



**ST MARY'S**  
**COLLEGE**

**Year 9**  
**Subject Selection Handbook**  
**2025**

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# Year 9 Course Outline

## Core Subjects

Compulsory Subjects

- Religious Education
- English
- HPE
- Humanities
- Mathematics
- Science

## Elective Subjects

Choose 2 subjects per semester

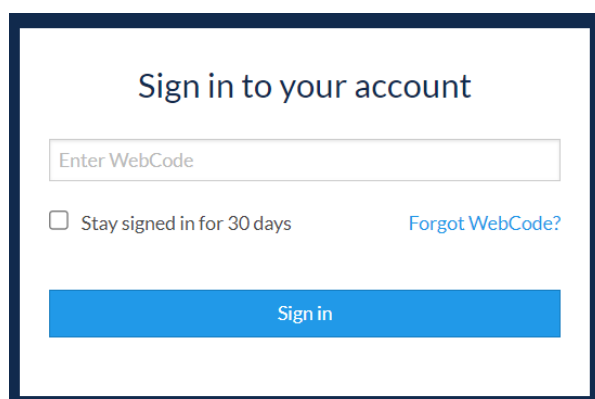
- Body in Motion
- Commerce
- Design and Technologies - Materials
- Design and Technologies - Textiles
- Design and Technologies - Food
- Digital Solutions
- Digital Technologies
- Drama
- Italian (*Must do for 2 semesters*)
- Music
- Sustainable Futures
- Visual Arts
- Visual Design

# Timeline

Year 9 Pathways Handbook available	22 August 2023
Information session for students	21 August 2023
Online selection process	22 August 2023
Online selection process closes	30 August 2023
Confirmation of 2024 subjects	Term 4

## Online Subject Selection Process

We build our timetable and subject offerings on our students' selections. Which means that the subjects that the students select determine the subjects and number of classes that will be offered in 2024. We make the decision to offer certain subjects when there are enough students to have a viable class. In some instances, there may not be enough students selecting a subject to have more than one class. We have proposed a wide range of subjects that we think may interest our students knowing that there will be some subjects that cannot be offered because the number of students who may select them is too few to have a viable class. For this reason, it is very important that students input their selections in **order of preference**.



Sign in to your account

Enter WebCode

Stay signed in for 30 days [Forgot WebCode?](#)

Sign in

### Step-by-step Guide

- o The link to Edval Choice can be access through the school links on SIMON
- o Students will be emailed a unique web code that will allow access to the online selection [website](#)
- o Use the individually generated web code to log in to the subject selection page. It is important to log out of last year's page and login with this year's code.
- o Select subjects in **preference order**. You are also required to have two reserve preferences. Please consider these as part of your selections as there is a strong possibility that you may be allocated one of the reserve subjects if there is an unavoidable clash (with a higher preference) or if there are not enough students who select a subject (which means it will not be offered)
- o Click "Submit" when completed.

# We are here to help

We have a dedicated team that are more than willing to assist and support our students to make good choices. Please make contact with any of the team if you have any questions or concerns.

College email addresses are:

- o initial
- o surname
- o @stmaryscollege.vic.edu.au

# Compulsory Victorian Curriculum

Students complete the compulsory Victorian Curriculum subjects throughout the course of Year 9. Students do not need to make any selections of compulsory subjects during the subject selection process.

## Religious Education

Throughout Religious Education in Year 9 students develop their interpretative skills, considering literary structures of scripture passages and the impact of settings, styles and viewpoints of authors and audience in both old and new testaments. They develop appreciation of the Word as means of encounter with Jesus Christ. They explore the history of the Church, and the development of its distinctive ideas, teachings and practices, as well as the charisms of the saints. Extending their knowledge of religious diversity, students identify the particularity of the Catholic Tradition in the Australian context. They expand their experiences of personal and communal prayer and the variety of spiritual devotions in both the Catholic and other traditions, including appreciation of religious art and music throughout history. They focus on deepening understanding of Eucharist and its centrality to the Catholic Tradition. They deepen understanding of Catholic social teaching and its application to both personal and global issues, including sexuality, equity and ecology, developing skills of discernment, which reflect self-respect and respect for the other.

