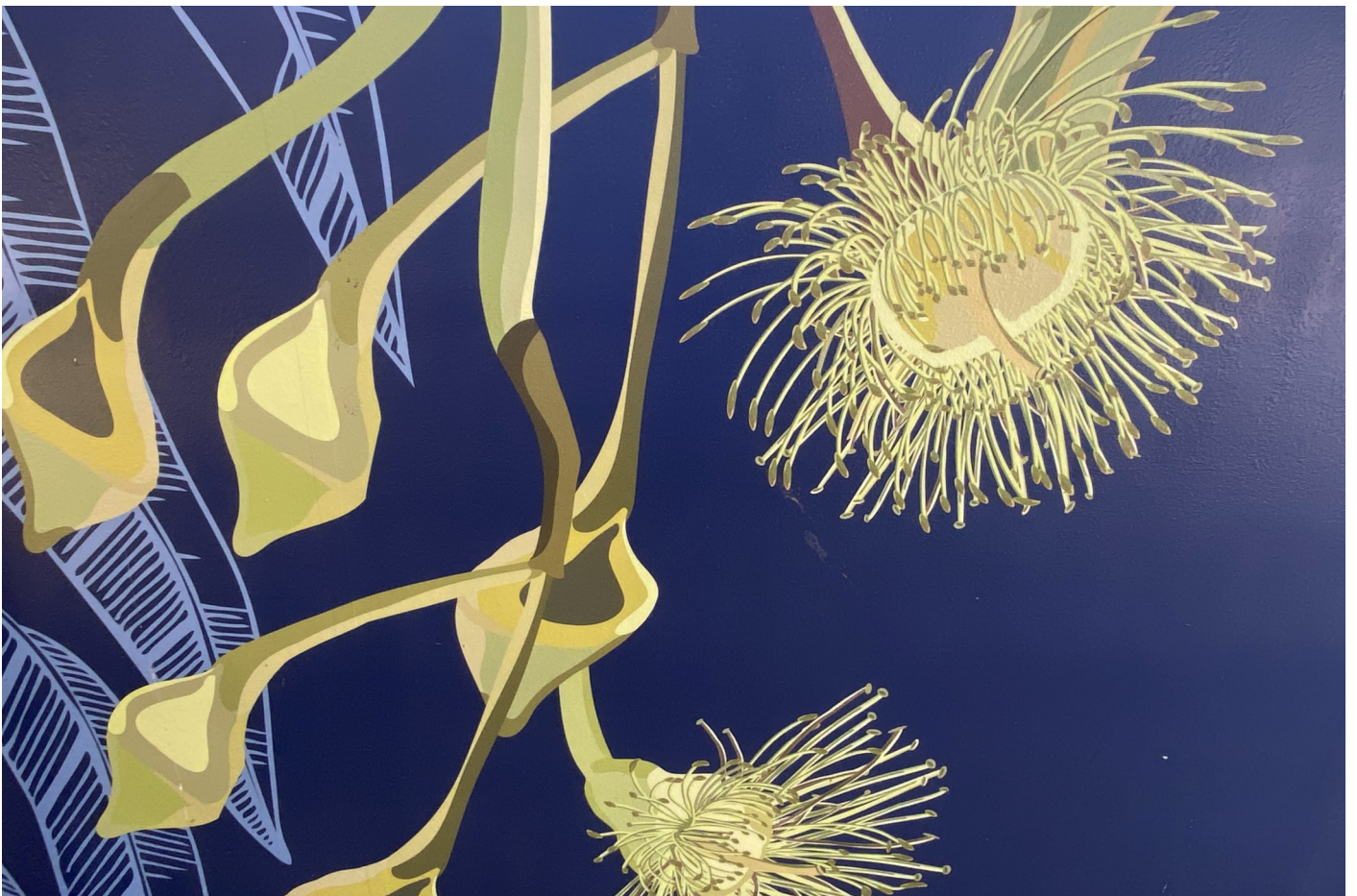




Davidson
HIGH SCHOOL

Open Night 2024





Welcome to Davidson High School 2024

Our Vision

Davidson High School is an inclusive community school, committed to fostering strong, trusting and positive connections between students, staff and parents that develop the values of courage, confidence and compassion. We believe a collaborative approach to learning in the classroom will support and develop risk taking in learning and inspire students to strive for excellence. Our staff reflect upon their practice and build their capacity to deliver quality teaching that grows student attainment.

