

YEAR 8 2026



Junior Academy
Unlocking potential

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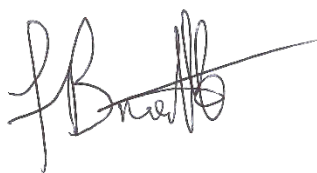
EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

The information in this booklet is designed to help you make decisions about your course of study for Year 8 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 8, 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 8 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 8

Subject	Terms	Lessons/Week (70 minutes)	Minutes/Week	Curriculum
English	   	  	210	
Mathematics	   	  	210	
Science	   	  	210	
Health and Physical Education	   	 	140	
Humanities (History and Geography)	   	 	140	
Language (Chinese, Japanese, Italian)	   	 	140	
Technology 1	 	 	140	
Technology 2	 	 	140	
Elective 1	 	 	140	
Elective 2	 	 	140	
Elective 3	 	 	140	
Elective 4	 	 	140	
Connect	   		35	

COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

ENGLISH

Full Year

Compulsory

Units of Study

Units studied in Yr 8 include:

- Poetic License: The Human Experience - human experiences and social issues are related, and the manner in which these can be represented in songs and poetry.
- Let Them Speak: Inspirations And Phenomena - powerful speeches serve as vehicles for empathy, understanding and change in the world
- Tell Me a Story: Explorations in imaginative writing - examined the use of figurative and stylistic devices in a literary text.
- Novel Study: A Response to Literature - literature shapes our understanding of the world, exposing audiences to great suffering, great love, and a myriad of universal human experiences.

In all units, the three interrelated strands are:

- Language
- Literature
- Literacy

Assessment

Project (poetry anthology), performance/presentation (persuasive spoken multi-modal), short response (illustrated children's story), illustrated short story, cautionary tales and other genres, examination.

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, project and investigation

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 8 include:

- Energy (Physical sciences)
- Plate tectonics (Earth and Space Sciences)
- Chemistry of common substances (Chemistry)
- Cells and body systems (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, 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 8, 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 alcohol and other drugs, health benefits of physical activity, safety, fundamental movement skills, active play, mental health and wellbeing, challenge and adventure activities.

Assessment

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

HUMANITIES (HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY)

Full Year

Compulsory

Units of Study

Units studied in Yr 8 include:

- Changing the world one voice at a Time – an integrated history and geography unit with a focus on significant people, places and events in History.
- Places and Voices: Significant Places – a geographical study into what makes landforms and landscapes significant, with a focus on special places in Cairns.
- Journeys: Impacts of COVID Migration on Cairns – a geographical study of the impacts of population growth and urbanisation.
- Journeys: through time and people – a historical study of the Middle Ages.

Year 8 content is organised into the two interrelated strands are:

Knowledge and understanding

Skills

- History: questioning and researching, using historical sources, historical perspectives and interpretations, communicating
- Geography: questioning and researching using geographical methods, interpreting and analysing geographical data and information, concluding and decision making, communicating

Assessment

Presentation: Interactive Display, Investigation: Social Media Campaign, Project: Blog/VLOD/Podcast, Project: Interview

Other information

ITALIAN IMMERSION

Full Year

Elective (Chosen instead of History and Geography)

Units of Study

Units are studied in Italian language and include:

- Interactive Middle Ages– a historical study into pre-modern Europe.
- The Great Explorers– a historical study into the shaping of the modern world specifically China and the Americas.
- Sustainable Development – a geographical study into landforms and landscapes, and how human activity impacts on them.
- The Ideal City – a geographical study into Urbanisation and what makes a city an ideal place to live.

Year 8 content is organised into the two interrelated strands are:

Knowledge and understanding

Skills

- History: questioning and researching, using historical sources, historical perspectives and interpretations, communicating
- Geography: questioning and researching using geographical methods, interpreting and analysing geographical data and information, concluding and decision making, communicating

Assessment

Students are assessed through various Presentations and Projects

Other information

While it is preferable that students have studied Italian and Italian Immersion in Year 7, motivated students can commence their studies in Year 8 Italian Immersion provided their willingness to make a strong commitment to their work.

Students opting for the Italian Immersion program must select Italian for their Languages subject.

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.

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.

- Art Development – engage with a variety of media
- My Landscape – explore aspects of contemporary Australian Landscape artworks and then explore landscape through a personal, cultural and/or contemporary lens.
- Talking Country - contemporary Far North Queensland First Nation Artists and develop a 3D based artwork inspired by the stories, processes and/or symbols used by one of the artists

Assessment

Folio of artwork, student directed projects

Other information

DANCE

One Semester Elective

Units of Study

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.

