



St Joseph's College
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Year 10 Course Selection Handbook

2027

Principal's Introduction

To the future Year 10 Students of St Joseph's College,

There are various times in our lives when we have the opportunity to stop and reflect on our direction and pathways. Preparing to enter Year 10 is a time to think about your talents, interests and abilities across a wide range of areas.

It is important to move towards understanding the type of future you imagine for yourselves. Keep your options open as what you think you may want to do today may be very different from what you want to do in the future. The world of work is rapidly changing, and the sorts of skills you will need in ten or twenty-years' time may be somewhat different from today.

Whatever you decide to do, always remember that the quality of your relationships is central to a meaningful life – be true to yourself, work hard, pursue your dreams with courage and be kind to each other.

I encourage you to take every opportunity to seek advice and guidance from your teachers and the staff who have special responsibilities to assist you with your program and subject choices. Vivienne Egan, Director of RTO and Pathways, is available to you for careers counselling so please take this up.

If I can assist you in any way, please don't hesitate to contact me.

"May your choices reflect your hopes not your fears." Nelson Mandela



Cathy Livingston
Principal



Year 10 and the Victorian Curriculum

The Year 10 program offered by St Joseph's College is informed by Level 10 of the Victorian Curriculum 2.0, the State of Victoria's version of the Australian Curriculum.

The Victorian Curriculum requires that students:

- Receive a broad education
- Begin to plan their senior secondary program of study
- Have the opportunity to learn the knowledge and skills defined by each learning area
- Begin to focus on specialisation in preparation for senior secondary schooling
- Can experience the commencement of an aspect of their senior secondary school qualification such as a VCE or VET subject where a student has already demonstrated achievement of the Level 10 knowledge and skills

The St Joseph's College Year 10 curriculum satisfies each of these requirements of the Victorian Curriculum through:

- A comprehensive suite of Core Studies covering the knowledge and skills of the essential studies
- A broad selection of Elective Studies covering the learning areas of the Victorian Curriculum
- A selection of Elective Studies that allows students to expand upon their interests and prepare for the specialisation of senior secondary schooling
- Accelerated Studies that provide eligible students with the opportunity to experience VCE or VCE VET studies



Year 10 Requirements

Satisfactory Completion of Year 9 to move to Year 10

To satisfactorily complete Year 9, a student must:

- demonstrate an appropriate level of achievement in his Year 9 studies, achieving 'C' or better in Religious Education, English and Mathematics
- average at least a 'C' in all Year 9 units

Year 10 Enrolment Requirements

1. Demonstrate an appropriate level of achievement in Year 9 studies
2. Selection of a Year 10 Program:
 - Core Studies – Religious Education, English, Mathematics (select one of three options), General Science, History, Commerce, Health and Physical Education
 - Elective studies – three semester-based elective subjects from a range of options

Accelerated Studies

Year 10 students are encouraged to consider undertaking a Year 11 subject as an Accelerated Study. Students who wish to apply for an Accelerated Study will need to demonstrate:

- a high level of achievement in their Year 9 studies
- high organisational skills and demonstrated commitment to all their studies
- a high level of attendance and participation in all school events
- high levels of Work Habits
- an appropriate level of maturity

Students should also have submitted a completed application form in a timely manner.

Students may undertake only one Accelerated Study from either the VCE or VCE VET Unit 1 and 2 options available to Year 10 students. Students who do not maintain a B+ standard in their Accelerated Studies may be withdrawn from that study.



Selecting a Year 10 Program

The *Year 10 Course Selection Handbook 2027* provides comprehensive information on each of the Year 10 units available at St Joseph's College. In selecting a program, students should consider each of the following:

- the information contained in the *Year 10 Course Selection Handbook 2027*
- their own achievement standard in a particular subject area
- their own interest in a particular subject area
- the required prerequisites for tertiary studies
- career paths they are interested in pursuing

In selecting a Year 10 program, students should be aware of the compulsory Core Studies Year 10: Religious Education, English, Mathematics and Health and Physical Education during both Semesters 1 and 2 (that is, for the entire year); General Science, History and Commerce (each over one semester).

There are four Core Mathematics options including – Year 10 Mathematics (General), Year 10 Mathematics (Methods), Year 10 Mathematics (Applied), an Accelerated VCE Mathematics (by invitation only) – and these are explored in greater detail in the Mathematics section.

In addition, students are required to undertake three elective studies chosen from a range of electives. These electives may be able to include accelerated VCE or VCE VET subjects under the College's Accelerated Studies program, provided they meet the requirements of the program.

Once again, when designing a Year 10 program, students should keep in mind their academic strengths and interests, their intended career paths and how subjects relate to those and the advice of others, including industry representatives, College staff and their parents.



Andrew Cooper
Deputy Principal (Learning)

Summary of Year 10 Program for 2027

CORE STUDIES – students complete each subject

SUBJECT	SEMESTER	ENTRY	PERIODS (Weekly)
Religious Education	Semester 1 and 2	• Open	3
English <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 10 English or • Year 10 English Skills (application/ invitation) 	Semester 1 and 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open • Invitation and/or application 	6
Mathematics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 10 Mathematics (General) or • Year 10 Mathematics (Methods) or • Year 10 Mathematics (Applied) or • VCE Unit 1 and 2 Mathematical Methods 	Semester 1 and 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open • Open • Application and/or Invitation • Invitation only 	6
Health and Physical Education	Semester 1 and 2	• Open	2
General Science	one semester only	• Open	6
History	one semester only	• Open	6
Commerce	one semester only	• Open	6
Oratory	Semester 1 and 2	• Open	1

ELECTIVE STUDIES – students choose three studies

SUBJECT	SEMESTER	ENTRY	PERIODS
Lighthouse*	one semester only	• Application	6
Drama	one semester only	• Open	6
Media	one semester only	• Open	6
Music **	Semester 1 and 2	• Open	6
Visual Arts	one semester only	• Open	6
Visual Communication Design	one semester only	• Open	6
Health	one semester only	• Open	6
Advanced Physical Education	one semester only	• Open	6
Sports Academy	one semester only	• Invitation	
VCE VET Cert. III Sport and Recreation	one semester only	• Open	6
VET Agriculture	one semester only	• Open	6
Geography	one semester only	• Open	6
Legal Studies and Politics	one semester only	• Open	6
Year 10 Italian (VCE VET Certificate II Applied Language) **	Semester 1 and 2	• Open	6
Year 10 Japanese (VCE VET Certificate II Applied Language) **	Semester 1 and 2	• Open	6
Biological Science	one semester only	• Open	6
Physical Sciences (Chemistry/Physics)	one semester only	• Open	6
Digital Technologies	one semester only	• Open	6
Food Studies	one semester only	• Open	6
Product Design and Technologies	one semester only	• Open	6

* Students may substitute ONE of Core Commerce or History for the **Lighthouse Elective**

** Students may substitute ONE of Core Commerce or History when undertaking a **Language Elective** or **Year 10 Music**



Accelerated Studies

Year 10 students may undertake one Year 11 study as an Accelerated Study. Students who wish to apply for an Accelerated Study will need to demonstrate:

- a high level of achievement in their Year 9 studies
- strong organisational skills and commitment to their studies
- a high level of attendance and participation in all school events
- high levels of Work Habits
- an appropriate level of maturity

Students should also have submitted a completed application form in a timely manner and may be invited to an interview with a member of the Senior School Academic Panel (as required).

Students may undertake only one Accelerated Study from either the VCE or VCE VET Unit 1 and 2 options available to Year 10 students. Students who do not maintain a B+ standard in their Accelerated Studies may be withdrawn from that study and/or may not be able to directly proceed into the next unit of study in the subject sequence.

Applicants must select three Unit 1 and 2 studies in order of preference, understanding they may not receive their first preference and accepting that the experience of Unit 1 and 2 subject is more important than the subject being studied. Year 10 students must complete Unit 1 and 2 of an accelerated VCE study, so **Accelerated Studies take up two of a student's three electives**.

Students applying for admission to an Accelerated Study do so understanding and accepting the following conditions:

1. Submitting the application does not guarantee entry into the Accelerated Studies Program
2. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered
3. An Accelerated Study is for any student who has demonstrated a high level of achievement, attendance, organisational skills and commitment
4. Applicants must select three Unit 1 and 2 studies in order of preference, understanding they may not receive their first preference and accepting that the experience of Unit 1 and 2 subject is more important than the subject being studied
5. If the application is successful, entry into the class will be dependent on a number of factors, including (i) first priority being given to Year 11 students, (ii) available places, (iii) whether the subject runs (iv) timetable constraints (v) Year 9 Semester 2 academic, attendance and behavioural performance
6. Even if the application is successful, approval is conditional based on the student maintaining a B+ in the Accelerated Studies Program and their standard Year 10 studies
7. Students in the Accelerated Program will attend all classes and other events related to their studies in that subject

8. Students in the Accelerated Studies Program will attend all College community, sporting and outdoor education events
9. Students may undertake only one Accelerated Study
10. Students who complete a VCE Unit 1 and 2 study in Year 10 will undertake a full load of subjects throughout their VCE studies – that is, six VCE Units 1 and 2 sequences (one 3 and 4 if the acceleration continues into Year 11) studies plus Religious Education in Year 11, and five VCE Units 3 and 4 sequences plus Religious Education in Year 12

Students undertaking VCE Modern History Units 1 and 2 may substitute Core History for another elective. Students undertaking VCE Accounting Units 1 and 2, Business Management Units 1 and 2 or VCE Legal Studies may substitute Core Commerce for another elective. Consideration will be given to substituting Core History, Commerce and Science for ‘other’ accelerated studies by application (on a case-by-case basis).

The College will offer MOST Unit 1 and 2 VCE units for Acceleration to Year 10 students in 2027 (subject to availability and meeting application criteria) including (but not exclusively) for example:

The Arts	
Theatre Studies	
Media	
Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students must undertake private instrumental lessons
Art Creative Practice	
Visual Communication Design	
Health and Physical Education	
Health and Human Development	
Physical Education	
VCE VET Sport and recreation	
Humanities	
Accounting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students must demonstrate a high level of achievement in Year 9 in English and Mathematics
Business Management	
Geography	
Modern History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students must demonstrate a high level of achievement in Year 9 English
Legal Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students must demonstrate a high level of achievement in Year 9 English
Science	
Biology	
Psychology	
Physics	
Technology	
Food Studies	
Product Design and Technologies	
Systems Engineering	
VCE VET Information and Communications Technology	



Where to find help

The following is a list of staff members who are able to assist you with any questions you may have regarding the VCE, VCE Vocational Major (VCE VM) or VET.

General enquires and questions about Year 10 course selection:

Andrew Cooper	Deputy Principal (Learning)	acooper@stjosephs.com.au
Guido Piotti	Deputy Principal	gpiotti@stjosephs.com.au
Liam O'Keefe	Deputy Principal (Community)	lokeefe@stjosephs.com.au
Melissa Young	Head of Learning	myoung@stjosephs.com.au
Vivienne Egan	Director of RTO and Pathways	vegan@stjosephs.com.au
Jacqui Cooke	Year 10 Leader	jcooke@stjosephs.com.au
Carl Di Stefano	Year 10 Learning Leader	cdistefano@stjosephs.com.au
Claire Moody	Year 11 Learning Leader	cmoody@stjosephs.com.au

Subject specific enquiries:

Patrick van Dyk	Head of Religious Education and Service	pvandyk@stjosephs.com.au
Siobhan Duffy	Arts Leader	sduffy@stjosephs.com.au
Emily Watchman	English Leader	ewatchman@stjosephs.com.au
Dylan Price	Health and Physical Education Leader	dprice@stjosephs.com.au
Bronwyn Dean	Head of Music and Ministry	bdean@stjosephs.com.au
Ian Horsburgh	Humanities Leader	ihorsburgh@stjosephs.com.au
Hannah Mole	Languages Leader	hmole@stjosephs.com.au
Tomas Fay	Mathematics Leader	tfay@stjosephs.com.au
Ranjith Dediwalage	Science Leader	rdediwalage@stjosephs.com.au
Sarah Buxton	Technology Leader	sbuxton@stjosephs.com.au



Religious Education

CORE SUBJECT

Religious Education



Religious Education

CORE STUDY

Contact Person:

Patrick van Dyk

Head of Religious Education and Service

Beginning with a focus on the question “What makes this a Religion?”, the Year 10 course explores the development over time of religions, their practices, and influences. With an emphasis on Aboriginal spirituality and the influence of the Christian traditions. This is followed by a glimpse of the Church in History focusing on the Middle Ages, the events from the Reformation and the various Vatican Councils. Concluding this semester study is a unit on the development of the gospels and the writing in the Gospel of Mark, the message and exploration of the text.