Making the right choice

Davidson High School is a comprehensive, co-educational and inclusive secondary school set in spacious grounds and surrounded by tranquil natural bushland. Our school has developed a reputation for excellence in all areas of student endeavour. A strong academic emphasis is complemented by programs in sport, the performing and creative arts, vocational education and student wellbeing.

We are committed to providing an educational environment that challenges and inspires each child to achieve their personal potential in a safe, supportive and creative learning environment. We are proud of our school culture built on the philosophy of positive education that builds the values of confidence, courage and compassion.





Developing students' character and responsibility

We strive to develop leadership, build in character strengths and promote social responsibility within our students.

At Davidson our committed and experienced staff are dedicated to providing a range of enrichment opportunities in addition to the defined timetable.

Our students are empowered to become productive and valued members of the international community.

Programs include:

- SRC, Prefect Body, Peer Mentoring and other leadership opportunities



- Outdoor education camps in years 7, 9 and 11 for team building and fostering friendships
- Award winning creative arts programs such as music, dance and drama
- Popular clubs such as chess, book club and eco club.
- Sporting activities beyond the regular curriculum such as knockout competitions.



Expectations

Davidson HS has high expectations in both behaviour and academic performance. Strong positive relationships between students and staff have provided a supportive environment across the school, both in class and in the playground. We build on this foundation through positive education framework.

This evidence-based model allows us to focus on the strengths of students which will enable them to thrive in our ever changing world.

Outstanding academic performance

Davidson High School has a strong academic focus leading to highly competitive HSC results.

A huge congratulations to our amazing group of Year 12 students. Hard work, resilience and a consistent application towards their studies has seen them achieve well deserved results. Their efforts and those of our staff have seen the school jump 89 places in school rankings from 281 to 192. We are very proud of Year 12 2023.

2016 top ATAR = 98.55	2017 top ATAR = 98.1
2018 top ATAR = 92.2	2019 top ATAR = 98.7
2020 top ATAR = 97.95	2021 top ATAR = 97.95
2022 top ATAR = 92.3	2023 top ATAR = 97.9



About numbers and classes

How big is the school?

Currently, there are 849 students in Years 7 to 12. This year 73 boys and 68 girls enrolled in Year 7. The sizes of classes vary. In Year 7, we try to keep class sizes small, with an average of 28 students in each and around 20 in practical classes.

How are classes organised?

This varies according to the year group and the subject area. At all times careful thought is put into the best combination of students. There are usually six core classes in each year.

Year 7 students (with the exception of the EDGE 7 class) are placed in mixed ability classes. Students stay together in the one core class for English and Mathematics, Science, History, Geography and PD/Health/PE. This helps them get to know each other, an important factor in the transition to high school. Students are usually placed with someone they know but combinations of students that might cause a distraction to learning are avoided.

Year 8 classes are changed from Year 7. Mathematics, Science and English establish a streamed academic class based upon performance and motivation. All other classes are mixed ability. Languages are taught in Year 8.

Years 9 and 10 class formation in Mathematics, Science and English remains similar to Year 8. However, these classes are re-formed based on each student's performance in the previous year. Composition of most other classes is based on student elective choice. Commerce, Food Technology, History Elective, Drama, Multimedia Technology, Music, Textiles, Dance, Automotive Technology, Italian/Japanese and Timber Technology are just some of the elective subjects on offer.

Year 11 and 12 students choose from a variety of subjects and courses. Although there is no streaming as such, some subjects and courses are more academically challenging, and students are advised on the suitability of their subject choice based on their ability and previous performance. Students are able to study TAFE and VET courses, providing a head start in their chosen career paths.

Davidson - the school of choice

The library has been designed to be a welcoming, flexible, modern learning space conducive to collaborative and creative opportunities for learning. It is equipped with 25 desk top computers, a bank of laptops and 32 kindles as well as mobile furniture and dedicated study areas for senior students.

Special facilities

- drama and dance studios
- keyboard lab
- concert band rehearsal room
- fully upgraded science labs
- visual art with digital photography flexible learning spaces
- state of the art industrial food technology kitchens
- outdoor gym and a covered outdoor sports court

Sport

Sport at school is provided for students as part of the curriculum on a Wednesday afternoon for Years 8-10 and Tuesdays for Year 7. A variety of sporting opportunities are available such as swimming and athletics carnivals, sports gala days and knock out sports competitions.

