

YEAR 8 2027



Junior Academy
Unlocking potential

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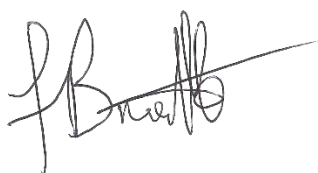
EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

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.
- *We Need to Talk About It:* 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)
- The Moving Earth (Earth and Space Sciences)
- Particles Matter (Chemical Sciences)
- Cells and Body systems (Biological Sciences)

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 - 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.

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)

Units of study include:

- Unit 1 – What were you thinking (Teenage risk taking)
- Unit 2 – Large ball team sports Netball, Basketball, Futsal, Soccer
- Unit 3 – Healthy People Healthy Communities
- Unit 4 – Athletics
- Unit 5 – Outdoor Challenge
- Unit 6 -Striking team sports Tea-ball, cricket
- Unit 7 – Nutrition
- Unit 8 – Swim and Survive

The order of units will depend on pool availability.

Assessment

Students are assessed on the achievement of outcomes through a variety of techniques including multi-modal projects 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.

HUMANITIES (HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY)

Full Year
Compulsory
Units of Study Units studied in Yr 8 include: • Journeys: Impacts of COVID Migration on Cairns – a geographical study of the impacts of population growth and urbanisation. • Places and Voices: Significant Places – a geographical study into what makes landforms and landscapes significant, with a focus on special places in Cairns. • Changing the world one voice at a Time – a historical inquiry unit with a focus on significant people, places and events in both the Medieval and Renaissance in Europe. • Journeys: through time and people – a historical study of the Spanish Conquest of the Americas. 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: Media Campaign, Project: Blog/VLOD/Podcast, Project: Investigative Timeline
Other information

ITALIAN IMMERSION

Full Year
Elective (Chosen instead of History and Geography)
Units of Study Units are studied in Italian language and include: • Il Medioevo Interattivo - Interactive Middle Ages – a historical study into pre-modern Europe. • I Grandi Esploratori - The Great Explorers – a historical study into the shaping of the modern world specifically China and the Americas. • Lo Sviluppo Sostenibile - Sustainable Development – a geographical study into landforms and landscapes, and how human activity impacts on them. • La città ideale - 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
This subject is only available to students who have been studying Italian or can demonstrate language competence.

LANGUAGES (ALL STUDENTS MUST STUDY A LANGUAGE)

CHINESE (MANDARIN)

Full Year
Units of Study This course extends and builds on the knowledge and skills developed in Year 7 Chinese. As language learning is underpinned by effective communication, students develop their communicative competence through the interrelated skills of comprehending and producing language. Students engage with spoken, written and multimodal texts to develop their listening, reading, speaking and writing skills, with a focus on communicating meaning in familiar contexts. Topics include My Family, My Daily Routines, My City — Cairns, and Chinese New Year. Students develop their knowledge and understanding of the Chinese language system, including the use of Chinese characters and pinyin, and apply these conventions when comprehending and producing language. Authentic texts, resources and language-learning experiences are incorporated to support students in using Chinese for meaningful communication and to develop their understanding of Chinese language and culture.
Assessment Students will be assessed in different ways including summative written assessment, speaking assessments, role plays and creating a brochure.
Other information Students who studied Chinese in Year 7 will continue to study this subject in Year 8.

ITALIAN

Full Year
Units of Study • Alla scoperta dell'Italia – Discovering Italy - exploring the regions of Italy and researching relevant history, geography, tourism, culture and cuisine • 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 – reflect on eating habits, order a meal at an Italian restaurant and interact with peers at the table. • Viaggio in Italia – Trip to Italy - plan a trip to Italy focusing on various tourist attractions, modes of transport and activities.
Assessment Project, group multimodal presentation, exam, oral assessment
Other information Students who studied Italian in Year 7 will continue to study this subject in Year 8.

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
Multi-modal PPT presentation; Multi-modal project with embedded audio; listening and reading comprehension exam; project/poster
Other information
Students who studied Italian in Year 7 will continue to study this subject in Year 8.

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

VISUAL ART

One Semester Elective

Units of Study

Through practical, project-based learning, students experiment with a range of materials and techniques while developing and creating their own artworks.

- My Landscape – Explore contemporary Australian landscape art before creating artworks that interpret landscape through a personal, cultural or contemporary perspective.
- Talking Country – Explore the work of contemporary Far North Queensland First Nations artists and create a 3D artwork inspired by the stories, processes and/or symbols explored through their work.

Assessment

Assessment includes a folio of practical artworks, planning and development, as well as opportunities for student-directed creative projects.

Other information

This is a highly practical, studio-based subject with a strong focus on developing creative ideas, experimenting with materials and producing resolved artworks.

DANCE

One Semester Elective

Units of Study

Students develop their skills in choreography and performance through practical dance activities. They work individually and in groups to create, rehearse, and perform dances, while exploring different styles and ways of communicating ideas through movement.

- Lights Up on Broadway – Learn and perform energetic musical theatre routines, developing skills in dance, character, expression and ensemble performance.

Assessment

Assessment includes dance performances and choreography, a short response to a chosen musical theatre performance, and a choreographic statement explaining the ideas and choices behind your own dance work.

