

STRATHMORE
SECONDARY COLLEGE

YEAR 9 - 2025
CURRICULUM BOOKLET

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Please note: College Council reviews and updates fee schedules annually in September. The fees will be published on the college website shortly afterwards.

INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMS FOR YEAR 9 STUDENTS

The aim of Year 9 is that students begin to focus on areas that interest them and will extend their learning. Year 9 is a critical year in preparation for senior school pathways so it is important that students select subjects that will engage them and challenge them to achieve their best.

By the middle of Year 9, students will begin making decisions about their Year 10 subjects, VCE pathways, and their Year 10 work experience. It is important that they use their individual program to extend their experience, broaden their skill base and seek support so they are prepared to make these decisions. Some students may wish to consider taking an accelerated VCE subject in Year 10. Students will only be permitted to do this if their performance and approach to learning are of a high standard in the first half of Year 9.

WHAT YOUR CHILD WILL STUDY IN 2025

Our program for Year 9 students is divided into two parts.

1) The core program that all students will study

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Humanities
- Health & Physical Education, and Sport

2) The individual program units offer students the opportunity to specialise in subjects that suit and challenge their individual abilities, interests, and needs. Students will study three subjects per semester (six per year) within this Individual Program.

- All students will have access to single semester studies in Arts and Technology.
- All students may choose to continue a whole year study in a Language (Greek, Italian and Japanese).
- Music is available as a whole year study for those who play an instrument.
- The Enrichment Program is aimed at extending students who are academically advanced in a particular area and are available in English, Maths, STEAM, and Health & Physical Education.
- Students in need of support will be able to take part in a Learning Support Program for a whole year.

Counsellors will support students in the design of their programs. The full range of subjects available to students in 2025 is shown on page 7.

HOW YOUR CHILD'S PROGRAM WILL BE DEVELOPED

Each class will have a counsellor to assist all students in the process of developing their individual program for 2025. The counsellor will meet with your child's class to fully discuss the program and answer their questions.

A brief description of all subjects in the Individual Program is provided for you and your child to read.

Students must complete a Career Action Plan (CAP) so that they can reflect on their school experience in Year 8 and begin to plan some steps for Year 9 and beyond. They should carefully consider the success they've had in different subject areas, as well as those that they have enjoyed or for which they have found a passion.

Students and families need to enter course preferences into the Edval Choice portal, using "Entering Your Program Preferences" on p.8 of this booklet to guide you.

The online submission to Edval Choice will be completed in Term 3. It's important to ensure that preferences are submitted on time. Late submission will limit the choices in your child's program. Current students and their families are contacted early in Term 3 to advise of the process and due dates.

Once you have entered course preferences on the Edval Choice portal, you may print or email your preferences for your records. If your child has any questions about this process, they should see their counsellor to discuss their individual program.

Please note that once courses are finalised, **changes of subjects will generally not be made**, so it is important that you and your child consider the preferences entered carefully.

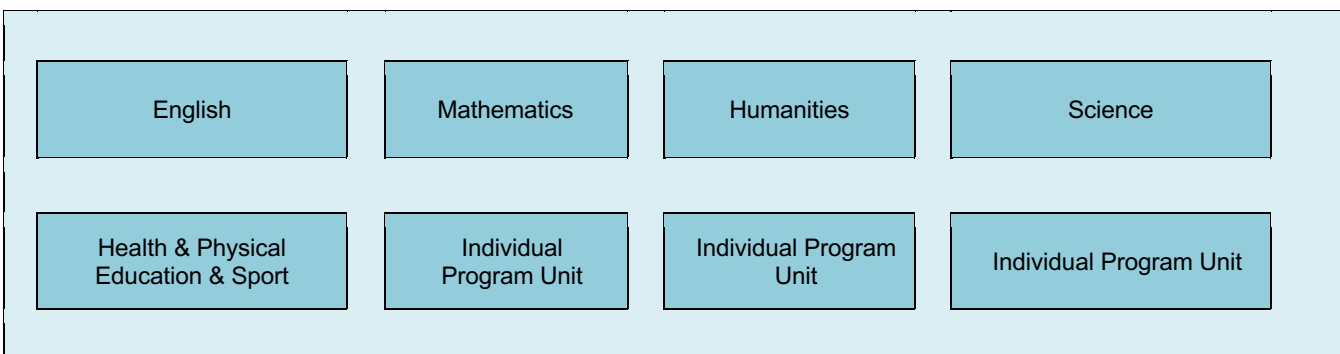
If you require more information, please contact:

- Your Team Coordinator
- Mr Rohan Nicholls, Assistant Principal - Teaching & Learning

EXAMPLES OF INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMS

All Year 9 students will study a set of core subjects, but a part of their course will be designed as an Individual Program.

THE PROGRAM FOR ALL STUDENTS



SAMPLE INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMS

Example 1: A student with a particular interest in Science/Language					
Year 9	Semester 1	Italian		Advanced English	Art 1
	Semester 2	Italian		STEAM Project	Media

Example 2: A student with a particular interest in Art					
Year 9	Semester 1	Digital You		Art 2	Observational Drawing
	Semester 2	Design & Technology		Visual Communication Design	Digital Technology (Game Development and Design)

Example 3: A student needing Literacy Intervention					
Year 9	Semester 1	Support for Literacy		Music	Food Technology
	Semester 2	Support for Literacy		Music	Drama

HOW TO COMPLETE YOUR CHILD'S INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM

Individual Program units include Arts, Technology, Enrichment Units and other units. To ensure that all students gain a broad range of skills and knowledge, students will be generally expected during Years 8 and 9 to study a minimum of:

- Two units of Languages (compulsory at year 8 unless enrolled in Support for Literacy)
- Two units of Arts [Performing Arts OR Visual Arts]
- Two units of Technology

Students are not permitted to choose more than one Humanities Elective Unit. Students are not permitted to choose more than one of Advanced English or Advanced Maths.

Languages

- Greek
- Italian
- Japanese

Arts and Technology Units

Visual Arts

- Art 1: Street Art
- Art 2: Exploring the Unknown! (Surrealism)
- Digital Art
- Observational Drawing
- Visual Communication Design

Performing Arts & Media

- Dance
- Drama
- Performance Project- Theatre Styles
- Theatre Studies
- Music
- Media

Technology

- Design & Technology (Textiles)
- Design & Technology (Wood)
- Design & Technology (3D Printed Design)
- Food Technology
- Digital Technology (The Internet and You)
- Design & Technology (3D Printed Design)
- Digital Technology (The Internet and You)
- Digital Technology (Game Development and Design)

Enrichment Units

- Advanced English
- Advanced Maths
- STEAM Project- SmartSAT: Prevention and Management of Bushfires
- Coaching and Fitness

Literacy Intervention Program

- Support for Literacy
- (Recommendations for Support for Literacy will be given to students by their counsellor.)

Humanities Elective Units

- Commerce
- Infamous History
- Ethics, Politics, and the Law

ENTERING YOUR PROGRAM PREFERENCES

After reading the unit descriptions, please login to Edval Choice using your individual webcode and nominate your course preferences from the drop-down lists provided. All preferences should be entered in your order of preference, with your most favoured selections being entered first.

When constructing your course, Edval will attempt to fulfil your higher-listed preferences first.

The preferences are arranged in Edval Choice as follows:

Preference category	Description
Arts Preference	All students must preference at least one subject from the range of Arts subjects
Technology Preference	All students must preference at least one subject from the range of Technology subjects
Course Preferences 3-6	These should be your next most favoured preferences
Reserve Preferences 1-4	Reserve preferences will be utilised if your higher preferences are not able to be fulfilled.

Please ensure all preferences are completed online by Friday 16th August 2024.