Davidson High School Virtual Tour - [Click here](#)



Subjects studied in Year 7

English	Mathematics	Science
Geography	History	PD/H/ PE
Music	Dance	Drama
Visual Arts	Thinking Skills	
Technology (food, textiles, timber, agriculture, multimedia, metal)		



BYOD

BYOD provides our students with future focused, authentic learning opportunities. This approach often leads to improved engagement as it facilitates collaboration between students and offers a space for effective teacher feedback. Through the use of technology, we foster our students' love of learning and establish a focus on 21st Century skills. This enables them to be responsible members of the global community and will assist them in negotiating the ever changing professional landscape.

Students are expected to bring their own fully charged device to school each day. Loan laptops are available for hire from the school.



Mobile Phones

Davidson High School and the Department of Education have a policy of no mobile phones/electronic devices (including headphones) for years 7-12 during the school day. This does not include BYOD laptops / tablet computers as these come under the Davidson High School Acceptable Use Policy. If a parent needs to contact a student during the school day, they are able to contact the office and a message will be forwarded to the student directly. It is understood that students may need a mobile phone before or after school for safety reasons. For this purpose they will be able to use their phone once they are unlocked as they exit the school. Mobile Phones are kept safely in a Yondr Pouch during the school day.



How to enrol at Davidson

For Year 7 in 2025 there will be places for all local students and some places for those living outside the school's boundaries.

Davidson High School Enrolment Policy [click here](#).

Students in Year 6 in public schools will receive information on how to submit an online Expression of Interest from their current primary school. In Term 2, we will start the process of offering placement and enrolment.

Those students currently in non-Government schools, can submit an online application at [Enrolment - Davidson High School \(nsw.gov.au\)](http://Enrolment - Davidson High School (nsw.gov.au)).

Places are available in years 8 to 12 during the year if students are in area. Contact the school office for details.

Character Strengths





English

Subjects Offered

Juniors: English

Seniors: English Standard, English Advanced, English Studies, English EAL/D, English Extension 1, English Extension 2.

What do they study in Year 7?

Unit & Content Outline	Key Skills	Assessment
Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative Writing • Analytical Writing • Visual Literacy • Poetic Techniques 	Feature Article
Storytelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative Writing • Literary Analysis • Multimodal texts 	Multimodal story that reflects the hero's journey
Facing Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dramatic techniques • Interactive Texts 	Creating a website to house a variety of self made texts
Engaging Visuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual Literacy • Group Work 	Creating a short film

Lessons per fortnight

6

Homework structure

The most valuable homework for students in Year 7 is to read widely each day. At times teachers will set homework to consolidate or complete a class activity. Students will be given one summative task to complete each term.

Extension opportunities

7E and extension classes in junior years

Advanced and Extension courses available to seniors

Opportunities beyond the classroom

Public speaking

Debating

Writing competitions



Mathematics

Subjects Offered

Mathematics Standard 1 (non-ATAR) and 2 (ATAR), Mathematics Advanced, Mathematics Extension 1 and Mathematics Extension 2

Note: From 2025 the HSC Numeracy course will replace the Mathematics Standard 1 course for students choosing a non-ATAR course of study.

What do they study in Year 7?

Strand	Substrand	Assessment
Number and Algebra	Number and place value Real numbers Money and financial mathematics Patterns and algebra Linear and non-linear relationships	One written examination per term covering 2 to 3 substrands. Each assessment will be on the topics covered since the last assessment. Note: There is no assessment in Term 1 due to NAPLAN.
Measurement and Geometry	Using units of measurement Shape Location and transformation Geometric reasoning	
Statistics and Probability	Chance Data representation and interpretation	

Lessons per fortnight

6

Homework structure

Teachers assign homework using the textbook, worksheets and online resources. Students in Years 7 to 10 are assigned weekly revision tasks via Maths Online.

Extension opportunities

A streamed class in Year 7- separate to 7E.

Streamed classes in Years 8, 9 & 10.

Extension courses are available in Years 11 and 12.

Opportunities beyond the classroom

Mathematics Olympiad in Year 7 and Year 8 (8M1)

Year 8 World of Mathematics

Online resources



Mathematics con't

FAQ'S

Do we use calculators?

Yes, calculators should be brought to every mathematics lesson but some lessons will require mental calculations only.

Is studying Mathematics compulsory?

Mathematics is compulsory for Years 7 to 10. However, the majority of students choose to study a mathematics course in Years 11 and 12.

Where can I get extra help with mathematics if I am struggling?

The school runs a homework club after school,(currently Monday and Thursday), and there will usually be a mathematics teacher attending to help students. Students are also provided with a Maths Online login to give them extra support with their studies.

Do I need to buy a textbook?