### Topics include:

- o Prayer
- o Indigenous Spirituality
- o What Catholics believe
- o The Catholic Church in Australia
- o Biblical and modern-day Prophets
- o Good and Evil: Redemption and Hope

## English

English at Year 9 aims to develop all students in to more confident and sophisticated communicators. With a strong focus on the explicit teaching of key literacy skills, and through multiple opportunities to write and speak authentically for real audiences, students become more skilled in communicating for a wide range of purposes. Year 9 English also aims to improve reading comprehension skills and foster a love for sustained reading. Students study both classic and contemporary literature, and are given the opportunity to make individual choices about the novels they read. Over the course of the year students explore a variety of text types, such as novels, non-fiction texts, film, poetry, graphic novels and other multi-modal texts.

### Topics include:

- o Creative writing: Gothic Horror
- o Persuasive writing and speaking
- o Text and film studies
- o Public speaking
- o Book Club

# Fit For Life (Health & Physical Education)

Fit For Life is designed to improve understanding of contemporary health issues and to improve life-long health outcomes in students. The subject is divided into three components that students will rotate through:

- o Practical classes (combination of off-site and on-site activities) Health classes
- o Food and nutrition classes
- o Off-Site Practical Classes  
Central to Fit For Life is providing students with new and exciting experiences that build resilience and an appreciation for ongoing physical activity and health. Off-site activities provide students with a variety of new and unique challenges. Activities have included sailing on Albert Park Lake, indoor rock-climbing, skateboarding, ice hockey, golf, cross-it and many others.
- o On-Site Practical Classes & Health  
On-site practical classes provide the opportunity for physical education that makes use of the all the great facilities both campuses have to offer, such as the swimming pool, gym, oval, tennis courts and cricket nets. On-site practical classes will be taught in conjunction with Health.

## Humanities

Year 9 Humanities encompasses the study of History, Geography, Civics & Citizenship, and Economics & Business. Through both explicit teaching and student-centred inquiry, students develop an understanding of the complex processes that have shaped the modern world and continue to shape our future. Year 9 Humanities is skills focused. Students build subject specific skills that enable them to engage purposefully with complex ideas, as well as skills that enable them to make links between subject areas. Students are also supported to think critically and to make meaningful connections between their own lives and the key Humanities concepts studied.

### Topics include:

- o The Industrial Revolution
- o World War One
- o Social Entrepreneurship
- o Government & democracy

# Mathematics

Year 9 Mathematics aims to engage students in activities which develop knowledge and understanding of mathematical concepts. Students use strategies to solve routine and non-routine problems, carry out mathematical investigations and problem-solving activities, and link mathematical ideas and the relevant terminology and notations to explain their thinking processes. The program has a strong emphasis on consolidating prior mathematical knowledge and laying the strongest foundations for further studies in Mathematics.

## Topics include:

- o Number
- o Algebra
- o Measurement
- o Space
- o Statistics
- o Probability

# Mathematics 9A

A Mathematics is recommended for students with strong mathematical abilities who are planning to undertake Mathematical Methods in VCE. This course provides additional content for students to be extended in their mathematical studies.

## The content covers the following 6 strands:

Number  
Algebra  
Measurement  
Geometry  
Statistics  
Probability

# Science

Science at Year 9 aims to foster genuine curiosity and fascination about the world around us. Students study a broad range of sciences with a focus on developing key science inquiry skills and an appreciation for the history of scientific discovery. Students are given a range of opportunities to “work like scientists”, conducting experimentation and observation, collecting and analysing real data, and making valid scientific conclusions. Year 9 Science also has a strong focus on developing scientific literacy, exploring how scientific concepts are relevant to our everyday lives and how they are important in determining the direction of our future.

## Topics include:

- o Ecosystems and biodiversity
- o Responding to stress: the nervous and endocrine systems
- o The theory of plate tectonics
- o The development of atomic theory
- o Atomic structure and radioactive decay
- o Chemical reactions
- o Electric circuits
- o Energy flow and heat transfer



# Elective Victorian Curriculum

Elective Studies at Year 9 may be best described as 'choices' within the program. They cover a wide range of subject areas which engage the interests and enthusiasm of students. Year 9 students select two Interest Studies in each semester, making a total of four studies for the year. Students studying a language (Italian or Japanese) will only select two interest studies in addition to their year-long language subject.

## The Body in Motion (HPE)

The Body in Motion engages students in an awareness of their body whilst involved in physical activity. The students will examine and investigate how the body responds to particular types of physical exercise. Assessment of different components of physical fitness will be undertaken as a means of explaining physical performance. At the completion of this subject, students should have a deeper understanding of how their bodies respond to the stress of exercise, with the goal of commencing a lifelong commitment to physical activity. It should be noted that involvement in some strenuous activity is an essential part of this subject.

