

YEAR 7 2026



Junior Academy

Unlocking potential

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EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE


I am excited to welcome you into our Junior Academy and know that you will find an exciting and dynamic environment for you to learn, meet others, and develop as a whole person.

Our objective is to build life-long learners who love being at school. We have high expectations that each member of our community will be the best they can be. We believe that every student can learn and work on doing even better. We want to make sure young people make the most of every opportunity in the school.

The information in this booklet is designed to help you make decisions about your course of study for Year 7 in 2026. Please read this booklet carefully and discuss with your parent/carer.

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 7, 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 7 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>

DEEP LEARNING

We are part of a global partnership that works to transform the role of teachers to that of activators who design experiences that build global competencies using real-life problem solving; and supports schools, districts, and systems to shift practice and how to measure learning in authentic ways.



Communication



- Communication designed for audience and impact
- Message advocates a purpose and makes an impact
- Reflection to further develop and improve communication
- Voice and identity expressed to advance humanity

Creativity



- Economic and social entrepreneurialism
- Asking the right inquiry questions
- Pursuing and expressing novel ideas and solutions
- Leadership to turn ideas into action

Critical Thinking



- Evaluating information and arguments
- Making connections and identifying patterns
- Meaningful knowledge construction
- Experimenting, reflecting and taking action on ideas in the real world

Character



- Provide stance towards life and learning to learn
- Grit, tenacity, perseverance and resilience
- Empathy, compassion and integrity in action

Citizenship





































































- A global perspective
- Commitment to human equity and well-being through empathy and compassion for diverse values and world views
- Genuine interest in human and environmental sustainability
- Solving ambiguous and complex problems in the real world to benefit citizens

Collaboration



- Working interdependently as a team
- Interpersonal and team-related skills
- Social, emotional, and intercultural skills
- Managing team dynamics and challenges

TIME ALLOCATION YEAR 7

Subject	Terms	Lessons/Week (70 minutes)	Minutes/Week	Curriculum
Classics (English and Humanities)	   	     	420	
Mathematics	   	  	210	
Science	   	 	140	
Health and Physical Education	   	 	140	
Language (Chinese, Japanese, Italian)	   	 	140	
Technology 1	 	 	140	
Technology 2	 	 	140	
Elective 1	 	 	140	
Elective 2	 	 	140	
Connect	   		35	

COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

THE CLASSICS (ENGLISH AND HUMANITIES – HISTORY, GEOGRAPHY AND CIVICS)

Full Year

Compulsory

Units of Study

Units studied in Yr 7 include:

- Class Museum: explore the concepts of diversity and multiculturalism and the significance of artefacts in reflecting our identity. Students reflect on their own family history and cultural background and select an artefact that represents their identity. Students develop skills in communication, critical thinking, and historical inquiry, while contributing to a broader understanding of cultural diversity within their community.
- Things That Matter Forum: explore the Australian legal system and key civic issues affecting society, focusing on how laws and systems impact everyday life. Students will experiment with language features and literary devices to effectively communicate the significance of their chosen issue, culminating in a persuasive call to action.
- Ancient Civilisations: explore ancient civilisations, including First Nations Australia, and understand how historical events shape fictional narratives. They will research a significant event from a chosen civilization, and create a fictional narrative set in the form of a short story, graphic novel, or short film.

Assessment

Short response, multimodal texts and presentation.

Other information

Students should do approximately 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

Units studied in Year 7 include:

- Number: investigate the foundations of number sense. This will be applied in real life contexts.
- My sculpture: investigate the nets of shapes and develop formulae to determine area and volume. They will apply this to developing their 3D sculptures being made in Art.
- Number 2 and algebra: further develop their number sense by examining roots, exponents, factors and ratios. This will be applied in real life contexts.
- Algebra and geometry: introduction to solving equations. This will build on their earlier introduction into algebra and demonstrate how algebra can be used in real life.
- Probability and statistics: plan and conduct statistical investigations and display these appropriately. They will also develop games to understand probabilities as well as run simulations to predict and observe results.

Assessment

Written tests, project and assignment.