Second semester foci are Relationships and Decision Making. How the religious traditions have, over time, shaped societal expectations, and norms in areas such as personal relationships, helping others in the world and the value of rituals and sacraments in religious traditions that can support good decision making. This study assists students to evaluate their personal understanding and beliefs, their place in society and the influencing factors that are pressuring them today.

What it's like to study Religious Education?

“I always looked forward to Year 10 Religious Education. I learnt about the history and diverse practices of many religions, particularly our school's Christian faith, and I was able to reflect on my own spiritual values. Attending Mass provided a break from the challenges of Senior School studies and gave me the chance for reflection while I engaged with the Catholic faith.”

Riley Lohmann, Year 10 2025

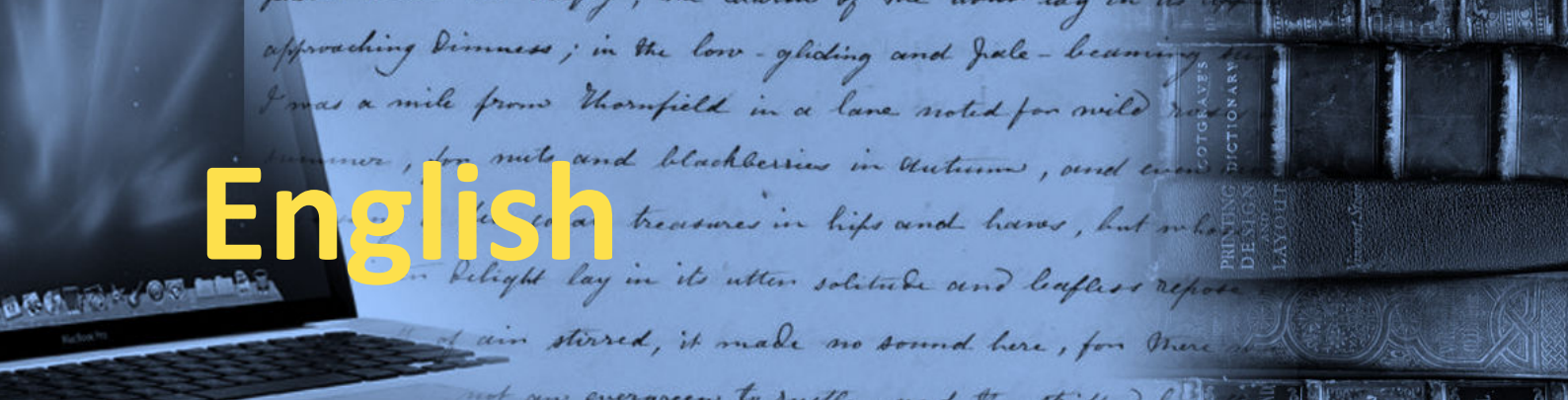
Subject Details

- Status: **Core**
- Entry: **Open**
- Prerequisites: **None**
- Length: **Semesters 1 and 2**
- Periods per week: **Three**

Future Directions

Religious Education can lead on to the following senior secondary subjects:

- VCE Texts and Traditions
- VCE Religion and Society
- Year 12 Religious Education



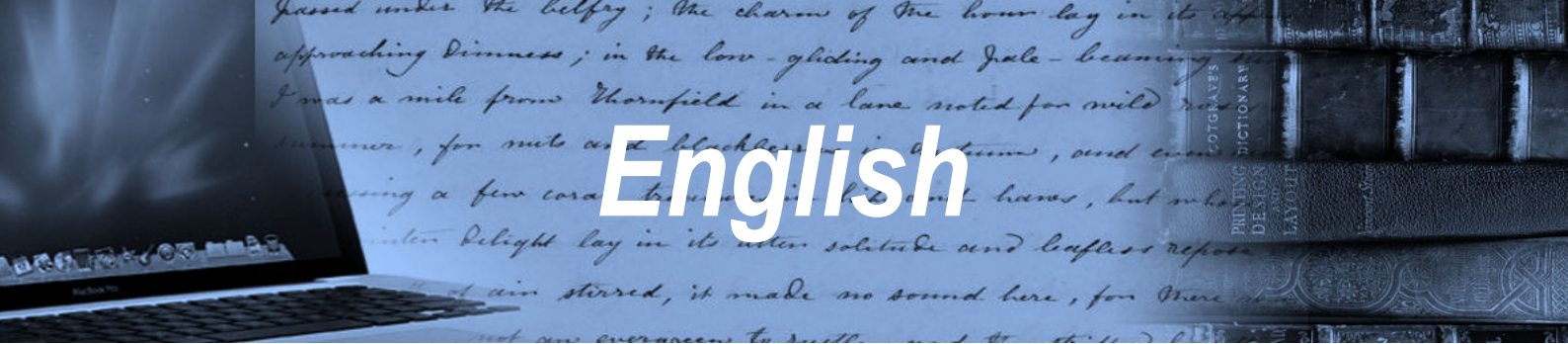
English

CORE SUBJECT

English
English Skills

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

Lighthouse



English

CORE STUDY

Contact Person:
Emily Watchman
English Leader

The Year 10 English course is aimed at preparing students for not only VCE English, but to further enhance and develop their language and literacy skills for all possible pathways. Exploring a variety of genres, students will creatively and analytically express themselves through a range of written tasks. Units of work focus on text studies, presenting and analysing arguments, crafting a range of texts and understanding the structures and features of language. Students are encouraged to critically analyse the issues, ideas and themes present in a wide range of texts and make important links to our current social climate. Students will also consolidate and strengthen their control of language skills through ongoing development of their writing. Activities are designed to develop the skills necessary across all key learning areas to ensure the successful completion of VCE English, English Language or Literature, as well as the VCE Vocational Major (VCE VM) - Literacy.

Victorian Curriculum Strands

- Literacy
- Literature
- Language

What's it like to study English?

"Year 10 English is where you start to prepare for Year 12 English, which is really useful. The contemporary novel that we read gave us the opportunity to open our minds to different kinds of people and their perspectives. We also studied a classic of modern literature that has an engaging storyline that explores human nature. This added to our cultural capital and allowed us to better participate in social discourse. The writing unit is fun! We enjoyed the freedom to do our own research and get our creative juices flowing."

Aaron Sujeev and Ben Cross, Year 12 2025

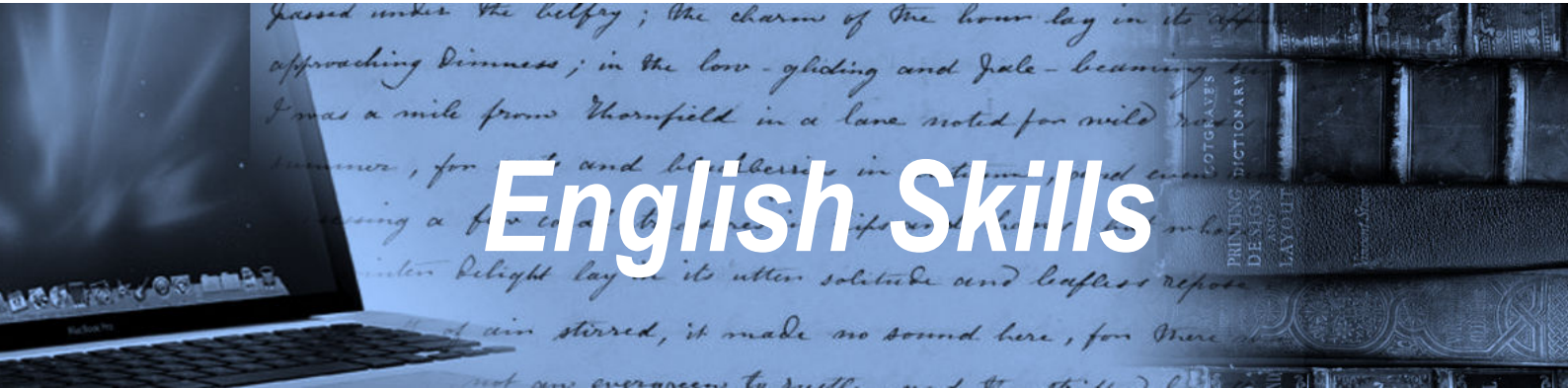
Subject Details

- Status: **Core option**
- Entry: **Open**
- Prerequisites: **None**
- Length: **Semesters 1 and 2**
- Periods per week: **Six**

Future Directions

Year 10 English can lead on to the following senior secondary subjects:

- VCE English
- VCE English Language
- VCE Literature
- VCE Vocational Major (VCE VM)- Literacy



English Skills

CORE STUDY

Contact Person:
Emily Watchman
English Leader

The English Skills course is aimed at preparing students for English in the Senior Secondary years, whether for VCE or the VCE Vocational Major. The course seeks to mirror the majority of the mainstream Year 10 English course, but in a more scaffolded manner, assisting those students who find the acquisition of English skills a challenge. Literacy Skills seeks to support students as they explore diverse genres and styles, producing creative, analytical and comparative responses. They will express themselves through a wide range of written and oral tasks. Units of work focus on text studies, presenting and analysing arguments and comparative studies. Upon completion of this course students will be prepared for the VCE Vocational Major (VCE VM) - Literacy and, VCE English.

Victorian Curriculum Strands

- Literacy
- Literature
- Language

Subject Details

- Status: **Core option**
- Entry: **By Application and Invitation**
- Prerequisites: **None**
- Length: **Semesters 1 and 2**
- Periods per week: **Six**

Future Directions

Year 10 Applied Literacy can lead on to the following senior secondary subjects:

- **VCE English**
- **VCE Vocational Major (VCE VM) - Literacy**



Lighthouse

ELECTIVE STUDY

Contact Person:
Emily Watchman
English Leader

The Lighthouse Program was developed in conjunction with a cluster of Catholic primary schools in the local area to assist in the social-emotional literacy development of boys. The intention is to equip the College's most proficient Year 10 students with the teaching skills to work with Year 5 and 6 boys in various aspects of literacy development. There are two major foci:

- The social/emotional development of boys through a peer-mentoring program
- The academic literacy development of boys in Years 5 and 6

The Lighthouse Program is by application only and is based on a student's level of literacy skills and emotional maturity. Participants in Lighthouse have the opportunity to develop their leadership skills and are considered ambassadors of the College.

Victorian Curriculum Strands

- Literacy
- Literature
- Language

What it's like to study Lighthouse?

"Lighthouse has been an amazing experience and subject. Having the privilege and opportunity to work with Grade 5 and 6 boys from a local Catholic Primary School has been a great learning experience and has helped in the development of a lot of different areas including literacy, communication and organisational skills."