### Topics include:

- o Investigating Musculoskeletal and Cardiorespiratory Systems
- o Learning about fitness components
- o Understanding body movement during sport
- o Coaching styles and Sports Psychology

*Students will enjoy this subject if they:*

- o Enjoy playing sports, coaching others and engaging in physical activity.
- o Are interested in learning about the body and physical fitness.

## Commerce

Commerce will explore entrepreneurship and business environments. Students will be given opportunities to investigate financial issues that lead to managing economic resources.

### Topics include:

- o Finance
- o Accounting
- o Inflation
- o Managing resources
- o Business management

*Students will enjoy this subject if they:*

- o Enjoy the world of business
- o Are interested in expanding their knowledge of how to run a successful business

# Design & Technology - Materials

This subject involves the use of design, creativity and technology. In developing design briefs within open-ended design guidelines, students will use ICT and hands-on work to model, assemble, and disassemble products and systems. They will communicate their ideas verbally, and with two-dimensional drawing and three-dimensional modelling. Students will engage with the design thinking process and create real products using materials such as wood and metal.

## Topics include:

- o Shoe rack
- o Fusion 360 – working drawing
- o Investigation and sketching

*Students will enjoy this subject if they:*

- o Enjoy the creative design process.
- o Enjoy building things and working with their hands.

# Design & Technology - Textiles

Through their study of textiles, students assume the role of the designer-maker as they develop a broad knowledge of a range of materials. Through design projects they investigate and experiment to understand the properties and performance of selected textiles. Students plan and manage projects using selected materials and fabrics, and they experiment with techniques to realise their ideas. Importantly, students also consider sustainability when creating design solutions. Students follow a design process to investigate, generate ideas, produce design solutions, evaluate their practices and designs, and they manage time and resources working both individually, and collaboratively.

## Topics include:

- o Sewing fundamentals
- o Design
- o Investigating and defining a need

*Students will enjoy this subject if they:*

- o Enjoy designing and creating, particularly with fabrics.
- o Enjoy working with their hands and with technology.

# Design and Technologies – Food

In Food Technology students explore the application of nutrition principles and the characteristics and properties of food, food selection and preparation, and contemporary food issues. Students will develop an understanding of the importance of a variety of foods, sound nutrition principals, food preparation skills and food safety. Using our new specialist food technology centre, students will work collaboratively to plan, prepare and create food solutions for healthy eating.

## Topics include:

- o Practical kitchen skills
- o Homelessness
- o Indigenous culture and food
- o Cooking methods
- o Designing and creating (master chef challenge)

*Students will enjoy this subject if they:*

- o Enjoy cooking at home
- o Are interested in how food and nutrition contribute to a healthy lifestyle

# Digital Solutions

Digital Solutions is a digital technologies subject that focuses on hands-on, project-based learning. Students learn to think like computer scientists and explore the real-world applications of digital problem solving. Students will create algorithms using a variety of coding languages, from simple block-based programming to python. HTML web design and robotics also form a significant part of this interest study. Coding experience is not necessary.

## Topics include:

- o Coding
- o Building a website
- o programming

*Students will enjoy this subject if they:*

- o Enjoy creating and solving problems with digital technology.
- o Enjoy working collaboratively on projects.

# Digital Technology

The Digital Technologies curriculum enables students to become confident and creative developers of digital solutions through the application of information systems and specific ways of thinking about problem solving. Students acquire a deep knowledge and understanding of digital systems, data and information and the processes associated with creating digital solutions so they can take up an active role in meeting current and future needs.

## Topics include:

- o Digital systems
- o Hardware and software
- o Data
- o Privacy

*Students will enjoy this subject if they:*

- o Enjoy working with data and networks
- o Are creative and innovative

# Drama

In Drama, students build confidence and self-esteem through the expression and exploration of personal, cultural and social worlds. Students will develop and sustain different roles and characters to realise dramatic intentions and engage a range of audiences. They will plan, produce, rehearse and refine dramatic performances as well as learn about narrative and directing.