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 7 include:

- Forces (Physical sciences)
- Celestial Phenomena (Earth and Space Sciences)
- Separating Mixtures (Chemistry)
- Keystone Species (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 investigations, and test/examinations.

Other information

Students must wear shoes with impervious uppers in Science.

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Full Year Compulsory

Units of Study

In Year 7, 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)

Topics include team building, movement skills and safety (swimming, athletics, fitness), approaching adolescence, team games, nutrition and respectful relationships.

Assessment

Students are assessed on the achievement of outcomes through a variety of techniques including assignments, extended responses, project 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. Students will be engaging in a swim unit.

LANGUAGES (ALL STUDENTS MUST SELECT ONE LANGUAGE)

CHINESE (MANDARIN)

Full Year
Units of Study
<p>The course is an extension of work covered in Year 7 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.</p> <p>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.</p>
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 7 Chinese program or can demonstrate language competence.

ITALIAN

Full Year
Units of Study
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vita da teenager – Teen's life - describe the life of a teenager, including personal routine, shared events, leisure activities, interests, likes and dislikes.• Buon appetito! – Enjoy your meal - research and select a famous Italian city to set up their own ethnic restaurant• Alla scoperta dell'Italia – Discovering Italy - exploring the regions of Italy and researching relevant history, geography, tourism, culture and cuisine• Viaggio in Italia – Trip to Italy - plan a trip to Italy focusing on various tourist attractions, modes of transport and activities.
Assessment
Assignments, project (menu), spoken exam, group multimodal presentation
Other information
It is strongly recommended that students have completed the Year 7 Italian program or can demonstrate language competence. However, it is not a pre-requisite and students can commence their studies in Year 8 providing they are willing to make a strong commitment to their work.

JAPANESE

Full Year

Units of Study

- Anime – describing appearance and characteristics, likes/dislikes/favourite and reasons.
- Daily routines – describing daily routine including school. Basic time. Asking what, when.
- Matsuri and Time – what we do at Matsuri. Asking what when where who
- Youkai – describing appearance and characteristics, where they live and what they eat/drink/do, likes/dislikes/favourite and reasons.

Assessment

Multimodal presentation, listening and reading comprehension, project

Other information

It is strongly recommended that students have completed the Year 7 Japanese program or can demonstrate language competence. However, it is not a pre-requisite and students can commence their studies in Year 8 providing they are willing to make a strong commitment to their studies.

For students who choose Italian as their Language, they have the option of selecting Italian Immersion:

ITALIAN IMMERSION

Full Year
Elective (Chosen instead of Humanities component of The Classics)
Units of Study Units are studied in Italian language and include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • La Mia Storia – My history: research the nature of Australian society and will bring an artefact that represent their culture and will share this information through a Class Museum. • La Nostra Scuola, il Nostro Posto nel Mondo - Our School, Our Place in the world: investigate an issue of their interest within the school ground and will create a campaign to persuade their peers to action or participation through devised strategies. • Le Civiltà Antiche - Ancient Civilisations: explore the histories of the early First Nations Peoples and migration theories. They will investigate factors influencing the rise of ancient societies (e.g. proximity to rivers). • Il Museo Romano – Roman Museum: explore in-depth the Ancient Rome, and how this ancient society has impacted the modern world.
Assessment Presentation, investigation and projects.
Other information Students opting for the Italian Immersion program must select Italian for their Languages subject.

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

VISUAL ART

One Semester
Elective
Units of Study Through project-based learning experiences students are exposed to art production process and provided opportunities to develop and produce a variety of artworks. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art Development 1 – introduced to the elements of art and engage with a variety of media • Personal Artefact – respond visually to their personal artefact explored within the Classics subject. • Art Development 2 – further exploration of art elements using a variety of media. • What Makes Me Me? – students are challenged to think conceptually about their own identity and identify key factors that have contributed to the development of their personality.
Assessment Folio of artwork, student directed projects
Other information

DANCE

One Semester Elective

Units of Study

In Dance, using the body as the instrument of expression and movement as the medium, students represent, celebrate, question and communicate personal, social, emotional, spiritual and physical human experience.