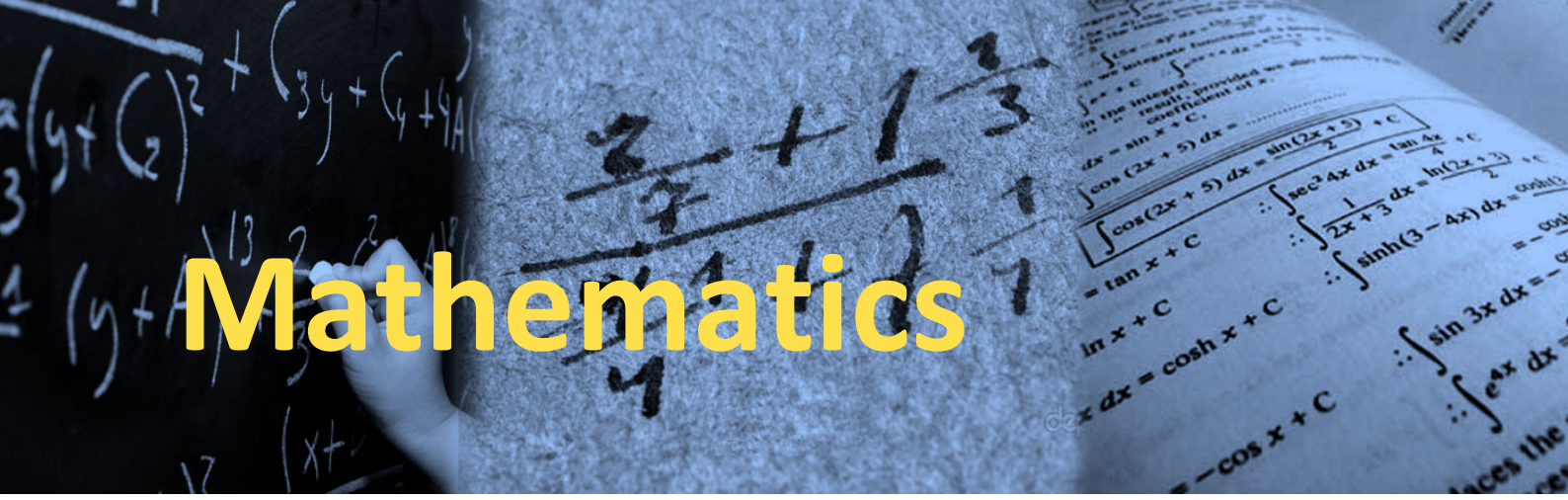
Phoenix Pool, Year 10 2025

Subject Details

- Status: **Elective**
- Entry: **By Application**
- Prerequisites: **High level of achievement in Year 9 English**
- Length: **One semester only**
- Periods per week: **Six**
- Substitution: *Students undertaking Lighthouse may substitute Core Commerce OR Core History for ONE other Elective*

Future Directions

- VCE English
- VCE English Language
- VCE Literature
- VCE Media
- VCE Theatre Studies



Mathematics

CORE SUBJECTS

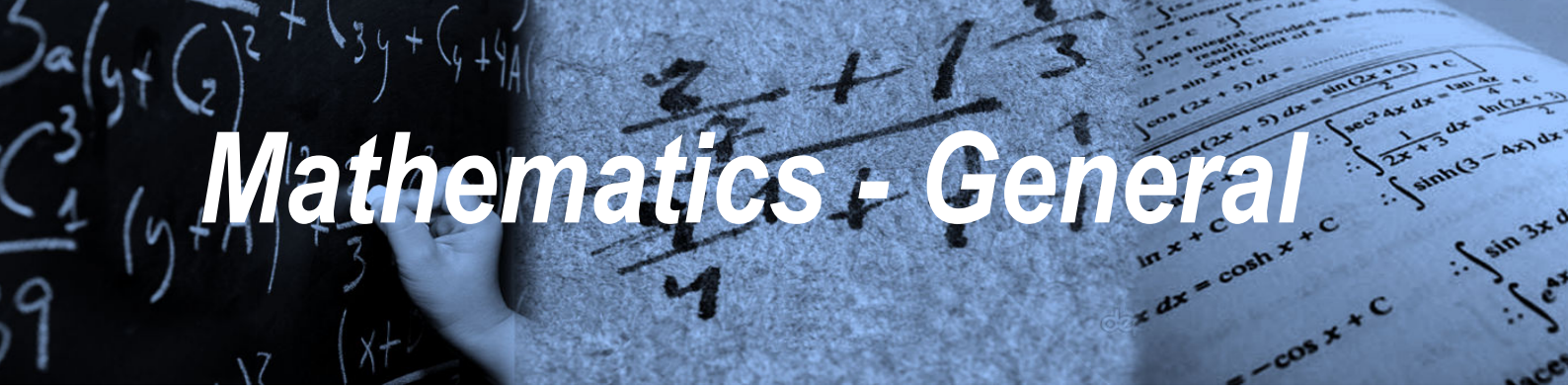
Year 10 Mathematics – General

Or

Year 10 Mathematics – Methods

Or

Year 10 Mathematics – Applied



Mathematics - General

CORE STUDY

Contact Person:
Tomas Fay
Mathematics Leader

This course has been designed for students who wish to complete Year 11 General Mathematics/ Year 12 General Mathematics or who wish to complete a VCE Vocational Major (VCE VM) pathway. It has a broad focus and covers many concepts that are associated with real world situations and apply to a wide array of career opportunities linked to both TAFE and University pathways. It is designed as an accessible course to cater for a wide range of student abilities. There is a lesser focus on Algebra and a bigger focus on the areas of Statistics and Probability and Measurement and Geometry. Application questions are a key focus of this course along with understanding how maths can be applied to problems. General Mathematics at Year 12 is a prerequisite study for many University courses.

Victorian Curriculum Strands

- Number and Algebra
- Measurement and Geometry
- Statistics and Probability

What's it like to study Year 10 General Mathematics?

"Maths was never my thing until I reached Year 10. Now I look forward to going to my General Maths classes. I have found that I am challenged by the Maths but I have been taught in a way that I can see the relevance in what I learn. When we covered measurement, I could see how I would use this in my future and it tied together lots of things I had learnt in the past. Even algebra made sense and I found myself taking on complex algebraic equations in a fun manner. Studying General Maths has opened up a new love for Mathematics, something I never thought I would say."

Daniel Koumas, Year 10 2025

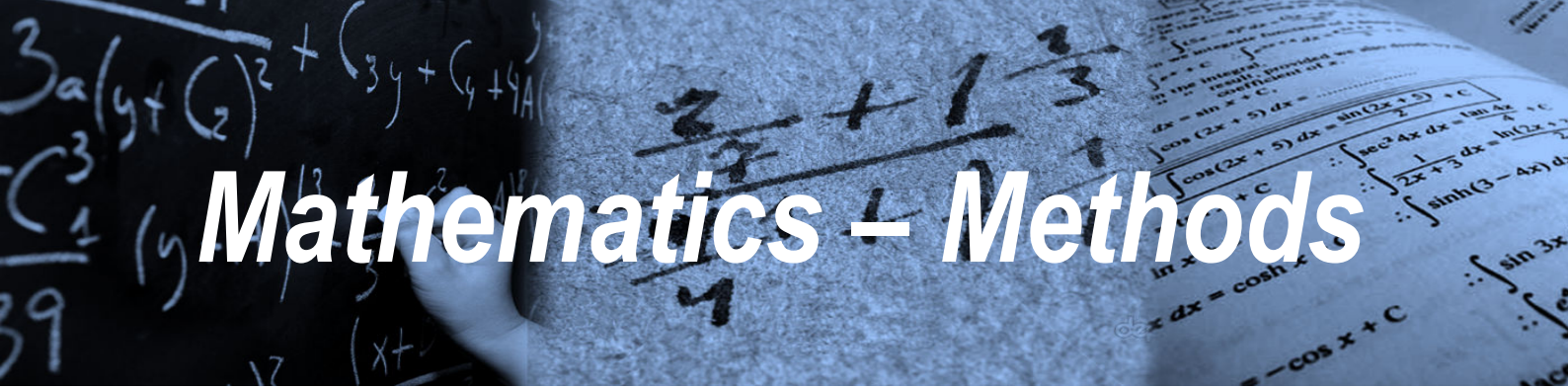
Subject Details

- Status: **Core option**
- Entry: **Open**
- Prerequisites: **None**
- Length: **Semesters 1 and 2**
- Periods per week: **Six**

Future Directions

Mathematics (General) can lead on to the following senior secondary subjects:

- VCE General Mathematics
- VCE Vocational Major (VCE VM) - Numeracy



Mathematics – Methods

CORE STUDY

Contact Person:
Tomas Fay
Mathematics Leader

This is a rigorous course designed to extend students' knowledge beyond the Year 10 VELS expectations and will look at concepts covered by the 10A mathematics curriculum. As this course is a prerequisite for the study of Mathematical Methods and Specialist Mathematics at VCE, this course has a strong focus on the algebra content and there is an increased level of complexity across all topic areas. Main topic areas covered in this course are: Algebra, Graphs and Functions, Measurement and Geometry and Statistics and Probability. Many University courses in the fields of Science, Mathematics, Business, Engineering and Medicine require VCE Mathematical Methods Units 3 and 4 as a prerequisite study. Students will require their own Casio CAS calculator for this course (this calculator will also be required for all VCE mathematics courses).

Victorian Curriculum Strands

- Number and Algebra
- Measurement and Geometry
- Statistics and Probability

What's it like to study Year 10 Mathematics - Methods?

"When you walk into your first Math Methods class you realise you are amongst all the other students who visualise maths playing a valuable part of their future. We enjoy how Math Methods challenges us to think in a logical and step-by-step way. We find it satisfying when we work through a problem and get the right answer. Covering interesting topics like linear equations, quadratics, and others, which are the building blocks for more advanced math. The skills we build, like working with formulas or interpreting graphs, are useful across multiple areas. In every class, we feel our problem-solving ability strengthen and prepares us for Year 11 and 12. Math Methods isn't always easy, but we enjoy the challenge."

Tyreese Jaros-Solomons and Luke Demarchi, Year 10 2025

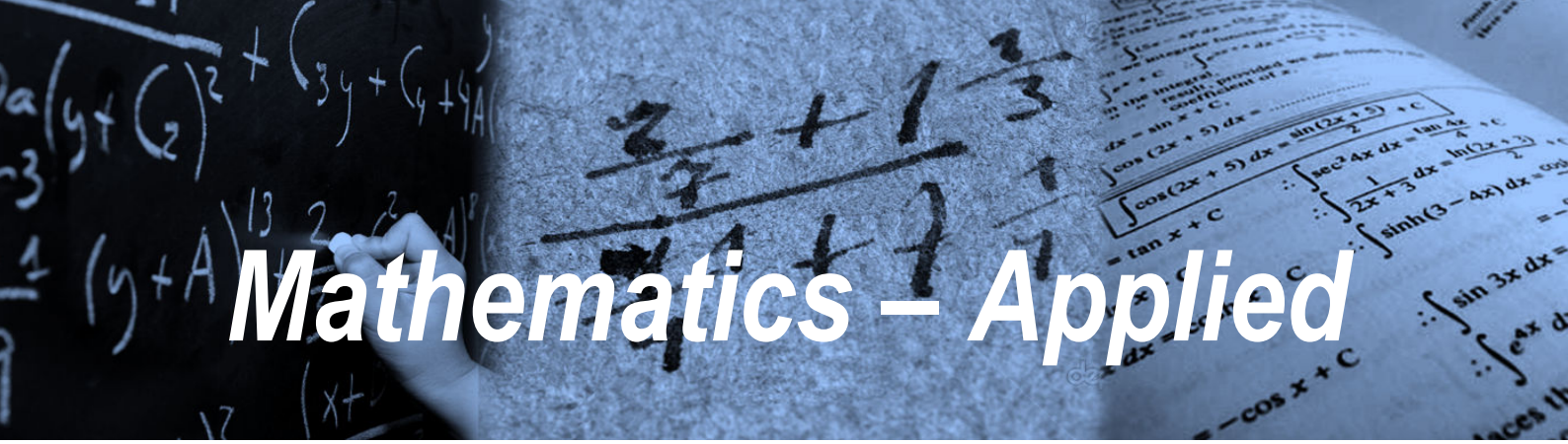
Subject Details

- Status: **Core option**
- Entry: **Open**
- Prerequisites: **High level (above 75% average) of achievement in Year 9 Mathematics**
- Length: **Semesters 1 and 2**
- Periods per week: **Six**

Future Directions

Mathematics (Methods) can lead on to the following senior secondary subjects:

- VCE General Mathematics
- VCE Specialist Mathematics
- VCE Mathematical Methods
- VCE Vocational Major (VM)-Numeracy



Mathematics – Applied

CORE STUDY

Contact Person:

Tomas Fay

Mathematics Leader

This course has been designed to assist with building up students' essential mathematical skills and knowledge. With a view towards a VCE Vocational Major (VCE VM) pathway, Mathematics - Applied focuses on employability skills looking at real world knowledge; with students studying Number, Percentage, Business Mathematics, Chance and Data, Algebra, Measurement, Trigonometry and Statistics. The course utilises applied teaching to teach content in a real-world context. Students will work towards strengthening their problem-solving skills and application skills in this course. As this course runs at a more accessible pace and does not cover the same content as the Year 10 General Mathematics course, students may find the transition into Year 11 General Mathematics to be a significant jump in terms of content and speed of the course.