Textbooks are provided by the school, along with additional electronic resources.



Science

Subjects Offered

Science, Biology, Chemistry, Earth and Environmental Science, Extension Science, Investigative Science, Psychology and Physics

What do they study in Year 7

Unit & Content Outline	Key Skills	Assessment
Chemistry - safety in the lab, the particle model, separation techniques	Investigation and laboratory skills	Portfolio
Physics - forces	Scientific method, analysis and interpretation of data	Portfolio Depth Study Functioning Toy
Biology - classification and ecosystems Incursion - Reptile Show	Classification, writing skills	Portfolio
Earth and Space - solar system, Earth's resources	Evaluation of models, assessment of use of resources	End of year exam

Lessons per fortnight

6

Portfolio

Our Year 7 students will be actively involved in the creation of an ongoing portfolio in class as part of their Science assessment. This initiative has several benefits, which we believe will contribute to your child's academic growth:

- Ongoing Feedback and Forward Progress;
- Development of Marking Criteria Skills;
- Enhanced Understanding of Scientific skills and content.

Homework structure

Teachers may choose to set homework for revision of content using the Stile app, textbook or worksheets.

Extension opportunities

Edge 7 class, ICAS Assessment

Opportunities beyond the classroom

EcoClub, Science competitions (Sleek Geek Science competition, NRMA future of transport challenge, Science and engineering challenge)



Science con't

FAQ'S

How often are Science classes in a laboratory?

At the end of 2021, renovations of the Science laboratories were completed so every class is in a recently renovated laboratory for most lessons.

How often do students do practicals?

Science is best learnt through student participation in hands-on activities, so practicals in the laboratory are a key component of most lessons.

When do students get to light a bunsen burner?

Students get taught to use a bunsen burner very early in Term 1.

Do students do dissections?

When studying Biology modules, a dissection is often an important way to teach students about body structures and functions.

Do students need to have a laptop for Science lessons?

Laptops are a very helpful tool for learning in Science and we encourage students to bring a laptop to every lesson. We find the online Stile app is a helpful tool for reinforcing Science concepts and regularly checking student comprehension. Students will also perform secondary research and will need their laptops to use the internet to gather information. Each class has a Google Classroom for Science and worksheets, homework and assessment tasks are often distributed through the Google Classroom.

Do students have an excursion in Year 7?

An incursion is organised in Year 7 to see the Reptile show, which is an entertaining and informative stimulus for the unit on Ecosystems and the assessment task on adaptations.

Is studying Science compulsory?

Science is a core subject for Years 7 to 10 and is therefore compulsory. Each Stage follows the NSW curriculum, with modules in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Earth Science.

What elective junior Science subjects are offered?

In Stage 5 students can currently choose to study elective Psychology.



HSIE

Subjects Offered

Junior History and Geography in Years 7-10; Commerce, Elective History and Elective Geography.

Stage 6 offerings are Ancient History, Business Studies, Economics, Geography, Legal Studies, Modern History, Society and Culture and History Extension (Year 12 only, strong results in either Year 11 Ancient History or Modern History is a prerequisite for entry into this 1 unit course)

What do they study in Year 7?

Unit & Content Outline	Key Skills	Assessment
Investigating History	Source analysis Understanding key terms and historical concepts	Topic Test
Ancient societies - Egypt and China	Research and note - taking skills Writing skills Presentation skills	Ancient Egypt assignment
Landscapes and Landforms	Research and note-taking skills Mapping skills Students examine the interaction between the human and physical environments.	Assignment
Place and liveability	Students examine different perspectives about what makes a place liveable from environmental and human points of view. Research skills Mapping and graphing skills	Topic Test

Lessons per fortnight

7 lessons in the junior school with junior History and Geography courses being semesterised.

Homework structure

Students will work on one key assessment per term which will make up most of their homework requirements. Occasionally, students will have homework set based on class work being delivered to consolidate their learning or prepare them for upcoming lessons.



HSIE con't

Extension opportunities

Australian History and Geography competitions and our extension class in Year 7 will also have an opportunity to undertake a “zest project” to enhance their knowledge and research skills.

Opportunities beyond the classroom

- Commerce - The Stock Exchange competition
- Involvement in whole school events like ANZAC Day assemblies
- Field work tours of Sydney (Senior Geography)
- Visit to Downing Centre (Legal Studies)
- Coastal Management Centre excursion (Geography)
- Medieval Day (Year 8)
- Australian History Competition (Years 7-10)



CAPA

Subjects Offered

Music, Drama, Visual Arts, Dance

What do they study in Year 7?