Other information

This is a highly practical subject. Students should be prepared to actively participate in dance classes, rehearsals, choreography and performances, and to work creatively with others.

DIGITAL ART

One Semester Elective
Units of Study
Students learn to create digital artworks through practical, project-based activities, developing skills with industry-standard creative software. • Photo Manipulation – Learn to use Adobe Photoshop and digital cameras to capture, edit and creatively transform your own photographs. Develop original ideas based on different themes and combine photography and digital techniques to create resolved digital artworks. • Game Interface Design – Build on your Photoshop skills to create game interface designs, posters and promotional screen graphics. Respond to a range of creative design briefs using your own photography, digital templates, graphics and interface elements to produce polished, original designs.
Assessment
Students create a digital folio that includes their completed artworks as well as planning, design development.
Other information
This is a highly practical, computer-based subject using digital cameras and creative software such as Adobe Photoshop. Students will develop both creative design and technical digital art skills.

DRAMA

One Semester Elective
Units of Study
Students develop their acting, performance and creative skills through practical drama activities including improvisation, role-play, scripts, rehearsals and performance. Collaborate and perform – Students develop their acting skills and work collaboratively to polish and present scripted scenes. • Collaborate & Perform – Develop your acting and performance skills while working with others to rehearse, polish and perform scripted scenes. • Collaborate & Create – Work creatively with others to devise and perform your own drama, using a given idea or stimulus as inspiration.
Assessment
Assessment includes scripted, devised and improvised performances and a creative drama project.
Other information
This is a highly practical and collaborative subject. Students should be prepared to actively participate in workshops, rehearsals and performances and work creatively with others.

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. • Unit 1 - Rock Music. Main characteristics, styles, instruments and terms used in Rock Music • Unit 2 - 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, composition and written exam.
Other information

EXTENSION ARTS SUBJECTS

DANCE EXTENSION

Full Year Elective
Units of Study • Unit 1 – Musical Theatre – Develop movement, character and performance skills through the Musical Theatre genre. • Unit 2 – Experimental Dance – Explore creative and experimental approaches to movement, choreography and site-specific performance. • Unit 3 – 1920s Jazz – Develop performance and choreography skills in early Jazz, including Charleston and stylised movement, while exploring its historical context.
Assessment Group performance, group choreography, and site-specific experimental dance.
Other information Dance Extension is designed for highly focused and capable dancers who are committed to further developing their performance and choreography skills. Previous dance experience and ongoing participation in the school's Dance COE Program or training with a private dance studio is highly recommended. As an extension subject, students are expected to demonstrate a high level of commitment, participation and progress.

DRAMA EXTENSION

Full Year Elective
Units of Study Students will engage in dramatic playing, role-playing, improvising, process drama, interpreting scripts, rehearsing, performing and directing. Units 1 & 2 • Collaborate & Perform – Develop acting skills while working collaboratively to rehearse and perform scripted scenes. • Collaborate & Create – Use dramatic techniques to devise and perform an original scene from a given stimulus. Units 3 & 4 – Extension • Children's Theatre – Develop characterisation and performance skills to create and present engaging live theatre for young audiences. • Theatre Sports & Improvisation – Develop improvisation and teamwork skills through structured theatre sports games and performances.
Assessment Assessment includes scripted and devised performances, improvisation and creative drama projects.
Other information Drama Extension is designed for focused and capable Drama students who want to further develop their acting, improvisation and performance skills. Participation in the school's Drama COE Program or other drama training is highly recommended. As an extension subject, students are expected to demonstrate a high level of commitment, participation and progress.

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.
Semester 1 - 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 <i>Theme and Variations</i>.
Semester 2 - Music and society - broad range of repertoire across different musical societies within the theme of <i>The Stars and the Sky</i>. - 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
Students develop their creative ideas, practical art-making skills and understanding of contemporary art through a range of project-based activities.
Semester 1 – Visual Art - Art Development – Experiment with a range of materials, techniques and art-making processes. - My Landscape – Explore contemporary Australian landscape art and create artworks from personal, cultural and contemporary perspectives. - Talking Country – Explore contemporary Far North Queensland First Nations artists and create a 3D artwork inspired by their stories, processes and/or symbols.
Semester 2 – Extension: Adventures in Mud - Students extend their practical skills through an introduction to ceramics. - Create a folio of 3D ceramic vessels using a range of clay construction techniques. - Design and create an original fictional character in clay, developing ideas from initial concepts through to a resolved 3D artwork.
Assessment
Assessment includes folios of practical artworks, planning and development, and student-directed creative projects.
Other information
Visual Art Extension is designed for focused and capable Visual Art students who want to further develop their creative and practical art-making skills. Participation in the school's Visual Art COE Program or other art experiences is highly recommended. As an extension subject, students are expected to demonstrate a high level of commitment, participation and progress.

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

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

One Semester
Units of Study
• 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
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. • Business Fundamentals (explore the concept of needs and wants in an economy and apply learning in a simulated bartering economy). • 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 (investigating consumer roles and responsibilities, identifying own personal spending habits and exploring methods of saving).
Assessment
Project, marketing pitch presentation, extended response
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.

MANUFACTURING SKILLS

One Semester
Units of Study
Students will develop foundational skills in Manufacturing Skills: • 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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