Victorian Curriculum Strands

- Number and Algebra
- Measurement and Geometry
- Statistics and Probability

What's it like to study Year 10 Mathematics - Applied?

"I can gain more of an understanding about real world maths such as percentages and meaningful things. The work makes more sense and this helps my confidence. When I leave school I'd like to be a football trainer or player for the AF and the skills I am developing in Applied Maths will no doubt be of assistance in my future".

Ollie Wool, Year 10 2025

Subject Details

- Status: **Core option**
- Entry: **By invitation**
- Prerequisites: **None**
- Length: **Semesters 1 and 2**
- Periods per week: **Six**

Future Directions

Mathematics - Applied can lead on to the following senior secondary subjects:

- VCE Vocational Major (VCE VM)- Numeracy



Science

CORE SUBJECT

Year 10 General Science

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

Year 10 Biological Science

Preparation for VCE Biology

Year 10 Physical Sciences

Preparation for VCE Chemistry and VCE Physics

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACCELERATION

(subject to availability and successful application)

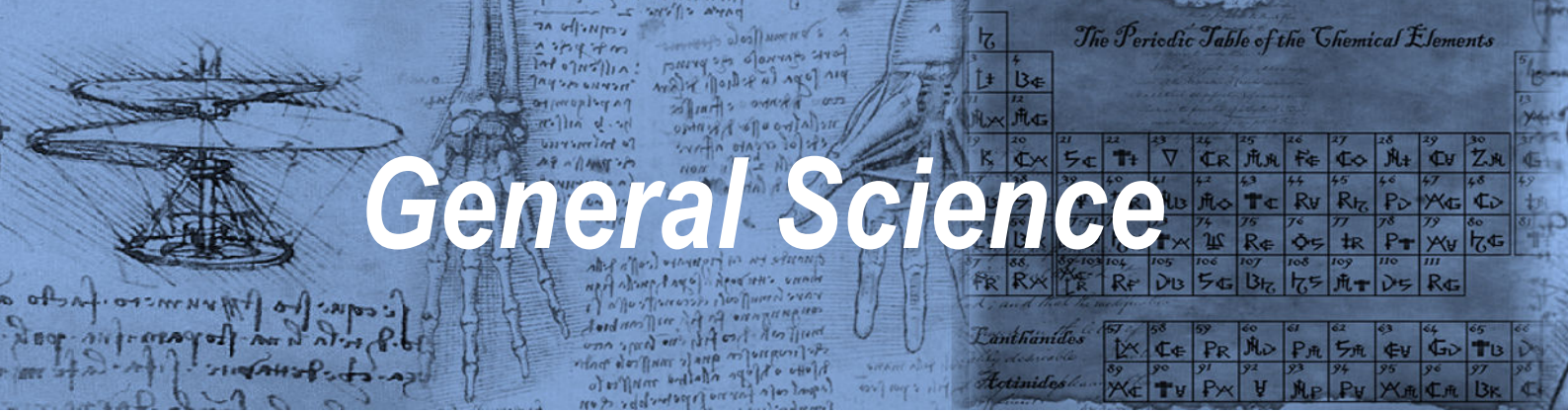
VCE Biology

or

VCE Physics

or

VCE Psychology



General Science

CORE STUDY

Contact Person:

Ranjith Dediwalage
Science Leader

The study of Science enables students to develop an understanding of the world around them and learn some fundamental scientific concepts. At Year 10, the General Science course focuses on the areas of Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Space Science. Students learn to think scientifically, developing skills in reasoning, identifying, and controlling variables, and interpreting and analysing data. Students investigate scientific phenomena using practical and theoretical tasks, and communicate their findings.

Victorian Curriculum Strands

- Science understanding
- Science inquiry skills

What is it like to study General Science?

"The General Science curriculum covered a wide range of disciplines, including Space Science, Biology, Physics, and Chemistry. Personally, I found space and chemistry particularly fascinating, as they deepened my understanding of the universe's origins and the fundamental principles governing how things work. My interest in Chemistry even inspired me to pursue it as a VCE subject in Year 11. Overall, the General Science class was engaging, broadened my knowledge of the world, and introduced me to diverse scientific concepts."

Mitchell McLaren, Year 11 2025

Subject Details

- Status: **Core**
- Entry: **Open**
- Prerequisites: **None**
- Length: **One semester only**
- Periods per week: **Six**

Future Directions

There are two Science elective studies available in the Year 10 Program:

- Biological Science
- Physical Sciences

General Science can lead on to the following senior secondary subjects:

- VCE Biology
- VCE Chemistry
- VCE Physics
- VCE Psychology



Biological Science

ELECTIVE STUDY

Contact Person:
Ranjith Dediwalage
Science Leader

Year 10 Biological Science develops a biological understanding of the complexities of living things and their environments. The course is aimed at developing key skills and knowledge to assist studies in VCE Biology. Whilst Biological Science is not a prerequisite for VCE Biology, it is highly recommended. Students investigate cells, their structure and organisation and cell organelles and their functions. They investigate how materials are transported into and out of cells. They will learn about important biological concepts such as surface area to volume ratio. They will learn about DNA, enzymes and how genes function. Students learn about the concepts of pathogens and how the immune system functions to protect. They investigate how immunity is developed and how organisms have multiple layers of defence. Students learn about evolution and natural selection. They investigate the fossil evidence for the development of the human species. They will learn about gene technology and modern applications such as CRISPR gene editing.

Victorian Curriculum Strands

- Science understanding
- Science inquiry skills

What it's like to study Biological Science?

"In Year 10 Biology, we explored key VCE topics, giving us a strong foundation for Years 11 and 12. The course was detailed, with weekly practical lessons. Now in Year 11, I can confidently discuss Unit 3 Biology concepts alongside my peers. Year 10 Biological Science is an excellent opportunity for students interested in pursuing the subject later, helping them build advanced knowledge early. It's a rewarding and valuable experience for those aiming to excel in VCE Biology."

Jordan Hansen, Year 11 2025

Subject Details

- Status: **Elective**
- Entry: **Open**
- Prerequisites: **None**
- Length: **One semester only**
- Periods per week: **Six**

Future Directions

- VCE Biology

Physical Sciences

ELECTIVE STUDY

Contact Person:
Ranjith Dediwalage
Science Leader

The focus of the Physical Sciences Elective is the study of Chemistry and Physics. Studying Chemistry will enable students to develop an understanding of the fundamentals of chemical bonding and balancing chemical equations, the understanding of chemical reactions and how they can be affected. The study of Physics will enable students to develop an understanding of the laws governing motion and the application of these laws to flight and to aerodynamics as well as the basic concepts of magnetism and electricity. They will develop an awareness of the practical application of the concepts they encounter in their investigation of these two great disciplines to real world scenarios and develop skills in the exploration and communication of scientific ideas.

Victorian Curriculum Strands

- Science understanding
- Science inquiry skills

What it's like to study Physical Science?

"Physical Sciences provided a crucial foundation for my VCE studies, developing my analytical thinking and scientific problem-solving skills. Covering core chemistry and physics concepts like atomic structure, forces, and energy, it gave me a strong head start for Year 11. These fundamentals proved invaluable as subjects grew more complex, allowing me to approach advanced content with greater confidence. The early exposure to scientific principles helped me adapt more easily to increased workloads, making this subject essential for my academic preparation."

Deakin Kuruwita, Year 12 2025

Subject Details

- Status: **Elective**
- Entry: **Open**
- Prerequisites: **None**
- Length: **One semester only**
- Periods per week: **Six**

Future Directions

- VCE Chemistry
- VCE Physics
- VCE Biology



Humanities

CORE SUBJECTS

Year 10 Commerce

Year 10 History

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

Year 10 Geography

Year 10 Legal Studies and Politics

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACCELERATION

(subject to availability and successful application)

VCE Accounting

or

VCE Business Management

or

VCE Geography

or

VCE Modern History



CORE STUDY

Contact Person:
Ian Horsburgh
 Humanities Leader

The Year 10 Commerce course introduces the key learning outcomes of VCE Commerce subjects: Accounting, Economics, Legal Studies, and Business Management. In the Business Management portion, students explore the world of business, learning about starting a business and keeping it profitable. In Accounting and Finance students explore the different ways of saving, budgeting, and spending to maximise their financial wellbeing. In Economics students examine how businesses, governments and households attempt to balance needs and wants with limited resources. Students analyse key economic questions and the market system. In Government and Your Say students are introduced to the government in Australia, examining the nature of our Parliamentary system and the importance of the Constitution.

Victorian Curriculum Strands

- Resource allocation and making choices
- The business environment
- Consumer and financial literacy
- Work and work futures
- Enterprising behaviours and capabilities
- Government and democracy
- Laws and citizens
- Citizenship, diversity, and identity
- Reasoning and interpretation

What is it like to study Commerce?

"Commerce is an interesting subject to learn that teaches you skills that relate to economics, law, accounting and business management. Group assessments were fun and allowed us to understand the topic with a deeper understanding, along with other ideas which we learnt over the semester."

Caden Dinnie, Year 10 2025

Subject Details

- Status: **Core**
- Entry: **Open**
- Prerequisites: **None**
- Length: **One semester only**
- Periods per week: **Six**
- Substitution: *Core Commerce may be substituted for ONE other elective by students undertaking Lighthouse or a Language*

Future Directions

There are two Humanities elective studies available in the Year 10 Program:

- Geography
- Legal Studies and Politics

Commerce can lead on to the following senior secondary subjects:

- VCE Accounting
- VCE Business Management
- VCE Economics
- VCE Legal Studies
- VCE Politics



CORE STUDY

Contact Person:
Ian Horsburgh
Humanities Leader

The Year 10 History course focuses on Australian History and Twentieth Century World History. Australian History investigates how Australia developed in terms of the social, political, and cultural structures and traditions and includes a consideration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, significant people and events such as Federation, the Great Depression and the two World Wars. The course presents students with the opportunity to develop the vital Twenty-first Century skills of communication, collaboration, interpretation, and creativity all in the context of fascinating discoveries about our past.

Victorian Curriculum Strands

- Historical concepts and skills
- Historical knowledge

What is it like to study History?

"In Year 10 History, we learnt about WW1, the ANZAC legacy, trench warfare, atomic bombs, the Holocaust and the civil rights movements across America and Australia. We covered how to respond and analyse historical sources as well as movies. Easily one of the best classes with enthusiastic teachers and interesting topics."

Oscar Rayner, Year 11 2025

Subject Details

- Status: **Core**
- Entry: **Open**
- Prerequisites: **None**
- Length: **One semester only**
- Periods per week: **Six**
- Substitution: *Core History may be substituted for ONE other elective by students undertaking Lighthouse or a Language*

Future Directions

There are two Humanities elective studies available in the Year 10 Program:

- Geography
- Legal Studies and Politics

History can lead on to the following senior secondary subjects:

- VCE Geography
- VCE Modern History
- VCE Politics



Geography

ELECTIVE STUDY

Contact Person:
Ian Horsburgh
Humanities Leader

The Year 10 Geography Elective course examines the lasting and changing aspects of society at a global, regional and local level. It compares and contrasts the processes which have caused changes to the natural and human environments within and outside of Australia. This course also analyses the way different societies manage their resources.