## Topics include:

- o Performing an ensemble performance based on a stimuli
- o Selecting a monologue and performing a theatrical style
- o Researching a theatrical style
- o Analysing the production of Frankenstein

*Students will enjoy this subject if they:*

- o Enjoy collaborating, creating and performing
- o Enjoy learning and working with their body and physical movement

# Languages: Italian

Language studies in Year 9 continue the development of second language skills taught in Year 8. Students will practice writing, reading, listening, viewing, and speaking skills. The focus in Year 9 is getting the students to use the language in real life situations. There are also practical components built into the Year 9 course. For example, a coffee and bruschetta making unit of work in Italian and okonomiyaki in Japanese. We know that the ability to speak a second language opens many doors in life. Year 9 languages provide the students with the opportunity to continue their language journey. Year 9 Italian is required to study the language in Year 10. *Italian is a two-semester elective in Year 9\*\**

## Topics include:

- o Weekend routines in Italy and Japan.
- o Sports and leisure activities.
- o Italian and Japanese homes.
- o Cooking Italian and Japanese dishes.
- o Giving and following instructions.

## *Students will enjoy studying a language if they:*

- o Are passionate about speaking another language and developing their language skills.
- o Enjoy reading, writing, listening, and speaking in another language.
- o Understand that languages take time but open so many opportunities.

# Music

In Year 9 Elective Music, students perform both individually and in a group. Students engage with the creative process of composition and use sequencing and publishing software to enhance their work. Students will analyse performances and works of different genres of music and evaluate the characteristics and elements of these styles to inform their own performances and compositions. It is essential that students are able to play an instrument or have experience in vocal performance in order to choose this subject.

## Topics include:

- o Interpreting, rehearsing and performing repertoire in a range of forms and styles
- o Using knowledge of the elements of music, style and notation to compose, document and share music
- o Analysing and evaluating performances and compositions to inform and refine

## *Students will enjoy this subject if they:*

- o Are passionate about playing music
- o Enjoy creating their own music
- o Have an interest in different genres of music and composers.

# Sustainable Futures

This subject explores current global situations and the factors that influence the geographic reality of the world today. Students will study some of the key challenges that our planet and its inhabitants currently face, including food security, climate and globalisation. Students will also develop specific skills such as collecting, organising, and representing geographical data, and using ICT to analyse and evaluate maps and data.

## Topics include:

- o What is sustainability?
- o Biomes and food security
- o An interconnected world

*Students will enjoy this subject if they:*

- o Are interested in exploring key environmental issues that are impacting the world today.
- o Have a passion or interest in creating a sustainable future.

# Visual Arts

In Visual Arts, students analyse and respond to a range of artworks from different cultures, times and places and explore how artists communicate ideas and convey meaning. They will use their analysis of other artists to develop their own practice, selecting and manipulating materials, techniques and visual conventions to express their own ideas through art. They will also create, present, analyse and evaluate displays of artwork, considering how ideas can be conveyed to an audience. Students experiment with a range of mediums to create artwork based on Film Noir imagery.

## Topics include:

- o Creating a Film Noir Painting using acrylic paints
- o Creating a Pastel Painting using tonal contrast
- o Analysing a Photographic Still
- o Constructing a figurative etching based on an historical figure

*Students will enjoy this subject if they:*

- o Are interested in creating and presenting their own works of art.
- o Find inspiration in and enjoy viewing works of art by professional artists.

# Visual Design

Visual Design incorporates both Media Arts and Visual Communication Design (VCD).

The Media Arts component of this Interest Study allows students to express their creativity through the medium of film. Students will analyse how film is constructed through its component parts, such as camera shots, soundtrack, editing and lighting. They investigate the purpose that the medium of film serves within our society across a variety of contexts. In doing so, students engage in a collaborative process of writing, directing and creating their own films.

In the VCD component of this Interest Study, students develop conceptual and aesthetic understandings about design solutions in the world around them. They analyse visual communications from a range of historical and cultural contexts and explore how they communicate ideas and information. Students will also develop their own briefs, and visualise, generate, and develop their ideas in response to the needs of an audience.

## **Topics include:**

- o Using media and mediums to construct a collaged Pop Culture Poster
- o Following a design process in a Visual Design Journal
- o Using filmic techniques to create a Short Film

## *Students will enjoy this subject if they:*

- o Enjoy working collaboratively
- o Enjoy working artistically with digital technology
- o Enjoy creating design and media solutions for real purposes

A person who never  
made a mistake  
never tried anything  
new.

Albert Einstein