Late returns will limit the choices in your child's program.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECTS LANGUAGES

Greek

YEAR-LONG

The year 9 course aims to build students' confidence in the four skills of speaking, writing, listening, and reading through a variety of class activities. Students' vocabulary range will expand as the topics pertaining to their daily lives and interests are covered. Students will also learn about Greece's vibrant popular and traditional culture through classwork and use of audio-visual material. To complement this, and to reinforce their language learning, students will participate in excursions and/or incursions.

Italian

YEAR-LONG

The year 9 course aims to build students' confidence in the four skills of speaking, writing, listening, and reading through a variety of class activities. Students' vocabulary range will expand as the topics pertaining to their daily lives and interests are covered. Students will also learn about Italy's vibrant popular and traditional culture through classwork and use of audio-visual material. To complement this and to reinforce their language learning, students will participate in excursions and/or incursions.

Japanese

YEAR-LONG

The year 9 course aims to build students' confidence in the four skills of speaking, writing, listening, and reading through a variety of class activities. Students' vocabulary range will expand as the topics pertaining to their daily lives and interests are covered. The language will be taught using both hiragana and katakana scripts and students will increase their knowledge of kanji characters. Students will also learn about Japan's vibrant popular and traditional culture through classwork and use of audio-visual material. To complement this and to reinforce their language learning, students will participate in excursions and/or incursions.

VISUAL ARTS

Art 1: Street Art

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

This unit explores the way Art is presented in public and encourages students to consider alternative methods for creating and displaying art. They are introduced to the approaches and techniques applied in Street Art, learning stencilling and lettering as well as making paste-ups and using various printing methods. Following this, students use their skills to create a surface design for a wooden skateboard, based on personal interests. Students develop artistic vocabulary and learn how to discuss and analyse the concept of art whilst studying artworks from a wide variety of sources, such as Banksy and Blek le Rat. They will use this knowledge to assist with reflection and evaluation of their own artworks.

Art 2: Exploring the Unknown! (Surrealism)

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

Students are introduced to the art movement, Surrealism, and use its methods to develop creative ideas to reflect this style in their own works. Key artists, such as Salvador Dali, Hannah Hoch, and Rona Green, will inspire students' designs. They learn sculptural techniques and reduction lino-printing skills to produce a folio informed by surrealist approaches. By the end of this unit, students will complete a 3D artwork and a print, bringing their imagined world to life. Students analyse, discuss, and compare artworks as well as evaluate and reflect on their own art practice.

Digital Art

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

The focus in this unit is on producing digital-manipulated imagery by utilising software such as Sketch Up, Photoshop, and Illustrator. Students learn a wide range of digital techniques and explore contemporary designers and artists to inspire in their own process. Students will also learn scanning and printing methods to produce finished artworks.

Observational Drawing

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

Observational Drawing is a unit that offers students who have a particular interest in drawing an opportunity to strengthen their technical, visual, and creative skills. By observing various still-life set-ups and real-life environments, students build confidence in their ability to render images directly in a variety of media. Students will develop personal artistic skills and will explore unique and varied styles and approaches to creating artworks. An appreciation of the visual arts is promoted, with students studying the work of artists related to their practical activities.

Visual Communication Design

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

Visual Communication Design allows students to investigate the world through the practices of designers (product design, architecture/interior design, and graphic design). Students will be introduced to design and explore manual and digital methods to create visual communications.

Students build on their awareness of how designers communicate ideas with a specific purpose, to a targeted audience, using different visual communication design practices and viewpoints. They refine their personal aesthetic through their development of knowledge, understanding and skills in making and responding to visual communications. This will include rendering and drawing techniques (freehand, technical, and computer), layout and composition, product design and promotion, using various materials, methods, and media. By the end of this unit, students will create a rendered isometric character and a visual identity (Logo Design).

PERFORMING ARTS & MEDIA

Dance

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

In Dance students explore different dance styles as well as the possibilities of choreography. They use a range of themes, both independently and in groups to create dance sequences. Throughout the unit, there is also a focus on developing their dance technique, coordination, and flexibility. Students perform their dances to an audience as a culmination of their learning in the unit. Students analyse their own and others dance works and write responses to these to complete the Dance Analysis work requirement.