Victorian Curriculum Strands

- Geographical concepts and skills
- Geographical knowledge

What it's like to study Geography?

"Geography was very enjoyable due to the topics we studied such as climate change and environmental sustainability. I enjoyed studying the impact humans have on the local area and interpreting and analysing data from graphs."

Joshua Gazzola, Year 12 2025

Subject Details

- Status: **Elective**
- Entry: **Open**
- Prerequisites: **None**
- Length: **One semester only**
- Periods per week: **Six**

Future Directions

- VCE Geography



Legal Studies and Politics

ELECTIVE STUDY

Contact Person:

Ian Horsburgh

Humanities Leader

This course focuses on criminal and civil Law, different forms of government and the role of the police in Victoria. In studying criminal law, civil law and the courts, students come to know the difference between civil and criminal law, and also investigate the role of law enforcement agencies and the consequences of not abiding by the law. They also come to an understanding of Australia's Court system. The concepts of summary and indictable offences, the age of criminal responsibility and how rights are protected in Australia, as well as a global view of human rights is also studied. Students also participate in a mock-trial to demonstrate their understanding of the Australian Legal System. Students explore the role of government in Australia, examining the nature and structure of our Parliamentary system and the importance of the Constitution. They also consider different forms of government around the world, analysing the impact of alternate political systems upon law making and society. They explore the characteristics of different political parties in Australia and the election process and the ability of people to change and implement laws in Australia.

Victorian Curriculum Strands

- Government and democracy
- Laws and citizens
- Citizenship, diversity and identity
- Reasoning and interpretation

What it's like to study Legal Studies and Politics?

"I enjoyed the Year 10 Legal and Politics course as it gave me the chance to learn about how our country operates its government and the role we play in electing them. I also enjoyed learning about the different aspects of our legal system, such as trial proceedings, the court hierarchy and the similarities and differences between criminal and civil cases. This was done through many enjoyable group activities such as playing 'You Be The Judge' and playing out a mock case. Along with class discussions, oral presentations and research tasks, it was without a doubt my favourite class of the year."

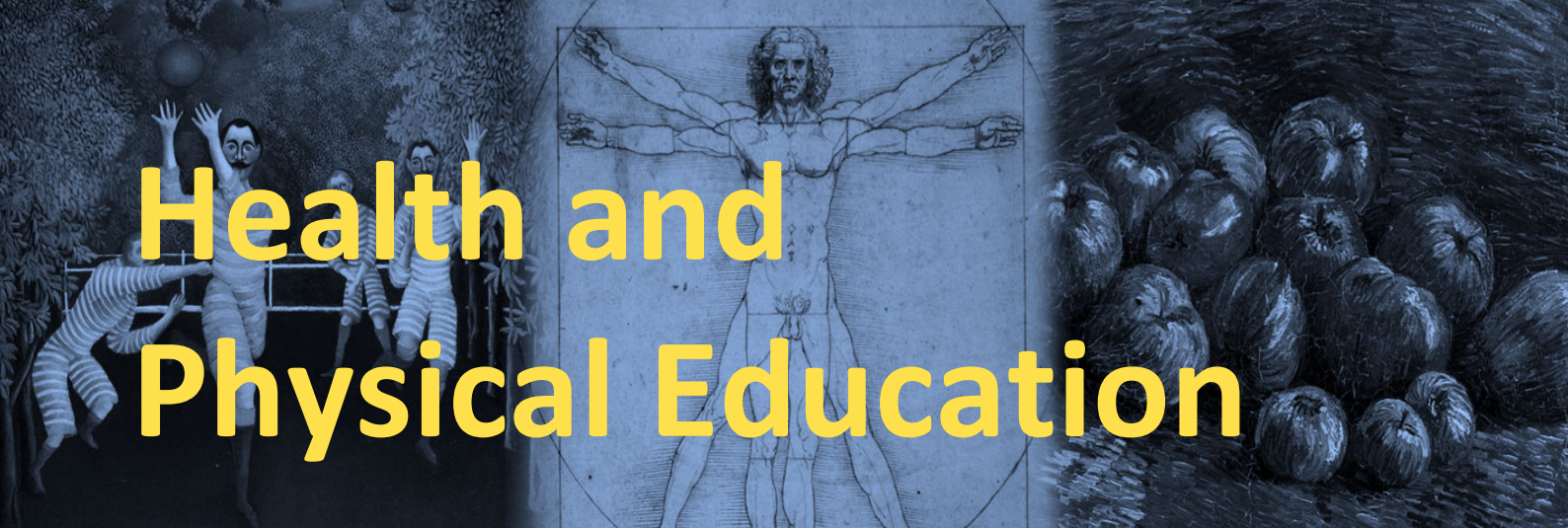
Mitch Clark, Year 11 2025

Subject Details

- Status: **Elective**
- Entry: **Open**
- Prerequisites: **None**
- Length: **One semester only**
- Periods per week: **Six**

Future Directions

- VCE Legal Studies
- VCE Politics



Health and Physical Education

CORE SUBJECT

Year 10 Health and Physical Education

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

Year 10 Health

Year 10 Sports Academy

Year 10 Advanced Physical Education

Year 10 VET Sport and Recreation (Unit 1)

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACCELERATION

(subject to availability and successful application)

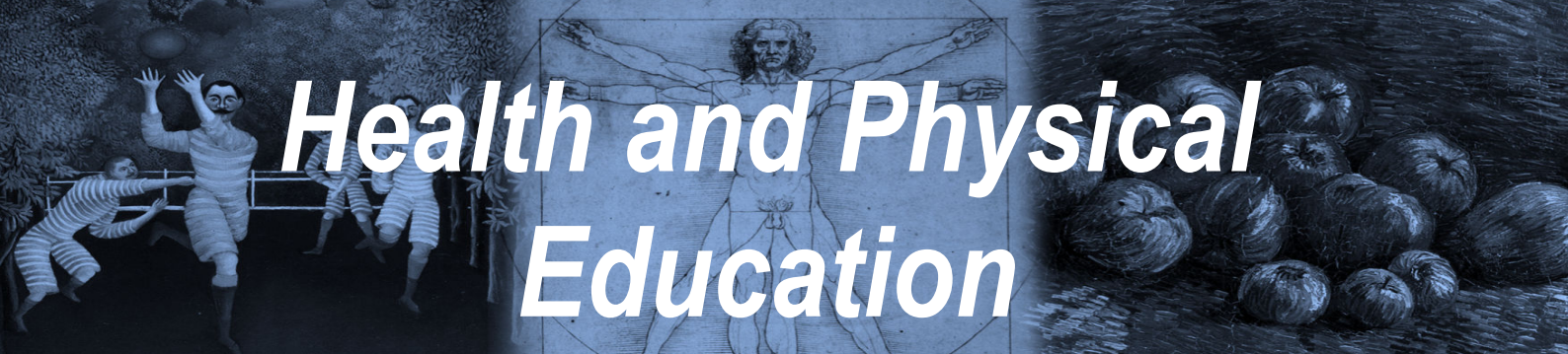
VCE Health and Human Development

or

VCE Physical Education

or

VCE VET Certificate III Sport and Recreation



Health and Physical Education

CORE STUDY

Contact Person:

Dylan Price

Health and Physical Education Leader

In a combination of theory and practical classes across the year, students participate in a wide variety of competitive and recreational activities designed to get them active and promote lifelong learning through physical exercise and valuable theoretical classes. The theory classes cover a wide variety of topics enabling students to learn more about themselves and how they can interact with each other safely. Topics covered include: Relationships, First Aid, the Muscular System, the Skeletal System, and a detailed look at Australia's Physical and Sedentary Behaviour Guidelines.

Victorian Curriculum Strands

- Movement and Physical Activity
- Personal, Social and Community Health

What is it like to study Health and Physical Education?

"Year 10 Physical Education gave us all a great opportunity to experience all types of physical activities like self-defence, swimming and bush walking. We learnt about the major muscles and bones in our body and the ways we can move to excel performance. All of the key knowledge and skills we learnt throughout the year can help to be applied in our lives outside of school. It was a perfect balance of theory and practical classes."

Ty Synnott, Year 10 2024

Subject Details

- Status: **Core**
- Entry: **Open**
- Prerequisites: **None**
- Length: **Semesters 1 and 2**
- Periods per week: **Two**

Future Directions

There are two Health and Physical Education elective studies available in the Year 10 Program:

- Health
- Physical Education

Health and Physical Education can lead on to the following senior secondary subjects:

- VCE Physical Education
- VCE Health and Human Development
- VCE VET Certificate III Sport and Recreation
- VCE Vocational Major (VCE VM)- Personal Development Skills



ELECTIVE STUDY

Contact Person:

Dylan Price

Health and Physical Education Leader

Health Education classes aim to raise awareness of the benefits of a healthy and active lifestyle. The subject takes a detailed look at health knowledge and promotion. Students are introduced to terminology such as government and non-government bodies, dimensions of health, the stages of human development, influences on development, nutrients, and health resources, products and services. This is an ideal preparation for VCE Health and Human Development.

Victorian Curriculum Strands

- Personal, Social and Community Health

What it's like to study Health?

"Studying Advanced Physical Education in Year 10 was a terrific experience. I was able to apply the information that I was taught to my own sporting life and it gave me a greater understanding of body systems and sporting performance. The content gave me some fantastic insight into the theoretical and practical demands of Physical Education as a subject, and no doubt set me up well for VCE Physical Education. I highly recommend choosing this subject."

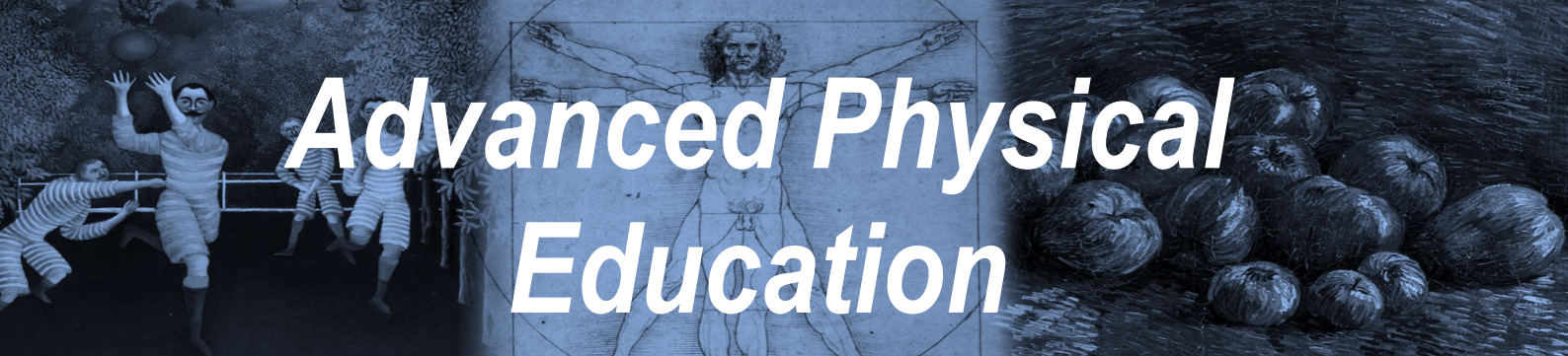
Anthony Hawkins, Year 10 2025

Subject Details

- Status: **Elective**
- Entry: **Open**
- Prerequisites: **None**
- Length: **One semester only**
- Periods per week: **Six**

Future Directions

- VCE Health and Human Development



Advanced Physical Education

ELECTIVE STUDY

Contact Person:

Dylan Price

Health and Physical Education Leader

The Year 10 Advanced Physical Education course is a dynamic, skill-building subject that expands on foundational knowledge from previous studies, providing an ideal lead-in to VCE Physical Education. Designed for students passionate about training, and performance, this course offers a balanced combination of theory and practical application.

