project, written exam.

Other information

ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS

Full Year Elective

Units of Study

- Marketing Innovation (conduct an inquiry and propose alternative activity, product or service options that will enable a business to achieve its objectives and future business success.)
- Financial Decision Making (conduct an inquiry and propose a course of action for a client about strategies to manage finances, make financial decisions and accumulate future savings)
- The Global Economy (investigate a global business enterprise to determine strategies used to create a competitive advantage).

Assessment

Project, marketing pitch presentation, extended response and assignment

Other information

ENGINEERING AND DESIGN

Full Year Elective

Units of Study

- Bluetooth speaker design – CAD model and manufacturing including electronics
- Engineering fundamentals – historical research, ethics exploration, force diagrams, materials data collection and calculations.
- All-terrain vehicle design – sketches, CAD model, manufacturing, testing.

Assessment

Project poster, speaker and vehicle build, written exam.

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:

- Healthy Habits - importance of healthy eating and making appropriate food choices
- Food Futures - food production, consumption, and sustainability.
- Sew Easy - develop skills in textile design and production
- Pattern to product - consider factors that impact clothing design decisions and adapt and refine a design idea to produce a quality textile item

Assessment

Weekly practical cookery, practical cookery exams, project, practical textiles items, production plan

Other information

Students are required to supply their own ingredients for cooking every week (1 semester) and purchase fabric and other components needed for their textile items (1 semester).

HOSPITALITY

Full Year

Elective

Units of Study

- Kitchen Basics - basic kitchen practices for a career in the Hospitality industry
- Ways to cook - investigate and make judgements related to how food is prepared and cooked, food safety, presentation and sensory perceptions
- Sustainable cook - engage in hands-on activities and design challenges centered around sustainable cooking practices.
- Café Foods - practical knowledge and skills related to cafe menus and management

Assessment

Weekly practical cookery, Practical cookery exam, projects

Other information

Students are required to supply their own ingredients for cooking every week.

INDUSTRIAL GRAPHIC SKILLS (COMPUTER AIDED MANUFACTURING)

Full Year

Elective

Units of Study

- Signage design – use CAD technology to create signage solutions.
- Skate park design – create concept sketches and complete design in Inventor for a redesigned Skate Park
- Cottage design – design a cottage using CAD technology in the form of Revit.

Assessment

Design folios

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.

ITALIAN

Full Year

Elective

Units of Study

- Benvenuti a casa mia! – Welcome to my place! - house, town & services, directions and simple everyday activities
- Vengo anch'io! – Will you come to my place? - location of things and giving directions, what they do in their free time
- A tavola con gli italiani – At the table with Italians - Italian regional cuisines
- Il solito tran tran – My usual routine – fitness and routines

Assessment

Written tasks, class observations, group video, class event, blog, oral exam

Other information

It is strongly recommended that students have completed the Year 8 Italian program or can demonstrate language competence.

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

A series of learning experiences, tasks, projects and assignments as ongoing assessment of subject content knowledge and skills.

Advice

It is strongly recommended that students have achieved at least a B in the Year 8 Italian program.

JAPANESE

Full Year

Elective

Units of Study

- Fashion - describing what people are wearing and why. Focus on youth subculture and related fashion. Including traditional Japanese dress.
- Food - discussing Japanese traditional food / western food. Restaurant experience.
- I am a Legend – biography / life story
- Part-time work - Comparing high school students' part time work experiences in Japan and Australia

Assessment

Multimodal presentation, listening and reading comprehension, written informative text

Other information

It is strongly recommended that students have completed the Year 8 Japanese program or can demonstrate language competence.

MANUFACTURING SKILLS

Full Year

Elective

Units of Study

- USB Standard Lamp
- C02 Dragster
- Canvas Folding Stool

In all units, the two interrelated strands are:

- Knowledge and understanding
- Processes and production skills (generating and designing, producing and implementing, evaluating, collaborating and managing)

Assessment

Practical construction, design folio, procedure documentation

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.

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

MUSIC EXTENSION

Full Year

Elective

Units of Study

- World Music - a wide variety of repertoire from Western and non-Western musical cultures, including both art and folk music.
- Classic Hits - key repertoire from the Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and 20th century periods, as well as modern musical theatre.

Assessment

Performances, compositions, musicology exam, musicology assignment

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.

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.

Assessment

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

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.

- Rumination, reimagining and reflection - reimagine the cultural context, time, setting, concept or characters
- Novel study and literary critics – changing the way we see and never forgetting kindness
- As you like it – select your written imaginative genre - crafting and creation of an original imaginative written response.
- Independent explorations and student voice - experiment with and demonstrate genre patterns and conventions that they have selected.

Assessment

Extended response, exam, pick your genre (Spoken, written, multimodal or a combination of these genres)

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.



CAIRNS

State High
The best we can be.

Cnr Sheridan & Upward Streets, Cairns, Queensland

P.O. Box 5643, Cairns, Qld Australia 4870

Telephone: +61 7 4050 3033

Email: the.principal@cairnsshs.eq.edu.au • Website: www.cairnsshs.eq.edu.au

CRICOS Provider Number 00608A