Music

Students will undertake a variety of performing, listening and composing activities to enjoy a diverse experience in Music.

Unit & Content Outline	Key Skills	Assessment
Performance / Composing - Keyboard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students learn to play a range of keyboard pieces while learning to read music notation. Students build skills in playing with both hands together, extending to chords and composition activities. Students receive one lesson per week in a dedicated keyboard lab space. 	Ongoing assessment across a range of pieces.
Listening / Composing / Performing - Art Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students will learn about a range of different instruments through a variety of programme, film and gaming music. Students will identify changes in tempo, dynamics and instruments as well as be exposed to a range of music technology software to create their own music. 	Skills and listening based assessment.

Visual Arts

Unit & Content Outline	Key Skills	Assessment
Elements of Design - 3D Clay	Students learn about the Elements of Design and explore the structural conventions of sculptural techniques to create ceramic artworks.	Creation of 3D Sea Creatures using clay.
Portrait Painting	Students learn about Postmodern Pop Art portrait painting.	Self portrait in the pop-art style
Printmaking - Illuminated	A cultural and subjective exploration of drawing convention and practices to create a series of printmaking artworks.	Design and develop prints to represent a series of creatures.



CAPA con't

Dance

Students learn about Dance through performance, composition and building appreciation of Dance.

Unit & Content Outline	Key Skills	Assessment
Technique: Safe Dance Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction into safe dance practice. • Learning anatomy and training principles. 	Execution of set class dance exercises
Dance as an Artform - Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying effective ways that Dance can communicate as an artform. 	Set contemporary dance performance
Composition - Elements of Dance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students learn to use the Elements of Dance to develop their own dance compositions. 	Group and individual composition work
Technique and Performance - Dance Styles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploration of a variety of Dance styles and performance quality. 	Presentation and performance of chosen dance style.

Drama

Students learn about Drama by making, performing and studying to appreciate dramatic and theatrical works.

Unit & Content Outline	Key Skills	Assessment
Improvising and Playbuilding	Introduction to improvisation and playbuilding in Drama, learning about the Elements of Drama.	Playbuild and performance
Mime and Comedy	Introduction to the range of different comedy techniques from slapstick to situational humour and parody.	Performance of a short scene incorporating a type of humour with both peer and self reflection
Script work	Students learn how to manipulate the elements of Drama using script work, focusing on vocal ability and projections.	Performance in style
Theatre Sports and Masks	Students learn and practice various improvisation skills using scaffolded activities building to group improvisation performances. Students learn about how masks are used in different cultures.	Playbuild and performance



CAPA con't

Lessons per week

Subject	Lessons
Visual Art and Music	5 per fortnight - per semester in Year 7 and 8
Dance and Drama	2 per fortnight for the whole of year 7 - not offered in Year 8

Homework structure

- Any work not completed in class time is expected to be completed for homework
- Small homework tasks such as personal reflections or small research projects may be set
- Small music composition tasks using music software can also be set from time to time
- Students are all required to keep up to date with Google Classroom activities

Extension opportunities

Individuals who demonstrate previous knowledge in any of these subject areas are offered extension work to extend their learning and development. Classwork is differentiated to meet these different skill levels.

Opportunities beyond the classroom

A range of co-curricular activities are offered as extension opportunities beyond the classroom - these include:

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Concert Band | Stage Band |
| Vocal Ensemble | Acapella |
| Art Club | Drama Ensemble |
| Dance Ensemble | Photography Club |

All opportunities offer presentation of learning experiences throughout the year across a range of performance events both internal and external to the school.

Room	Use
Band room	A dedicated music rehearsal space for concert band, stage band and small group ensembles. Also used as a practice room for elective music students and HSC performances.
Keyboard Lab	Dedicated room for all Year 7 keyboard lessons.
Dance Studio	Large dance studio with tarkett, barre, mirrors, curtains and lights to be used for both
Drama Studio	Large drama space with lights, curtains, blocks, small audience space for both rehearsing and performance. All drama lessons are held in the drama room and used for hosting Drama performance evenings.



PDHPE

Subjects Offered

PDHPE, PASS, Sport Lifestyle and Recreation, Child Studies, Exploring Early Childhood, Outdoor Recreation and Fitness.

What do they study in Year 7?