In the classroom, students explore key concepts such as the energy systems, fatigue and recovery, biomechanics, acute and chronic training adaptations, and performance enhancement. They learn to analyse how the body functions during different types of physical activity and the role of sport science in enhancing athletic performance. Students are also introduced to ethical considerations in sport, including the use and impact of illegal performance-enhancing substances.

Practical sessions complement the theoretical learning and include fitness assessments, aerobic and anaerobic conditioning drills, resistance training techniques, and the application of biomechanical principles in sport-specific contexts. Students also gain experience in designing, modifying, and evaluating training programs. Assessment involves applied written laboratories, and performance-based evaluations, investigations and an end of semester examination. Through case studies, data interpretation, and problem-solving activities, students build confidence and critical thinking skills.

This course is recommended for students who enjoy sport, are interested in how the body works, or are considering a future pathway into VCE Physical Education. It equips learners with the scientific understanding and practical experience needed to succeed in senior studies and lifelong physical activity.

Victorian Curriculum Strands

- Personal, Social and Community Health

What it's like to study Advanced Physical Education?

"Studying Advanced Physical Education in Year 10 was an incredible experience for me to develop my skills and knowledge. During my time in this class I was provided with a much deeper understanding of the subject. The content gave me so many insights into the theoretical and practical activities of Physical Education. This subject is ideal for anyone enjoying PE and wanting a deeper understanding as well as a head start for Year 11."

Jhyve David, Year 10 2024

Subject Details

- Status: **Elective**
- Entry: **Open**
- Prerequisites: **None**
- Length: **One semester only**
- Periods per week: **Six**

Future Directions

- VCE Physical Education



Year 10 Sports Academy

ELECTIVE STUDY

Contact Person:

Paul Trubiani

Director of Sport and High Performance

The Year 10 Sport Academy provides a focus on Strength and Conditioning practices, designed for motivated students who want to develop their physical capabilities, while gaining valuable knowledge in athletic performance and development.

The course focuses on improving physical performance through structured resistance training, movement mechanics, and the development of elite training habits. Students participate in gym-based sessions where they learn safe and effective lifting techniques. They also develop knowledge around rep ranges, training goals, and session structure.

Key movement skills such as sprinting, jumping, and change of direction are explored with a focus on correct biomechanics and body control. Pool recovery, foam rollers, active and passive stretching as well as mobility work teach the importance of recovery in an athlete's routine.

High performance behaviours are a central focus. Students are expected to demonstrate preparation, recovery strategies, punctuality, and personal responsibility. These habits are reinforced to build consistency and long-term athletic development.

Course Outline

- Fundamental strength and movement patterns
- Program design and implementation
- Speed, agility and power development
- Injury prevention and recovery
- Fitness testing and performance tracking
- Athlete mindset and discipline

Victorian Curriculum Strands

- Personal, Social and Community Health

What it's like to be in the Sports Academy?

"Throughout my experience in the Sport Academy I gained multiple skills in my gym work and my running mechanics. I feel like it brought me to another level by reducing my injury risk by teaching me how to move my body correctly. It was a great experience, and I very much recommend it to anyone that wants to improve their game and hit that next level."

Jett Flower, Year 10 2025

Subject Details

- Status: **Elective**
- Entry: **Application subject to selection**
- Prerequisites: **None**
- Length: **One semester only**
- Periods per week: **Six**

Future Directions

- VCE Physical Education

VCE VET Certificate III Sport and Recreation

ELECTIVE STUDY

Contact Person:

Dylan Price

Health and Physical Education Leader

St Joseph's College Ferntree Gully in partnership with SAVILE Learning (RTO 45452)

The SIS30122 Certificate III in Sport, Aquatics and Recreation provides students with the opportunity to develop practical skills and knowledge for participation in sport and recreation settings. The program combines applied learning with classroom-based activities and is suited to students with an interest in sport, recreation, leadership and working with others.

Across the course, students build skills in coaching, planning and delivering sessions, communication, customer service, teamwork and safe work practices. Learning is completed through a combination of practical activities, simulated tasks and theory-based work, allowing students to apply their knowledge in a range of sport and recreation contexts.

This certificate is undertaken over Years 10, 11 and 12. Year 10 Sport and Recreation covers the first Unit of this VET study.

Major assessment tasks undertaken during the Year 10 Sport and Recreation elective unit includes a Level Two First Aid Qualification and a four-day mountain bike ride excursion to Forrest, Victoria. Students undertake a set period of practical hours learning a variety of games and basic teaching skills in order to operate effectively in the sporting environment.

Year 10 Sport and Recreation	Unit Code	Topic	Hours
	SISOCYT002	Ride bicycles on roads and pathways, easy conditions	15
	SISOCYT004	Ride off-road bicycles on easy trails	25
	SISXCCS004	Provide quality service	20
	HLTAID011	Provide First Aid	18
	SISXEMR003	Respond to emergency situations	18
	HLTWHS001	Participate in workplace health and safety	18

Victorian Curriculum Strands

- Personal, Social and Community Health

What it's like to study VCE VET Certificate III in Sport and Recreation?

"Studying Sport and Recreation was a fantastic experience for me to develop my skills in organising an engaging sports class. The topics have also given me a greater understanding of different sport industries, I would highly recommend Sport and Recreation as a subject as it also offers variety from the more content heavy academic subjects."

Rory Lennon, Year 10 2024

Subject Details

- Status: **Elective**
- Entry: **Open**
- Prerequisites: **None**
- Length: **One semester only**
- Periods per week: **Six**

Future Directions

- Unit 1 and 2 VCE VET Certificate III Sport and Recreation Health and Human Development
- Unit 3 and 4 VCE VET Certificate III Sport and Recreation Health and Human Development



The Arts

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

Year 10 Drama/Theatre Studies

Year 10 Media

Year 10 Music

Year 10 Visual Arts

Year 10 Visual Communication Design

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACCELERATION

(subject to availability and successful application)

VCE Theatre Studies

or

VCE Media

or

VCE Music

or

VCE Art Creative Practice

or

VCE Visual Communication Design



Drama/Theatre Studies

ELECTIVE STUDY

Contact Person:
Siobhan Duffy
Arts Leader

Year 10 Drama/Theatre Studies explores various styles of non-naturalistic theatre. Students will explore and develop alternative ways of presenting various ideas and concepts using dramatic metaphors and symbolism. Students will study Theatre of the Absurd, Theatre of Cruelty, Poor Theatre and Brecht's Epic Theatre. Students will write, develop, refine and present their own short plays that are sure to prick the conscience. This is a study that develops and nurtures student creativity, communication, collaboration and critical thinking.

Victorian Curriculum Strands

- Explore and express ideas
- Drama practices
- Present and perform
- Respond and interpret

What it's like to study Drama/Theatre Studies??

"Year 10 Theatre Studies/Drama is a really fun and challenging subject to study. It is very collaborative, and you get a chance to work with others to shape and create characters and narratives. We also use a variety of acting styles to perform and interpret a range of theatrical stimuli. Theatre Studies/Drama is highly practical and hands on!"

Lucas Palandri, Year 11 2025

Subject Details

- Status: **Elective**
- Entry: **Open**
- Prerequisites: **None**
- Length: **One semester only**
- Periods per week: **Six**

Future Directions

- VCE Theatre Studies
- VCE Media



ELECTIVE STUDY

Contact Person:
Siobhan Duffy
Arts Leader

Year 10 Media students will develop an understanding of the relationships between the various forms of media, representations in each of the forms and technology and the influence of its many forms on media production. They will develop an awareness of the complexities of, and factors and issues that affect, media production and the production process. Students will also explore and analyse the Horror genre, animation, and experimental films. Students explore, analyse and apply media codes in various forms.

Victorian Curriculum Strands

- Explore and represent ideas
- Media arts practices
- Present and perform
- Respond and interpret

What is it like to study Media?

“Through Media, you can learn how to analyse different media codes and conventions which you can then apply the skills of to create your own media product. Students in the Year 10 Media course can study media forms, protocols, and conventions while using industry-standard software. You will gain an awesome understanding of the industry, plus the teachers are awesome! It's so much fun and you'd regret not picking it.”

Florian Todd, Year 12 2025

Subject Details

- Status: **Elective**
- Entry: **Open**
- Prerequisites: **None**
- Length: **One semester only**
- Periods per week: **Six**

Future Directions

- VCE Media
- VCE Drama
- VCE Theatre Studies
- VCE Visual Communication and Design



Music

ELECTIVE STUDY

Contact Person:

Bronwyn Dean

Director of Ministry and Music

Year 10 Music offers students opportunities to approach the study of music as performer, as creator of music or arrangements and as a person who studies musical works from diverse cultural and historical traditions. The Year 10 Music program prepares the students for further studies in VCE Music and focuses on building performances in both a group and solo format. Students study aural and theory concepts to develop their musicianship skills and begin to increase their music terminology. Students spend an entire unit focussing on composition and song writing for their instrument. As they experience music, students draw on music from a range of cultures, times and locations and they aurally and visually analyse works and performance of different styles. Analysis of the elements of music is an essential part of the unit and students apply this knowledge when they are preparing for and presenting performances.

The 3 areas of study are:

- Performance
- Performance Technique
- Musicianship

Victorian Curriculum Strands

- Explore and express ideas
- Music practices
- Present and perform
- Respond and interpret

What is it like to study Music?

"Studying music was a great way not only to start a folio subject, but it also allowed me to explore my interest with music. I spent the two years refining and perfecting how I play music. This also allowed me to be part of school musical events like ACCent on music and being a member of many school bands."

Kellan Beecham, Year 12 2025

Subject Details

- Status: **Elective**
- Entry: **Open**
- Prerequisites: **Play, or intend to learn, an instrument (including Voice)**
- Length: **Semesters 1 and 2**
- Periods per week: **Six**

Future Directions

- VCE Music



Visual Arts

ELECTIVE STUDY

Contact Person:
Siobhan Duffy
Arts Leader

Year 10 Visual Arts provides students with the opportunity to explore different art mediums and techniques such as drawing, painting, printmaking, and mixed media. The course requires students to make and present artworks which explore themes, issues and ideas. They will explore design elements and principles such as line, colour, shape, form and texture within their development folio. They will generate, develop and refine a range of ideas in their visual diaries through the practical application of the studio process. Students structure and present artworks appropriate to chosen styles and forms. Some styles and forms will reflect the exploration of specific artists. Students are also required to analyse and interpret the content, structure and aesthetic qualities of artworks. They analyse the characteristics and role of art in different cultural contexts.

Victorian Curriculum Strands

- Explore and express ideas
- Visual Arts practices
- Present and perform
- Respond and interpret

What is it like to study Visual Arts?

“Undertaking visual arts is a great way to embark on a folio subject. At Year 10 we were given greater creative freedom to pursue our own interests while getting instruction in a wide range of 2D and 3D manual and digital art making techniques. We also got to go on excursions to a variety of Galleries and workshops in and around Melbourne.”

Darcy Jennings, Year 12 2025

Subject Details

- Status: **Elective**
- Entry: **Open**
- Prerequisites: **None**
- Length: **One semester only**
- Periods per week: **Six**

Future Directions

- VCE Art Creative Practice
- VCE Visual Communication Design



Visual Communication Design

ELECTIVE STUDY

Contact Person:
Siobhan Duffy
Arts Leader

Year 10 Visual Communication Design provides students with the opportunity to use the design process to develop skills in the application of freehand and instrumental drawing and an understanding of the design elements and principles in the generation and development of 2D and 3D solutions to set tasks. Different drawing techniques are explored and enhanced by the use of computer aided design, using programs such as Photoshop and Illustrator. They are also introduced to the use of typography, colour, layouts and a variety of presentation techniques. Students research past and present designers as a source of ideas and inspiration and to gain an understanding of the different ways information can be conveyed using visual means.