Drama

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

This subject focuses on developing acting skills for the screen and stage. Students make sustained dramatic statements that show an ability to effectively use dramatic elements. During rehearsal students develop skills in vocal expression, movement, and use of space. Students prepare dramatic works for the screen and stage using a variety of technical equipment and regularly present these to the school community. They analyse and interpret drama from a variety of cultural and historical sources.

Performance Project- Theatre Styles

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

This subject focuses on student collaboration and theatre-making. Students devise, write, rehearse, and perform an original play. They apply a range of dramatic elements to construct this performance as well as draw on a range of acting styles to create original and interesting characters. They are provided with the opportunity to work with a guest director during the play making process.

Theatre Studies

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

This subject focuses on introducing students to the backstage element of the performing arts, whilst at the same time developing their performance skills. They learn about the technical components that help create performance such as lighting, sound, costume and set design. They use this knowledge of stagecraft to create meaningful performances.

Music

STUDENTS LEARNING AN INSTRUMENT/VOICE AT SCHOOL WILL TAKE THIS UNIT AS A YEAR-LONG STUDY.

This subject explores music through performance, theory and composition. Students aurally and visually analyse works and performances of different styles. They evaluate the use of elements of music and defining

characteristics from different musical styles. Students perform works in solo and group contexts from a diverse range of styles and genres.

Students who learn to play an instrument at the school must enrol in this subject. Students who learn instruments outside the school can also further develop their musicianship through this subject.

Students will play in a variety of ensembles and will be required to take part in school concerts. Rehearsals may be held after school and during lunchtime.

The prerequisite for this subject is successful completion of Year 8 Music. Students who did not study Year 8 Music will be required to audition to be considered for entry into Year 9 Music.

Media

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

Students explore the creative capabilities of photo, music, and digital video editing software. They use technology as a compositional tool whilst adding music and audio effects to moving and still images. The emphasis is on the manipulation of selected software and hardware to capture, record, edit and refine their creative products. Students form small media production teams to create short films which explore themes relevant to their age group.

TECHNOLOGY

Design & Technology (Textiles)

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

In this unit, students explore a range of textile processes and sewing machine techniques. Students work through the product design process to design, make, and evaluate textiles products. There is a focus on creativity, design thinking skills, and safe and appropriate use of tools and equipment.

Design & Technology (Wood)

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

In this unit students work through the product design process to design, make and evaluate timber products. There is a focus on the development of innovative and creative solutions to design problems, creating detailed working drawings, production techniques, time management, and safe workshop practice.

Design & Technology (3D Printed Design)

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

In this unit, students are introduced to a range of new technologies such as 3D printing. They will use computer aided drawing programs to create products. Students will use the design process, critical and creative thinking skills to solve design problems and make products.

Food Technology

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

In this unit students investigate the characteristic properties of food in the raw and cooked state. Basic ingredients such as cereals, fibre and eggs are studied through practical work. Safe and appropriate use of tools and equipment is emphasised as students work through design briefs to create new food products.

Digital Technology (The Internet and You)

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

In this unit, students learn to assemble and configure desktop computers and networks. They will develop an understanding of the underlying systems that enable the internet and World Wide Web to function. Students learn to use HTML and CSS code to develop their own website which they will transfer to a web server for hosting. They will learn about the Problem Solving Methodology and use it to analyse, design, develop and evaluate their website.

Digital Technology (Game Development and Design)

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

In this unit, students are supported and challenged, to build their computational thinking skills while being introduced to a range of programming languages. They will analyse existing computer games and systems, and

will learn to design, develop and evaluate computer games and other software by following the Problem Solving Methodology. Programming languages covered will include Python which provides an excellent foundation for further study in Applied Computing years 10 to 12.

ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Advanced English

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

This unit is aimed at extending students with high ability and enthusiasm in English. Students research the development of journalism and its influence on society. They investigate the variety of ways in which news is reported and create a wide range of multimedia reports based on an individual topic for investigation and the demands of a real audience. Students consider how to adapt their language choices to suit the purpose, audience, and context of their reports.

Advanced Maths

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

This subject aims to challenge students with high ability and curiosity in mathematics. Students will have the opportunity to engage in exploratory and open-ended tasks that encourage questioning, visualisation, formulating conjectures, articulating explanations, generalisation, and justification. This unit will have a strong focus on peer collaboration, creativity, and reflection to allow a deep exploration into a variety of mathematical concepts. An emphasis on valuing mistakes to cultivate a growth mindset will be at the forefront of all tasks completed. In their final project, students will undertake an in-depth investigation where they will employ numerical, abstract, and visual approaches to problem solving.

STUDENTS MAY NOT CHOOSE BOTH ADVANCED ENGLISH AND ADVANCED MATHS.

STEAM Project - CanSAT: Prevention and Management of Bushfires

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

This subject aims to apply concepts related to the science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics curriculum through an integrated student-based project.

Students will work on projects that are meaningful and relevant to their everyday life and their future. They will learn deeply, think critically and creatively, and strive for excellence by collaborating with other students.

Students will learn to use a project management process that enables them to progress effectively from initiation to completion. Students will reflect on their work and learning throughout the project focusing on growth, improvement, and potential applications. A focus will be placed on the development of appropriate language to effectively convey researched concepts and justification for design elements.

Students will present their final submission to teachers and peers for discussion and critique.

Coaching & Fitness

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

Coaching and Fitness is designed to provide students interested in sport and physical activity the opportunity to pursue in greater depth the factors that are important in sports performance for the junior athlete and player.

Students develop effective lesson plans that enable them to teach and coach young athletes at a high level. Key areas include the coach's role in developing athlete's skill, conditioning, and development as well as sports officiating and safety. Energy systems, sports nutrition and hydration are also studied within this subject.

LITERACY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Support for Literacy:

STUDENTS STUDY THIS SUBJECT THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

Selection is based on assessment by the Learning Needs Coordinator in consultation with the student's Coordinator. This program supports students who require assistance with literacy skills. The teacher collaborates with the student to set a personalised learning goal to be achieved each semester. There is regular communication with the student's English teacher to ensure a successful collaborative approach.

Class sizes are small to maximise the program's impact.

HUMANITIES UNITS

NOTE: STUDENTS MAY NOT CHOOSE MORE THAN ONE HUMANITIES ELECTIVE UNIT.

Infamous History

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

This unit provides enthusiastic History students the opportunity to take part in interesting and challenging activities based on key historical events, people, and ideas. Much of the work will be based around enquiry and students will be expected to ask and to answer their own questions about the past. Students will use their skills in critical thinking and research to draw from a range of primary and secondary sources to make conclusions about historical significance, change and continuity and cause and consequences.

Ethics, Politics, and the Law

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

This subject is composed of three units. In the first unit, Ethics, students consider the moral responsibilities of individuals and societies by applying ethical theories to a range of contemporary case studies and thought experiments. In the Politics unit, students examine the structure of the Australian Government, and the political ideologies present in Australian society. Finally, in the Law unit students explore the structure of Australia's justice system and consider how the law is interpreted and applied in Australian society. This subject can provide students with a foundation of knowledge in the three units covered which will support them in making future elective and VCE subject selections which align with their strengths and interests.

Commerce

STUDENTS MAY STUDY THIS SUBJECT FOR ONE SEMESTER ONLY.

This subject will introduce students to the basics of accounting, business, and financial skills that are necessary to navigate everyday life. It will use a thematic approach to engage students in researching areas such as personal finance and paying tax. It fosters 'real world' skills through involving students in case studies to position their thinking to experience, as close as possible, the real commercial world. The subject will serve as an introduction to further study in Economics, Accounting and Business Management in Year 10 and VCE.