Unit & Content Outline	Key Skills	Assessment
Sportsmanship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Self awareness• Communication• Social awareness	Students are assessed on their work in class and contributions to the unit activities and discussions.
Aerobic training	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fundamental movement skills• Goal setting and tracking	In this unit students complete an assessment task with both a practical and theory based component.
Puberty	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengthening personal identity• Self awareness	Students are assessed on their work in class and contributions to the unit activities and discussions.
Social Dance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fundamental movement skills• Communication• Collaboration	Students are assessed on their participation in class and ability to interact positively with their peers..
Introduction to Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Self awareness• Communication• Strengthening personal identity	In this unit students complete an assessment task with both a practical and theory based component.
Factors that affect our health	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Self awareness• Decision making• Emotion and stress management	Students are assessed on their work in class and contributions to the unit activities and discussions.
Personal safety - risk taking and cyber safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Self awareness• Help seeking• Communication	Students are assessed on their work in class and contributions to the unit activities and discussions.
Inspiring individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strengthening personal identity• Social awareness• Leadership and advocacy	Students are assessed on their work in class and contributions to the unit activities and discussions.



PDHPE con't

Lessons per fortnight

Year 7 will attend 4 PDHPE lessons per fortnight. 2 will be theoretical lessons and the other two will be practical lessons.

Homework structure

Homework will rarely be given in junior PDHPE outside of the main assessment task each semester.

Opportunities beyond the classroom

Students will have the opportunity to participate in a range of sporting activities at Davidson High School. Throughout their junior years students will have the opportunity of participating in a range of competitive and recreational sports. These include but are not limited to:

Touch football	Rugby League
Rugby Union	Netball
Volleyball	Cricket
Baseball	Basketball
Netball	Tennis
Golf	Surfing
Kayaking	Rock Climbing
Beach and Bush Walking	Trampolining

Students will also have the opportunity to participate in three major carnivals each year including swimming, athletics and cross country. All three of these carnivals give students the opportunity to progress through to zone, regional and CHS level.

Year 7's main events include the carnivals, Year 7 gala day where we play other local schools in a range of sports and Year 7 swim school.

Extension opportunities

Opportunities for extension exist in both practical and theoretical lessons. Students are given extension options in theory work in class and are also provided the opportunity to extend themselves physically in practical lessons and out of the classroom where they are provided the opportunity to represent the school in sport and at a higher level of Sydney North and CHS.



TAS

Subjects Offered

Years 7 & 8

Technology Mandatory - Metal, Agriculture, Food, Multimedia, Coding, Textiles, Engineering .

Years 9 & 10

Woodwork, Food Technology, Metalwork, Textiles, Multimedia.

Years 11 & 12

Community and Family Studies, Construction, Engineering Studies, Food Technology, Hospitality, Industrial Technology; Metals, Multimedia, Timber, Textiles and Design

What do they study in Year 7?

Unit & Content Outline	Key Skills	Assessment
Agriculture	Knowledge of how food goes from paddock to plate.	Research project and growing from seed to cultivation.
Textiles	Hand sewing, machine sewing, textile designing.	2 textile projects involving designing, colouring, sewing and filling.
Metal	Sheet metal, steel bending and joining. Cutting, filing and drilling metal. Spot welding and riveting.	A miniature wheelbarrow from metal. Can be used as a garden ornament and hold a plant.
Digital	Learning how to code a program using text code. The code leads to the manipulation of a microprocessor.	Designing code to drive an electronic system. Designing plastic model to be cut on the laser cutter.
Multimedia	Designing websites and developing 3D animation into movies.	A 3-D Animation and Folio .
Engineering	Learning about the forces and materials that hold our built environment together.	The design, construction and testing of a timber siege engine and folio .

Lessons per fortnight

5

Homework structure

Unit booklets and online platforms are used for weekly assessment.

Extension opportunities

All units and projects allow for the extension of learning.



Languages

Subjects Offered

Stage 4 - Italian, Japanese

Stage 5 - Italian, Japanese

What do they study in Year 7

Languages are studied in Year 8.

Unit & Content Outline	Key Skills	Assessment
Family, School	Listening, speaking, writing, reading, literacy (vocabulary building)	A test after each topic or chapter
Introductions		
Animals, likes, dislikes		

Lessons per fortnight

6

Homework structure

The expectation is 10-15 minute per night revising new words introduced in the lesson

Use of an online program - Quizlet

Extension opportunities

In class - extension activities focused on creativity

Opportunities beyond the classroom

External competitions - video/film production, writing

FAQ'S

Can we study a different language?

Yes, but only from Year 9 onwards. This is done through the School of Languages and needs to be organised and authorised through the Deputy Principal.