Victorian Curriculum Strands

- Explore and represent ideas
- Visual communication design practices
- Present and perform
- Respond and interpret

What is it like to study Visual Communication Design?

“Year 10 VCD was a good introduction to a range of drawing systems that relate to a wide range of industry practices. Whether you’re into architecture, graphics, fashion design or engineering, all these applications are covered. Working with Adobe Creative Suite helps to convert hand drawn designs into more professional presentations.”

Fraser Bray, Year 12 2025

Subject Details

- Status: **Elective**
- Entry: **Open**
- Prerequisites: **None**
- Length: **One semester only**
- Periods per week: **Six**

Future Directions

- VCE Visual Communication Design
- VCE Art Creative Practice



Languages

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

Year 10 Italian

(VCE VET Certificate II Applied Language)

11458NAT Certificate II in Applied Languages

Year 10 Japanese

(VCE VET Certificate II Applied Language)

11458NAT Certificate II in Applied Languages

Course are delivered through Ripponlea Institute 21230



Year 10 Italian

(VCE VET Certificate II Applied Language)

ELECTIVE STUDY

Contact Person:

Hannah Mole

Language Leader

(Course is delivered through Ripponlea Institute 21230)

Year 10 Italian (VCE VET Certificate in Applied Language) covers themes and topics, grammar, text types, vocabulary and kinds of writing. Some of the topics that may be covered are, Historical Perspectives, the World of Work, Social and Contemporary Issues, Lifestyle in Italy and abroad, The Arts and Entertainment. Reading, writing, speaking and listening to Italian are the four main areas of skill development. The language is modern standard Italian in both written and spoken forms. Students should be familiar with informal and formal levels of language.

Set topics will be based on the four units needed in order to achieve Certificate II in Applied Language (Italian). One of these units was completed in Year 9. The completion of Certificate II in Year 10 is a prerequisite to do Italian in Year 11. Year 10 Italian is taken as a sequence and thus uses two electives.

Victorian Curriculum Strands

- Communicating
- Understanding

What's it like to study Italian?

"As a student, I find the Italian language subject both fun and rewarding. It's exciting to learn how to speak and understand a new language, especially one as beautiful and expressive as Italian. We learn useful words and phrases that we can use in everyday situations, like ordering food, talking about hobbies, or asking for directions. The lessons also teach us about Italian culture, which makes learning feel more real and interesting. I enjoy the mix of speaking, listening, games, and group activities, and it feels great when I can understand or say something new. Studying Italian has made me more confident and curious about the world."

Charlie Crane, Year 10 2025

Subject Details

- Status: **Elective**
- Entry: **Open**
- Prerequisites: Satisfactory **Completion of Year 9 Italian**
- Length: **Semesters 1 and 2**
- Periods per week: **Six**
- Substitution: *Students undertaking Languages may substitute Core Commerce OR Core History for one other Elective*

Future Directions

- VCE VET Certificate III Applied Language (Italian)



Year 10 Japanese

(VCE VET Certificate II Applied Language)

ELECTIVE STUDY

Contact Person:

Hannah Mole

Language Leader

(Course is delivered through Ripponlea Institute 21230)

Year 10 Japanese (VCE VET Certificate in Applied Language) covers themes and topics, grammar, text types, vocabulary, and kinds of writing common to all four units of the study. Some of the topics covered are, Historical Perspectives, the World of Work, Social and Contemporary Issues, Lifestyle in Japan and abroad, and The Arts and Entertainment. Reading, writing, speaking and listening to Japanese are the four main areas. Modern standard Japanese in both written and spoken forms is the focus of the study. Students should be familiar with informal and formal levels of language. Hiragana and Katakana syllabaries and a prescribed number of Kanji (Chinese characters) will be studied. Set topics will be based on the four units needed in order to achieve Certificate II in Applied Language (Japanese). One of these units was completed in Year 9. The completion of Certificate II in Year 10 is a prerequisite to do Japanese in Year 11. Year 10 Japanese is taken as a sequence and thus uses two electives.

Victorian Curriculum Strands

- Communicating
- Understanding

What's it like to study Japanese?

"Learning Japanese has given me a new perspective on different cultures. It is quite interesting to see how the Japanese language works and the class is way better when you fully embrace the culture. The Japanese class provides many opportunities for you to take a deep dive into Japanese culture and is overall a very fun subject. I would recommend languages to students with the same interest."

Oliver Williams, Year 10 2024

Subject Details

- Status: **Elective**
- Entry: **Open**
- Prerequisites: **Completion of Year 9 Japanese**
- Length: **Semesters 1 and 2**
- Periods per week: **Six**
- Substitution: *Students undertaking Languages may substitute Core Commerce OR Core History for one other Elective*

Future Directions

- VCE VET Certificate III Applied Language (Japanese)
- VCE Japanese (Unit 3 and 4)



Technology

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS

Year 10 Digital Technologies

Year 10 Food Studies

Year 10 Product Design and Technologies

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACCELERATION

(subject to availability and successful application)

VCE Food Studies

or

VCE Music

or

VCE VET: Information and Communications

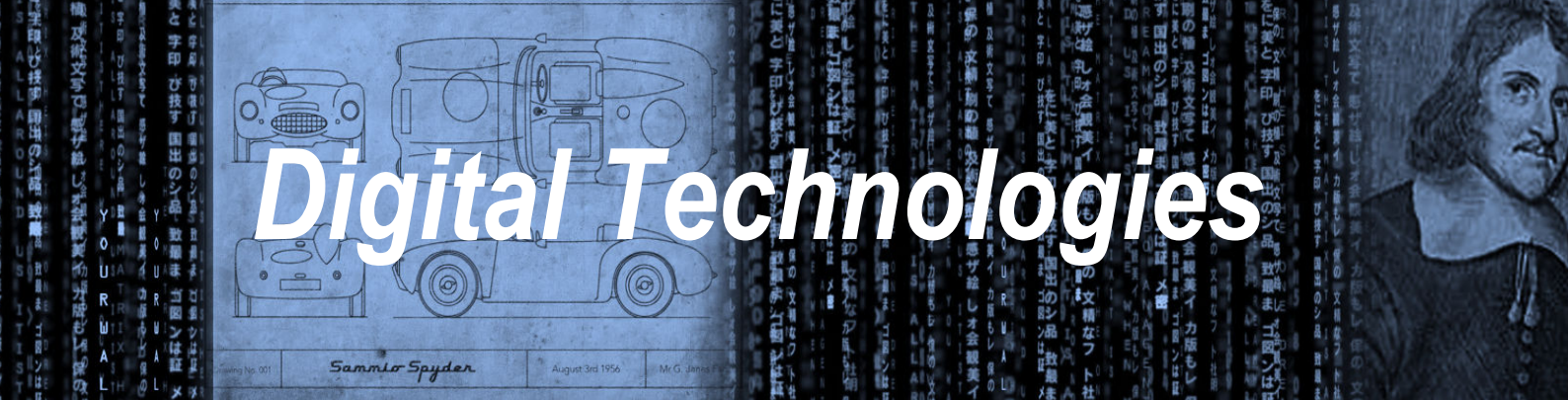
Technology

or

VCE Product Design and Technologies

or

VCE Systems Engineering



Digital Technologies

ELECTIVE STUDY

Contact Person:
Sarah Buxton
Technology Leader

Year 10 Digital Technologies provides students with the skills and knowledge to turn data into information and solve problems using a problem-solving methodology. The course will also examine personal computers and emerging technologies and review their impact on people, organisations and the wider society. Students are introduced to the use of Digital Information Technology in Solving Information Problems in Organisations. Electronic tools such as Microsoft Excel and elements of multimedia are used to solve problems.

Victorian Curriculum Strands

- Digital systems
- Data and information
- Creating digital solutions

What's it like to study Digital Technologies?

"Doing Year 10 Digital Technologies has given me an opportunity to learn and understand how networks work. We have studied the nitty gritty and learnt about how to use problem solving when troubleshooting. By learning about programming, I have learnt how to combine my creativity with my interest in computers."

James Collard, Year 10 2025

Subject Details

- Status: **Elective**
- Entry: **Open**
- Prerequisites: **None**
- Length: **One semester only**
- Periods per week: **Six**

Future Directions

- VCE VET Certificate II/III Information and Communications Technology
- VCE Media



ELECTIVE STUDY

Contact Person:
Sarah Buxton
 Technology Leader

Year 10 Food Technology provides students with the skills required to produce a range of food products using complex processes and a variety of equipment. Students are continuing to build their understanding of the design process, including designing, producing, and evaluating the products they create. They learn about the nutrients our bodies need to live a healthy life and investigate the impact of diet on health and disease. Students also explore the reasons why certain foods are considered beneficial or harmful. In addition, students learn about how to reduce food waste in order to promote sustainability. Throughout the course, they continue to develop both their practical and critical thinking skills, supporting them in making informed food choices now and into the future.

Course Outline

- Practical Skill
- Food Safety and Hygiene
- Design Process
- Methods of Heat Transfer
- Functional Properties of Food
- Nutrients and Food Selection Models
- Sustainability
- The Digestive System

Victorian Curriculum Strands

- Technologies and society
- Technologies contexts
- Food and Fibre production
- Functional Properties of Food
- Nutrients and Food Selection Models
- Sustainability

What's it like to study Food Studies?

"I enjoyed learning about the diverse culture of Australia and the events that have led us to living in a multicultural society and the food that has come along with it. I enjoyed learning about how food systems have evolved over time from the hunter and gatherer time to the present. I obviously enjoyed the practical side of food tech and that it will help me in the future by teaching me how to cook everyday meals."

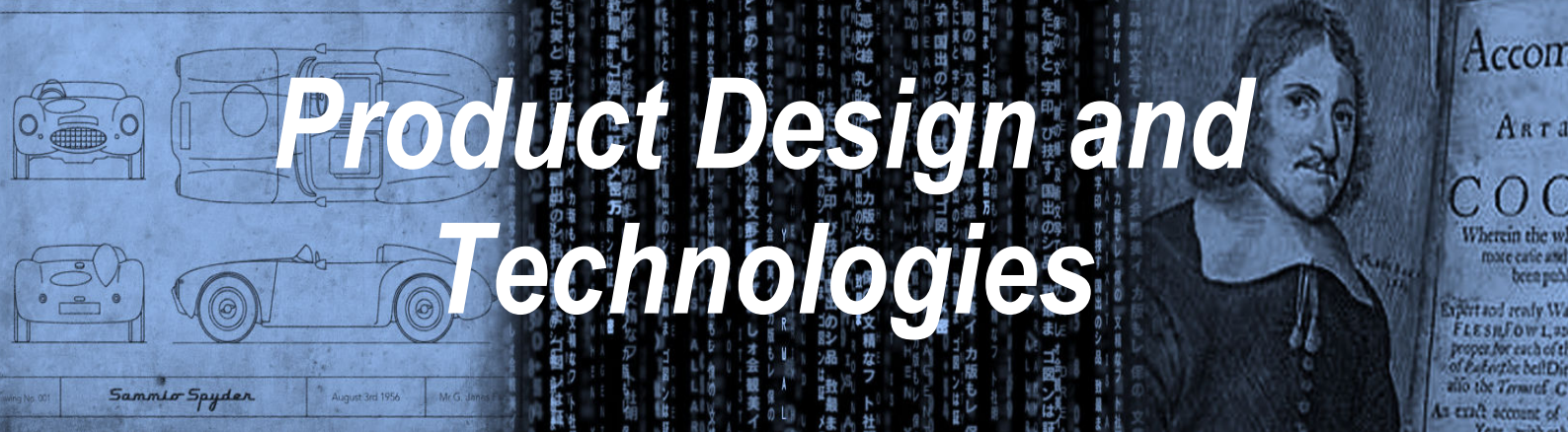
Josh Brown, Year 11 2025

Subject Details

- Status: **Elective**
- Entry: **Open**
- Prerequisites: **None**
- Length: **One semester only**
- Periods per week: **Six**

Future Directions

- VCE Food Studies
- VCE Health and Human Development



Product Design and Technologies

ELECTIVE STUDY

Contact Person:
Sarah Buxton
Technology Leader

Year 10 Product Design and Technologies provides students with the opportunity to work on specific projects. The outcomes of this subject are to provide each student with a good knowledge base of workshop hand and power tools, OH&S regulations for the workshop, and the basics of working drawings and documents needed to build a product.