- Musical theatre
- Experimental dance

Assessment

Performance and choreography, short response to chosen musical theatre performance, choreographic statement

Other information

DIGITAL ART

One Semester Elective

Units of Study

Through project-based learning experiences students are exposed to digital art production process and provided opportunities to develop and produce a variety of artworks.

- Photo manipulation - Adobe Photoshop and the tools necessary to edit, manipulate and enhance digital images
- Digital composition - create a series of artworks (using their own photos and images off the internet)

Assessment

Student digital folio (written, practical and multimodal)

Other information

DRAMA

One Semester Elective

Units of Study

Students will engage in dramatic playing, role-playing, improvising, process drama, interpreting scripts, rehearsing, performing and directing.

- Collaborate and perform - develop their acting skills and work collaboratively to polish and present scripted scenes.
- Collaborate and create - manipulate the elements of drama to shape dramatic action to devise a scene from a given stimulus.

Assessment

Performances and project.

Other information

MUSIC

One Semester Elective

Units of Study

Students will collaborate in various performance ensembles, singing and playing instruments including the piano and guitar. Students will also learn how to compose their own music.

- Rock Music - main characteristics, styles, instruments and terms used in Rock Music
- Music and society - basic characteristics, styles, instruments and terms used in a variety of non-western ethnic music. e.g. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island music

Assessment

Performance and composition

Other information

EXTENSION ARTS SUBJECTS

DANCE EXTENSION

Full Year
Elective
Units of Study <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unit 1 – Musical Theatre – explore the musical theatre genre, developing skills in both movement and non-movement components to create and perform in this distinctive performance style. Unit 2 – Experimental Dance – experiment with creative strategies and resources to explore diverse ways movement can be created, developed, and performed. Responding to site specific environments and challenging students to focus on experimental responses.
Assessment <p>Group performance, group choreography, and site-specific experimental dance.</p>
Other information <p>Students wishing to do this subject must be learning dance either through the school's Dance POE Program or from a private dance teacher.</p>

DRAMA EXTENSION

Full Year
Elective
Units of Study <p>Students will engage in dramatic playing, role-playing, improvising, process drama, interpreting scripts, rehearsing, performing and directing.</p> <p>Unit 1 and 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate and perform - develop their acting skills and work collaboratively to polish and present scripted scenes. Collaborate and create - manipulate the elements of drama to shape dramatic action to devise a scene from a given stimulus. <p>Unit 3 and 4 (Extension)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate and perform – develop and apply acting skills, children's theatre conventions, and characterisation to rehearse and present an engaging live performance for young audiences. Collaborate and improvise – develop and apply improvisation skills, including accepting and extending offers, to create and perform structured theatre sports games in a collaborative setting.
Assessment <p>Performances and project.</p>
Other information

MUSIC EXCELLENCE EXTENSION

Full Year

Elective

Units of Study

Students will develop a deepened understanding and use of music concepts and languages, practices, technologies and techniques. Through their musical practice they will develop a distinctive personal voice and engage in music making in varying contexts.

- Rock music - A range of subgenres are explored, including rock n' roll, heavy rock, and commercial rock.
- Theme and variations - repertoire from the compositional form of *Theme and Variations*.
- Music and society - broad range of repertoire across different musical societies within the theme of *The Stars and the Sky*.
- Film music – broad range of film music.

Assessment

Performances, compositions, written exam, 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.

VISUAL ART EXTENSION

Full Year

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. This replicates the Semester program of Visual Art

- Art Development – engage with a variety of media
- My Landscape – explore aspects of contemporary Australian Landscape artworks and then explore landscape through a personal, cultural and/or contemporary lens.
- Talking Country - contemporary Far North Queensland First Nation Artists and develop a 3D based artwork inspired by the stories, processes and/or symbols used by one of the artists.

The Second Semester is an extension - Adventurers in Mud (introduction to ceramics)

- Create a folio of 3D clay-based vessels that demonstrate clay based construction techniques
- Design and develop a 3D visual representation (artwork) of a new fictional character using clay as a base media.

Assessment

Folio of artwork, student directed projects

Other information

Students wishing to do this subject must be learning visual art through the school's Visual Art POE Program.

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.

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES

Full Year

Elective

Units of Study

Through project-based learning students will design, create, refine and evaluate a built solution which combines Design, Advanced Manufacturing and Digital Technologies skills. The project will include low fidelity prototyping and final product manufacture using 3D printers, laser cutters and micro-controllers. Students will also be introduced to programming and development of electrical circuits.

Units include:

- Advance Technology Skills
- Micro-controller basics
- Useless box

Assessment

Built project and design folio – design, sketching, 3D CAD, programming, electrical circuits

Other information

Students will work in pairs through a creative, student-led design process. Peer collaboration and critical thinking skills will be key to student success in this specialty course.



CAIRNS

State High
The best we can be.

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