Students individually and collaboratively choreograph, rehearse, perform and respond as they engage with dance practice and practitioners in their own and others' cultures and communities.

Students develop knowledge and understanding through play, imagination, experimentation, and creative and critical thinking.

Units studied in Year 7 include:

- Movement and me – understand technical fundamentals, respond to a range of stimuli to identify stylistic characteristics, and gain an understanding of safe dance practice.
- Taking dance to the street - Introduction to choreography through the development and manipulation of motif, dance elements, and form to communicate intent.

Assessment

Practical performance and written responses.

Other information

DRAMA

One Semester Elective

Units of Study

Drama creates students who are creative, confident, compassionate and resilient individuals who can think and reflect critically, celebrate and challenge ideas, people and events, and work towards making a difference in sustaining and reimagining their own and their communities' futures.

In Drama, students will develop confidence, self-esteem to explore, depict and celebrate human experience, take risks and challenge their own creativity.

Units in Year 7 include:

- Roles and me – explore the elements of drama, and develop collaboration and performance skills.
- Collaborate – develop storytelling and performance skills and work collaboratively to create student devised dramatic action

Assessment

Performances and project.

Other information

MUSIC

One Semester

Elective

Units of Study

Students will be encouraged to perceive, think, express and communicate in Music, including collaborating in various performance ensembles, and singing and playing instruments including the piano and guitar.

Units in Year 7 include:

- Discover Music: introduction to the elements of music and musical style.
- Strike up the Band: introduction to orchestras, orchestral instruments and musical elements.

The concepts of music are studied through three key aspects:

- exploring and responding
- developing practices and skills
- creating and making.

Assessment

Performance, written exam and composition

Other information

Students do not need to have any formal music education to study Music.

EXTENSION ARTS SUBJECTS

MUSIC EXCELLENCE EXTENSION

Full Year

Elective

Units of Study

Performance - The program focusses on engaging students in performance through a variety of performance opportunities, in a range of musical styles. Students will have an opportunity to work solo and as part of an ensemble.

Composition / Music Theory / Musicology - Students will be extended through personalised learning experiences developing music theory, composition, improvisation and musicianship through workshops and a varied holistic music program.

Students will:

- Develop music theory understanding and application, through study of the AMEB theory syllabus
- Enhance their musicianship through practical performance-based learning
- Rehearse and practice music to develop technical skill and enhance their appreciation for different music styles
- Accelerate their music development towards ensemble and solo awareness

Assessment

Performances, compositions, written exam, assignment

Other information

Students who are enrolled at Cairns High as part of the Music COE program will automatically be placed in this subject as their arts elective.

Students who auditioned for the Cairns High Music COE program and are learning a musical instrument (voice included) can choose this subject as an elective.

TECHNOLOGY SUBJECTS (STUDENTS WILL STUDY ALL FOUR SUBJECTS ACROSS YEARS 7 AND 8)

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

One Semester

Units of Study
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer skills – spreadsheets, represent data with integers and binary, cyber security, manage digital footprint • Micro Melons - develop and modify creative digital solutions, decompose real-world problems, and evaluate alternative solutions, design and trace algorithms
Assessment
Design folio and project
Other information

ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS

One Semester

Units of Study
<p>Students develop an understanding of the way the market system operates in Australia, the interdependence of consumers and producers in the market and why governments may influence the market's operation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

HOME ECONOMICS

One Semester

Units of Study

In Year 8, students focus on one term of food and nutrition and one term of textiles and design. The following units will be covered:

- Fake Away - designing, producing and evaluating a healthy fast food meal option.
- Bag It - designing, producing and evaluating a sustainable drawstring backpack.

Assessment

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

Other information

Students are required to supply their own ingredients for cooking every week (1 term).

Students are provided with an apron which they will bring each week for cooking lessons. Correct footwear (leather/suede/artificial leather) must be worn in the kitchen.

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

One Semester

Units of Study

Students will develop foundational skills in Design Technologies and Industrial Technologies:

- Pencil Case
- Pot Stand

In both 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, project

Other information

Students will be working in an industrial workshop environment and so will require shoes with impervious uppers and to comply with safety processes and procedures.



CAIRNS

State High
The best we can be.

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