Victorian Curriculum Strands

- Technologies and society
- Technologies contexts
- Creating designed solutions

What's it like to study Product Design and Technologies?

"In Year 10 Product Design and Technologies, we learn skills like designing electronically isometric drawings, as well as working with wood. We are currently building a timber coffee table as the main project for this subject. This prepares us for VCE by teaching design thinking, material selection, and examining plan measurements, as well as using the tools safely. The building of the coffee table is both creative and practical, giving us a taste of real world product development. We also look at the reinforcement of OH&S rules in the workplace."

Lachy Roney, Year 10 2025

Subject Details

- Status: **Elective**
- Entry: **Open**
- Prerequisites: **None**
- Length: **One semester only**
- Periods per week: **Six**

Future Directions

- VCE Product Design and Technologies
- VCE Systems Engineering
- VET Certificate II Building and Construction

VCE VET Agriculture

ELECTIVE STUDY

Contact Person:
Sarah Buxton
Technology Leader

AHC20122 Certificate II in Agriculture provides an entry level occupational outcome in agriculture. The qualification enables individuals to select a livestock production or cropping context as a job focus or, in the case of mixed farming enterprises, both. Industry expects individuals with this qualification to carry out routine tasks under general supervision and exercise limited autonomy with some accountability for their own work. Job roles vary across different industry sectors and may include: Assistant Animal Attendant/Stockperson, Assistant Farm or Station Hand/Labourer. St Joseph's College delivers the Certificate II in Agriculture with a specific focus on Viticulture through our College Vineyard.

What's it like to study Product Design and Technologies?

Agriculture has been an amazing experience for me throughout my Year 10 journey. It is a subject that offers hands-on experience that applies to real world issues. It has helped me develop strong and genuine bonds with the people in my class and has set me up for success with an impressive resume for employers. Agriculture encourages teamwork and communication, and I have become competent in a variety of topics. To finish our course, we go on a 5-day Agriculture Camp together.

Subject Details

The Year 10 Agriculture is a partial completion of the VET Certificate II in Agriculture undertaken in Semester I of Year 10.

They undertake study in:

Code	Title: Units of Competency	Hrs
AHCINF202A	Install, maintain and repair fencing	30
TLID1001A	Shift materials safely using manual handling	30
AHCINF203A	Maintain properties and structures	30
AHCMOM203	Operate basic machinery and equipment	30
HLTAID002	Provide basic emergency life support	30
AHCWRK213	Participate in workplace communications	30
AHCMOM204	Undertake operational maintenance of machinery	20
AHCWRK212	Work effectively in industry	25



Vocational Education and Training (VET)

Vocational Education and Training (VET) training refers to enhanced Senior School studies, which enables a secondary student to combine their senior school studies with Vocational Training. Students can participate in a VET subject as part of their VCE, but it must be included in the VCE Vocational Major (VCE VM) Program. Units as part of a VET subject focus on developing industry specific and workplace skills and is designed to meet the needs of Industry. A pathway at St Joseph's College enables students to experience opportunities to enhance their vocational interests and passions. Some VET subjects are examinable and as such have study scores that contribute to the ATAR, other VET studies contribute credits to the VCE or the VCE Vocational Major. Completion of all units can also lead to the achievement of a Certificate II or III nationally recognised qualification. The VET also provides students with the options to partake in employment or continue with further study in vocational training on completion of Year 12.

VET Subjects offered at St Joseph's College:

- Certificate II in Agriculture (Viticulture) – see above
- Certificate II/III in Applied Language (Italian and Japanese) – see above
- Certificate II/III in Information and Communications Technology (ICT) – see above
- Certificate III in Sport and Recreation - see above
- Certificate II in Building and Construction – details below
- Certificate II in Electrotechnology – details below
- Certificate II in Plumbing – details below

VET Sport and Recreation, Agriculture (Viticulture), Applied Language and Information Communications Technology (ICT) are offered within the College timetable. Whilst VET Building and Construction, Electrotechnology and Plumbing are delivered on site in the 'Carroll Centre' at St Joseph's College, they are not scheduled within the College timetable (and consequently students will miss classes to attend these VET studies). Students will be required to keep up with all timetabled classes in addition to their VET study.

Other VET courses are available at Host Schools as part of the Mullum VET Cluster. These VET studies are also not scheduled within the College timetable (and consequently students will miss classes to attend these VET studies).

The Mullum VET Cluster is a partnership of 40 government, catholic and independent schools, with 1100 students enrolled from the eastern suburbs. If a student completes a two-year VET program, they may be able to achieve a nationally recognised qualification, such as a Certificate II or Certificate III. Certain VET studies can contribute to VCE study scores such as Engineering, Hospitality, Sport and Recreation and ICT. Other VET courses, such as Automotive and Plumbing, provide credits to the VCE or the VCE Vocational Major (VCE VM).

Host schools delivering training include Swinburne, Box Hill Institute and Ringwood Training.

BUILDING and CONSTRUCTION

(RTO 21710 St Joseph's College)

22614VIC Certificate II in Building and Construction Carpentry (Pre-apprenticeship) is designed for people wanting to enter the building and construction industry to become apprentice carpenters. It will provide the knowledge and practical skills associated with working in the building and construction industry and equip students with the ability to work safely in the industry.

Units 1 and 2 (Year 1)

In Units 1 and 2, students complete a Certificate II in Building and Construction: recognition of two or more units at Units 1 and 2 level.

Students undertake study in:

Code	Title: Units of Competency	Hrs
CPCCWHS1001	Prepare to work safely in the construction industry	6
CPCCOHS2001	Apply OHS requirements, policies and procedures in the construction industry	20
CPCCCM2006	Apply basic levelling procedures	8
VU23321	Perform basic setting out	24
HLTAID010	Provide basic emergency life support	12
VU22016	Erect and safely use working platforms	24
CPCCCM1015	Carry out measurements and calculations	20
CPCCM1014	Conduct workplace communication industry	20
VU23313	Interpret and apply basic plans and drawings	25
VU23322	Construct basic sub-floor	48

Units 3 and 4 (Year 2)

In Units 3 and 4, students who complete a Unit 3 and 4 sequence will be eligible for an increment towards their ATAR.

Students undertake study in:

Code	Title: Units of Competency	Hrs
VU23320	Identify and handle carpentry tools and equipment	100
VU23328	Dismantle basic timber structures	20
VU23323	Construct basic wall frames	48
VU23324	Construct a basic roof frame	40
VU23326	Install basic window and door frames	24
VU23325	Install basic external cladding	24
VU23312	Prepare for work in the building and construction industry	18

ELECTROTECHNOLOGY (PRE-VOCATIONAL)

(RTO 21710 St Joseph's College)

Students enrolled in 22682 Certificate II Electrotechnology (pre-vocational) will have the opportunity to Increase their job employability in the electrical, security systems or refrigeration and air conditioning trades. In this electrotechnology studies pre-apprenticeship course, they will learn the basics of electrical theory and maths and gain practical skills to help them find work in the industry.

They will be trained by industry professionals how to interpret electrical drawings, operate safely in an electrical workshop, identify, select and use equipment in an electrotechnology environment, interact with clients and deliver a quality service.

Units 1 and 2 (Year 1)

In Units 1 and 2, students complete a Certificate II in Electrotechnology: recognition of two or more units at Units 1 and 2 level.

Students undertake study in:

Code	Title: Units of Competency	Hrs
CPCCOHS1001A	Work safely in the construction industry	6
UEERLOO1	Attach cords and plugs to electrical equipment	20
UEECD0007	Apply occupational health and safety regulations, codes and practices in the workplace	20
UEECD0019	Fabricate, assemble and dismantle utilities industry components	40
UEECD0042	Solve problems in ELV single path circuits	40
UEECD0020	Fix and secure electrotechnology equipment	20
VU23736	Prepare for work in electrotechnology industry	30
UEECD0052	Use of routine equipment/plant/technologies sin an energy sector environment	60

Units 3 and 4 (Year 2)

In Units 3 and 4, students who complete a Unit 3 and 4 sequence and will be eligible for an increment towards their ATAR.

They undertake study in:

Code	Title: Units of Competency	Hrs
VU23480	Perform intermediate engineering computations	40
VU23735	Install a sustainable extra low voltage energy power system	30
HLTAID001	Provide First Aid	18
UEERA0035	Establish the basic operating conditions of air conditioning systems	20
VU23737	Use test instruments in the electrotechnology Industry	20
VU23738	Plan and complete a basic electrotechnology project	40
VU23739	Carry out basic network cabling for extra low voltage equipment and devices	30

PLUMBING – PRE-APPRENTICESHIP

(RTO 21710 St Joseph's College)

22701VIC Certificate II in Plumbing (Pre-Apprenticeship) is designed for students wanting to enter the plumbing industry to become apprentice plumbers. It will provide the knowledge and practical skills associated with working in the plumbing industry and equip students to become apprentice plumbers.

First-year classes are undertaken at St Joseph's on Thursday afternoons (1.30pm-5.30pm) and involve both a classroom and workshop-based mode of delivery.

Units 1 and 2 (Year 1)

In Units 1 and 2, students complete a Certificate II in Plumbing (Pre-Apprenticeship): recognition of two or more units at Units 1 and 2 level.

Students undertake study in:

Code	Title: Units of Competency	Hrs
CPCCWHS1001	Prepare to work safely in the construction industry	6
CPCCWHS2001	Apply WHS requirements, policies, and procedures in the construction industry	20
VU23049	Identify career pathways in the plumbing industry	30
BSBWRT311	Write simple documents	30
CPCPCM2039A	Carry out interactive workplace communication	10
CUAACD303	Produce technical drawings	50
VU23051	Prepare to work in the plumbing industry	20
CPCCCM1015	Carry out measurements and calculations	20
VU23056	Use plumbing pipes, fittings, and fixtures to simulate plumbing installations	30
HLTAID010	Provide basic emergency life support	12
VU23054	Use basic plumbing hand tools	50

Units 3 and 4 (Year 2)

Students undertake study in:

Code	Title: Units of Competency	Hrs
VU23047	Cut and penetrate building materials and structures	30
VU23052	Use and apply basic levelling equipment for plumbing	8
VU23048	Fabricate simple plumbing pipe systems	30
VU23055	Use basic power tools	20
VU23050	Perform basic oxy-acetylene welding and cutting	20
VU22053	Use basic electric welding equipment and techniques	20
CPCCCM2001	Read and interpret plans and specifications	36
VU23046	Apply basic sheet metal practices	50

External VET Subjects available through the Mullum VET Cluster

Course	Location
Acting (Screen)	Australian College of Dramatic Arts
Allied Health Assistance	Swinburne University
Animal Studies	Box Hill Institute
Automotive	Ringwood Training
Creative Industries	Swinburne University
Community Services	Swinburne University
Design Fundamentals	Swinburne University
Engineering Studies	Swinburne University
Health Services Assistant	Swinburne University
Hospitality	Aquinas College
Information Technology (Gaming)	Ringwood Training/Swinburne University
Kitchen Operations	Aquinas College
Music – Sound Production	Aquinas College

Entry Requirements

Any student applying for a VET subject must complete an online VET Application Google Form available on the College Website www.stjosephs.com.au (Learning/Subject Selection).

Admission to VET subjects at St Joseph's College is dependent on the successful completion of previous studies, if applicable and other entry criteria. Some VET subjects have additional charges which are passed onto families as part of the College Fees.

Further inquiries regarding VET subjects can be addressed to Mrs Vivienne Egan, Director of RTO and Pathways.